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JANUARY 24, 2024

Volume 7 • Issue 1

Happy New Year!

We want to Thank You for your continued support of the West Concord Center Messenger again this past year!

Thank you

Your hometown newspaper continues with an unwavering goal to bring the local and area news to you.

(continued on page 10)

Staffing Shortages Plague the City

The West Concord Ambulance Department has suspended daytime ambulance service during weekdays from 5am to 5pm. The retirement of two long-time members at the end of December has left the department without enough members to support the service. Back in July the city had proposed budgeting for two full-time EMT personnel to maintain the service while the ambulance department works to recruit more members. The solution is to currently curtail the weekday service for six months to resolve the shortage.



During this time the West Concord EMT's will respond to calls and provide patient care until the Dodge Center Ambulance can transport the patient.

Also the city hall is down an administrator as Kimberly Klejeski, who was hired in mid-November, stepped down from the position last week. The city is currently in search of a new administrator.

Triton 8th Graders Head to Washington DC!

By Cheri Roshon

Can you think of a better way to learn about our nation's history than going back in time and experiencing it yourself? Well, I don't know about you, but in my world, time travel hasn't been perfected yet, so I think the next best thing is to go to the birthplace of our great country and see where history unfolded. When my daughter graduated, her first trip away from home without me was to the east coast. When she called me to report on some of her activities, she asked me why, in all the travelling we did when she was young, did I not take her and her siblings to DC. She said it would have made her history lessons much more comprehensive, had she been to the places she was studying about in American History. Good point! Being a Mom who was more into heading west, that

thought had never occurred to me.

Fast forward about 20 years, and I am pleased to say she is now helping coordinate the fundraising for the Triton 8th Grade student trip to..... guess where? Yep! Washington DC! I love how she took the initiative to give her kids what I wasn't able to give her! From July 30th to August 6th, Legacy Student Travel, a company that caters to young people traveling to learn about things they may never have the chance to see on their own, is giving 8th grade students a safe way to learn about the beginnings of America. The company puts together all the trip requirements, and knows the best places to stay, eat and learn. The hotels, restaurants and activities are scheduled, and include some of the meals, and all of the accommodations.

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Concord Collision and Hot Rod Hardware

By Cheri Roshon



time, Tim began working on classic car restorations and building street rods as well. In 2009, he decided to move the business off the farm. He settled on West Concord and built the building at their current location.

A few months ago, I did a story on Tim Gangl a local Farmland Realtor®. During that interview I discovered that Tim also owns another business with his wife Patti and their sons Jonathon and Joel. I decided to go deeper into the family business with an interview with Joel Gangl and Jonathon Gangl at their shop in West Concord.

Tim originally started the business in 2001 as Hot Rod Hardware, a reseller of aftermarket classic auto parts, in a building out on the family farm. After some

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West Concord Fire Department Participates in Polar Plunge in February



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West Concord Fire Department Relief Association

French Toast Breakfast

Sunday, February 11 from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m.
at the West Concord Legion (both dine-in and carry out)

Serving: French Toast,
Sausage Links, Eggs

Cost: \$8.00 suggested donation for adults;
\$6.00 for kids ages 7-12
(children 6 & under free)

A fundraiser for the West Concord
Fire Department Relief Association



Triton FFA

STEAK FEED

Saturday, February 24th • 4:00-8:00 PM
Faith Community Church, West Concord

4:00-6:00 PM Drive Through Available
4:00-8:00 PM In-Person Dining to the Public and Donors
- Carryout Meals Available -

Snow Date March 2nd

\$14.00 Sirloin Steak Dinner
Kids Meal \$6.00

Where there is heart room...



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

My mom's house has a sign in Swedish on the wall. My dad painstakingly cut its letters of wood, and painted it yellow and blue. It runs along the ceiling above the dining room table, and it reads: Om det finns hjarterum finns det stjarterum.

You see, her house is pretty small. I think it was built during WWII by a Danish immigrant who had been a German soldier in WWI, and so was officially an enemy alien. This prohibited him from getting building materials, except for some used lumber, so the house was small to begin with.

Later, my Grandpa used the house as a granary. Then he put in plumbing and various hired men lived there. About the time I was born, my parents moved in. After they had three children, they moved into the big farmhouse and my grandparents moved to the

little house. They added a utility room and a garage, but it was still pretty small.

Still, my grandparent's house was the place to be on holidays. Aunts and uncles, cousins and friends all crowded in. There might have been as many as 25 people in that little house at times, all laughing and talking at the same time. Most of the adults sat around the fully-extended dining room table. We kids were likely to get a seat at a card table next to the kitchen or in the utility room, or at an 8-foot church table shoehorned into the living room, where you had to be careful you didn't back your chair into the Christmas tree or stand up and hit your head on the bottom of the suspended staircase.

Somehow, it never felt crowded to us.

After my grandparents died, my parents sold the dairy and moved back into that little house. And that's when my dad made the

sign. He'd seen the phrase in a friend's small house in Sweden: Om det finns hjarterum finns det stjarterum.

Where there is heart room, there is butt room.

You belong here, and you are loved, so don't worry, we'll skootch over. We'll find a place for you to sit, a space for you to fit.


That childhood memory—of all the people I loved crowded together to celebrate—is my primary image of the kingdom of God. It makes me think of Jesus telling his disciples, "My Father's house has room to spare... I'm going to prepare a place for you" (John 14:2), and of the prophet reassuring Israel far from home, "Bring my sons from far away, and my daughters from the end of the earth, everyone who is called by my name and whom I created for my glory" (Isaiah 43:6-7), and later, "On this mountain, the Lord of heav-

only forces will prepare for all peoples a rich feast, a feast of choice wines..." (Isaiah 25:6).

Friends, there is room for us all, both heart room and butt room. If you are lonely, come on in. If you are afraid, just knock on God's door, and it will open. If you have long since left the faith, you can always come home again. If you are full of regrets, don't stand outside worrying. The great big heart of God knows all about it and has saved a seat just for you.

And, if you are already inside, talking and laughing and digging into the appetizers, go see who's still outside the door. Who is waiting for you to invite them to God's big family reunion?

Bring them in. Because where there is heart room, there is butt room. Everybody just skootch over.



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Faith Community Church
305 State Street, West Concord • 527-2245
Pastor David Breederland
Sunday 9:30a.m. Worship; 10:45a.m. Sunday School
www.fccwc.org
Facebook: WC Faith Community Church

Hegre Lutheran, ELCA
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Sunday: 9:15a.m. Sunday School; 10:30a.m. Worship

Trinity Lutheran, ELCA
301 Highland St., West Concord • 507-527-2778
Pastor Chad Christensen • trinitychurchwc.net
Sunday worship video is posted on Facebook:
Trinitylutheranchurchwestconcordmn
Sundays 9:30a.m. Worship in building and live
streamed on Facebook.
Tuesday Men's Bible Study, 7:00a.m.
at church and via Zoom
Call church for more information on ministries and events.

United Methodist
2nd & Main, West Concord • 507-475-1157
Pastor Mark Schlasner
Sunday 9:30a.m. Worship

Church of Christ
55087 200th Ave., West Concord • 507-527-2723
Pastor Peter Moen
9:00a.m. Sunday School; 10:30a.m. Worship
concordchurchmn.com

Zwingli United Church of Christ
"The Berne Church"
23148 Co. Hwy. 24, West Concord • 507-356-4340
Pastor Karen Larson
Sunday 10:00a.m. Worship; Find us on Facebook

Area Church Directory

The Return of the King

"Suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple." — Malachi 3:1

When Jesus is 40 days old, his parents bring him to the temple to present the required offering after a son is born. It's a big day. Here's why.

When the Israelites, under Moses, set up a tabernacle (a portable temple) in the wilderness, a cloud of glory signaled the presence of God. God was there in the midst of his people. Later, when they built a temple, under Solomon, the cloud of glory filled it to overflowing. God was enthroned in the temple as Israel's true King.

Many years later, the prophet Ezekiel saw God's throne leave the temple—and the cloud of glory with it (Ezekiel 10). Soon the temple itself lay in ruins, destroyed by Babylon. Later the people of Israel returned from exile and built another temple. But this time there was no cloud of glory, no sign that God had come to live in the new temple.

Many more years later, Mary and Joseph came to the temple carrying Jesus. And the Lord, Israel's true King, was in the midst of his people once again. What kind of king will he be? And what kind of kingdom will he bring?

We are faced with those questions to this day. How will we welcome King Jesus and his kingdom? With humility? With joy? With thanksgiving? With hope? With holy obedience? The answer is in our lives and in the life of the church.

Jesus, you came to live among us for a while. And you will come again. We want to welcome you wherever you appear. And wherever you are, your kingdom is. Amen.

The Church Directory is Sponsored by:



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Brenda Renee Bronner

Brenda Renee Bronner, 76, of Dandridge, Tennessee passed away peacefully on Saturday, December 23, 2023.



Brenda was born March 25, 1947, in Concord, MN to Phyllis (Vrieze) and Vernie Pool. Brenda graduated from West Concord High School in 1965. She

worked for IBM for many years until her retirement. Throughout her retirement Brenda enjoyed reading and attending plays and musicals. In 2021, Brenda moved to Tennessee with her family where she spent the last 2 years experiencing life in the Great Smoky Mountains. She particularly enjoyed her weekly lunches with her daughter at the Shepherd Inn.

Brenda is survived by her husband, Ed Bronner; children, Patrick (Bobbi) Fitzwater of Northfield, MN and Monica (Chuck) Rhodes of Dandridge, TN; grandchildren, Brandon Buenger and Greta (Morgan) Ernst of Fort Riley, KS; siblings, Verlyn (Rosemary) Pool, Bonnie Pool, Vicki (Doug) Rhodes, LeAnn Cook and Myron Pool and many nieces and nephews. Brenda was eager to welcome her first great-grandson, Morgan Jr ("MJ") in the New Year. While they may not have had the opportunity to meet, her family finds comfort knowing he has her looking over him.

She was preceded in death by her son, Nick Pool; granddaughter, Nicole Pool; and her mother and father.

Family and friends were invited to a celebration of her life at 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, January 9, 2024, at Czaplewski Family Funeral Homes, 25 South St SW in Dodge Center, followed by a luncheon at the American Legion Post #384, 401 Hwy St W in Dodge Center. Visitation was from 5:00-7:00 p.m. Monday, January 8, 2024, at Czaplewski Family Funeral Homes in Dodge Center.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be directed to Friends of Hospice of the Lakeway Area, Inc. Their address is 421 N High St, Morristown, TN 37814 or you can donate directly through their website.

To share a special memory or condolence please visit www.czaplewskifuneralhomes.com,

Czaplewski Family Funeral Homes, 25 South St SW Dodge Center, MN 55927 (507)374-2155. Blessed be her memory.

Douglas A. Erickson

Douglas A. Erickson, age 81, of Minneapolis died on Saturday, January 13, 2024, at North Memorial Medical Center, Robbinsdale.



Private graveside services will be held for the family in the Hegre Church Cemetery, West Concord in the spring.

Douglas graduated from Kenyon High School and University of Iowa. He was a self-employed sales representative for furniture and fabrics. He enjoyed fishing, completing crossword puzzles, playing trivia and watching professional sports.

He is survived by his life partner, Scott Ullman; many cousins and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Arthur and Ruby Erickson.

Visit boldtfuneralhome.com for information and guestbook.

Darlene (Leach) Miller

Darlene (Leach) Miller passed away on January 10, 2024 at 92 years old.



Born December 2, 1931 in West Concord MN to Mamie (Raleigh) and Louis Leach. She and her 3 sisters were raised on a farm and she graduated from West Concord HS in 1949. Darlene then

worked in Minneapolis for Dayton's and Maytag before returning to West Concord where she married and had 4 children with Darrell Miller. They later divorced, tasking her with raising and putting the children through college alone. She worked for the US Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service of Dodge County for 10 years. She then worked for the Mayo Clinic for over 20 years where she was part of the inaugural Pacemaker Clinic prior to retiring.

Raising her children and attending their many activities was Darlene's primary focus. At one point, she attended her youngest son's HS football game Friday night, her middle son's at Hamline University Saturday afternoon and her eldest son's at Mankato State on Saturday night. She was also active in her community and served as the only woman on the school board in the 1970s. Like her parents, Darlene was active in politics and volunteered at the DFL office in Rochester during her retirement. Until the end of life, she was engaged in what was happening in the state, the country and the world. She began playing organ at church at the age of 16 and continued for decades, along with playing for weddings and funerals. She maintained a deep affinity for a wide variety of music her entire life. She was active in the United Methodist Women and served in many officer roles throughout the years. Dar-

lene reveled in hearing people's life stories and could recite every detail in her storytelling. Following retirement, she moved to Rochester where she enjoyed working part-time, volunteering her vast organ/piano talent, traveling and spending time with friends and family for 25 years. In 2020, Darlene moved to Bel Rae Assisted Living in Mounds View, MN to be near her family and enjoyed the many activities provided and care received by their wonderful staff.

Darlene is preceded in death by her parents. She is survived by her children, Dan (Kathy), Doug, David (Pam) and Deanne (John Walker); 6 grandchildren, Jennifer (Gabe Mazorra), Melissa, Brandon (Molly), Bryant, Cameron and Monique; 4 great-grandchildren, Sebastian, Eli, Mason and Addison. She is also survived by her 3 adoring sisters, Elaine Leach, Alice Miller and Brenda (Duane) DeBlieck; nieces Paula (Ron Coomer), Shannon (Bill Rantz) and Kirsten Miller; nephews Chad DeBlieck (Erin) and Matthew Miller (Natalya) as well as very special great-nieces and nephews.

A Celebration of Life service will be held at 2:00 pm, Saturday, May 11, 2024 at Ranfranz and Vine Funeral Homes (5421 Royal Pl. NW Rochester, MN 55901). A private family burial will take place at West Concord Cemetery.

Ranfranz and Vine Funeral Home is honored to be serving the Miller family. To share a special memory or condolence, please visit www.ranfranzandvinefh.com

Allison Robert Gilbert

Allison Robert Gilbert, 82, known to friends and family as Al, passed away suddenly at his home on December 20, 2023, due to natural causes. Born on February 24, 1941, in Astoria, South Dakota, to William and Katherine Gilbert, Al's life was marked by resilience, community service, and profound love for family.



Growing up in Miranda, S.D., where his father served as the depot agent, Al thrived in a close-knit community of 100 citizens. Educated in a one-room schoolhouse until the 8th grade, he graduated from Faulkton High School in 1959.

Al met Rita Voss in Minneapolis, marking the beginning of a lifetime partnership filled with love and shared dreams. They married in 1964 and settled in Fremont, California, where Al dedicated 14 years to General Motors, and their family expanded with the arrival of a son, William, and a daughter, Annette.

In 1977, the family established Gilbert's Café in West Concord, Minnesota, operating the business for 24 years. Al's community involvement included the Commercial Club, Lions, high school football chain gang, and a tenure as mayor of West Concord. He also served on the school board for the West Concord and Triton school districts.

A dedicated volunteer, Al was a charter member of the West Concord Survival Days committee for over 25 years, a trustee at the

United Methodist Church, and active in local economic development and the library board. His generosity mirrored his commitment to family, with a passion for life's simple pleasures, from campfires, to reading with a glass of wine, to holiday celebrations, to annual pheasant hunting trips to Miranda with loved ones.

Al is survived by his beloved wife, Rita, son Bill (Jen), daughter Annette (Rob Drieslein), seven grandchildren - Austin Gilbert, Madeline Manriquez, Ava Gilbert, and Logan, Alec, Jameson, and Elisabeth Drieslein - sister and brother-in-law Sandy and Joe Wollschlager, JeanAnn Voss, as well as nephews and nieces.

He was preceded in death by his parents, sister Chandra, brother Charles, step-father Melvin Slater, and brother-in-law Roger Voss. A celebration of Al's life will be planned in the future, with internment in Miranda, S.D.

Lois Jane Lamb

Lois Jane Lamb, 89, of West Concord, MN, arrived safely into the arms of Jesus on Saturday, January 6, 2024 at Circle Drive Manor, West Concord.



She was born August 21, 1934 in Grand Blanc Township, Genesee County, Michigan the daughter of

William and Ada Hayward. She grew up in Flint and graduated from Flint Central High School in 1951.

On March 2, 1957, she married Leland Lamb in Flint. They lived in Flint before moving to Oxford, Michigan in 1964. Outside of the home, Lois worked as an assembly line worker in the auto industry, retiring on November 1, 1989. Following Leland's retirement in 1995, the couple moved to Sugar Springs and became members of Calvary Baptist Church in West Branch.

In the early 1970's, Lois was "Aunt Lois" reading children's Bible stories on the phone through her local church. She enjoyed playing cards, decorating and reading. Her infectious smile endeared her to many, especially in her time at Circle Drive Manor.

She is survived by two daughters, Connie (and Kevin) Ellisen of Kenmore, WA and Cindy (and David) Breederland of West Concord, MN; siblings, Phyllis Maule of Sorrento, FL and Keith Hayward of Burton, MI; four grandchildren, Aimee (James) Kliever of Hartford, SD, Randall Breederland of Shoreview, MN, Kyle Ellisen of Kenmore, WA, and McKenzie Ellisen of Meeteetse, WY and great-grandson, Henry Kliever.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Leland Lamb (2017) and siblings, Vivian Banning, Marvin Hayward, Dorothy Coon and Betty Whitman.

Lois will be laid to rest at Great Lakes National Cemetery in Holly, MI next to her husband, Leland. A Celebration of her life will be held in the summer.

Lois' family is thankful for the care that she received through Mayo Hospice and Circle Drive Manor in West Concord.

(obituaries continued on page 4)

NOTICE

The Concord Cemetery Association will be having it's annual meeting on Tuesday, January 23, 2024 at 6:30pm at the Concord Church of Christ 55087 200th Ave. West Concord, MN 55985

Triton 8th Graders Head to Washington DC

(continued from page 1)

The children will have chaperones at all times, and it looks like they will be having a lot of fun learning opportunities that they will never forget!

Some of the activities scheduled are a pizza party in a hotel with a pool in Ohio after the first day of travel oops! I digress..... A stop in the Appalachian Mountains to tour Flight 93 National Memorial, then on to Gettysburg. In Gettysburg, they will have the opportunity to visit the Gettysburg Visitor Center and Cyclorama, an evening battlefield walk called "Heroes of Gettysburg", and time to explore the fields and monuments of honor.

The following day, they will tour the 6,000 acre Gettysburg Battlefield National Military Park with a licensed Battlefield Guide, a walking tour of the National Cemetery, which was the site of President Lincoln's Gettysburg Address, and lunch at the Farmhouse Restaurant. Several other historic sites will be toured before they retire and get ready for more history!

On to Monticello, the mountaintop home of Thomas Jefferson, stopping to explore the National Museum of the Marine Corps in Quantico, an illuminated night time tour of Washington, including the U.S. Capital, Thomas Jefferson, FDR, Martin Luther King Jr. and the Korean and Lincoln Memorials. They will be staying in DC for 3 nights to be sure to get all the history they can handle!

A walking tour of Arlington National Cemetery, witnessing the changing of the guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, a wreath laying ceremony, and a stop at the Iwo Jima Marine Memorial are next on the agenda. On to the Capital Hill tour, a White House sidewalk stroll with a Legacy Tour Guide, and topping it all off with an evening dinner and theater performance.

A visit to George and Martha Washington's home of Mount Vernon is the start of the next day, after which the kids will visit the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum, the National Gallery of Art Museum, and/or the National Museum of the American Indian. They end up this day with a riverboat dinner and dance cruise on the famous Potomac River on the riverboat "Spirit"!

The last day of this fabulous trip takes them to discovery time at the Lincoln Memorial, Vietnam Wall, and World War 2 Memorial, The Holocaust Museum, and last but certainly not least, the Smithsonian National Museum of American History & National Museum of Natural History.

I would venture to say our kids will be coming home with a new respect for our country's heritage, and a valuable understanding of our



history as American citizens. These are most, but not all of the experiences they will encounter on their journey of American History, and as you can imagine, there are costs involved. The parents and families of the students who are going on this trip are raising funds with events and activities to cover the fees associated with this week of history. There will be Burger Nights at the American Legions in Dodge Center and Kasson, a cash raffle with a top prize of \$1500.00 to the lucky winner, chocolate candy bar sales, Hegge's Pizza sales, and Kwik Trip Car Wash cards, to name a few. Cash donations are gratefully accepted and will be added to the funds raised for the kids to cover the costs. Parents and Students are doing fundraising, or volunteering at the Burger Nights and having their kids sell the chocolate, pizza, car wash cards and raffle tickets. For information as to how you can help a great cause by purchasing any of the above, or donating cash, please contact Jessie Maes at (303) 324-6294. Persons and businesses who donate to the cause will be listed in the Triton Thank You article to come by the end of the school year, letting everyone know how much was raised to support our kids!



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OBITUARIES

Sherry A. Froehle

Sherry A. Froehle, 77, of West Concord died on Monday, December 18, 2023, at Southdale Hospital in Edina.



Sherry was born the daughter of Morris and Clara (Gallas) Crawford on April 7, 1946, in Seattle, Washington.

She attended school in Owatonna and Graduated from Marian High School. She worked for OTC as purchasing agent from 1975 until 1986. Sherry then worked a short time for McNeilus Steel before she went to work in admissions at the Owatonna Hospital. She retired from the hospital as supervisor of admission in 2012. In retirement she enjoyed raising grandchildren. Sherry enjoyed crocheting, reading, baking, coloring and painting. She also enjoyed listening to music and playing the piano and violin.

She is survived by her children Angie (Tim) Green of Elko New Market, Rick Hogate of West Concord; grandchildren Angel, Travis, David, Adam, Troy, Tony, Melissa, Abigail, Jessica, and Noah; 14 great grandchildren, sisters Diane (John) Burnett of Grand Marais, Marian (Fred) Jorgensen of Owatonna and Maureen (Ken) Hill of Holyoke, MN. She was preceded in death by her parents, son Troy Hogate, and sister Jeanne Hertzke.

Morley Allen Peterson

Morley Allen Peterson, 81, of West Concord, passed away on January 19, 2024, at Benedictine Living Community in Owatonna.



Born on February 16, 1942, in Owatonna, Minnesota, to Ernest and Blanche (Bogues) Peterson, Morley grew up and attended school in Dodge Center and later earned an Associate Degree in diesel engine repair from Rochester Technical College.

Morley married Karen Karel on June 17, 1967, in Red Lake Falls, Minnesota, and they built their life together in West Concord, raising their children, Julie and Daniel. Morley had a career as a small engine mechanic at Sears Service Center and Earl's Small Engine Repair, and he also owned a stump-cutting business.

Upon retirement, Morley embraced the joys of life, engaging in activities such as fishing, camping with friends, coffee gatherings with the guys, and exploring town and beyond on his beloved scooter. A dedicated community member, he was involved in Trinity Lutheran Church, received the West Concord Citizen of the Year award in 2010, and volunteered his time for community projects. His legacy is one of commitment, family, and a passion for the simple pleasures in life.

Morley is survived by his wife, Karen Peterson of West Concord; children, Julie Peterson of Apple Valley and Daniel Peterson of Shakopee and siblings, Shirley Tate and Wayne Peterson, both of Aurora, Minnesota.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Ernest and Blanche Peterson.

Visitation will be at Michaelson Funeral Home, West Concord Chapel on Friday, January 26th from 4:00 - 7:00 PM and at church one hour prior to the service. A Memorial Service will be held Saturday, January 27, 2024 at 2:00 PM at Trinity Lutheran Church, West Concord with Pastor Chad Christensen officiating. Private interment will be held at a later date.

That's the Latest Tommy Kramer



By Emery Kleven

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

Tommy Kramer, one of the great quarterbacks for the Minnesota Vikings, was in West Concord in November, 2022. He spoke at the Legion Club and then stopped in the Muni to sign autographs and visit with people. I was not around to see him when he was there. But when my two sons and I went to Las Vegas for the weekend of the Vikings game against the Raiders last month, TK was visiting with people at the Treasure Island Casino in Vegas so we had a nice conversation with him. In fact we were the only ones there for about 15 minutes so we had a long conversation.

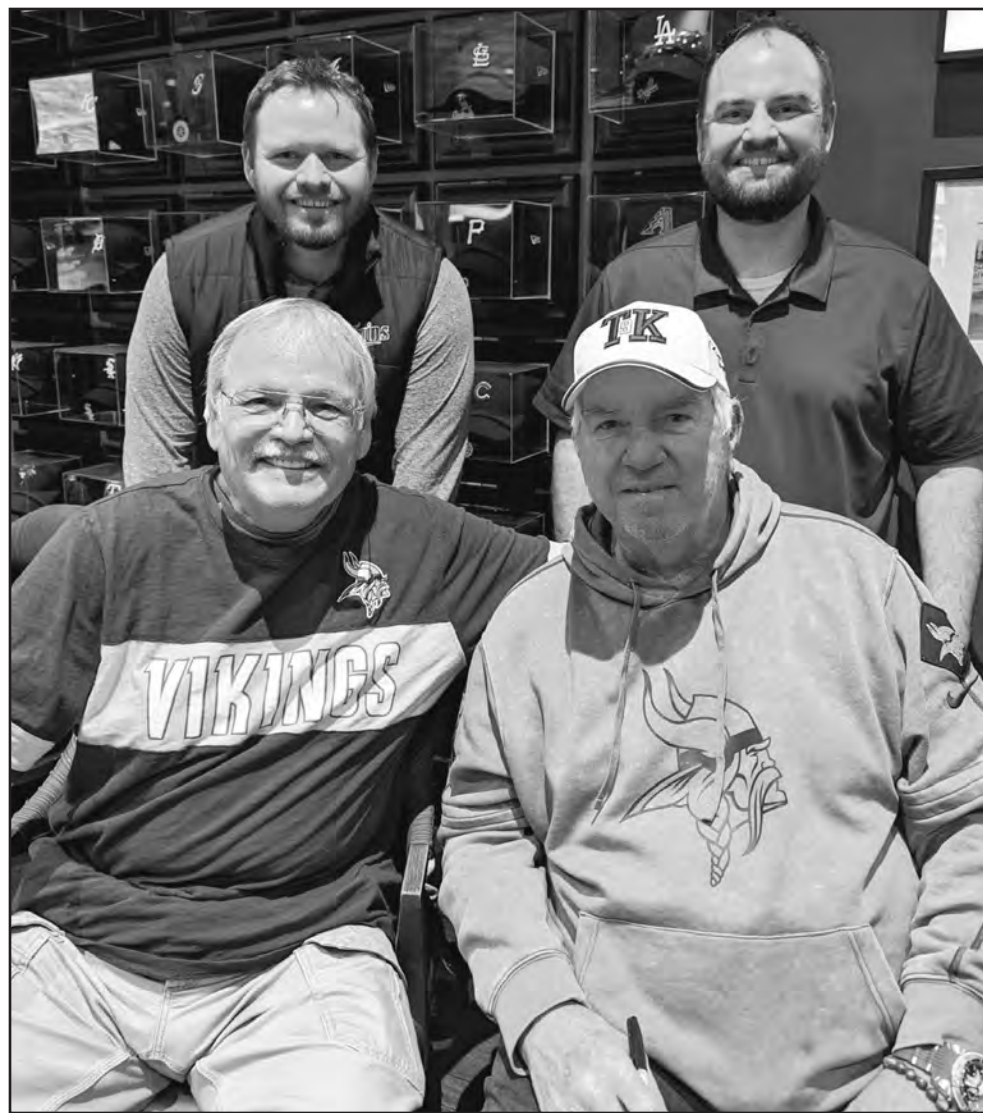
I got talking with him about one game in particular that I attended at the 'old Met.' December 4th, 1977, the rookie Kramer, came

in the game in the 4th quarter against the 49ers after starter Bob Lee could not get the Vikes offense going. That sounds eerily familiar to this past season. The Vikes were down 24-7 when TK entered the game. In only one quarter, the former first round draft pick from Rice University, completed 9 of 13 passes for 188 yards and 3 touchdowns to pull out a 28-27 win. Rob 'the Beav' Henry was with me for the game sitting in the north end zone bleachers. Beav said that game could not be topped and he decided he would not go to another Vikings game again. And to this day, it's the only Vikes game he has seen live.

'Two-Minute Tommy', a nickname he got for all the comeback victories over his 11 year Viking career, had numerous injuries including many concussions and a spine injury that he has said ultimately led to his retirement. The soon to be 69 year old still has strong hands and forearms as his handshake is very firm, to say the least. It was a lot of fun to visit with him.

The very first Viking game I went to at what Howard Cosell referred to as 'Venerable Metropolitan Stadium' was to the day, exactly 11 years prior to the Tommy Kramer game. It was December 4th, 1966. I got two free tickets as I was a member of the WDGY Huddle Club. My classmate Dan Miller went with me as my dad drove us to the stadium. Dad needed a ticket so we found a guy who wanted to sell the second of two season tickets he had. His wife evidently did not want to sit in a cold rain. I remember getting the ticket for face value, a whopping \$5.00. Nowadays, the decimal point is moved over to the right a couple places.

It was memorable as it was a cold rainy December day and we were hoping to see Fran



Emery and his sons Caleb and Isaac visited with former Vikings QB Tommy Kramer while in Las Vegas for this year's Vikings game against the Raiders



Tommy autographed Emery's shirt while at the Treasure Island Casino in Las Vegas

Tarkenton in person. Well we saw him but not in the game. Fran was sitting on his helmet along the bench as Coach Norm Van Brocklin benched him. After the 4-9-1 season, Tarkenton was traded to the NY Giants and Van Brocklin was fired. Bud Grant came in the next year.

Leon (Charly) Charleton had season tickets to the Vikings game for many years. He had access to extra tickets so many West Concord people went to games and sat near the north endzone. I was in those very bleachers when on Dec 28th, 1975, at a playoff game against Dallas; the very first 'Hail Mary' pass was completed. Unfortunately, it was the Cowboys QB Roger Staubach who completed the

pass in the south end zone as they stole the victory from the Vikings. From our vantage point on the opposite end, we first saw an orange thrown out on the field and we all thought it was a penalty flag. No such luck. Pretty soon a glass pint bottle was thrown and hit referee Arman Terzian right in the face. Rob Henry reminded me it was a Snoshoe Grog bottle if you ever need that piece of trivia.

At the time, most of the fans in the north end zone were getting ready to jump on the field to celebrate but as we saw what happened, we all stood in stunned silence. And that my friends, is why the Dallas Cowboys are not a much liked team in these parts. On any given day during the season I cheer for the Vikings and whoever is playing against the Cowboys.

The next year though, I was back in those same bleachers for two playoff games. The Vikes beat Washington 35-20 and then the next week they beat the Rams 24-13 to win what would be the last playoff game played at Met Stadium. We did get to jump on the field after that game and in a frame on my wall in the mancave; I have a piece of purple sod that was used to cover up the infield dirt around 3rd base. And as we remember all too well, the Vikings went on to lose their 4th Super Bowl to Oakland. But like a good Viking fan, we black out when we talk about Super Bowls but we remember all the victories that led us to get to four Super Bowls.

Thank You

THANK YOU to friends, family and community for the cards and gifts for my retirement from the WCFD. A special thanks to the WCFD for the beautiful plaque. You have been a great group of people to work with. It has been an honor serving the community of West Concord.

Doug Rhodes

Traxler Law PLLC
traxlerlaw.com
Ann Traxler
Attorney

PRACTICE AREAS

- Wills, Trusts, & Estates
- Farm and Business Transition Planning
- General Practice
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West Concord City Council Meeting November 16, 2023 7:00 PM

Meeting was held at the City of West ConCORDS Bell Tower Center

PRESENT: Mayor Jeffrey McCool, Councilmember Collin Ripley, Councilmember Crystal Nielsen, Councilmember Jeff Burse and Councilmember Christina Peterson.

(Arrived at 7:00pm)

ALSO PRESENT: Administrator Kim Klejeski, Interim Administrator Shirley Slater-Schulte, City Clerk-Treasurer Lauren Highfill, Stantecs Joe Palen, Accounting Clerk Michelle Lee, Police Chief Shannon Boerner and Library Director Heather Fredrick.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

Resident Shannon Crofton was present to discuss their Sanitary Sewer Replacement Plan for residence 316 Concord Street. The council maintained their consensus (made at the September 21st, 2023, City Council meeting) that Patrick and Shannon Crofton should hook up to City Sewer based on City Ordinance. This decision was supported by the City Engineer, Joe Palen of Stantec.

PUBLIC COMMENT

(Public Comments made regarding the 2024 Utility and Street Reconstruction Project Preferences)

Sandra Sullivan, Marti Fossum, Galen Coverts, Bill Dessner, and Ross Cameron were present to make public comments regarding the 2024 Utility and Street Construction Project. Concerns included:

- The cost of the project and Stantec contingencies.
- Request for information on maintenance cost of wider streets.
- Discussion regarding preferences for mountable curbs versus barrier curbs.

CONSENT AGENDA

- Approve Personnel Committee Minutes from October 16th, 2023
- Approve City Council Meeting Minutes from October 19th, 2023
- Approved Special City Council Meeting Minutes from October 23rd, 2023
- Approval of Payment of Claims dated: 10/26/2023 in the Amount of \$20,750.40
- Approval of Payment of Claims dated: 11/01/2023 in the Amount of \$332.00
- Approval of Payment of Claims dated: 11/08/2023 in the Amount of \$54,628.67
- Approval of Payment of Claims dated:

11/09/2023 in the Amount of \$1776.80

- Resolution 2023 -37: Resolution Approving Renewal of Tobacco Permit For 2024 for The City of West ConCORDS Municipal Liquor Store

- Resolution 2023 - 38: Approve License Application for Food, Beverage, Lodging or Youth Camp Establishment

- Resolution 2023 - 39: Resolution to Hire Part-Time Police Officer David Curtis Myrom

- Resolution 2023 - 40: Resolution to Hire Administrator Kimberly Klejeski

- Resolution 2023 - 41: Resolution Accepting Donations from the Friends of West Concord Public Library and from Rick and Dawn Van Zuilen in Memory of Laurel Phelps

- Resolution 2023- 43: Resolution Authorizing Signatory Change to add Kimberly Klejeski, City Administrator, and remove previous Cory Hinz , previous City Administrator

- November 6th, EDA Minutes and Agenda for review.

MOTION: Motion to approve the Consent Agenda.

Motion was made by Councilmember Christina Peterson, seconded by Councilmember Jeff Burse.

Ayes: Mayor Jeffrey McCool, Councilmember Collin Ripley, Councilmember Crystal Nielsen, Councilmember Jeff Burse and Councilmember Christina Peterson.

Nays: None

CITY BUSINESS

DISCUSSION WITH JOE PALEN REGARDING THE 2024 UTILITY AND STREET RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT PREFERENCES

Joe Palen, of Stantec was present to discuss the 2024 Utility and Street Reconstruction Project and answer questions from community members. In addition to addressing resident concerns and public comments, Joe discussed how widening the street would significantly impact mature-growth trees on Irvin and Second Street. Joe Palen requested that the council decide on project preferences by the December City Council meeting to ensure the project remains on track.


MOTION TO APPROVE LETTER FOR DESIGN OF THE 2024 UTILITY AND STREET RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT

The City Council approved Joe Palen of Stantec's request for a Letter of Design for

the 2024 Utility and Street Reconstruction project. The improvements included the Irvin and Second Street project, the Municipal

Liquor Store Parking Lot, and Alley Reconstruction.

(continued on page 7)



PO Box 435
West Concord, MN 55985-0435

Telephone: (507) 527-2668
Fax: (507) 527-2669

Job Posting

City Administrator

Position Title:	City Administrator (Full Time Exempt)
Salary:	\$65,000 - \$70,000 annually
Reports To:	West Concord City Council
Departments Supervised:	City Hall, Public Works, Public Safety, and Municipal On & Off Sale

Essential Functions

- Performs administrative, financial, and planning activities on behalf of the City of West Concord, including state-mandated Clerk and Treasurer functions, as set forth in Minnesota Statutes 412.141 and 412.151.
- Serves as chief financial and executive officer of the City of West Concord, develops, and maintains financial systems which provide for complete and accurate records for the City, oversees accounting tasks, liquor store operations, and utility billing functions by establishing and implementing internal controls; directs all activities of the annual audit of the City and public utility records; responsible for payroll administration.
- Oversees and manages the administration of all departments including personnel, equipment, and facilities to ensure adequate service to citizens. Gives recommendations on personnel actions, subject to City Council approval, on hiring, disciplinary actions, and dismissals.
- Knowledge of the scope of services provided by local government and personal leadership skills. The Administrator communicates with the City Council individually and in meetings to develop priorities of new and existing activities for the City of West Concord.

Communicates with: *Internally*—City Council, City Clerk - Treasurer, Accounting Clerk, Maintenance Supervisor, Police & Fire Chiefs, Library Director, Swimming Pool Manager, Liquor Store Liaison, City Attorney, People Service, and City Engineer. *Externally*—County officials, City's designated bank, sales representatives, newspapers, auditors, League of Minnesota Cities, insurance agent, general contractors, and public.

Hours of Work: Work hours for this position are 8 a.m. through 5 p.m. Monday-Friday. The position is flexible due to evening meetings. The following meetings are mandatory: City Council Meetings, which are typically the third Thursday of the month, Personnel Committee as needed, and EDA Meetings the first Monday of the month. Additional evening hours may be required as assigned.

Minimum Requirements:

- Preferred Bachelor's Degree in Public Administration, Finance, Accounting, or related field.
- Two years of accounting experience (preferably governmental accounting).
- Basic computer skills and software knowledge. Experience with Banyon Data Systems software preferred.

Group Benefits: PTO, FICA, PERA, City Pays 100% of Single Health Insurance Premium Cost. As annually approved by the discretion of the City Council, See attached (2018 Employee Handbook) for further details.

Apply:
The position description and the required City of West Concord Employment Application Form can be downloaded at westconcordmn.com. Send resume, cover letter, and required City employment application to City of West Concord, Attn: Personnel Committee, PO Box 435, West Concord, MN 55985, or e-mail application materials to wcmayor@yahoo.com; Deadline for application submission is **Friday, February 16, 2024, at 5 p.m.**

Join us for Book Group at the Library Wednesday, February 7 from 4-5pm or Saturday, February 10 from 9-10am

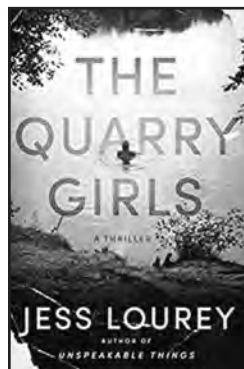
Minnesota, 1977. For the teens of one close-knit community, summer means late-night swimming parties at the quarry, the county fair, and venturing into the tunnels beneath the city. But for two best friends, it's not all fun and games.

Heather and Brenda have a secret. Something they saw in the dark. Something they can't forget. They've decided to never tell a soul. But their vow is tested when their friend disappears—the second girl to vanish in a week. And yet the authorities are reluctant to investigate.

Heather is terrified that the missing girls are connected to what she and Brenda stumbled upon that night. Desperately searching for answers on her own, she learns that no one in her community is who they seem to be. Not the police, not the boys she met at the quarry, not even her parents. But she can't stop digging because she knows those girls are in danger.

She also knows she's next.

335 pages, Hardcover, First published November 1, 2022





West Concord City Council Meeting Minutes

(continued from page 6)

Joe Palen of Stantec will begin to work on the design process utilizing preferences requested from the City Council by the December City Council meeting.

MOTION: Motion to approve the Letter for Design of the 2024 Utility and Street Reconstruction Project, including the Irvin and Second Street improvement and the Municipal Liquor Store Parking Lot and Alley Improvement and soil boring drillings for the 5th Street Residential Project.

Motion was made by Councilmember Christian Peterson, seconded by Councilmember Collin Ripley.

Ayes: Mayor Jeffrey McCool, Councilmember Collin Ripley, Councilmember Crystal Nielsen, Councilmember Jeff Burse and Councilmember Christina Peterson.

Nays: None

RESOLUTION 2023 - 42: RESOLUTION FOR CERTIFICATION OF DELINQUENT WATER, SEWER, AND STORM SEWER UTILITIES

MOTION: Motion to approve Resolution 2023-42.

Motion was made by Councilmember

Christina Peterson, seconded by Councilmember Crystal Nielsen.

Ayes: Mayor Jeffrey McCool, Councilmember Collin Ripley, Councilmember Crystal Nielsen, Councilmember Jeff Burse and Councilmember Christina Peterson.

Nays: None

ORDINANCE 01-2023: AN INTERIM ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING A STUDY AND IMPOSING A MORATORIUM ON THE OPERATION OF CANNABIS BUSINESSES WITHIN THE CITY OF WEST CONCORD

MOTION: Motion to approve Ordinance 01-2023.

Motion was made by Councilmember Crystal Nielsen seconded by Councilmember Collin Ripley.

Ayes: Mayor Jeffrey McCool, Councilmember Collin Ripley, Councilmember Crystal Nielsen, Councilmember Jeff Burse and Councilmember Christina Peterson.

Nays: None

DISCUSSION REGARDING REQUEST FROM TERRY CAMPBELL REGARDING THE CITY LEGAL NEWSPAPER

Terry Cambell of the West Concord Messenger was present. Terry is now classified as

a legal newspaper and would like the City to consider using his paper for their legal postings. Based on the change, he will publish two times per month. Terry also mentioned that the standard cost of his current services will increase in 2025 due to inflation to \$199.00.

MOTION TO APPROVE UPDATED ACH ORGANIZATION SERVICE AGREEMENT WITH HERITAGE BANK, MINNESOTA

MOTION: Motion to approve updated ACH agreement with Heritage Bank.

The motion was made by Councilmember Crystal Nielsen, seconded by Councilmember Jeff Burse.

Ayes: Mayor Jeffrey McCool, Councilmember Collin Ripley, Councilmember Crystal Nielsen, and Councilmember Jeff Burse.

Nays: None

Abstain: Councilmember Christina Peterson

MOTION TO RATIFY THE ACTION TAKEN BY MAYOR MCCOOL AND CITY STAFF TO AUTHORIZE THE REPAIR BY COLLIN RIPLEY OF THE ELECTRICAL MISFUNCTION AT THE FIRE STATION AND INSTRUCT STAFF TO REFER THIS ITEM TO THE LEAGUE OF MN INSURANCE CLAIM DEPARTMENT

The city needed an emergency electrical repair due to an emergent fire hazard at the Fire Department Office Building.

MOTION: Motion to ratify the action taken by Mayor McCool and City Staff to Authorize the Repair by Collin Ripley of Ripley Electric to repair the electrical misfunction at the fire station and instruct staff to refer this item to the League of MN Insurance Claim Department.

Motion was made by Councilmember Christina Peterson seconded by Councilmember Crystal Nielsen.

Ayes: Mayor Jeffrey McCool, Councilmember Crystal Nielsen, Councilmember Christina Peterson and Councilmember Jeff Burse.

Nays: None

Abstain: Councilmember Collin Ripley

REPORT OF OFFICERS STEVENSON INSURANCE POLICY UPDATES

The interim City Administrator was present to discuss the need to add insurance to the City of West Concord's Park property and the swimming pool to our existing policy.

MOTION: Motion to approve the addition of park property and swimming pool insurance to our current policy with Stevenson Insurance

Motion was made by Councilmember Collin Ripley, seconded by Councilmember Jeff Burse.

Ayes: Mayor Jeffrey McCool, Councilmember Crystal Nielsen, Councilmember Christina Peterson, Councilmember Collin Ripley and Councilmember Jeff Burse.

Nays: None

CONSENSUS FOR CLEANING SERVICES

The interim City Administrator requested a consensus to allow Keith Clammer, City Maintenance Supervisor, to set up carpet cleaning services for the City of West Concord.

CONSENSUS: Consensus of the council to approve carpet cleaning services for the City

of West Concord.

Mayor Jeffrey McCool, Councilmember Crystal Nielsen, Councilmember Christina Peterson, Councilmember Collin Ripley and Councilmember Jeff Burse.

NEW PART-TIME HIRE FOR THE CITY OF WEST CONCORDS MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT

The City Maintenance Supervisor recommended that the City Council approve the hire of a new part-time maintenance worker, Ross Cameron, pending a satisfactory background inquiry.

MOTION: Motion to approve hiring Ross Cameron pending a satisfactory background inquiry.

Motion was made by Councilmember Crystal Nielsen, seconded by Councilmember Christian Peterson.

Ayes: Mayor Jeffrey McCool, Councilmember Crystal Nielsen, Councilmember Christina Peterson, Councilmember Collin Ripley and Councilmember Jeff Burse.

Nays: None

EMT JOB DESCRIPTION

The Fire Department presented its EMT job description to the City Council. The job description will go to the personnel committee for review.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting Adjourned at pm 8:53pm

MOTION: Motion to Adjourn.

Motion was made by Mayor McCool, seconded by Councilmember Collin Ripley.

Ayes: Mayor Jeffrey McCool, Councilmember Collin Ripley, Councilmember Crystal Nielsen, Councilmember Jeff Burse and Councilmember Christina Peterson.

Nays: None

By: _____

Mayor Jeffrey McCool

Attest:

By: _____

Lauren Highfill, City Clerk-Treasurer

Public Hearing November 16, 2023 6:30 PM

A public hearing was held regarding the Certification of Delinquent Water, Sewer, and Storm Sewer Utilities.

(Called to Order 6:30pm)

PRESENT: Mayor Jeffrey McCool, Councilmember Collin Ripley, Councilmember Crystal Nielsen, Councilmember Jeff Burse, and Councilmember Christina Peterson.

ALSO PRESENT: Interim Administrator Shirley Slater-Schulte, Administrator Kim Klejeski, City Clerk-Treasurer Lauren Highfill, Accounting Clerk Michelle Lee, and Police Chief Shannon Boerner.

COMMENT

Administrator Kimberly Klejeski commented that a letter was sent to past-due residents with information regarding public service assistance programs for payment of utilities.

Resident Eugene Herold commented that as a landlord, he would prefer water services be shut off before the assessment process begins, ensuring his tenants are liable for their past-due water and sewer services.

Mayor McCool inquired with Administration regarding water and sewer shut off procedures. City Administrative staff will look into the process.

Motion to Adjourn:

(continued on page 8)

2024

West Concord Events

- Saturday, February 10th - 2nd Annual Valentine's Event (6:30 pm – 9:30 pm)
- Saturday, March 16th – St. Patrick's Day Event (6:30 pm – 9:00 pm)
- Saturday, March 23rd - Expo (8:00 am – 2:00 pm)
- Saturday, March 30th – Easter Egg Hunt (10 am)
- Saturday, April 20th or 27th- Tree Planting
- Saturday May 11th (8-11 am) - Community Clean-up/
3rd Annual Spring Fling Event (4-7pm)
- June 19th – Juneteenth- Open Swim
- Thursday-Sunday, July 25th – 28th, -39th Annual Survival Days Weekend
- Tuesday, August 6th, National Night Out (6-9 pm)
- Saturday, September 21st, -3rd Annual Oktoberfest Event (3-7:30 pm)
- October Membership Drive, Date/Time to be determined
- Saturday, December 7th, -18th Annual WC Community Christmas





Public Hearing

(continued from page 7)

Motion to adjourn was made by Mayor McCool, seconded by Councilmember Crystal Nielsen.

Ayes: Mayor Jeffrey McCool, Councilmember Collin Ripley, Councilmember Crystal Nielsen, Councilmember Jeff Burse, and Councilmember Christina Peterson.

Nays: None

By: _____

Mayor Jeffrey McCool

Attest:

By: _____

Lauren Highfill, City Clerk-Treasurer

Truth in Taxation Public Hearing

December 21, 2023

6:00 PM

A hearing was held in which the public was heard regarding matters of the City of West Concorde's Truth in Taxation.

(Called to Order 6:00pm)

PRESENT: Mayor Jeffrey McCool, Councilmember Collin Ripley, and Councilmember Christina Peterson.

ALSO PRESENT: Administrator Kim Klejeski, City Clerk-Treasurer Lauren Highfill, Accounting Clerk Michelle Lee and Gene Vogt of Ehlers.

Jeanne Vogt from Ehlers provided a summary of the 2024 budget for the General Fund, which included the actual 2022 budget and a comparison to the 2023 budget. The budget remained unchanged from when the City adopted the preliminary budget back in September. The preliminary property tax levy of \$606,200, also unchanged from September was included, which is an increase of \$67,452 over 2023. The increase was recommended for tax rate stabilization and to fund new positions within the Fire Department for the first year. A portion of the increase was offset due to a decrease in the debt levy and new state aids to help pay for street maintenance. Vogt also commented that the City has a long history of stable tax levies and the increase was in line with prior years. The City has also seen significant increases in the tax base since 2020 and 2024 and has remained stable. The end result is the City is expecting to have a tax rate similar or slightly lower than 2023. After the presentation, the floor was opened up for questions. No one asked to speak. The mayor thanked Vogt for the presentation.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

Motion to Adjourn:

Motion to adjourn was made by Mayor McCool, seconded by Councilmember Collin Ripley.

Ayes: Mayor Jeffrey McCool, Councilmember Collin Ripley, and Councilmember Christina Peterson.

Nays: None

Mayor Jeffrey McCool

Attest:

Lauren Highfill, City Clerk-Treasurer

West Concord City Council Meeting

December 21, 2023

7:00 PM

Meeting was held at the City of West Concord's Bell Tower Center

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Resident Erick Gunhus spoke regarding concern of financial transparency for the 2024 Street Reconstruction Project and request the

Council consider a roll over curb. He would like the City to consider other engineering services. Resident Sandra Sullivan addressed hiring a professional certified arborist to complete an analysis on trees that will be affected by the 2024 Street Reconstruction Project. She also would like more valuation and studies on projected city projects.

PRESENT:

Mayor Jeffrey McCool, Councilmember Jeff Burse, Councilmember Crystal Nielsen, Councilmember Christina Peterson and Councilmember Collin Ripley.

(Arrived at 7:00pm)

CONSENT AGENDA

• Approve City Council Meeting Minutes from November 16th, 2023

• Approval of Payment of Claims dated: 11/20/2023 in the amount of \$544.00

• Approval of Payment of Claims dated: 11/20/2023 in the amount of \$6244.47

• Approval of Payment of Claims dated: 11/20/2023 in the amount of \$214.95

• Approval of Payment of Claims dated: 11/21/2023 in the amount of \$31,258.44

• Approval of Payment of Claims dated: 11/22/2023 in the amount of \$8,414.52

• Approval of Payment of Claims dated: 11/29/2023 in the amount of \$19,778.51

• Resolution 2023-44: Approving a Six-Month Review and Wage Increase of \$2.00 per/hour for the Library Director Heather Frederick.

• Resolution 2023-47: Designating the 2024 Polling Place for the City of West Concord

• Resolution 2023-48: To Hire Ross Cameron as Part-Time On-Call Maintenance Employee

MOTION: Motion to approve the Consent Agenda.

Motion was made by Councilmember Jeff Burse, seconded by Councilmember Crystal Nielsen

Ayes: Mayor Jeffrey McCool, Councilmember Jeff Burse, Councilmember Crystal Nielsen, Councilmember Christina Peterson and Councilmember Collin Ripley.

Nays: None

CITY BUSINESS

DISCUSSION WITH PATRICK AND SHANNON CROFTON REGARDING CITY SEWER SERVICES

The Council maintained that according to the City Code Book it is a requirement to have the services hooked up and there was no way to waive the requirement as requested by Patrick and Shannon Crofton. Patrick and Shannon Crofton were encouraged to contact the City for further assistance on the process.

JOE PALEN OF STANTEC WILL BE PRESENT TO DISCUSS THE 2024 STREET AND UTILITY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

Joe Palen was present to discuss the 2024 Street and Utility Improvement Project options.

A motion was made by Christina Peterson to open the floor to vote on a 32-foot-wide street and surmountable curb as a part of the Irvin Street and Second Street Reconstruction Project.

MOTION: Motion to approve 32-foot-wide street with surmountable curb.

Motion was made by Councilmember Christina Peterson, seconded by Councilmember Collin Ripley.

Ayes: Mayor Jeffrey McCool, Councilmember Jeff Burse, Councilmember Crystal Nielsen, Councilmember Christina

Peterson and Councilmember Collin Ripley.
Nays: None

A motion was made by Christina Peterson to Open the floor to Save the Tree as a part of the Irvin Street and Second Street Reconstruction Project on Arnold and Second Street at the Intersection of Arnold Street and 2nd Street

MOTION: Motion to approve saving the tree as a part of the Irvin Street and Second Street Reconstruction Project on Arnold and Second Street.

Motion was made by Councilmember Christina Peterson, seconded by Councilmember Jeff Burse.

Ayes: Mayor Jeffrey McCool, Councilmember Jeff Burse, Councilmember Christina Peterson, and Councilmember Collin Ripley.

Nays: Councilmember Crystal Nielsen

Motion to open the floor for a vote for diagonal parking, pen ramps and paved parking surface at the Bell Tower Center as a part of the Irvin Street and Second Street Reconstruction Project.

MOTION: Motion to approve diagonal parking, pen ramps and paved parking surface at the Bell Tower Center.

Motion was made by Councilmember Collin Ripley, seconded by Councilmember Crystal Nielsen.

Ayes: Mayor Jeffrey McCool, Councilmember Jeff Burse, Councilmember Crystal Nielsen, Councilmember Christina Peterson and Councilmember Collin Ripley.

Nays: None

Motion to open the floor for a motion to build frost proof cement ramp that is ADA compliant as a part of the Municipal Liquor Store Parking Lot Reconstruction.

MOTION: Motion to approve build of frost proof cement ramp that is ADA compliant as a part of the Municipal Liquor Store Parking Lot Reconstruction.

Motion was made by Councilmember Christina Peterson, seconded by Councilmember Collin Ripley.

Ayes: Mayor Jeffrey McCool, Councilmember Jeff Burse, Councilmember Crystal Nielsen, Councilmember Christina Peterson and Councilmember Collin Ripley.

Nays: None

Motion to open the floor by Crystal Nielsen to vote on Soil Borings by Chosen Valley Testing for the 5th Street Residential Development Project.

MOTION: Motion to approve Soil Borings by Chosen Valley Testing.

Motion was made by Councilmember Crystal Nielsen, seconded by Councilmember Collin Ripley.

Ayes: Mayor Jeffrey McCool, Councilmember Jeff Burse, Councilmember Crystal Nielsen, Councilmember Christina Peterson and Councilmember Collin Ripley.

Nays: None

REVIEW AND FINALIZE THE 2024 UTILITY RATES, PRESENTED BY JEANNE VOGT SENIOR FISCAL CONSULTANT AT EHLERS PUBLIC FINANCE ADVISORS

Jeanne Vogt from Ehlers presented the 2023 utility rate study update. The Water Fund was anticipating a 12% increase in rates over 2023. However, Vogt said the increase in water usage due to new connections meant the increase would only need to be 11%. Future projections show the City only needing inflationary increases starting in 2027. This

allows the Water Fund to maintain adequate reserves while limiting the amount of borrowing to pay for capital. The Study already includes preliminary borrowing for the utility portion of the 2024 street projects. Vogt recommended decreasing the rates in the Sewer Fund by 7% because the 2004 MN PFA loan will be paid in full in 2024. This was historically a significant portion of the Sewer budget. Once this loan is paid, the budget is reduced and the City won't need to maintain the same level of reserves. The Storm Sewer Fund is stable with Vogt recommending a 0% increase in rates for 2024. The overall increase on a residential home using 3,000 gallons of water a month is \$0/month. Commercial property using 20,000 gallons of water a month will see a slight increase of \$2.13/month.

Vogt then asked the Council to approve the 2024 utility rates.

MOTION: Motion to approve the 2024 Utility Rates.

Motion was made by Councilmember Christina Peterson, seconded by Councilmember Collin Ripley.

Ayes: Mayor Jeffrey McCool, Councilmember Jeff Burse, Councilmember Crystal Nielsen, Councilmember Christina Peterson and Councilmember Collin Ripley.

Nays: None

REVIEW AND ADOPT 2024 FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT PLAN, FINAL PAY LEVY AND IMPACT ANALYSIS ON MEDIAN VALUED HOMES

Jeanne Vogt from Ehlers presented the updated long-term financial management plan and 2024 budget to the Council. Vogt started with the General Fund and reiterated the 2024 budget remains unchanged from September. Preliminary 2023 figures look to increase the General Fund balance by \$20,168. A portion of this is due to the one-time public safety aid received in December.

Vogt reminded the Council of the importance of maintaining a minimum cash fund balance of \$500k. This is the amount recommended by the rating agencies for small communities. Vogt also discussed the property tax levy for Pay 2024 of \$606,200, which included an increase of \$67,452 overpay 2023. Vogt also reiterated the increase was for tax rate stabilization and to help fund new fire department positions for the first year. The long-term plan showed a new debt levy in 2025 to pay for debt service related to the upcoming street project. Vogt also reminded the Council that the debt levy for the water portion of the 2017A bonds only has a few years left. This was a long-term decision made many years ago to make the utility funds self-sufficient and that plan is coming to fruition.

Vogt then moved on to briefly describe the fiscal health of the other governmental funds of the City. These funds pay for the capital projects of the City, not including the utility funds. All funds remain on track and include capital projects for the next 10 years.

After her presentation, Vogt asked the Council to approve the 2024 budget and property tax levy.

MOTION: Motion to adopt the 2024 Financial Management Plan, Final Pay Levy and Impact Analysis on Median Valued Homes.

(continued on page 9)



City Council Meeting

(continued from page 8)

Motion was made by Councilmember Crystal Nielsen, seconded by Councilmember Christina Peterson.

Ayes: Mayor Jeffrey McCool, Councilmember Jeff Burse, Councilmember Crystal Nielsen, Councilmember Christina Peterson and Councilmember Collin Ripley.

Nays: None

RESOLUTION 2023-45: APPROVING THE 2024 TAX LEVY

GENERAL FUND	\$393,143
EDA FUND:	\$17,000
EQUIPMENT REVOLVING FUND:	\$20,000
STREET FUND:	\$0
FIRE EQUIPMENT FUND:	\$90,000
DEBT SERVICE FUND:	\$86,057
2017A G.O. Improvements Bonds (Water Portion)	\$16,522
2014A G.O. Bonds	\$34,535
2020A G.O. Improvement Bonds	\$35,000
Total Levy:	\$606,200

MOTION: Motion to approve the 2024 Tax Levy.

Motion was made by Councilmember Crystal Nielsen, seconded by Councilmember Christina Peterson.

Ayes: Mayor Jeffrey McCool, Councilmember Jeff Burse, Councilmember Crystal Nielsen, Councilmember Christina Peterson and Councilmember Collin Ripley.

Nays: None

REPORT OF OFFICERS ADMINISTRATOR

The Administrator presented a request for

Banyon Training for Michelle Lee City Accountant and Administrator Kim Klejeski. The Council unanimously agreed to allow Banyon Training for City Employees.

Sealed bids were presented for the West Concord Police Squad Car and the highest bidder bid in the amount of \$801.00.

MOTION: Motion to approve sealed bid award for the West Concord Police Squad Car in the amount of \$801.00.

Motion was made by Councilmember Crystal Nielsen, seconded by Councilmember Christina Peterson.

Ayes: Mayor Jeffrey McCool, Councilmember Jeff Burse, Councilmember Crystal Nielsen, Councilmember Christina Peterson and Councilmember Collin Ripley.

Nays: None

A motion was made by City Administrator Kim Klejeski to approve Sandra Borders to help fill in for the time the clerk will be gone based on similar wages paid for previous services.

MOTION: Motion to approve Sandra Borders to help fill in for the time the clerk will be gone based on similar wages paid for previous services.

Motion was made by Councilmember Christina Peterson, seconded by Councilmember Collin Ripley.

Ayes: Mayor Jeffrey McCool, Councilmember Jeff Burse, Councilmember Crystal Nielsen, Councilmember Christina Peterson and Councilmember Collin Ripley.

Nays: None

A motion was made by City Administrator to approve the Annual Assessment designa-

tion Dodge County Assessment Agreement in the amount of \$5,052.00 dollars.

MOTION: Motion to approve the Dodge County Assessment Agreement in the amount of \$5,052.00.

Motion was made by Councilmember Crystal Nielsen, seconded by Councilmember Collin Ripley.

Ayes: Mayor Jeffrey McCool, Councilmember Jeff Burse, Councilmember Crystal Nielsen, Councilmember Christina Peterson and Councilmember Collin Ripley.

Nays: None

A motion was made by City Administrator, Kim Klejeski, for the Council to approve Updates to the Employee Handbook.

MOTION: Motion to approve Updates to the Employee Handbook.

Motion was made by Councilmember Crystal Nielsen, seconded by Councilmember Collin Ripley.

Ayes: Mayor Jeffrey McCool, Councilmember Jeff Burse, Councilmember Crystal Nielsen, Councilmember Christina Peterson and Councilmember Collin Ripley.

Nays: None

A motion was made for the Approval of the sale of the EDA Lot number 263002004 and 263002008 to Ellen Rownd and Brandon Woodward.

MOTION: Motion to approve the sale of EDA lot number 263002004 and 263002008 to Ellen Rownd and Brandon Woodward.

Motion was made by Councilmember Christina Peterson, seconded by Councilmember Collin Ripley.

Ayes: Mayor Jeffrey McCool, Coun-

cilmember Jeff Burse, Councilmember Crystal Nielsen, Councilmember Christina Peterson and Councilmember Collin Ripley.

Nays: None

WEST CONCORD LIBRARIAN

Library director Heather Frederick communicated that the final Dodge County numbers were close to 3k more than expected but also reported senior use of the craft day was down.

WEST CONCORD PUBLIC WORKS

City Maintenance Supervisor, Keith Clammer, would like to move the Tuck Pointing for City Hall to the 2025 budget and add it to the financial plan in the future. More information on cost and quotes will be provided in the future.

WEST CONCORD FIRE DEPARTMENT

Chad Finne, Fire Chief and Peter Moen, Ambulance Director, were present to request to suspend ambulance service from 5am to 5pm Monday through Friday due to lack of available EMT's with the West Concord Fire Department and Ambulance service. They would like the City to Consider a temporary suspension and temporary agreement with the City of Dodge Center for EMS services during the temporary suspension. Information regarding this request is being gathered by the Chief and Ambulance Director to be presented at a future council meeting.

MOTION: Motion to Adjourn
Motion was made by Councilmember Collin Ripley, seconded by Councilmember Crystal Nielsen.

Ayes: Mayor Jeffrey McCool, Councilmember Jeff Burse, Councilmember Crystal Nielsen, Councilmember Christina Peterson and Councilmember Collin Ripley.

Nays: None

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting Adjourned at pm 9:22pm

Mayor Jeffrey McCool

Attest:

By:

Lauren Highfill, City Clerk-Treasurer



West Concord's 21+ Pre-Valentine's Event Details

Saturday, February 10, 2024

Location:

Bell Tower Center 401 Main Street

What's Happening?

Limited Pre-Sale Only Tickets. Will Be Available Starting January 22, 2024 (Adult's Only, 21 Years and Older- Can be Single or Couples, All Welcomed!)

Includes:

Nice Dinner, One Glass of Champagne, Live Music, Free Activities with Prizes, Cash Bar & Free Childcare to Ticket Holders

Time:

Adults: 6:30-9:30 pm event. Cash bar opens at 6:30 pm and dinner served at 7:00 pm

Child Care: Drop off between 6:15 pm -7:00 pm at the West Concord City Hall. Pick-up before 9:45 pm. Movie, popcorn, snacks, and crafts & games provided.

Cost:

\$40.00 per ticket Pre-Sale; Depending on availability after February 5th Price goes to \$45.00 per ticket. This is an extraordinary cost savings right here in your local community that includes a nice dinner, one glass of Champagne, games with prizes, live music, beautifully decorated venue, and childcare all for \$40.00 for a single person or \$80.00 for two enjoying an evening out!

Dinner Choices:

Main Entrée- you will choose one at time of ticket purchase: Burgundy Beef Tips, Dijon Mustard Crusted Pork Chop, or Lemon Chicken Pasta.

All dinners- will come with a side salad, potato, vegetable, dessert, and one glass champagne.

Raffle:

\$5.00 each, need not purchase ticket to 21+ Pre-Valentine's Event or be present to win. Prize will be \$400.00 in Cash! Tickets available from Cardinal Club members or at West Concord City Hall from now until February 10th. Drawing to be held February 10th. *License Exclusion 349.166, Subdivision 1. (c)*

Sponsored By:

West Concord Parks & Rec, Cardinal Club, West Concord Library, and West Concord Historical Society

Tickets are nonrefundable unless we cancel the event.

Watch for updates on the City Website or Mayor Facebook Page.

Tickets will be on a first come first serve basis, with a limited number!



Event updates will be posted at the City of West Concord-Mayor's Facebook Page or by Visiting or Calling West Concord City Hall (507-527-2668) on or after January 22nd.

21+ Pre-Valentine's Event Tickets available for purchase at city hall, 180 Main Street starting January 22nd. These are Limited!

Customer Appreciation
January 26th
5:30-7:00 PM

Drink specials available and munchies provided.

ON SALE & OFF SALE
 120 Main Street, West Concord
 507-527-2469

Remember to watch our Facebook page for updates and events.

Concord Collision and Hot Rod Hardware

(continued from page 1)

After moving into the new building Tim eventually went away from the classic car restoration and turned to auto body collision under the name West Concord Collision. Soon after, Tim added Truck Day Cab Conversions. This is the process of converting a semi-truck with a sleeper to non-sleeper or day-cab truck. Though Tim has moved a large portion of his time to farmland real estate, he has brought his sons into this family business with them covering most all operations.

Jonathon and Joel both started in the business from an early age, Jonathon explained this more; "With Hot Rod Hardware starting on the family farm, it was part of our everyday life. Different from other families where the parents go off to work every day." Aside from going to various car shows with Tim to sell parts, their real responsibilities began later and moved them into the positions they are working today. Jonathon started out in 7th grade by answering the phone, doing clerical work, and cleaning the shop. Joel started working in the shop at the age of 14 and would detail cars, clean up around the shop, and learn the basics of body work from other employees working at the time.

After high school Jonathon chose to go to college, where he majored in accounting and business management. Although he was gone, Jonathon was still very involved with the

business working on various projects through college. He even managed a crew of his college friends who worked on the Hot Rod Hardware website every week for extra income. Joel chose a different route. After graduating high school at the beginning of the Covid Pandemic and considering the experience he had in the shop as well as his own parts sales experience in the business, he decided to move right into a shop technician roll. He now does everything from painting and body work on cars to day-cabbing semi-trucks. Jonathon focuses on the parts sales for Hot Rod Hardware, as well as doing estimates and ordering parts for West Concord Collision and Day Cab Conversions.

Even though Jonathon's work has been focused on the office, I asked if he had ever experienced working in the shop? "My experience started by repairing a snowmobile hood that I had crashed when I was in my early teens. I did all the body work, and painted it." This opened Jonathon's eyes to how mechanics of the shop runs, and the work involved in getting a job done. Later, while home from college for Christmas vacation he did a day cab conversion that added to his experience.

With so many different things going on every day I asked how they balance their responsibilities. Who handles what and how do you not step on each other's toes? Joel said; "Everyone has a good understanding of what their jobs are making it easy to understand who will be doing what work". Jonathon said "There is a level of trust we have in each other knowing that the other will handle his job. Joel trusts that I will have parts here for him and I trust that Joel will do the job cor-



rectly." I asked, with how different their jobs are, how much time do you spend working together? According to Jonathon "More often than not things are constantly changing and the communication between us helps us understand what needs to take priority or needs to change to get the job done efficiently, we mostly stay in our own area of the business."

I asked each of them what their favorite part of working in the business was, and it came down to this "Growing up at our home in the country, we spent plenty of time together. We enjoy working as a team, the arguments (because what family doesn't argue?), and the work in general."

At the end of our visit, I asked the boys what they really wanted the readers to learn about the business. "We are a business willing

to go the extra mile", said Jonathon confidently. "We don't just do this work for the money, we do it because we enjoy it. We all own old vehicles that we work on, and Joel and Dad own or have owned semi-trucks. The business is like another part of our family. Like any relative, it has its moments, but at the end of the day it is what we enjoy doing, and it has brought us closer as a family."

Well, there you have it. A family-owned business that takes great pride in a job well done, and operates a business that they love. See why I enjoy writing about these guys? They make me feel good as a reporter, bringing you information on a business you can count on! Happy New year from the Messenger staff!

Happy New Year

(continued from page 1)

In addition, in an effort to deliver the news and information more timely between print issues, last year we launched our on-line edition of the Messenger.

Check it out if you haven't already, There is additional bonus content on the site as well that is not in the print edition.

Thanks to local advertisers and your voluntary subscriptions, we are in your mailbox each month. Enclosed in this month's issue is a subscription envelope. We hope you will consider renewing your voluntary subscription. It insures the paper will continue here in your hometown.

Without this support, we would not be here.

We hope you continue to see value in the Messenger. While there are plenty of social media sources and on line sites out there, most don't deliver the hometown news and message like we do here.

Every year, many newspapers have consolidated or gone out of business.

We have watched this happen many times in recent years in small rural communities, and especially the past several years.

With our small staff of 2.5, we understand this challenge first hand here at the Messenger, which is why we publish the Messenger in its monthly format and update you as needed throughout the month on our web site.

Our goal with the Messenger is to help insure our home towns still have a community voice of its own, direct mailing to all residents in the zip code as well as many out of town subscribers. This format allows your hometown to maintain a local monthly paper, and better connect local residents, businesses and the community. We also understand the need for more timely information within the month, so check out the web site for important news that happens between print issues. We continue to expand our digital and online offerings while still maintaining our dedication to our hometowns!

We remain a small family owned business with a goal of supporting our rural communities and businesses. As always, if you have news, information or story ideas, please reach out to us. Again, Thank you for your readership and support.

Museum Musings

Eagle Valley: A Lively Homemakers Club

By Colleen Sathrum Hayne

“We become neighbors when we’re willing to cross the road for one another.” The Dutch writer, Henri Nouwen, might just as well have been specifically talking about the Eagle Valley Homemakers Club organized in 1932. If you’re local you know that Eagle Valley is the neighborhood which sent their children to District 10 Country School. Roughly, it’s a part of the countryside east and north of West Concord.

Homemakers Clubs in Minnesota came about through the University of Minnesota. In 1889 the University hired its first woman instructional staff person. She began to travel rural Minnesota and teach residents bread making and other food preparation skills. She also taught sewing of clothing, poultry raising, child development, and health matters. By 1917 there were 1100 Minnesota Homemakers Clubs. They were founded to improve the lives of their members, but brought women together socially and gave them the chance to be leaders. Eventually all the counties in Minnesota hired Home Demonstration Agents to work with the rural clubs.

What a joy it is that the Museum was given the Eagle Valley Club’s secretary’s notebook for the years 1932-1937. I was more than thankful for the beautiful cursive writing of the secretaries as I poured through six years of minutes.

The Eagle Valley Club had a few rules. Members should be from the School District 10 area, but charter members were exempted if they weren’t precisely from that area. Women could stay members if they moved, just as long as they were no more than 3 miles away. All new members should have at least 3 chances to join the club, including one written invitation. Meetings would be once a month on the third Wednesday, beginning at 1:30 p.m. and ending at 4:30 p.m. Dues were decided to be 25 cents a year, plus a Penny March each month.

The idea of a Penny March was new to me, but I learned that churches and other groups had been collecting coins for orphans in children’s homes in the early 1900s and calling them Penny Marches. Between church service and Sunday School children would march by the collection container, put in their coins, and learn about giving to others. Eagle Valley’s version of the Penny March was to collect coins, save them, and use them to help buy gifts, cards, and flowers for ill and bereaved members and extended family. It was the heart of the depression and Penny Marches contributed 9 to 17 cents each month, about \$2.00 in today’s money. Bridal and baby showers were added gracious gatherings that the club gave its members and families.

Specifications for the lunch following each meeting were included in the constitution. Lunch was to contain 3 items and coffee. Cheese and pickles were designated to be one of the 3 items. That made me smile. Dinners to include spouses and the whole family would take place in January, February and March. Members would help furnish the dinners and were divided into East and West neighborhood groups to make things more convenient. The winter was a less busy time for the farmers and they enjoyed the winter diversions the Club planned. Refreshment, serving, dishwashing and entertainment committees were formed to facilitate the dinners.

Many of the members of the club in the 30’s are names we are familiar with today: Josephine Andrews, Delia Cain, Audrey Cornwell, Ora Gochnauer, Julia Hanson, Hazel Jones, Dena Mensing, Rose Noser, Molly Osborn, Beatrice Rauchenstein, Dorothy Saxer, Hilda Sykes, Alyce Trelstad, Joy Urch, Ethel Van Allen, Ida and Ruth Wright, and Louise Zeller are the names listed on the 1935 membership roster.

In the summer of 1932 members and their families enjoyed a moonlight picnic supper at their June meeting. Their next meeting was a picnic lunch on Gochnauer’s lawn. The club decided that 20 cents should be given by each member to leaders who were going to teach classes at meetings, to help pay for materials needed, etc. Sewing lessons were taught about cutting out and making children’s garments, as well as how to create smocking. Table crafts and etiquette were offered, too. A meeting in August had an unusually low attendance due to canning, threshing, and the Dodge County Fair. That was a very busy time, to be sure.

As the club ventured on they developed a closer relationship with their neighborhood school. They decided that their giving of sympathy and congratulatory cards should be extended to District 10’s teacher and her family and that they should invite her to be a member. They held a program at the schoolhouse and served lunch at a charge of 10 cents for adults and 5 cents for kids. They also decided they should help pay for the new curtains to be hung at the school.

I am so impressed by the energy and dedication of the Eagle Valley homemakers who made quilt after quilt, crocheted rug after crocheted rug, embroidered luncheon cloths and towels, and spent months of meetings making cookbooks. Money from the treasury bought oilcloth and paper for the cookbooks and each member brought two 7” x 10” pieces of cardboard for the project. How I wish we could see one of those cookbooks! (Is there one “out there” somewhere?)

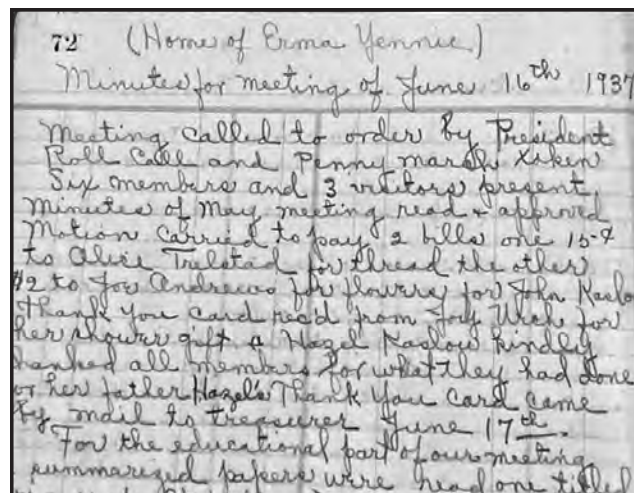
Quilts and crocheted rugs, which were all cooperative projects of the group, were often raffled off on dinner nights. The men could put their names in the drawing, too, for 5 cents each. You need to come to the Museum and see two of the quilts made by the Eagle Valley Club. Their names were embroidered into the quilts and are such an integral part of the Club’s History. They’re hanging on the walls in our first floor hallway, just waiting for you.

Parties at holiday times were part of the Club’s year. The description of 1937’s Halloween party is particularly poignant. “Our entertaining committee gave us a perfect party, made so by their diligence and labor. We will remember our Oct., 1937 party as a day of laughter. Next, as usual, followed our neighborly chat while touching elbow to elbow, partaking of the lunch served by Julia.”

I know exactly what she meant because our homemakers club, The Jolly Neighbors, still meets and I wouldn’t trade the warmth and hospitality I’ve been shown by my neighbors at our gatherings. Through the years West Concord has enjoyed many homemaker clubs, from N.I.S. to South Star Club. If you have anything you’d like to share about any of them, please contact us at the Museum. The clubs are such a lovely piece of West Concord’s history.



One of Eagle Valley Homemaker’s Quilts—hanging at the Museum



The quilt squares were made by these women.

(additional pictures at www.westconcordmn.net)

Pet Supply Drive at Triton this Weekend

Triton senior Ava Cummings has organized a Pet Supply Drive to be held this weekend at the Triton vs St. Charles basketball tourna-

ment. If you bring a donation item you will receive a free game admission. Item suggestions are chew toys, hot dogs, dog and cat food, cat litter, blankets and towels. The pet supply donations will be taken to the Rochester Paws and Claws at 3224 19th Street NW. Dog and cat toys are especially important during the cold weather months when pets can't play outside.

Ava loves animals and organized this as her senior project for Triton and will be at the Saturday January 27th tournament all day collecting the donations. If you have questions, you may contact her at 507-993-7211 for more information.



Keeping your name in front of your potential customers is an essential part of marketing your business in today's competitive market.

Call Terry at 507-951-7417 or email: hometownmessenger@gmail.com to place your ad in the next Messenger

West Concord American Legion Auxiliary

Thanks to our Caring and Sharing Tree Sponsors



- | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Concord Church of Christ | Cardinal Reality of SE |
| Casey's General Store | Costco, Rochester |
| Faith Community Church | Heritage Bank |
| Paul Donney, DDS | Skjeveland Enterprises |
| Study Club of West Concord | Toys for Tots |
| Trinity Lutheran Church | VZ Hogs |
| West Concord Fire Department | Zwingli United Church of Christ |

Thank you to all those who fulfilled Angel wishes and donated anonymously. We made Christmas joyful for 12 families and 38 children in our community!

Stewartville `Darrell Jaeger` Varsity Invitational Results for Triton

107

Theo Kispert (18-8) placed 3rd and scored 20.0 team points.

Champ. Round 1 - Theo Kispert (Triton) 18-8 received a bye () (Bye)

Quarterfinal - Theo Kispert (Triton) 18-8 won by fall over Kaleb Oleson (Rochester Mayo) 3-4 (Fall 4:24)

Semifinal - Noah Gonzalez (Maple River) 19-6 won by decision over Theo Kispert (Triton) 18-8 (Dec 4-2)

Cons. Semi - Theo Kispert (Triton) 18-8 won by fall over Brycen Koenig (Stewartville) 5-6 (Fall 0:26)

3rd Place Match - Theo Kispert (Triton) 18-8 won by fall over Daniel Gregory (Trinity School) 12-5 (Fall 1:50)

152

Hunter Garness (18-7) placed 2nd and scored 22.0 team points.

Champ. Round 1 - Hunter Garness (Triton) 18-7 received a bye () (Bye)

Quarterfinal - Hunter Garness (Triton) 18-7 won by fall over Luca Aglieco (Trinity School) 6-13 (Fall 1:06)

Semifinal - Hunter Garness (Triton) 18-7 won by fall over Caden Hyke (Stewartville) 12-6 (Fall 1:35)

1st Place Match - Calder Sheehan (Rochester Mayo) 12-1 won by decision over Hunter Garness (Triton) 18-7 (Dec 9-3)

160

Austan Adreon (17-5) placed 2nd and scored 21.0 team points.

Champ. Round 1 - Austan Adreon (Triton) 17-5 received a bye () (Bye)

Quarterfinal - Austan Adreon (Triton) 17-5 won by fall over Ethyn Bertschinger (Rochester John Marshall) 2-3 (Fall 1:32)

Semifinal - Austan Adreon (Triton) 17-5 won by major decision over Carter Funk (Rochester Mayo) 19-9 (MD 14-4)

1st Place Match - Braxten Wiste (GMLOKS) 22-4 won by fall over Austan Adreon (Triton) 17-5 (Fall 0:54)

172

Cole Kodada (9-14) placed 6th and scored 7.0 team points.

Champ. Round 1 - Cole Kodada (Triton) 9-14 received a bye () (Bye)

Quarterfinal - Cole Kodada (Triton) 9-14 won by decision over James Nelson (Rochester Mayo) 14-5 (Dec 9-6)

Semifinal - Tanner Elzen (Stewartville) 15-3 won by fall over Cole Kodada (Triton) 9-14 (Fall 4:25)

Cons. Semi - Jaeden Baird (Cannon Falls) 11-13 won by decision over Cole Kodada (Triton) 9-14 (Dec 5-4)

5th Place Match - Ryan Schlaak (NRHEG) 11-8 won by tech fall over Cole Kodada (Triton) 9-14 (TF-1.5 2:06 (15-0))

215

Alex Naze (18-5) place is unknown and scored 0.0 team points.

Champ. Round 1 - Alex Naze (Triton) 18-5 received a bye () (Bye)

Quarterfinal - Dizel Butler (Maple River) 13-11 won by fall over Alex Naze (Triton) 18-5 (Fall 2:37)

Cons. Round 2 - Peter Ha (Rochester Mayo) 3-7 won by fall over Alex Naze (Triton) 18-5 (Fall 0:41)

285

John Moenning (9-16) place is unknown.

Champ. Round 1 - John Moenning (Triton) 9-16 received a bye () (Bye)

Quarterfinal - Mason Edwards (Byron) 5-2 won by fall over John Moenning (Triton) 9-16 (Fall 1:54)

Cons. Round 2 - John Moenning (Triton) 9-16 won by decision over Christian Schrom (Triton) 3-2 (Dec 10-8)

Cons. Round 3 - Jack Regan (Rochester Mayo) 2-2 won by fall over John Moenning (Triton) 9-16 (Fall 4:39)

285

Christian Schrom (3-2) place is unknown and scored 0.0 team points.

Champ. Round 1 - Jace Ihrke (NRHEG) 4-6 won by fall over Christian Schrom (Triton) 3-2 (Fall 5:45)

Cons. Round 1 - Christian Schrom (Triton) 3-2 received a bye () (Bye)

Cons. Round 2 - John Moenning (Triton) 9-16 won by decision over Christian Schrom (Triton) 3-2 (Dec 10-8)



Triton Business Professionals of America Students Stand Out Among Hundreds Competing

Dodge Center, MN – Triton’s Business Professionals of America (BPA) chapter was a dominant force at their Regional Competition on Wednesday, January 3. After competing against over 300 students from ten area schools, 35 Triton BPA members have qualified for the State Leadership Conference in Minneapolis this March.

BPA is the nation’s leading career and technical student organization, providing members the opportunity to develop skills and leadership abilities, further their knowledge, and prepare for a career in a variety of areas including business administration, finance &



FOOD DRIVE

Feb. 12th-16th: Cans

Feb. 19th - 23rd: Boxes

Feb. 26th - March 1st: Fruits and Vegetables

accounting, information technology, video production, human resources, computer programming, graphic design, small business & entrepreneurship, and health services. Advisor Rebecca Goossens shared this is the largest number of students Triton has ever had compete at Regionals, as well as the

largest number of State Trip winners, and all of those who participated deserve credit for their commitment. “These kids put in incredible amounts of time and effort into learning new skills, creating projects, and preparing for their events, and this is a huge achievement,” said Goossens.

Students competed individually and in teams in a variety of categories where they demonstrated their knowledge and a variety of skills by taking a test, creating a project, giving a speech, or presenting to a judge.

(continued on page 14)

Cobra Communications



Craig Schlichting
Superintendent

Superintendent With the beginning of the new year we enter into a busy month of the school year. We see the end of our first semester and the beginning of the second semester which signifies the middle of the school year.

We also have a number of activities that take place in January. Our freshman students embark on their journey north for the Wolf Ridge experience and our district honors those that are being inducted into our Athletic Hall of Fame.

I know that graduates often talk about their wonderful experiences from the trip to Wolf Ridge which is located close to Finland, MN on the north shore of Lake Superior. My license to drive a bus, and willingness to spend a weekend with stu-

dents has often been a combination that made me an attractive chaperone for this adventure. I believe in my 31 years at Triton I have made the trip at least 10 times. Volunteering to drive on this trip has allowed me the opportunity to see a number of students experience this trip first hand. I have always been appreciative of the district’s commitment to continuing to with this experience. When you get to spend that much time outside of the school with students, it creates unique opportunities to get to know them and support them as they face the real life challenges of being outdoors in the middle of winter. For some students, it is really the first time they get outside and learn about the exciting possibilities and learning that can take place in the middle of winter. Getting outdoors and facing the elements first hand and learning things like basic survival are real world learning that helps them learn important tips about living in the state of Minnesota.

As a leader in the school district, I always appreciated the positive feedback that we receive in regard to our students. Our school

district has a wonderful reputation at Wolf Ridge for having such great students. One duty that adults help chaperone is kitchen patrol or KP duty. The students and chaperone help serve the food and clean the dishes on the trip, with the help of the Wolf Ridge staff. I can recall hearing on more than one occasion where the full-time staff has made the comment that is like having the weekend off when the Triton students are there. What a wonderful thing to hear about our students. Our Triton family has much to be proud of when it comes to our reputation at Wolf Ridge!

Triton has such a rich history of athletic accomplishments, many of which predate the district’s formation in the previous three community schools. The cities of Claremont, Dodge Center and West Concord have had some amazing people and teams that that have been honored since the beginning of Triton Hall of Fame that have been able to be recognized. If you have ever been in our activities entrance there is a great statement above the pictures from these three schools, Together We are Triton. Having only worked

in the district since it has been Triton, it is great to see how these past successes are being given recognition and honored as being a part of our history at Triton. If you don’t have plans, be sure to mark your calendar for January 27th when our boys and girls varsity teams will both play. The girls tip off time is 3:00 and the boys tip off time is 5:00. The 2024 Triton Athletic Hall of Fame inductees will be recognized during half time of the boys game with the Induction Ceremony taking place at 7pm in the Performing Arts Center.

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

#WeAreTriton

Triton Business Professionals of America Students Stand Out Among Hundreds Competing

(continued from page 13)

“BPA is not only a great opportunity for students to network with their peers, but every judge is also someone in the industry, so it’s a great chance for them to create relationships with leaders in the workforce they’re soon going to enter,” said Goossens.

In addition to competing, students also participated in a service drive and gave back to the community through a donation drive to Family Promise of Greater Rochester, whose mission is to assist families at risk of or experiencing homelessness to achieve sustainable independence by providing person-centered, holistic services in collaboration with the greater community.

The State BPA Conference and Competition to be held March 14-16 against 2,000 other students from schools across the state.



Anna Anderson competes in Ethics + Professionalism



Nancy Fernandez, Joaquin Lundi, and Jairo Solano prepare for their Podcast Presentations

FIRST PLACE
 Computer Modeling- Katya Wheeler
 Computer Security- Max Olson-Ramer
 Ethics & Professionalism- Anna Anderson
 Graphic Design- Camila Medina
 Interview Skills- Ollie Akkerman
 Prepared Speech- Alan Ortiz
 Health Leadership- Dani Hallaway
 Small Business Management Team- Tyler Gnagey, Dani Hallaway, Corey Lilledahl + Logan Tuft
 Website Design Team- Roselyn Liudahl + Jade Scovill

SECOND PLACE
 Podcast Team- Joaquin Lundi, Max Olson-Ramer, Jairo Solano
 Video Production Team- Noah Kleinwort, Alex Ortiz + Quinn Short
 Visual Design Team- Bryar Quimby + Ashley Romero

PARTICIPATION
 Accounting + Banking/Finance- Ben Crofton
 Health Administration- Emma Gonzalez
 Prepared + Extemporaneous Speech- Sydney Naze

THIRD PLACE #WEARETRITON
 Broadcast News Team- Diego Ibarra-Costillo, Litany Peterson, Aden Ranken + Jessica Willette
 Computer Network Technology- Noah Kleinwort
 Digital Media Production- Frankie Gann
 Economic Research- Zowie Short
 Fundamental Desktop Publishing- Axel Reiser
 Fundamental Spreadsheet- Hector Ibarra
 Podcast Team- Ava Cummings, Nancy Fernandez + Lauryn Nauman
 Web Design- Noah Kleinwort

FOURTH PLACE
 Digital Media Production- Miley Dostal
 Presentation- Corey Lilledahl
 Visual Design Team- Anyely Dominguez + Alisson Velasco

FIFTH PLACE
 Extemporaneous Speech- Damian Radke
 Prepared Speech- Camila Medina
 Visual Design Team- Miley Dostal, Frankie Gann + Logan Skjeland

State Winners REGION 3 COMPETITION 2023-2024



Corey Lilledahl (right) collects service drive donations with other Regional Officers



Family Promise Director Erin Sinnwell and Triton BPA Advisor Rebecca Goossens with Service Drive donations

Triton Public Schools
www.triton.k12.mn.us
#WeAreTriton
#SomosTriton

January 2024 Regional Announcement and District Results



Julia, Alyvia, Liebert, Aleksander, Kashi, Sam, Alayna, Rory, Elijah, Emma, Nolan, Reese, Connor, Liam

Triton Middle School Spelling Bee 2023-2024 District Level Participants

6th Grade
Emma Axt
Liam Klein
Connor Schleusner

7th Grade
Rory Ginder
Alayna Curran
Julia Stanton
Samantha Wilson

8th Grade
Nolan Hodgman
Kashi Locke
Elijah O'Keefe
Leibert Ortiz
Reese Thomas
Aleksander Wilcox
Alyvia Legler

Winners
Elijah O'Keefe 1st place
Emma Axt 2nd Place
Rory Ginder 3rd Place

We're thrilled to announce the outstanding achievements of our talented students in the 2024 District Spelling Bee! These remarkable spellers will be representing our district at the upcoming regional competition on February 6, 2024, where we're confident they will continue to make us proud.

- **First Place: Elijah O'Keefe**
- **Second Place: [Emma Axt]**
- **Third Place: Rory Ginder**

A heartfelt congratulations to all participants for their hard work and dedication. Your commitment to excellence is truly commendable.

Triton Times
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 Phone/Text: 507-649-3327 • Fax: 507-645-9878



Winners: 1st Place Elijah O'Keefe; 2nd Place Emma Axt; 3rd Place Rory Ginder

Triton High School Concurrent Classes

By Christi Runnells

Each issue of this school year's Triton Times, I'd like to highlight Triton High School's concurrent course offerings available to our students. A concurrent course is a class that upperclassmen can take to earn both high school and college credit—FREE and right at Triton. Concurrent courses are taught by our own Triton teachers to sections made of only Triton students. Depending on the class, students earn anywhere from 1-4 college credits per course. Teachers must have a master's degree and a minimum of 18 graduate credits in that field. This month we'll look at the math offerings.

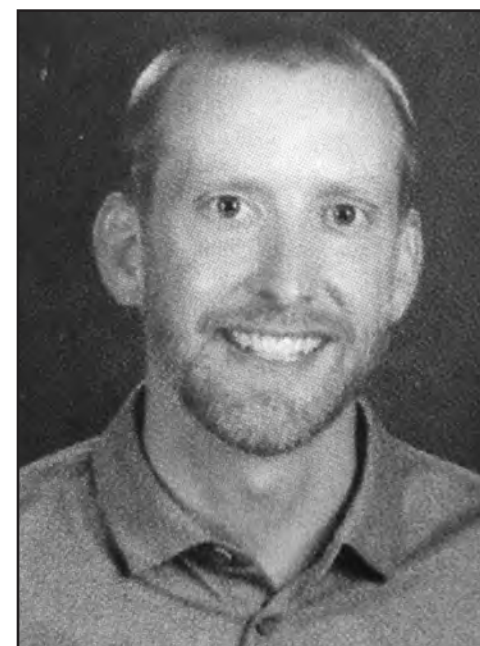
Mr. Casey O'Brien teaches both of our concurrent math courses: college algebra and technical math. Concurrent College Algebra is the equivalent of Rochester Community & Technical College's (RCTC) MATH 1115 College Algebra class and Concurrent Ap-

plied Technical Math is the equivalent of RCTC's MATH 1015 Technical Math class. Successful completion of these semester courses earns the student 3 college credits per class. We first ran these classes in the 2019-2020 school year and so this is Mr. O'Brien's fifth year teaching both classes. When we began, we typically ran one section of technical math in the fall and one section of college algebra in the spring. However, interest in college algebra has grown immensely and this is our second year of offering two sections of that course in addition to the one section of technical math.

College algebra is open to juniors and seniors who have a qualifying reading AND math ACT, MCA or Accuplacer test score. This course fulfills Triton's math elective graduation requirement and also fulfills a college general education requirement via Goal 4 of the MN Transfer Curriculum. Mr.

O'Brien enjoys teaching this class because it pushes the students further by going into more depth on some algebra topics like matrices and conic sections that are new to students. He feels "the class is a nice transition of learning in a high school class setting versus a college setting. There is a lot more material on tests, yet we have a little more time to get through the material." This is a very beneficial class for students planning to pursue further education in any major at a 2- or 4-year college.

Technical math is open to seniors and they do not need to take any test to get into the course. This course also fulfills Triton's math elective graduation requirement and is a required college course for certificate and diploma programs such as electrician, automotive technician, diesel technology, etc. Mr. O'Brien describes this class as "less theoretical" than the rest of the math classes he teaches, as its wide array of topics are applicable to real-life situations. A few of the items that students get a lot better at are reading engineered drawings, converting units, ratios and proportions. Mr. O'Brien recommends this course to anyone wanting to brush up on their math skills, especially those planning to



Mr. Casey O'Brien

pursue a career in one of the trades. We are excited to be able to offer two college-level math classes that are open to a very wide range of students.

Triton Middle School Academic Triathlon Teams



**KALEB KRUSE
NOLAN HODGMAN
ELIJAH O'KEEFE
GRIFFIN SNYDER**

**TMS takes 1st Place
at the December and
January Competitions!**

**ABRIELLE EMANUEL
NOLAN HODGMAN
JENAE KEENER
ELIJAH O'KEEFE**



Triple A and ExCEL Award Winners

Dodge Center, MN - Two distinguished awards have been developed by the MSHSL in order to recognize students who participate in extracurricular activities, as well as serve their community. Through the ExCEL Award and the Triple 'A' award the MSHSL recognizes students across the state who put in extra time and effort to develop their skills and abilities.

The ExCEL Award recognizes students who show excellences in their community, their education, and their leadership skills. Romina Medina and Corey Lilledahl have been selected as

Triton High School's ExCEL Award winners for the 2023-2024 school year.

Romina Medina is involved in the Triton Girls Soccer program, as well as the Triton Track and Field program. In addition to athletics Romina participates in Student Council, peer tutoring and counseling, and has been named a scholar athlete. Romina also volunteers in the community as she can be seen volunteering her time in the concession stand, working with 4J, as well as helping in the Greenshack Easter and Halloween parties.

Corey Lilledahl has lettered in both baseball and basketball at Triton High School, and is a member of the Triton Band and Triton Choir, as well as the Student Council. Corey can also be found participating in the Triton Theater Department as he has held a lead role in both plays and musicals produced at Triton High School. In the community, Corey has also volunteered for the kindness retreat, pancake breakfasts, highway cleanup, the SADD Lock-in, Bidly Basketball and Post Prom.



The MSHSL Triple 'A' Award recognizes students who are seniors in high school, and demonstrate excellence in academics, the arts, and athletics. Triton High School has nominated Katherine Ross and Joaquin Lundi for the award this school year.

Joaquin Lundi is a member of the Triton Band and has participated in the Solo and Ensemble Contests earning a Superior Rating. Joaquin has participated in Soccer at the varsity level for five years, and has also participated in football, and track and field.

Katherine Ross has participated in the Triton Band for her entire high school career and has been named saxophone section leader. Her participation with the band extends to the Solo and Ensemble Contest where Katherine has received a superior rating, as well as the Wind Ensemble and Jazz Band. In addition, Katherine has participated in musicals with the Triton Theater Department as she fulfilled roles in Guys and Dolls and Annie. Along with the fine arts, Katherine has participated in the Triton Volleyball program, and the Triton Softball program, where she earned All-Conference honors during her junior season.



TRITON CLASS OF 2024

SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

Dani Hallaway is a senior at Triton High School this year. Her parents are Mitch and Terri Hallaway. She has two sisters, Allissa and Samantha. She is active in Fellowship of Student Athletes, Big Brothers/Big Sisters, Link Crew, SADD and is student council president and Minnesota Honor Society vice president. Dani also plays Triton girls varsity volleyball and girls varsity basketball/manager. Outside of school she plays Venom JO volleyball and helps with the Backpack Program. Her hobbies are reading, cooking, hanging out with friends and family and napping. Her favorite music artists are Noah Kahan, Hozier, Taylor Swift, and Elvis. Her favorite movies are Moana, Pride and Prejudice and Little Women. Her favorite actors are Florence Pugh and Robert Pattinson. After graduation she plans to attend Viterbo University in LaCrosse and major in nursing.

DANI HALLAWAY



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507-527-2408 | www.ldrecovery.com

TRITON CLASS OF 2024

SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

Caleb Chilson is a senior at Triton High School this year. His parents are Jeremy and Cory Chilson. He has two sisters, Nerissa and Sonia and three brothers, Paul, David and Coltan. He is active in FFA, Triton theater in the one act play and musical and has been in Link Crew and student council. Outside of school he works at Kasson HyVee as a produce clerk and is a pianist at the First Presbyterian Church in Claremont. He enjoys gardening, reading, playing piano, gardening and DIY projects. His interests are in pop music, the Big Bang Theory and his favorite actors are Jim Parsons and Kate McKinnon. After graduation he plans to attend Winona State University and pursue a degree in business management or Data Science.

CALEB CHILSON

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EARLY CHILDHOOD FAMILY EDUCATION



Interested in Preschool or Kindergarten?

Ages 2- to 5 years - Join an ECFE class, where grown-ups and children can enjoy their first school experience together. Registration can be found on the CE Registration Form in the Triton Times, OR Registration can be found on the <https://www.triton.k12.mn.us/page/community-education>

Ages 3-4 - Make an appointment for Early Childhood Screening. This is required by Minnesota state law before attending kindergarten. Screenings are offered twice per year, or by special appointment. Details found at: <https://www.triton.k12.mn.us/page/community-education>

Ages 3-5 - Register for Preschool. The Fall 2024-2025 Class Registration will open on-line on April 8, and classes fill quickly. Starting April 8, parents will be able to access the registration link via our Triton Community Education Facebook page OR Registration can be found on the <https://www.triton.k12.mn.us/page/community-education> Do not delay!

Ages 4-5 - Children turning 5 by September 1 can register for kindergarten. Registration materials will be available through the Elementary Office.

Have other questions or concerns? Please call us at 507-418-7550.
We are here to help!

Growing Together – Friday Mornings

Children ages 2-5 years, not yet in Kindergarten

**** Please only indicate upon registration the child or children’s names that will be attending between ages 2-5. Younger siblings may join the class, but no need to register them as the focus is on the 2–5 year olds, so content and snacks will be appropriate for that age group only.**

Join Mrs. Vermilyea on Friday mornings and meet some new friends! This class provides time together with your children in a variety of activities that will help your 2-5 year old develop new interests and relationships. Mrs. Vermilyea will provide many activities, games, toys, and crafts for your children to explore.

Cost: \$20/semester, all families must pre-register and pay PRIOR to start.
Registration Deadline: December 20
10-11:30AM, in Mrs. Vermilyea’s Room (#315)
2nd Semester Dates:
January 5 and 26
February 2 and 23
March 1 and 15
April 5 and 12
May 10th

Evening Adventures

Children aged 2-5 and an adult

Join us this session with your preschooler, ages 2- 5 years (not yet in kindergarten). Mrs. Vermilyea will plan a special evening centered around a theme. You will participate in activities, games, explorative play, reading and art around the same topic. Mrs. V has also invited many experts from our community to join you and share their knowledge and resources to make these truly amazing experiences for all who participate. Snacks will be provided, so PLEASE alert us if your child has any allergies or sensitivities to food.

Please pre-register for each of these classes, so that we can provide the appropriate number of materials and supplies needed.

Cost: \$8/class or \$20 per semester/family
Dates:
January 10, 24
February 7, 21
March 6, 20
April 10, 22
May 1
***** Topics that are being scheduled are focused on yoga, farming, experimenting with foods, music, construction, Earth Day, and May Day. We’d love to hear what interests you and your child have for future sessions. Feel free to email us at avermilyea@triton.k12.mn.us with your ideas!**
6-7:30PM
 All classes will be in Mrs. Vermilyea’s Room #315 in the Elementary School.

Shooting for a Cure

On February 16, Triton school will once again be hosting "Shooting for a Cure". This organization is all about coming together as a community to raise money for cancer research, and helping to support those who are going through cancer treatment, and being there for their families.

(continued on page 19)



TRITON COMMUNITY ED YOUTH ENRICHMENT 507-418-7550



RAPUNZEL

SPONSORED BY TRITON COMMUNITY ED

WHO
STUDENTS GRADES 1 - 12!

WHEN
JANUARY 29- FEBRUARY 3

REGISTER AT
TRITON COMMUNITY ED

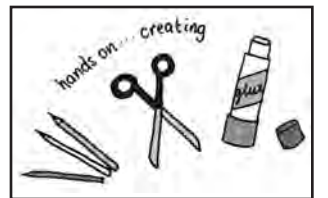
AUDITIONS
MONDAY, JANUARY 29 AT 3PM

PERFORMANCES
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 2 AT 7PM
&
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3 AT 2PM
IN THE TRITON PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

SHOW ADMISSION
ADULTS \$5
STUDENTS \$3

Kids and Crafting with the Green Shack Brittany Wilcox, The Green Shack

Join Brittany and pick up some new hobbies! She will bring all the supplies needed. She will work with all levels of ability and help each child enjoy their experience. They will bring home their new creation to show off and be able to do similar projects at home.



Fairy Gardens
January 11 3:10-4PM TES Art Room Max 10 \$29

Learn to Crochet
January 22-26 3:10-5PM TES Media Center Max 8 \$44
****This can be for beginners, and those with experience will start trying more advanced projects.

Painted Stained Glass
February 7 3:10-4:30PM TES Room 403 Max 8 \$34

Ceramic Painting—Flowers
February 22 3:10-4:30PM TES Art Room Max 8 \$16

Learn to Crochet
March 11-15 3:10-5PM TES Media Center Max 8 \$44
****This can be for beginners, and those with experience will start trying more advanced projects.

Learn to Crochet
April 22-25 3:10-5PM TES Media Center Max 8 \$44
****This can be for beginners, and those with experience will start trying more advanced projects.

Painted Stained Glass
April 30 3:10-4:30PM TES Room 403 Max 8 \$34

{YEL!} Robotics 2.2 Winter Youth Enrichment League

1st-5th Grades

Build a bumble bee, frog or design your own predator. Then program the bumble bee to fly and buzz, the frog to leap, and the predator to hunt. {YEL!}'s Teach It! Practice It! Play It!® classroom method emphasizes 21st Century Learning skills like STEM, teamwork, and problem solving. Sign up today! Visit YELKids.com for more information. LEGO® is a trademark of the LEGO Group of companies which does not sponsor, authorize, or endorse this site or program.

Minimum 6/Maximum 16.

Cost: \$76

February 7,14,21,28

March 6,13

3:15-4:15PM

TES Media Center

{YEL!} Robotics 2.3 Spring Youth Enrichment League

1st-5th Grades

Build a better, safer world. This session we focus on keeping civilization safe by building and programming an automatic flood gate, an earthquake machine, and designing your own city-safety features. {YEL!}'s Teach It! Practice It! Play It!® classroom method emphasizes 21st Century Learning skills like STEM, teamwork, and problem solving. Sign up today! Visit YELKids.com for more information. LEGO® is a trademark of the LEGO Group of companies which does not sponsor, authorize, or endorse this site or program. Minimum 6/Maximum 16.

Cost: \$76

April 3, 10, 17, 24

May 1, 8

3:15-4:15PM

TES Media Center



PET SUPPLY DRIVE

Bring donations for Paws and Claws for
FREE GAME ADMISSION!

DONATION SUGGESTIONS: Chew Toys, Hotdogs,
Dog & Cat Food, Cat Litter, Blankets, Towels

JANUARY 27th

Triton Basketball vs. St. Charles @ Triton High School

Questions: Contact Ava Cummings @ 507-993-7211

Shooting for a Cure



(continued from page 18)

We all have been touched by someone who has or has had cancer, and it is easy to say that it's a difficult challenge to navigate. By attending Shooting for a Cure, you will be able to help those who need your support, not only financially but also emotionally, as those involved see the changes that can be affected as we come together to help each other in times of crisis. The beneficiaries of the monies raised help in various ways.

"Our goal is to raise \$5K to help support organizations in our area, such as Brighter Tomorrows, a group of volunteers who help families to adjust to the circumstances they experience when their child is diagnosed with cancer. The Cure Starts Now is another organization whose primary aim is to eliminate all cancers. Mayo Pediatric Cancer Research at the Mayo Clinic, and the Sandra J. Schultze Hope Lodge, where people going through cancer treatments in Rochester and their caregivers stay for free are the last two we donate to." explains Keri Ginder, one of the sponsors of the event. " This is in line with what we have raised in previous years because of our giving community and their generous donations, both monetary and with gift baskets for the raffle." As a side note, last year they raised just over \$8,000.00 in proceeds to be split between the groups listed above.

There will be 4 girls basketball games, 7th, 8th, JV and Varsity, and a 50/50 raffle at half time of each game. the 50/50 raffle means the winner gets half the proceeds, and the Shooting For a Cure organization gets the other half. The games begin at 4:30. The winners of the themed baskets donated to be raffled off will be drawn after the varsity half time.

The Dodge Country Club has joined in the fun, and generously offered to donate 10% of their food and drink sales from January 27th to the cause, so grab your family and friends and head over to DCC to participate that Saturday night and help to raise the donation mark by letting them cook for you!

If anyone would like to contribute by donating a basket or item for the raffle, or to find out what kind of things can go into the baskets, they can contact Keri at kerijo77@gmail.com or Amy at afreiderich@yahoo.com . Last year there were a lot of very imaginative baskets and items to bid on! Or if you would like to make cash donations, checks can be made payable to :

**Triton Foundation
C/O Shooting For a Cure
813 HWY St W
Dodge Center, MN 55927**

The holidays may have passed, but the spirit of giving to those less fortunate remains. This event is a fun way to get the family out and teach our children that it takes a village to accomplish unselfish deeds, and to help others get through one of the toughest things they will ever face.

Please join us in this special evening and ask questions, volunteer, donate, or just watch the fun! Let's get out there and show them what the Cobras and their neighbors can accomplish! Hope to see you there! There will be a Cobra wandering around, taking pictures of the attendees having fun, so be sure to show up, because you may be one of the supporters who gets your picture in the Messenger for being a part of this important event!



TRITON COMMUNITY ED ADULT ENRICHMENT

507-418-7550

Play BINGO at the Dodge Country Club & Support Triton's Student Groups!

- January 6
- January 13 *** 3:30PM Start
- January 20 *** 3:30PM Start
- January 27
- February 3
- February 10
- February 17
- February 24
- March 2
- March 9
- March 16
- March 23
- March 30



Cash Prizes and Meat Raffles

1-3PM each date at the Dodge Country Club

*** Note: 1/13 and 1/20 have a 3:30PM start



AMERICAN LEGION-DC
5:00PM
January 13th,
February 3rd, 24th
March 9th

TRITON POST PROM INVITES YOU TO OUR BINGO NIGHT FUNDRAISERS!!

\$\$\$ ALL CASH PRIZES \$\$\$

- SATURDAY, January 13th
- SATURDAY, February 3rd
- SATURDAY, February 24th
- SATURDAY, March 9th

**HELD AT THE DODGE CENTER
AMERICAN LEGION**

BINGO STARTS AT 5PM!!!!



TRITON COMMUNITY ED ADULT ENRICHMENT 507-418-7550

Cell Phones & Parenting- Oh My!

Nickie Welsh, Social Club Simple

When your child has a Smartphone there are key things you should know to keep them safe and secure. In this class you'll understand recommended safety settings on popular social media apps, parental apps for your child's Smartphone, and more. You will leave this class with a confident plan to simplify the technology so that you and your child can use the phone safely without worry.

Cost: \$20

January 30, 2024

12pm-1pm, online via Zoom

A Zoom link will be sent to you via email prior to the class.

Please note that each class is taught live online. If a student is unable to attend the live online training time, they can still register and watch the recording of the training at their convenience. Follow-up support is also included from the instructor and students are encouraged to reach out with questions at any time before or after the class has concluded.

Adult Crafting with the Green Shack

Brittany Wilcox, The Green Shack

Join Brittany and pick up some new hobbies! She'll provide all the supplies needed. She will work with all levels of ability and help everyone enjoy their experience. All of these classes are located at The Green Shack: 20658 County Hwy, Dodge Center, MN



Stained Glass Mosaics

January 17 6-8 PM The Green Shack \$38

Goat Milk Soap Making

February 1 5:30 PM The Green Shack \$53 *Limit 2 people*
7 PM The Green Shack \$53 *Limit 2 people*

Fairy Gardens 4-6 PM The Green Shack \$38

Spring Wreath Making

April 9 6-8 PM The Green Shack \$48

Bob Ross Painting

April 10 6-8 PM The Green Shack \$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 reductions 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 ensure accommodation for all. Please call Triton CE at 507-418-7550.

Cost: \$20, checks should be

made to Jim Jensen

4-Hour Refresher Course (for those that have taken the 8-Hour before)

January 18

5-9PM in the THS Media Center

A Parent's Guide to TikTok

Nickie Welsh, Social Club Simple

Have you heard about the latest new app called TikTok? Learn how it's used and how parents can also help their kids stay safe while on it. You'll leave the class with helpful action items with your family to help gain a better understanding of what to do/what not to do within the app. The class will help set up a healthy foundation for technology habits your family members can use for the rest of their life whether in school or in their professional careers.

Cost: \$20

January 23, 2024

12pm-1pm, online via Zoom

A Zoom link will be sent to you via email prior to the class.

Please note that each class is taught live online. If a student is unable to attend the live online training time, they can still register and watch the recording of the training at their convenience. Follow-up support is also included from the instructor and students are encouraged to reach out with questions at any time before or after the class has concluded.

THANK YOU!

A great big thank you to Concord Church of Christ for their generous donation of socks, hats and mittens to the Preschool and Elementary School.

The Tri City Backpack program would also like to thank The Welsh Family and the Henderson Family for their donations. Any groups or individuals who would like to donate to the backpack program can contact Kristy Faber at 507-418-7550.



Registration

Walk in/Drop off at the Triton Community Ed Office, located in the Elementary Building.

Call us at 507-418-7550

Go On-line at: triton.k12.mn.us

Click on the Menu tab, and select Community Education under the Community Header, choose Class + Activity Online Registration.

Please note that for students the software does not automatically update their grade, teacher, or t-shirt size. Please update these pieces of information each year.

Mail the registration: see below.....

**Mail form and payment to Triton Community Education:
813 West Highway St.
Dodge Center, MN 55927**

Name: _____ Home Phone: _____

Address: _____ Cell Phone: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____ Email: _____

Participant Information:

First/Last Name _____

Class Title _____

Grade if student: _____ Teacher: _____

First/Last Name _____

Class Title _____

Grade if student: _____ Teacher: _____

First/Last Name _____

Class Title _____

Grade if student: _____ Teacher: _____

Payment Information: Total Due: _____

T-shirt size if applicable: YXS YS YM YL AS AM AL AXL 2AXL

Participants assume the risk of injury in route to and from as well as during classes/events, activities and games, and by registering waive any suit due to injury. Parents/guardians must sign this permission slip before their child may participate in the program.

Adult Participant or Parent/Guardian Signature: _____



2024 Dodge County Business Expo

The 2024 Dodge County Business Expo will be held March 23, 2024, at Triton Public Schools. Over 100 vendors from Dodge County are expected to participate in this annual event. 2024 will mark our 24th Dodge County Business Expo.

We are planning many new and exciting exhibits and fun for the entire family— watch for more information over the coming months!

Questions: Call 418-7550

Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8am-3:30 pm

Check Out Our Website:

www.triton.k12.mn.us and click on the Community Education tab

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5% OFF MEAL PURCHASE
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Not valid with any other offer.

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New January Hours: Open Tuesday - Thursday at 4 PM:
Friday & Saturday at 11 AM; Sunday Noon

Kitchen Hours: Tuesday-Thursday 4 PM-8 PM;
Friday & Saturday 11 AM-8 PM; Sunday Noon-7:30 PM; Closed Monday

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Celebrating 20 Years of Amy Family Hospitality

SUNDAY SUPPER IS BACK!

DAILY FEATURES

WEDNESDAY Enjoy Our Jumbo Wings Specials!
BBQ Rib Dinner - 1/2 or Full Rack (Begins at 4:00pm.)

THURSDAY \$3.50 All Taps, Domestic Bottles, Rail Drinks!
Taco Specials! Falita Specials! 16oz. Margarita Special

FINALLY FRIDAY All You Can Eat Fish Dinner

SATURDAY Hand Battered Jumbo Shrimp or Slow Roasted Prime Rib

SUNDAY Enjoy Our Sunday Breakfast Beginning at 9a.m. and Sunday Pasta Features

37340 Goodhue Ave., Dickinson, MN
Hours: Wednesday & Thursday 11:00 AM-9:00 PM
Friday & Saturday 11:00 AM-9:00 PM; Sunday 9:00 AM-9:00 PM
Bar Open 24hrs

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rbar.randolph@gmail.com
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Friday & Saturday 11:00am-1:00am
Sunday 11:00am-9:00pm

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M-F 7:30am to 7:30pm
Sat. 7am to 2pm; Closed Sundays

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FRIDAY 11:00AM-9:00PM • SATURDAY 3:00PM-9:00PM • SUNDAY CLOSED

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Banquet Hall, Seating Up to 300
Full Bar • Full Restroom Facilities • Complete Catering Services
208 North Cedar, Owatonna
507-455-9260

East Wind 東風 Buffet

15% OFF
Wednesday, Thursday with ad

10% OFF
Friday, Saturday, Sunday with ad

MENU OR BUFFET

Hours:
Monday: 11am-10pm
Tuesday: Closed
Wed.-Sun.: 11am-10pm

Cannot be used with other offers.
507-451-9666

1015 W. Frontage Rd., Suite 103, Owatonna • South of Lowe's
Dine In Only • Expires January 31, 2023

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Restaurant & Bar
Kasson, MN

DRINKS • APPETIZERS
SANDWICHES • BURGERS
SALADS • WRAPS • DESSERTS

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Closed Mon.; Tues-Thur 11am-9pm; Fri-Sat 11am-10pm
Sun 11am-8pm
111 West Main Street, Kasson, MN
507-634-3133

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BURGERS
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Sunday 8am to 1pm
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Family Fare at Great Prices

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Weekend Breakfast
Buffet

10% OFF with this ad
Good Monday-Friday One coupon per meal.
Expires January 31, 2023

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Lacey's Closes at End of December

Lacey's Kitchen & Cocktails announced there were closing their doors at the end of December. The business opened up in the old Schweich's Bar and Hotel building in November of 2021. A Facebook post on Friday December 29th informed the public that they were ceasing the operation and the kitchen would be closed but the bar would be open over the weekend with cheap drink specials.

Steven Lacey was the chef and had a



thirty-year history of experience in the restaurant industry. He opened Lacey's at Brooktree in late July of this past year. Brooktree is the municipally owned golf course in Owatonna. He opened that business just days after the Tavern Nine closed at the same facility.

A Facebook post by Lacey addressed the issue of gift cards that were sold over the holiday season in Kenyon. They said they would be posting a solution for those who had unredeemed gift cards shortly.

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West Concord Fire Department Participates in Polar Plunge in February

(continued from page 1)



The West Concord Fire Department volunteers have been participating in the Polar Plunge each winter to raise money for the Special Olympics. They started with one team in

2012 and added a second team in 2019. This year one team will send 8 members to the

Rochester event on February 10th and a second team of 7 members will go to Maple Grove for the February 3rd jump. Most of these are Fire Department members and some are family members.

Each member raises \$100 to \$150 in pledges for their jump and the department has raised over \$15,000 in total contributions over the years. You can pledge a donation by going to www.plungemn.org/events/ and selecting the town and the participant you wish to sponsor.

The Polar Plunge takes place regardless of the temperature. The ice on the lake is cut and removed to provide open water for the event. They have a warming house where the participants can warm up and dry off after their plunge. They jump into chest deep water and then make their way 15 to 20 yards to shore. In case the lake does not have ice cover they will utilize a dock to walk out to the jump point.



Winter Safety for Dogs

As the days inch further and further into winter and frigid temperatures, Dr. Gene Pavlovsky, director of the University of Illinois Veterinary Medicine South Clinic, has important winter safety tips for those caring for pets.

Cold Winter Temperatures

Just like humans, our pets can develop hypothermia, or a drop in their body temperature, after being outside in cold temperatures for too long. Hypothermia becomes even more likely for dogs that are housed outdoors.

"There is no straightforward answer to how cold is too cold and how long is too long to remain outside, because there are so many variables," Dr. Pavlovsky says. "For most dogs, it is probably safe to be outside for a very short period—just enough time to eliminate—even in extreme cold. However, to be safe, it's probably best to discuss this with your veterinarian, because there may be individual recommendations fitting one pet but not another."

Likewise, how long dogs can be outside in relatively cold temperatures depends on the individual pet. However, Dr. Pavlovsky points out, "It is reasonable to assume that prolonged direct contact with snow and ice is more likely to result in frostbite."

Owners should consider size and length of their pet's fur coat when gauging how long an animal can remain outside. Shorter fur offers less protection against chilly temperatures, so those pets may benefit from some extra help.

"If your dog tolerates clothing and footwear, it's probably best to put those on," says Dr. Pavlovsky, "especially for short-haired and small breeds. These protections can help minimize heat loss and exposure. For example, good-quality footwear that does not cause discomfort can allow a dog to spend more time outdoors without getting frostbite on the feet."

In addition to keeping low temperatures and length of cold exposure in mind, be sure to supervise your dogs when snow and ice are present. Dr. Pavlovsky says, just like for humans, "Walking on hard snow and ice may result in slips, falls, and lacerations for your pets."

Signs of Cold Exposure

If pets are accidentally left in the cold for too long and do develop hypothermia, owners should look for signs and symptoms to know when a veterinarian is needed.

"Signs of hypothermia may include tiredness, shivering, pale skin, shallow breathing, and muscle stiffness," Dr. Pavlovsky states. "Frostbite—usually on the feet—can result in lameness of various degrees and pale, firm and cool skin, although extent of injury depends on the amount of time that has passed since exposure and on the degree of frostbite."

If these signs are present, it is best to contact a veterinarian right away. While waiting to see the veterinarian, you can warm your pet at home by ensuring they are dry and free of snow and ice and by wrapping them in blankets or thick towels warmed in the dryer.

Ice Melt

Pet owners also need to look out for exposure to ice-melting products. Pets may accidentally consume these products by eating treated snow or licking the products off the pads of their feet.

"Ice-melting products are usually made up of different kinds of salts, containing magnesium, potassium, calcium or sodium," says Dr. Pavlovsky. "Ingestion can cause vomiting and diarrhea, sometimes severe enough to cause dehydration or even tremors and seizures, depending on amount ingested and size of the pet."

While there are pet-friendly ice melting products available that do not contain these salts, there are also other ways to prevent contact with these harmful products. "Wearing shoes, wiping the feet with a wet cloth or baby wipes, supervising to avoid snow ingestion—especially when treated—and keeping ice-melt products out of pets' reach can all reduce chances of injury," says Dr. Pavlovsky.

Gatherings

Amid the recent canine respiratory illness outbreak, it is also important to consider protection for pets when traveling during the winter holidays.

"The recommendations for pets are similar to those made for people during periods of respiratory disease outbreaks. Keep dogs up to date on vaccines for known respiratory pathogens and avoid congregating dogs in large groups indoors, if possible," Dr. Pavlovsky advises.

Remember that newly vaccinated dogs should avoid contact with other dogs for two weeks while the vaccinations do their job of boosting the pet's immune system. For this reason, make sure pets receive their vaccines at least two weeks before they travel for the holidays.

If you have any questions about winter safety for your pets, please contact your local veterinarian.

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West Concord EDA Serves 200 Meals for Christmas

By Joshua Schuetz,
Community and Economic
Development Associates (CEDA)



Every year, the City of West Concord hosts its "Christmas in West Concord" event, offering residents and visitors the chance to enjoy holiday cheer. As part of that tradition, the West Concord EDA provides a free community meal at the United Methodist Church building downtown.

CEDA team member Zach Bubany said the EDA served 200 meals this year, with catering for the event done by Omar's Cafe, a popular locally owned eatery, while a local cottage food business provided desserts. Bubany helped coordinate the event while EDA board members, along with the EDA president and city administrator, helped serve the meal, and meals were delivered to elderly and persons with disabilities.

"Christmas in West Concord is a big event for the city-with a population of 850, we get 300 to 400 people at the event," Bubany said. "In a rural area, it's very visible."

Other events included in the lineup are a community church service, which usually

takes place just before the EDA dinner, and social opportunities at the local VFW Hall and fire hall.

The EDA budgets for the dinner each year and has sometimes purchased and cooked food for the event itself, but this year the board wanted to partner with a local business to offer food for the community to enjoy.

"It's an event where everyone's welcome, and we have people who are friends and family of community members who come from other towns in the area," Bubany said.

As usual, the dinner was a smashing success. Bubany said that the line formed quickly after the church service, with 200 meals flying into the hands of hungry attendees within an hour.

"Everything was gone quickly, so next year, it'll be a conversation about whether we put more in our budget for next year, so we can do more meals," Bubany said. "I really want to applaud everyone involved, because while I did the legwork on this, it was the mayor and EDA president, Dan Rabe, who led it that day."

THE SAVVY SENIOR



By Jim Miller

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Are You at Risk of Developing Glaucoma?

What can you tell me about the eye disease glaucoma? My older brother was recently diagnosed with it and lost some of his vision, but never had a clue anything was wrong. Could I be at risk too?
--Stressed Sibling

Dear Stressed, Yes! Having an immediate family member with glaucoma significantly increases your risks of developing it, but there are other risk factors you need to be aware of too. Here's what you should know.

What is Glaucoma?

Glaucoma is a group of eye diseases that can damage the optic nerve and cause vision loss and blindness if it's not treated. This typically happens because the fluids in the eye don't drain properly, causing increased pressure in the eyeball.

But the scary thing about glaucoma is that with no early warning signs or pain, most people that have it don't realize it until their vision begins to deteriorate.

While there are two main types of glaucoma, the most common form that typically affects older adults is called open-angle glaucoma. This disease develops very slowly when the eye's drainage canals become clogged over time, leading to blind spots in the peripheral or side vision. By the time you notice it, the permanent damage is already done.

Are You at Risk?

It's estimated that more than 3 million Americans have glaucoma today, but that number is expected to surge to more than 6.3 million by 2050. If you answer "yes" to any of the following questions, you're at increased risk of developing it.

Are you African American, Hispanic/Latino American or Asian American?
Are you over age 60?

Do you have an immediate family member with glaucoma?

Do you have diabetes, heart disease, high blood pressure, migraines or have extreme nearsightedness or farsightedness?

Have you had a past eye injury?

Have you used corticosteroids (for example, eye drops, pills, inhalers, and creams) for long periods of time?

What to Do

Early detection is the key to guarding against glaucoma. So, if you're age 40 or older and have any of the previously mentioned risk factors, especially if you're African American, you need to get a comprehensive eye examination every 18 to 24 months. Or, if you notice some loss of peripheral vision, get to the eye doctor right away.

If you're a Medicare beneficiary, annual eye examinations are covered for those at high risk for glaucoma. Or if you don't have vision coverage, contact EyeCare America, a national public service program that provides free glaucoma eye exams through a pool of more than 4,600 volunteer ophthalmologists. Visit AAO.org/eyecare-america or call 877-887-6327 to learn more.

While there's currently no cure for glaucoma, most cases can be treated with prescription eye drops, which reduce eye pressure and can prevent further vision loss. It cannot, however, restore vision already lost from glaucoma. If eye drops don't work, your doctor may recommend oral medication, laser treatments, incisional surgery or a combination of these methods.

For more information on glaucoma, visit the National Eye Institute at NEI.nih.gov, and the Glaucoma Research Foundation at Glaucoma.org.

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Down on the Farm/ Up at the Cabin

How to Make Friends in a New Community: Being Helpful

By Claudia Vanderborght

When all is said and done, it still takes time for a home purchase to close. Monica finally had a purchase agreement on a small farm: 20 acres with rolling topography and some fenced pasture, a barely nice four-bedroom home with attached garage, and a huge 40' x 90' pole barn. And still some summer remained to make local friends before her teaching job began in September.

Monica's daughter was grown with a family of her own – it's difficult to make friends when your kids are adults. But church would be a key to meeting some local folks and maybe some farmer friends. (Farming sounded like fun, but Monica realized that she knew nothing and would have a lot to learn.)

Monica settled into a local community church. Although the congregation was small, it was welcoming. With instant friends: there were two female veterans, a single middle-aged teacher, and a few families who farmed. Having time on her hands before house closing and school starting, Monica offered to help her new friends with whatever was needed. One family invited her to help trim grape vines in their vineyard; it

was hot, sweaty work, standing on a steep hillside -- but Monica liked being outdoors and loved learning new skills.

One Sunday, Monica listened to the teacher exclaiming frustration about her basement renter: the gal was behind on rent, causing problems, and refusing to leave. Monica had heard many stories from her dad about how difficult it was to evict tenants, usually costing thousands of dollars and causing months of frustration. Monica is a problem solver, had experience with renters, and loves to help others; she offered her new friend help in evicting the tenant.

"Let's make this official," Monica suggested. "Write up a lease and I will pay you \$1 in rent to make the contract legally binding."

Contract in hand, Monica packed a few clothes, her cooler and grill, the air mattress, a few miscellaneous essentials, and moved into the other basement bedroom. The difficult tenant had gone away for the weekend, so while she was gone Monica helped pack her belongings.

Anything that might be used as a weapon (knives, tools) were stored at the bottom of the box, clothes and dishes on top. Two days later, the delinquent renter returned and discovered Monica -- her new, helpful roommate.

The shouting and cursing began, including pleas like, "Where I am supposed to go? I have nowhere to live! How am I supposed to move? I have nowhere to go..."

After pointing out that this was not the homeowner's or Monica's problem, Monica ignored her. The homeowner simply re-

peated her requests for rent owed.

Knowing that possession is nine-tenths of the law, Monica was careful not to leave the apartment. When dinner time came and she wanted to use the grill, Monica simply locked the bedroom door and climbed in and out of the window!

The tenant was – of course – furious and threatened to call the police. Both the homeowner and Monica agreed that was a wonderful idea (much to the chagrin of the apartment squatter). A very nice officer came to the home, understood the dilemma, and asked to speak with each person individually.

When it was her turn, Monica presented her driver's license and military identification (knowing that many officers had served in the military).

"I have my own home," Monica explained, "but I am just trying to help my friend, the homeowner."

"You know this isn't the normal way of doing things," the officer said.

To which Monica completely agreed. So the officer phoned the chief for advice on the legalities of the situation.

"Good news and bad news," the officer told the young lady. "No, the homeowner cannot force you to move out. You have a legal right to stay and make the homeowner go through the normal eviction process. The bad news is that Monica, having a legitimate lease, also has a legal right to stay."

Within 24 hours, still shouting and cursing, the delinquent renter packed up the rest of her belongings and moved out. Monica left a day or so later.

Thursday, February 1 *Lady's Happy Time 4:30-6:30p.m.*
Open Mic 7:00-10:00p.m.

Thursday, February 15 *Open Mic 7:00-10:00p.m.*

Friday, February 23 *Honeyshine Hollow*

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Healthy Sugar?



By Noel Aldrich, PhD, CNS
Licensed Nutritionist

In this past season you probably noticed that “sweet tooth” become extra active. The holiday season is filled with opportunity for sweets of all different kinds. For many the holiday would not be complete without a particular candy or cookie or dessert being present. Now as the new year takes hold many resolve to do a better job of self-discipline in choosing what to eat. Let me suggest you direct your effort to improve the quality and decrease the quantity of sugar you consume this year.

There is no question that sugar has a strong hold on our community. From government data we can find that the average American consumed less than 10 pounds of sugar a year back in 1880. More than 100 years later, the average American consumes about 2 pounds of sugar each week. Not only has the quantity increased more than 10-fold, but this sugar is processed to the point of pure energy

with no additional mineral or vitamin content attached to it.

Go back to 1959 and less than one percent of the American population was diabetic. Today more than 30 percent of the American population is identified as pre-diabetic or diabetic. The greatest increase in diabetes is occurring among the young Americans. Those managing diabetes will have more significant medication costs, more doctor visits, and twice as long hospital stays. New medications are coming out promising to control the downward spiral of disease, but the cost of these medicines continues to increase.

There is a better solution. You can choose healthy sugars to replace the pure energy of the white sugar and corn syrup you currently have in the cupboard. As you start this new direction, I encourage you to throw out the white sugar and corn syrup and select healthy sugars that contain minerals and enzymes that will aid digestion and help to keep your health.

These healthy sugars have a variety of flavors. You are familiar with them, but probably have not used them as well as they can be used. So let’s review some of these options:

Whole Fruit – a piece of whole fruit at the end of a meal, or as part of a meal is an excellent way to satisfy the sweet tooth and get vitamins and minerals as well. In a previous article, I spoke on the benefit of an apple each day. Make whole fruit a priority in your meal planning and you will be healthier for it.

Raw Honey – organic raw honey contains enzymes that will help aid digestion and ad-

ditional nutrients that benefit health. Raw honey will contain active enzymes and unfiltered honey will contain additional bee propolis and pollen that can help reduce some allergies and improve digestion. Less honey will be required in recipes because it tastes sweeter than sugar.

Black Strap molasses – molasses is a by-product of the sugar refining process. Molasses contains all minerals that are removed from refined sugar. Rich in iron, calcium, potassium, and copper, this addition to recipes is always noticed. Often associated with gingerbread flavors, but molasses can also be used in many other recipes.

Maple Syrup – the sap of the maple tree collected in early spring contains minerals and nutrients essential for the new life of the spring leaves. Grade C maple syrup contains the most vitamins and minerals and is the strongest flavor. Grade A maple syrup also contains minerals and is a good substitute for white sugar in any recipe.

Rapadura or Sucanat – these two products are made from sugar cane juice. The juice does not go through the extensive processing required for white sugar. Therefore, there is still some mineral content remaining with these sweet products. There is a slight molasses or caramel flavor that is pleasant to taste.

Make your health a priority in 2024. There will be change that is required. Little changes can make a big difference over time. Changing your sugar choices can be one of those little changes. If you would like to reverse diabetes or prevent diabetes, I can help you start a plan.

Contact me to discuss your health goals for 2024. I can help you reach those health goals with whole food plans customized to your specific needs. You can contact me at nutritionproportion@gmail.com, or check out my website at www.nutritionproportion.net Start this year with a new plan. Foundation to Thrive is a 16 week lifestyle transformation to help you reach your health goals in 2024.



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About the Minnesota Country Salute CD Project:

A decade ago while sitting on his porch, Neil Freeman came up with the idea of tying together two groups that BOB FM supports. The Homegrown artists of Minnesota and the military member support organizations.

By creating a compilation CD to sell across Minnesota, he nailed it. With the help of many sponsors and listeners who went out and purchased these CDs over the years, BOB FM has donated over \$235,000 to the Minnesota Military Family Foundation, Minnesota Wheels of Honor, and Tribute to the Troops.

If you or your business would like to help further this mission, or help distribute the CD, please contact Neil Freeman, neil@mybobcountry.com.



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Minnesota Receives New Horizon Award For Second-Consecutive Year at AFBF Convention

By Minnesota Farm Bureau Federation

For the second year in a row, the Minnesota Farm Bureau Federation (MFBF) is the recipient of the American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF) New Horizon Award, honoring the most innovative new state Farm Bureau programs.

The award was presented during the American Farm Bureau Federation's (AFBF) 105th Annual Convention in Salt Lake City.

Minnesota was recognized for its Ag Day Gala, an annual event held on National Ag Day, designed to cultivate and recognize the rich history of the farmers, organizations, businesses, and communities that support the success of agriculture across our state. The gala has been held the past two years, and each one was a sell-out.

"It is truly an honor to be recognized by the American Farm Bureau for a second year in a row," said Foundation Director Ruth Meirick. "The gala is an exciting opportunity to bring together all facets of Minnesota agriculture for one special night of celebration."

The evening served not only as a great networking opportunity, but also a unique platform to incorporate the diversity of Minnesota agriculture in a variety of ways: A signature drink with locally-produced spirits; local, hand-crafted items highlighting the silent auction; table flowers featuring fresh fruits and vegetables, arranged by local FFA students; entertainment provided by a former state 4-H member; and menu items locally sourced and thoughtfully selected to represent the diversity of products grown in our state.

The next Ag Day Gala will be held on Tuesday, March 19, 2024 at the North End Events Center on the Minnesota State Fairgrounds.

Minnesota was also one of 34 states to receive the Award of Excellence for demonstrating outstanding achievements in four program areas: Advocacy, Coalitions & Partnerships, Engagement & Outreach and Leadership & Business Development.

About the Minnesota Farm Bureau Federation

To ensure Minnesota's agricultural vitality, the Minnesota Farm Bureau amplifies its



Minnesota Farm Bureau Foundation Director Ruth Meirick and Minnesota Farm Bureau President Dan Glesing

members' voices through engagement, grassroots advocacy and agricultural awareness. Learn more about our efforts as an advocate for our 30,000 members and 78 county and regional Farm Bureaus at www.fbmn.org.



Flake Out Festival & Winter Parade

Saturday, February 3, 2024

9:00 AM	 Euchre at Fireside on the Patio, 100% Payout <small>Bring partner if possible, not required. \$20 team entry. Questions contact Jen at 507-649-0602</small>
ANNUAL CHILI COOKOFF CONTEST	
<small>\$5.00/entry. Tasters will pay \$5.00 to taste all entries/vote.</small>	
12:00 PM	Bring Entry to City Hall
12:30 PM-1:30 PM	Tasting/Voting
2:00 PM	Cookoff Winner Announced (1st & 2nd Place Payout)
3:00 PM	Designer Purse & Gift Card Bingo at City Hall <small>\$30/packet, 10 games, designer purses and \$150 gift cards</small>
6:30 PM	9th Annual Denni Dazzle Parade \$150.00 Prize for Best Float! <small>Hosted by the Dennison Lions. Call or text Diane at 612-532-0268</small>
7:00 PM	Live Music from Bryan Anderson at 625 Bar & Grill
8:00 PM	LIVE MUSIC AT THE FIRESIDE "Wreckless"
9:00 PM	Raffle Winners Announced at Fireside

Flake Out Festival Raffle Saturday, February 3
Buy a Raffle Ticket from any Lions Member, Fireside Lounge, Dennison Depot Gas Station, 625 Bar & Grill or Heritage Bank in Dennison for \$5.00 for your chance to win!



Grand Prize - \$500.00 Cash
2nd Prize - \$250 Cash 3rd Prize - \$100 Cash
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Raffle Drawing held at 9p.m. at the Fireside Lounge. Need not be present to win. Winner is responsible for any taxes or fees. Complete list of additional prizes available upon request.

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Minnesota's New Flag

The Minnesota state legislature has plans to approve the new design for the state flag and seal of Minnesota on May 11, 2024. It is a radical departure from the existing flag which was adopted in 1893. There were a few small changes over the years. In 1957 the design was tweaked in anticipation of the statehood centennial the next year. The nineteen stars, signifying the 19th state of the Union, were moved inside the emblem and the red sash removed from the bottom of the design. Again in 1983 the color of the flag was changed from royal blue to medium blue. In 1989, Lee Herold, of Rochester designed and proposed a new design he called the North Star flag, but the legislators declined to act on it.

In the current design of the Minnesota state seal and flag a Native American rides on horseback in the background, symbolizing Minnesota's Native American heritage, while a pioneer uses a plow in the foreground. There is a sunset on the western horizon. The straight horizon line reflects the plains covering much of Minnesota. The Native American is riding southward. The native's horse and spear and the pioneer's ax, rifle, and plow represent tools of daily life. The only interaction between the figures is one observing the other. The tools used by the Native American



and the farmer represent the tools used for labor and hunting, while the stump symbolizes the taming of the land and the importance of the lumber industry to Minnesota in 1858. The Mississippi River and St. Anthony Falls are depicted in the revised seal to note the importance of these resources in transportation, industry, and the settling of the state. The furrowing of the ground by the plow represents the submission of the land to the pioneer. The plow also symbolizes agriculture's importance to Minnesota and its future. The waterfalls are not on the original state seal. Beyond the falls on the seal are three pine trees representing the state tree (the Norway pine) and the three pine regions of the state: the St. Croix, Mississippi, and Lake Superior.

Certain individuals take issue with the current flag over social complaints. Some believe a flag should be very basic and easy to read design. Others feel that the existing design is fine and not to be messed with. Feel free to contact us and express your opinions on the subject.



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NEW FLAG



CURRENT SEAL



NEW SEAL



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1st Prize \$500!

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Dennison Lions Flake Out Festival Raffle

Saturday, February 3

Buy a Raffle Ticket from any Lions Member, Fireside Lounge, Dennison Depot Gas Station, 625 Bar & Grill or Heritage Bank in Dennison for \$5.00 for your chance to win!

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**TRITON ISD NO. 2125 –
SCHOOL BOARD
MINUTES
REGULAR SCHOOL
BOARD MEETING
MONDAY,
NOVEMBER 20, 2023 –
6:00 P.M.
TRITON HIGH SCHOOL
MEDIA CENTER –
DODGE CENTER
& ZOOM VIDEO CON-
FERENCING**

-Meeting Proceedings-

Chair Henslin called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Those members present: Wendy Kenworthy, Rebecca Knutson, Duane Bartel, Lloyd Henslin, Jr., Dale Jensen, Jim Jensen, and Brian Ginder; absent: none. Also present: Superintendent Craig Schlichting, Principal Luke Lutterman, Principal Shane Van Beek, Dean of Students Tricia Johnson, Student Council Representatives Corey Lilledahl, Tina Kozisek, and 3 visitors. There were no visitors present via Zoom.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Bartel/Knutson motioned to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Cobra Pride honoree Marit Lang was recognized and congratulated.

J. Jensen/Kenworthy motioned to approve the consent agenda including the October 16, 2023 regular school board meeting minutes and October 25, 2023 study session minutes; budget update; claims and bills; treasurer's report; donations; nonresident/open enrollment agreements for students #112023A, #112023B, #112023C, #112023D,

#112023E, #112023F, and #112023G; long-term substitute agreement for Caroline Gosse as TES Teacher; maternity leave requests for #112023A effective April 22, 2024-June 3, 2024 and #112023B effective April 15, 2024-June 3, 2024, resignation for Jill Roussopoulos as educational assistant, and extra-curricular contracts for Jamie Bodenstab as Head Dance Coach, Jaime Geers as Assistant Dance Coach, Stephanie Maas as One Act Play Director and SADD Advisor. Motion carried unanimously.

Ginder/J. Jensen motioned to approve the 2023-2024 snow removal quote with Boyum Tree Service, LLC. Motion carried unanimously.

J. Jensen/D. Jensen motioned to approve the Triton Education Minnesota Contract for 2023-2025. Motion carried unanimously.

Bartel/Ginder motioned to approve the Education Minnesota Triton School Employees Contract for 2023-2025. Motion carried unanimously.

Kenworthy/Knutson motioned to approve the final certified staff seniority list for 2023-2024. Motion carried unanimously.

Bartel/Kenworthy motioned to approve the final classified staff seniority list for 2023-2024. Motion carried unanimously.

J. Jensen/D. Jensen motioned to approve Principal Shane Van Beek as LEA Representative. Motion carried unanimously.

Knutson/J. Jensen motioned to approve the Resolution of Governing Board Supporting Form A Application to Minnesota State High

School League Foundation. Voting in favor: J. Jensen, Kenworthy, Knutson, D. Jensen, Bartel, Ginder, and Henslin. Voting against: none. Motion carried unanimously. (Attachment A) Enrollment figures were reviewed.

Student Council Representatives Corey Lilledahl reported on Trick or Canning, the Color Run, and upcoming events for December.

Chair Henslin and Superintendent Schlichting gave a ZED update.

A.D. Corey Black reported on fall sports honors, the MSHSL Foundation, Gopher Conference Leadership Training, fall play, winter sports, MHS Induction, boys volleyball interest form.

Principals Shane Van Beek, Luke Lutterman, and Dean of Students Tricia Johnson reported on Terrence Talley presentations, Kindness Retreat, Conferences, band and choir concert, and the STEAM Summit.

Superintendent Craig Schlichting reported on a crosswalk update and meeting with the City, door alarm update, Spanish Immersion Program, and negotiations.

D. Jensen/Knutson motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:38 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

School District Clerk

**TRITON ISD NO. 2125 –
SCHOOL BOARD
MINUTES
REGULAR SCHOOL
BOARD MEETING
MONDAY,
DECEMBER 18, 2023 –
6:00 P.M.
TRITON HIGH SCHOOL**

**MEDIA CENTER –
DODGE CENTER, MN
& ZOOM VIDEO CON-
FERENCING**

-Meeting Proceedings-

Chair Lloyd Henslin, Jr. called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Those members present: Lloyd Henslin, Jr., Rebecca Knutson, Jim Jensen, Wendy Kenworthy, Dale Jensen, and Duane Bartel; absent: Brian Ginder. Also present: Superintendent Craig Schlichting, Dean of Students Tricia Johnson, Student Council Representative Elizabeth Hukee, Business Manager Aimee Lake, Tina Kozisek, 5 visitors and 3 visitors present via ZOOM.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

J. Jensen/D. Jensen motioned to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Cobra Pride honorees Johanna Gustafson, Wyatt Wilks, Beau Jensen, Eleanor Ryg, Ava Vaugh, Izabella Ortiz, Blakely Hanegraaf, Mila Neitzell, Peyton Laue, Jacoby Kruger, Gwen Chinn, Reinaldo Salazar Ramirez, Shane Lasker, and Jenna Kenworthy were recognized and congratulated.

Knutson/Bartel motioned to approve the consent agenda including the November 20, 2023 regular meeting minutes as presented; budget update; claims and bills; treasurer's report; donations; nonresident/open enrollment agreements for students #121823A, #121823B, #121823C, and #121823D; approve contracts for Tammy Fate as Business Office Administrative Assistant, Deb Groll as Payroll Clerk/Accounts Payable/Insurance,

Tina Kozisek as Business Office Administrative Assistant/Account Payable, Building Administrators Luke Lutterman and Shane Van Beek, and Tricia Johnson as Dean of Students; resignations for Allison McMartin as Paraprofessional effective November 21, 2023, Riley Kettner as Paraprofessional effective December 15, 2023, and Peyton Soltau as Special Education Teacher effective December 22, 2023; and extra-curricular contracts for Christine Deetz as Fall Play Director and Brandon Neseth as Head Softball Coach. Motion carried unanimously.

Business Manager Aimee Lake presented a slide show and explained the Truth in Taxation information, levy certification and budget.

Rich Ragatz from Ideal Energies presented information on the Solar for Schools program and PV Credit.

D. Jensen/J. Jensen motioned to approve Ideal Energies to apply for the Solar for Schools grant.

Bartel/Knutson motioned to approve the final 2023 payable 2024 levy certification for \$3,246,582.11. Motion carried unanimously.

Kenworthy/J. Jensen motioned to approve the Resolution Establishing a Combined Polling Place for Multiple Precincts and Designating Hours During Which the Polling Places Will Remain Open for Voting for School District Elections Not Held on the Day of a Statewide Election. Motion carried unanimously. (Attachment A)

Wolf Ridge Coordinator Kim Swanson was present to request approval for students

to attend Wolf Ridge ELC in January 2025.

Bartel/Kenworthy motioned to approve students to attend the Wolf Ridge ELC trip in January 2025. Motion carried unanimously.

Student Council Representative Elizabeth Hukee reported on Toys for Tots, military boxes, holiday bingo, dress up days, and Cobra on the shelf. They are also planning for snow week.

Chair Henslin stated that there is a meeting scheduled for Thursday and the Joint Powers Agreement is on the agenda.

Superintendent Schlichting gave the A.D. report: Boys Volleyball interest, Girls Basketball team new school record for 87 points in a game, MSHSL Student Advisory Leadership Team Conference.

Dean of Students Tricia Johnson and Superintendent Schlichting reported on the Profile of a Graduate ceremony, Courage and Respect Retreats, spring testing updates for the ACT and ASVAB, Triple 'A' Award winners, EXEL Award winners, ZED creative writing contest, academic triathlon, concurrent enrollment update, holiday activities.

Superintendent Schlichting gave an update on the 2024-2025 school calendar, Read Act training, and January 31, 2024 Study Session.

Kenworthy/Knutson motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:50 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

School District Clerk



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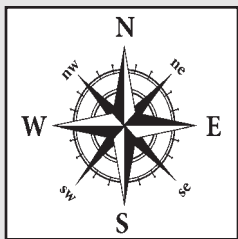


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Changes in Latitudes, Changes in Attitudes Back Home on the River



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.

This is a picture of the Paris Landing bridge. It connects the Land between the Lakes area with the western part of the state of Tennessee. The bridge spans a mile over the Tennessee River and the widest point of Kentucky Lake. It is beautiful on a sunny day and so impressive to see all that water in both directions. This is where we live in Tennessee. Every time I come home down here, I love to look out over the bridge and take in the sight.

One afternoon as we were driving home over the bridge we saw something startling appear beside our car. A Blackhawk helicopter began rising above the bridge to our left. There were two military UH-60's flying at water level beside the bridge. We watched as they landed in an open field in Paris Landing state park. Being curious we turned in and parked in the lot. It was some kind of family of servicemen gathering and lots of kids were waiting to see their dads get out. Fort Campbell, home of the 101st Airborne is only thirty-miles away.

The bridge has quite a rise to accommodate the daily barge traffic and the kid in me couldn't resist the urge to accelerate the Corvette every time we approached the bridge. If you exceed 100 mph it feels like you are in a plane taking off when you reach the top of the bridge. I must not have been the only one doing that because one day I saw a Tennessee Highway Patrol parked by the marina side of the bridge. Nothing like the sight of a squad car to slow you down.

About ten miles upstream is the Danville transfer elevator. We enjoy boating to the site

and the bridge can still be seen in the distance for almost the entire trip. The Danville elevator was a five-story concrete structure that transferred cargo from rail car to paddle wheelers over a century ago. When the lake was formed by the construction of the dam in 1941, the elevator was abandoned and left to stand in the middle of the lake. The arial lift bridge was also removed at that time and a ferry provides passage for automobile traffic across the river there for one dollar per trip.

Twenty-four hours each day barges travel under the bridge as they haul grain, coal and gravel up and down the river. One learns to stay between the green and red buoys on the river, just like the barges do. The dam controls the water level and at winter pool it is six feet lower than summer pool. Unsuspecting boaters during the cold months can suddenly find the bottom of the river in the middle of the lake, and run aground if not careful. We had that happen one fine afternoon last winter as we were exploring the cove near Cypress Bay Marina. We were at least 200 feet from shore as we came around the bend and suddenly we were looking at the rocky floor of Kentucky Lake. I hit the trim and raised the prop out of the water and after further investigation reversed the boat and backed out to deeper water.

The wind coming off the nearly two-mile wide lake can create some substantial waves crashing into the bridge pilings and there is a breakwater at the entrance of the Paris Landing marina to calm the waters. On a windy day there will be over two-foot swells to contend with heading into the marina. The first day we used the boat launch there we encountered quite rough water returning to dock. I rode a wave in looking at the trough and thinking it could easily swamp us. While I tried to keep the bow straight, I could hear my wife yelling "Woo Hoo". She was enjoying the adventure much more than I was. After that we started using Gray's Landing on the other side of the Lake where the water was much calmer.

When we first moved here the Paris Landing Lodge was being demolished to make way for a new facility. The locals were up in arms because the 70 year-old lodge and restaurant was a sentimental place in their hearts. It took about five years to complete the new one but it is a beautiful resort on the lake with a restaurant which is our favorite place to eat and just down the road from our home.

A Minnesotan: Epiphany



By RosaLin Alcoser

And once again it's a new year. I could talk about something along the lines of it being New Year's, however, I did that last year. Instead let me tell you all about the much more existing holiday that comes right after the New Year which would be Epiphany otherwise known as Kings Day or the 12th day of Christmas.

As I've mentioned before my transplanted hispanic family from the south celebrates Christmas from start to finish. Meaning that starting on Christmas day we celebrate the 12 days of Christmas until January 6th when we celebrate the Epiphany.

Epiphany is when the three kings, or three wisemen, arrive to see baby Jesus

and present him with the gifts.

Growing up this meant that my family spent those 12 days playing games and enjoying a much needed break after the rush of getting everything ready for Christmas Eve services, and some years Christmas Day services, in addition to all of the extra things at the church leading up to Christmas.

In my Belizean father's traditions Christmas is when the big Christmas dinner is had and stockings appear, however, presents don't appear until Epiphany when the three kings bring them.

When my older sister and I were children we would often get some presents on Christmas Day and the rest on Epiphany. Or in years where our parents worked a lot on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day nearly everything would be saved for Epiphany.

For us this was also a day for spiced cookies in the shape of a star, to represent the star that guided the Three Kings to Bethlehem. We didn't make them every year and often we would make a pan of ginger bread instead. However, I remember these cookies being a type of crisp ginger cookie.

Now that we're adults and our family is spread out we don't celebrate in the same way as when we were children. However, we do still celebrate the 12 days of Christmas and always make sure to do something individually while wishing one another a Happy Epiphany.

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