



Serving the Triton Area

The Messenger

Claremont, Dodge Center, West Concord

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FEBRUARY 21, 2024

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READ ME!

Yes, that is what we hope you do when you receive The Messenger in your mailbox.

We hope we are delivering a paper you find worth while. We proudly serve the Triton area and our hometowns.

(continued on page 8)

**REMEMBER TO RETURN
YOUR VOLUNTARY
SUBSCRIPTION**

*Thank you for
your support!*

Keep the Messenger coming!

Announcements

- GriefShare support group will be meeting Sundays, 3-5 pm, beginning February 25, at Anchor Of Hope Church, 203 East Main Street, Dodge Center, MN. Contact Dale E Rood at 507-633-2772 for more information. Registration is available on the GriefShare website or by calling Pastor Rood. This is for anyone experiencing the loss of a loved one, friend, or other significant person in their lives.
- The United Methodist Church of Dodge Center at 20 First Street NE offers a dine in and carry out meal from 5:00-6:00pm the third Wednesday of each month.

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

24th Annual Dodge County Business Expo



By Cheri Roshon

Twenty four years ago, Jerry Fanning saw the need for a way to showcase all the small businesses in the Dodge County area. Being an agricultural area, there were very few larger businesses in operation back then. It was mostly "Mom & Pop" style, where the whole family may work together to bring the necessities to their neighbors. Jerry took it upon himself to start what is now one of the larger expo's in the area. Starting out with only a few, there were 94 exhibitors last year, and the committee is hoping to get over 100

vendors in the Triton gym this year on March 23rd. If you are interested in signing up for a table, contact Chris Pluto at (612) 816-3664 to sign up. Hours are from 8 to 2.

This expo is a meet and greet for our community. It is a way to get to know the faces behind the businesses that you shop at every day, as well as the ones you may use occasionally. The employees and owners will be there to tell you about what they have to offer, and will be handing out coozies, pens, magnets and other souvenirs.

The expo used to serve a Farmer's Breakfast for \$1 to the attendees. This year is the first time there will be food for sale from 5 of our local eateries. HammerQ will be serving up BBQ sandwiches and sides, Plaza Morena will have Mexican food, WesCon Lanes will have pizza, The County Seat will have a variety, and Pappa Roast Coffee will

be brewing up their special drinks.

There will be a musical guest this year, too. Coltan Smisek and the Hay Makers will be entertaining the crowd from 11 to 2. There will be a Pine Wood Derby as a qualifier for the state derby later this year in the food court. Rookie the Clown will grace us with his antics, and there will be a Mullet Contest! Now, to enter the contest, you can either have a real mullet, or you may wear a wig if you decide not to shave your hair. I have it on good authority that some of the Triton Staff may be entering the contest, so come on down and see the contestants!

(continued on page 9)

West Concord Business to raise money for St. Jude's Hospital

Dustin and Drew Cook, owners of Concord Locker have organized the 2nd annual St. Jude's Hospital benefit raffle this year.

(continued on page 8)

400 Years of Dairy Farming in America

By Cheri Roshon

Cadence Spearman is a senior at Triton High School. She is a "Cow Girl" from the word go! She was raised on a farm with experiences in everything but the dairy farming aspect, but 5 years ago, she decided to learn more about cows, and she hasn't looked back. She lives on the Herrick Farm, which was started from scratch by her grandfather, Roger Herrick, so I guess you could say she has agricultural interest in her blood!



Cadence Spearman

(continued on page 9)

Claremont Chamber of Commerce Supports Local Causes

The Claremont Chamber of Commerce administers the proceeds from their charitable gaming to provide resources for many programs that are sometimes overlooked by others. The chamber has thirty-five members including some from Dodge Center, Blooming Prairie and Owatonna. Over the last twenty-five years they have grown.

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CLAREMONT FIRE DEPARTMENT
RELIEF ASSOCIATION
BREAKFAST & SILENT AUCTION
SUNDAY, MARCH 3rd, 2024
9am to 12:30pm

Suggested Donation: \$10 Kids 5 and under: Free

***Silent Auction from 9am to 12pm. ***Gluten Free Option Available

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

1 Kings 17:17-24

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

The Lord knows the widow at Zarephath and is aware of her needs

There was a great drought in the land at the time of Elijah's visit to the widow at Zarephath in 1 Kings. This story bears strong testimony that God knows and loves each one of his children, because it is obvious that God is VERY aware of this widow and her needs. Elijah had to travel way out of his way to get to this woman. Zarephath was in the opposite direction from where he was. Yet, she was important enough to God that God commanded Elijah to go to her. One can only imagine what her prayers must have been. Maybe she had been praying for a miracle and for deliverance from drought and from her son's death. Perhaps she didn't think her prayers would be answered like they were.

The widow has faith to walk into the unknown

It is important to know that the widow did not know who Elijah was, and she did not know that there would be more meal and oil left over after she had fed him. She gave ALL she had and put her trust in the Lord. She went to the very edge of her faith, and God sustained her by God's hand. Sometimes we reach what seems the very end of our limits, the bottom of our barrel, calling upon all our resources. And God provides the deliverance.

The widow receives revelation from the Lord and is faithful and obedient

After all that this woman goes through, her

son gets sick and dies (v. 17). This seems to be more than she can bear and she reaches her breaking point. She says to Elijah "What have I to do with you, O man of God? Are you to come to me to call my sin to remembrance, and to slay my son?" We don't know the specific nature of her sin (maybe she is simply recounting in general her past wrongs). Despite her faith, she feels like God has forsaken her and is punishing her. Even Elijah asks God "Have you also brought evil upon the widow with whom I sojourn, by slaying her son?" After much pleading, Elijah is able to bring her son back to life.

Even though she had witnessed a miracle of God breathing new life into the child, and she had been fed by the hand of the Lord, she still has her moments of weakness and doubt. But as the living child is given back over to his mother she remembers her faith and the mercy of the Lord and cries "Now by this I know that you are a man of God, and that the word of the Lord in my mouth is truth." God does not leave her alone. Once again God hears her prayers and provides deliverance even when she thinks God has forsaken her and there is no hope.

So, the lessons to be learned from this story from 1 Kings are that:

- Every day we are dependent on God for our lives;
- Whether we recognize it or not God sends us manna from heaven each day we are alive;
- We live by faith; and
- God does not leave us alone. God hears our prayers, and God answers them... often in ways that we never imagined.

OBITUARY

Charles E. (Chuck) Glarner

Charles E. (Chuck) Glarner, 94, of Kasson, MN, died Sunday, January 14, 2024, at Mayo Clinic Hospital Methodist Campus.



Charles was born April 14, 1929, in Mantorville, MN to Virgil and Aletha (Steele) Glarner. He went to rural school in Milton Township for elementary education and graduated from Mantorville High School in 1947.

He attended college in Glendale, California for two years until drafted into the U.S. Army and served in Korea in the 8th Field Artillery BTN, 27th Infantry Regiment 25th division as a field wireman until honorably discharged. He was employed by Union National Bank in Rochester, which was later Northwestern National Bank, then Norwest Bank, and currently Wells Fargo. He graduated from the University of Wisconsin School of Banking, Madison, Wisconsin.

consin.

Charles married Eunice E Neale, in Racine, MN, and they had three children; Linda, Deborah, and Robert.

Chuck retired from Norwest bank after 32 years as the Senior Vice President in charge of commercial lending. He was very active in community affairs, including Rochester Chamber of Commerce – Treasurer, MN Robert Morris Association – President of Rochester Chapter, Rochester Toastmaster, MN Bankers Association, American Bankers Association, Kasson Economic Development, Rochester RAEDI, along with other clubs and charitable organizations too numerous to mention. Later he was employed by Kasson State Bank as the Senior Loan Officer for 15 years and served on their Board of Directors during that period. He retired from that position at age 70. Charles would split his time between his hobby farm in Byron, MN and his townhome in Green Valley, AZ.

He enjoyed playing golf, working on his farm, and spending time with his family.

He is survived by his children; Linda (Larry) Peterson of Rochester, MN, Deborah (Doug) DeWeese of Goodhue, MN; daughter-in-law, Lynn Glarner of Mapleton, MN; grandchildren, Adam (Nikki) Peterson, Paul Peterson, Grant Peterson, Tim (Nicole) DeWeese, Mike (Erica) DeWeese, Jamie Glarner and Robby Glarner; great-grandchildren, Max and Cal Peterson, and Laura DeWeese.

He is preceded in death by his son, Robert; his parents, two brothers, a sister, and Eunice Glarner.

The memorial gathering was held at 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Saturday, February 3, 2024 in the River Park Chapel at Macken Funeral Home. A luncheon followed in the River Park Chapel Reception Hall. Burial will be in the MN State Veterans Cemetery – Preston, MN at a later date.

Area Church Directory

Greeting

John, to the seven churches in the province of Asia: Grace and peace to you from him who is, and who was, and who is to come, and from the seven spirits before his throne, and from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. — Revelation 1:4-5

John is writing a letter, so he begins here with a greeting. Though he is writing to seven churches in the Roman province of Asia (present-day Turkey), this letter is not limited to those seven churches. Written under the guidance of the Holy Spirit of God, this letter is meant for the entire church of Jesus Christ. The church is made aware of God's grace in Christ to strengthen its faith in times of challenge and hardship, including physical persecution that will come its way. God has provided Jesus as the Savior, "the ruler of the kings of the earth." Knowing this helps us to put all things into perspective as history unfolds. John greets his readers with grace and peace from the God who is, was, and always will be—in the name of Jesus, the Christ (Messiah). Jesus is the faithful witness to all that God provides for the church. Jesus alone is the "firstborn from the dead," and he is the exalted King over all kings (see also Colossians 1:15-20; Psalm 89:27), whether they be emperors, monarchs, presidents, prime ministers, CEOs, or chairs of the board. To Jesus, "who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood," belong all glory, power, and praise forever! *Lord and God, thank you for helping us know you as our Savior and King. May we rest in you alone and honor you each day. Amen.*

CLAREMONT

1st Presbyterian Church

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

St. John Lutheran Church

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

DODGE CENTER

Faith Lutheran Church

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

Grace Lutheran Church

404 Central Avenue N, Dodge Center
Rev. Elliott Malm • 507-633-2253
<https://gracelc.church>
Worship 9a.m.; Sunday School 10:30a.m.

Praise Fellowship Church

602 Central Avenue S, Dodge Center
Roger Langworthy • 507-374-6400
Kidz Church 9:15a.m.; Sunday Worship 9:30a.m.

Dodge Center Methodist Church

201 1st St. SE, Dodge Center
Rev. Chad Christensen • 507-374-6885
Sunday Morning Worship at 8:15a.m.,
Fellowship Time Following

St. John Baptist De La Salle

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

Living Water Assembly Church

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

Dodge Center SDA Church

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

Anchor of Hope Church, a 7th Day Baptist Congregation

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

Bible Lutheran Church

(American Assoc. of Lutheran Churches)
11 1st Ave. N.E., Dodge Center
www.biblelc.org • 612-803-1212
Sunday School 9:15a.m.; Worship 10:30a.m.
(weekly sermons available on YouTube and on website)

First Congregational Church

12 Second Street NW
Dodge Center, MN 55927 • 507-633-6873
www.congregationalchurchdc.com
Keith Mosier, Pastor

WEST CONCORD

Faith Community Church

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

Hegre Lutheran, ELCA

51939 Highway 56 Blvd., Kenyon • 507-527-2353
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 Schlanser
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

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Lynn J. Finne

Lynn Julian Finne, 79, formerly of West Concord and Dodge Center, died Thursday, January 25, 2024 at W.A.L.T Home in Rochester where he and wife, Kathy, lived.

Lynn was born November 20, 1944 in Owatonna, Minnesota the son of Nels and Opal (Sack) Finne. He graduated from West Concord High School in 1963.

He met Kathy "Kat" Dengler cruising the streets of "Finne-ville" in West Concord, and the two were married April 18, 1964 at St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church in West Concord.

After high school, Lynn worked at the Faribault State School for a few years until he became a police officer in the town of West Concord. He enjoyed that job but it ended because he felt Kat and Colette were not safe when he worked the night shift.

He then began his career in the Dodge Center School District as a custodian. Lynn was loved by many students, faculty and staff. When students would get in trouble at school, they would have to work hours (for punishment) along side of him, helping him clean the school. However, they all loved working with him so much, it didn't feel like a punishment at all!

Lynn had a gift, the gift of silly humor, and he loved that he could get everyone to laugh. He was the life of the party and everyone gravitated towards him because of it.

Besides adoring and spoiling Kat and Colette, he enjoyed being outside. He like mowing the lawn with his rider, washing and waxing and driving his '57 Chevy and going horseback riding/camping on the weekends with friends and family.

He is survived by his wife, Kathy; daughter, Colette (Lance); grandson, Justin Hunt; brother, Ron (Margaret) Finne and sister-in-law, JoAnn Finne.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Nels and Opal Finne; sisters, Lois Jean, Ardis (Martin) Dengler and brother, Wayne Finne.

Services will be announced at a later date.

Virginia "Ginny" M. Sendle

Virginia "Ginny" M. Sendle, 80, of West Concord, died Wednesday, January 30, 2024 at Mayo St. Mary's Hospital in Rochester.

She was born in Minneapolis, MN on July 15, 1943, to Gladys (nee Stevenson) and Vernon Herreid. After her

parents divorced, her mother was remarried to Raymond Tuttle. Raymond adopted her two children and they had one together. Ginny graduated from Bloomington High School and attended Mankato State College in Minnesota. She married Bobby Dale Sendle, August 5, 1963, in Honolulu, Hawaii. They lived in San Diego, California while he was in the Marines. They moved next to Bloomington, Minnesota and then lived in Colorado until 1974. She worked for Safeway Foods in Hawaii; at J.C. Penney's in California; and at K-Mart in Colorado. They had two children, Linda and Daniel. The Sendles' came to West Concord, in 1974. She worked various jobs as a grocery cashier; bookkeeper; mailcarrier; secretary at West Concord High School; was co-owner of Ginny's Drive-In for 23 years; editor/publisher of the West Concord Enterprise and the Claremont News for 18 years; and at Target in Rochester, MN. She retired in 2010 and spent 10 winters in Arizona with her husband. Ginny is a member of the Trinity Lutheran Church of West Concord, West Concord Study Club, and former secretary for the West Concord and Claremont Commercial Clubs. She enjoyed reading, going to watch plays and movies, and being with grandchildren, family and friends.

Survivors are her daughter, Linda Sendle of West Concord, MN; son, Daniel Sendle (and Brook Gregor) of Fairfax, MN; one (1) grandson, Logan Sendle, three (3) granddaughters, Kailee Sendle, Julia Kiefer, and Shannon Kiefer; brother Donald Tuttle of Webster City, Iowa and several nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents, husband Bobby Sendle, sister Cheryl Tuttle, sister-in-law Dee Tuttle

A Visitation was held at Michaelson Funeral Home, West Concord Chapel on Wednesday February 7 from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM and one hour prior to the service at the church. Funeral services were held February 8 at 10:30 AM at Trinity Lutheran Church with Pastor Chad Christensen officiating. Interment was in the Concord Cemetery in Concord Township.

Richard C. Overholt

Richard Charles Overholt, 80, of Kenyon, died Tuesday, February 6, 2024 at St. Mary's Hospital in Rochester.

He was born August 5, 1943 in Faribault, Minnesota the son of Leon and Ethel (Steinberg) Overholt. He grew up in Kenyon and graduated from Kenyon High School. He continued his education at Mankato State where he earned a bachelor's degree in art.

While in college, he married Pamela Jordan.

The couple was blessed with two sons, Cjon and Dyronn and later divorced.

Richard's career in teaching was mainly spent in Davenport, Iowa where he taught Art. In 2000, he retired and moved back to Kenyon.

Richard was involved with Boy Scouts in Davenport and loved socializing with everyone.

He is survived by sons, Cjon Overholt of Kenyon and Dyronn (Susan) Overholt of West Concord; grandchildren, Alexis (Jon) Aumann, Anabella Overholt, Derrikk Overholt, Lyranna Overholt, Alexandra Overholt, Serenity Overholt, Greyson Overholt and Chrysanthemum Overholt; sister-in-law, Pat Overholt of Chico, CA and other relatives and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Leon Ethel and brothers, James, Robert and Thomas.

Mass of Christian Burial was held at 11:00 AM Saturday, February 10, 2024, at St. Michael's Catholic Church in Kenyon with visitation one hour prior. Burial was in the Kenyon Cemetery in Kenyon.

Norbert Arnold Scherger

Norbert Arnold Scherger, 81, of Dodge Center, MN passed away on Saturday, February 10, 2024, at Pine Haven Care Center in Pine Island, MN surrounded by his loving family. Norbert Scherger was born in Kasson, MN on July 14, 1942, to Arnold and Rose (Ohm) Scherger. He graduated from Dodge Center High School in 1960. He married Deloris Koperski on July 12, 1964.

Norbert took over the family farm and farmed until he retired in 2017 and moved to Dodge Center. They had 3 children: Judy (Keith) Kuipers, Susan Scherger and Lynn (Mike) Krause. He was a member of Our Saviors Lutheran Church in Kasson, MN, where he served as an usher, a member of the Elder Committee, and an Elder. He also enjoyed hunting and fishing.

He is survived by his wife, Deloris Scherger; children, Judy (Keith) Kuipers of Anchorage, AK, Susan Scherger of New Brighton, MN, and Lynn (Mike) Krause of Oronoco, MN; grandchildren, Stephanie and Logan Krause of Oronoco, MN and Elizabeth Krause of Vilseck, Germany; brother-in-law, Donald (JoAnn) Radue.

He was preceded in death by his parents; sister, Arlene and brother-in-law, Duane Buker and Marcella (Sally) Radue.

A funeral service was at 1:00 p.m. Friday, February 16, 2024, at Our Savior Evangelical Lutheran Church, 600 8th Ave NW in Kasson, MN. Pastor Karl Christie officiated. Visitation was from 5:00-7:00 p.m. Thursday, February 15, 2024, at Czaplewski Family Funeral Homes, 801 7th St SE in Kasson, MN and one hour prior to the service at the church on Friday. Interment was in Riverside Cemetery in Dodge Center, MN.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorials to Our Savior Evangelical Lutheran Church in Kasson, MN.

To share a special memory or condolence please visit

www.czaplewskifuneralhomes.com, Czaplewski Family Funeral Homes, 801 7th St SE Kasson, MN 55944 (507)634-6510. Blessed be his memory.

Larry Eugene Kirkland

Larry Eugene Kirkland passed away suddenly on February 10th, 2024 at the age of 78, at his home in Rochester. He was born on October 5th, 1945 in rural Kasson, MN to Amos (Pete) Kirkland and Marion Hemingway. He attended school in West Concord until 1960 when his parents moved to Hayfield where he graduated from high school in 1963.

He served in the U.S. Army from June 1963 until June 1966 where he achieved the rank of Sergeant. Larry remained an ardent supporter of veterans throughout his life, even serving as Sergeant-at-Arms for several years at his local American Legion (Post 119) in Byron.

Larry was hired by IBM Rochester in 1966 and retired in 1999. He held numerous positions in the areas of finance, shipping and receiving,

warehousing, and numerous management & project management positions in finance, distribution, and electronic card assembly and testing. After retiring from IBM, he worked for Celestica in Rochester from 1999 until 2002 as project manager in their electronic

card assembly and testing business. He then obtained a General Contractor's License and used it to build numerous homes locally and remodel numerous distressed properties. He enjoyed the building business and even undertook the rebuilding of his own family's

home when it burned down in 2005 after a lightning strike. From 1984 to the present, he farmed in the Rochester/Byron area. Larry honestly enjoyed his work, especially farming.

Larry was much beloved by those who knew him and worked with him. He will be deeply missed by his family and friends. He is survived

by his three sons, Sean Kirkland (Lisa Mahoney) of Chicago, IL (mother, Maureen O'Brien - deceased) and his twin sons Alex (fiancée Jordan Freeman), of Minneapolis, MN, and Paul (partner Natalie Hanson) of Mountain View, CA (mother Lori Jones), and his love,

Deb Thornhill of Rochester, MN, with whom he spent many happy years, and all her family. He was preceded in death by his father in 1964, his mother in 2011, his brother Robert in 2013, and his sister Nancy Brannan (husband Cecil) in 2014.

A gathering will take place from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, March 9th at Dibble Funeral Home, 213 W Main St, Kasson, MN.

Burial will be at Fort Snelling on Friday, March 15th at 1:30 pm.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to your local American Legion Post



Do You Have An Announcement?

Email:

hometownmessenger@gmail.com

That's the Latest Music



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.

As I listen to music driving down the road, I got to thinking about how music is an integral part of our lives whether we realize it or not. I am always quoting lines from songs and from sitcoms. In an email or text I will write something like: I'll be there! Michael Jackson 1970.

I recently signed up for a year of Sirius XM Radio where they have any genre of music you want plus sports and news and more. One of the liners they use on The Bridge, a channel devoted to light rock from the 70's and

80's, goes like this. You can't go back to the past but you can rediscover the soundtrack. I thought that was profound. I know for me, probably you too, that songs from our high school days or college days are indeed the soundtrack of our lives from that time in our life. Country singer Clint Black has a chorus in the song 'State of Mind' that goes like this:

Ain't it funny how a melody can bring back the memory

Take you to another place in time. Completely change your state of mind.

Clint Black is one of several country artists I've seen in concert. In my years of working in radio stations, many were country stations so I got hooked on country music from the 80' and 90's. I got to meet a number of these country artists too. Alan Jackson, Kenny Rogers, Lee Greenwood. I did not see the Michael Martin Murphy concert when he played in Kansas City at the American Royal, but he did come and party with us farm broadcasters in a hospitality room at the Westin Crown Center during our convention. There are a lot more country artists that I've not met but seen them in concert. Dolly Parton, Reba McEntire, Garth Brooks, Charlie Daniels, Travis Tritt, Nitty Gritty Dirt Band, Terri Clark among them. I've also been to the Grand Ole Opry a few times.

Marilyn Sellers did a song called One Day at a Time. When I was at KDHL, I got to do a half hour interview with her and then later at the Rice County Fair, she recorded a music video where I was in the crowd. So I put that on my resume that I was part of a country music video. I also did a half hour interview

with Dan Seals. Dan started his career as part of the soft rock duo England Dan and John Ford Coley. Then Dan went solo and changed genres to country where he had 11 number one hits. There was another duo called Seals and Crofts. That was Dan's older brother Jim Seals.

The first country concert I went to was when I was working at KOWO radio in Waseca. Rob 'the Beav' Henry and I went to Minneapolis to see Waylon Jennings and Don Williams. The first rock concert I went to was in 1971 to see the group Chicago at the old Met Center. The second rock concert I saw was also at the Met Center when I saw Joe Cocker. The opening band for him that night was Dr Hook and the Medicine Show. In the mid 70's I also saw Elton John at the Met Center.

Beav and I saw the Eagles when they were not the headline act. They opened for a group called Yes. The Eagles went on to be headliners, in fact still are today. They are headlining their farewell tour. When people ask me what was your favorite concert you at-

tended, I always say Harry Chapin who played in Mankato when I was going to college there. David Bromberg opened for him and that, for me, was the best one I saw.

The best concert I did not see, even though I had a ticket for it, was the Moody Blues. I still have the ticket, a \$5 ticket that was not used. This would have been the fall of 1975. It was a Sunday night. We were harvesting corn and drying corn and just couldn't get away to go party at a concert.

There are some artists that I wish I had seen in concert. Among them; Dan Fogelberg; John Prine; Crosby, Stills and Nash; and Toby Keith. Toby just passed away recently and I was sorry I never got to see him in concert. He recorded 21 albums with 69 singles, 20 of which were number one on the charts. He had one of the most profound lines I've ever heard in one of his songs called 'Who's That Man'. The line is a twist to an old saying but Toby's line goes like this: 'I guess the less things change, the more they never seem the same. You have to think about it but after a while, it makes sense.

OBITUARY

Scott F. Stevens

Scott F. Stevens, 72, of Hager City, WI, passed away peacefully at home with his wife, Juanita by his side.



Scott was born August 15, 1951, in Owatonna, MN to Philip and Arlys (Lebeck) Stevens. Scott was a member of the Local 49'ers Operating Engineers Union in Rochester for 45 years. Scott started in construction as a home builder before finishing his career as a heavy machine operator. On July 7, 2012, Scott married Juanita Rix. He loved being on the river, going boating, he loved riding his motorcycle and Scott loved listening to music. In retirement, Scott enjoyed making beautiful dollhouses and bird houses as his hobby, even creating many of his own designs. He had a passion for the quiet and peacefulness of being outdoors and being surrounded by wildlife.

Scott is survived by his wife, Juanita; daughter, Carian Stevens of SanTan Valley, AZ; grandson, Trenton Edwards of WI., and his mother, Arlys Cranston (DuWayne Mickelson). Scott is also survived by his brothers, Mark (Sandy) of Kingman, AZ, Val (Rita) of Faribault, MN; aunt, Lucy Phelps of Rochester and by his brothers-in-law, Frank Rix of Kasson and Mark (Brenda) Rix of Cresco, IA. He was preceded in death by his father, Philip Stevens and by his uncle, Jacob Lebeck.

A special thank you to St. Croix Hospice Care Team for the wonderful and compassionate care they provided to Scott.

A private celebration of Scott's life will be held at a later date. Arrangements entrusted to Byron Funeral Home, Byron, MN.

TRITON CLASS OF 2024

2024



SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

Noah Kleinwort is a senior at Triton this year.

His parents are Bryce and Karen Kleinwort.

He has one brother, Connor and a sister Carissa.

He is active in BPA, track and field and cross country.

Outside of school he is involved in 4-H.

His hobbies are playing guitar, working out and eating out with friends.

His favorite movie is Seven and favorite actor is George Clooney.

After graduation he plans to get his Generals at Winona State University.



NOAH KLEINWORT

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Museum Musings

Rector of West Concord Bishop of Wall Street

By Colleen Sathrum Hayne

Investigating West Concord's history has led to discovering some fascinating stories. At the top of the list, along with jazz musician, Doc Evans, is the story of William Wilkinson, who was the rector of the Episcopal Church in West Concord in the early 1900s.

Recently I was skimming the October 3rd, 1935 edition of the West Concord Enterprise, celebrating the 50th anniversary of West Concord's founding. The following paragraph caught my eye as the editors provided a short historical sketch for West Concord's Episcopal Church completed in 1900. "For a period of many years the Rev. William Wilkinson conducted services both in Wyman Hall (West Concord's Opera House before City Hall was built in 1911) and in the church. Rev. Wilkinson later attained fame as the so-called Bishop of Wall Street where he daily conducted services at noon at Wall Street, New York City."

After reading that I had to know more. When I was a child West Concord's Episcopal Church was the brown church on Arnold Street. When it was built it had a large congregation. As the new Methodist, Baptist, Lutheran, and Catholic churches were built, the number of Episcopal church members grew smaller. The Episcopal Church's last service was in 1966. In 1994 the church was completely torn down, but the roof was taken intact for a replica church in the Little Log Pioneer Village near Hastings. Marilyn and Wes Miller, who had purchased the parsonage and the church next to it, used many of the beautiful features of the church in their parsonage home. From the Altar Chair to stained glass windows, these touches made the Miller home unique.

Who was this unique man who was known as the "Bishop of Wall Street"? After reading about him, he looms almost "bigger than life" to me. Obituaries from the New York Times, The New Yorker magazine, and the Star Tribune provide many insights about this unusual man. William was born in Yorkshire, England in 1848. His father was a woolen weaver and William was apprenticed at the age of 10 to become a weaver as well. He followed the trade for 20 years, and by studying at night, became a self-educated man. Even as a child William was interested in religion and eventually wrote a series of articles about the dismantling of the Church of Ireland, a big topic in British politics. His articles were so well received that influential members of the public said this young man belonged in the pulpit, not at the loom. William prepared himself for the ministry and became an Episcopal clergyman.

When William found himself in poor health, his doctors recommended that he go to the United States and live somewhere out in the open. Minnesota qualified for that recommendation and he arrived in our state in 1882, first working under well known Bishop Whipple and eventually becoming rector of St. Andrew's Church in Minneapolis.

He also for a time was chaplain of the Minnesota House of Representatives.

William's tenure at Minnesota coincided with the great Hinckley fire. His obituary tells us that "he assisted in the relief work among the victims and survivors, helping to conduct burial services for 418 of the dead, 113 in one day." On my desk next to me is a 500 page historic book I ordered from Amazon, written by William Wilkinson and titled

"Memorials of the Minnesota Forest Fires in the Year 1894". All who perished, known and unknown, are listed in the book, as well as many accounts of survivors, photos, and how the people of Minnesota helped with relief work. I cannot imagine a more comprehensive account of what happened during the fires and after. Because of Rev. Wilkinson's efforts in the Hinckley Fire aftermath, he was called to California in 1906 to render service following the San Francisco earthquake.

The 1904 West Concord Enterprise tells about Rev. Wilkinson conducting confirmation services at St. Matthew's Episcopal Church in West Concord. It also mentions that he was a house guest of W.T. Schmidt, of the First National Bank. W.T. was a prominent member of St. Matthew's.

In 1905 the national general convention of the Episcopal church was held in Minneapolis. A delegate to the convention was J.P. Morgan, one of the wealthiest and most powerful businessmen in the world at the time. After hearing Rev. Wilkinson preach, he asked him to come to Wall Street and paid all his expenses for the first year. Loosely affiliated with Trinity Church located at 89 Broadway, just opposite Wall Street in the financial district, Rev. Wilkinson preached a noonday sermon every day, standing on a box in the middle of a gathered crowd. It was said that J.P. Morgan always came to the window at Noon and watched William preach to the people below. In 1912 Wilkinson preached one of the memorial services at Trinity Church for John Jacob Astor IV who died with the Titanic when it sank.

There is no doubt that William Wilkinson made his mark on Wall Street. Upon his death in 1925 at age 78, when he lay in state at the famous Trinity Church at the head of Wall Street, four thousand people passed through the church to pay their respects. There were so many mourners that 12 special police officers were hired to keep open the central aisle of the church so that the presiding church officers would have a way for their procession to reach the front of the church. The Star Tribune reported that hundreds of Wall Street men and women missed their lunches to give respect to Rev. Wilkinson. More than 20 honorary pallbearers included some of the most distinguished men of Wall Street. Among them were the Chairman of the Board of the United States Steel Corporation, the president of Metropolitan Life Insurance, the Vice-President of the New York Stock Exchange, and a former governor of New York.

The New Yorker sorrowfully stated, "With the Bishop gone, New York has one less kindly face to cheer it. He was a nice old man, filled to overflowing with the milk of human kindness, an Episcopalian more because he had to be something than because he believed in one sect above all others. His was a congregation that gathered together in the open not because of unity of creed but because of a common desire to consecrate a few minutes of the busy day to thoughts of the higher things of life."

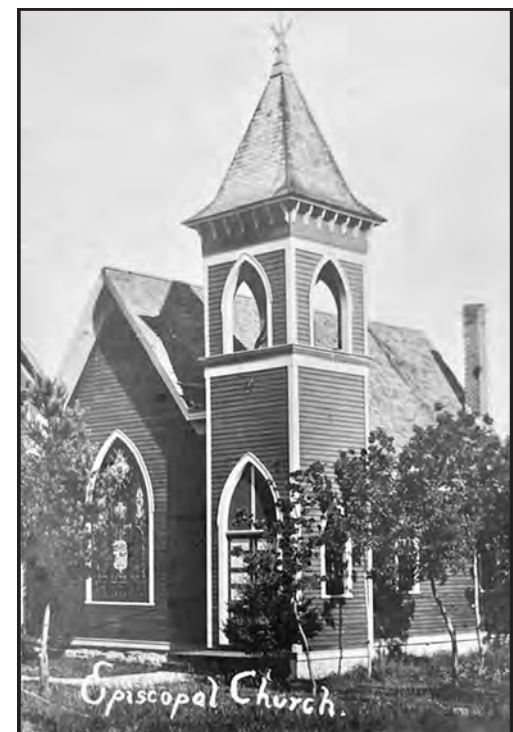
A second funeral was held at St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Minneapolis. The Bishop of Wall Street was laid to rest in beautiful Lakewood Cemetery in Minneapolis. I wish I could have known him.



William Wilkinson, standing in the center, preaches on Wall Street



William Wilkinson, right, conducts the Liberty Loan Choir in 1918 at the time of the First World War



St. Matthew's Church, West Concord

(additional picture at www.westconcordmn.net)



For up-to-date information from the City of West Concord, visit:
www.westconcordmn.com



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.



Thank you

Every member of the WestConcord Fire Department would like to thank all of the citizens of West Concord, as well as others for honorable donations made in the name of many different occasions. Some of those being fundraisers, times of need, holidays, or even just from simple generosity.

We would like to start by sending out a thank you to the following individuals for donations made during the

West Concord Fire Department Annual French Toast Breakfast:
**Connie & Jeremy Chilson, Dale & Patricia Dohrmann,
 and Naomi & Jake Froyum. Norm & Christina Peterson,
 Donna & Larry Fitzgerald.**

Toys for Tots is a special organization that brings the joy of Christmas to less fortunate children across the nation and relies heavily on the generosity of individuals and organizations to donate toys, dollars, and their time.

We want to give a special thank you to Trinity Lutheran Church for their donation this year, amongst so many others that helped families benefit from these gifts.

We are incredibly grateful to whom had donated in remembrance of:
Lois Boe, Bob Sendle, Jim Giesler, Signora Boe, LaMae Rislov.

With other donations made in the name of simple generosity we thank the following:

**Doug & Dee Klevos, Rochelle Grossman,
 Trinity Lutheran Church ELCA Women,
 Those at Somerby Golf Course, Dan & Linda Lulf,
 Gaylord & Penne Gossard, L&D Recycling,
 Bruce & Kaye Ebnet, One National Bank, Gemini,
 Ray & Kathy Courson, CoBank, Jon & Terri Streiff,
 Michael & Rebekah Patterson, Jess Harris at Hyland Systems,
 Ron Flicek at Flicek Lumber, Millennial Farmer Harvest Outreach,
 And Kaye Nelson.**

Lastly, this last year the West Concord Fire Department had the pleasure of participating in the Silent Auction. This could not have been pulled off so successfully without the help of all of our donors and buyers.

Donors include:

**Jim Harold, Chad Finne, Budin Barn, Midwest Machinery,
 Concord Store, Gochnauer Farms, Granite Blossom Farms
 Ellington Companies, and Schaeffer's Lubricants.
 Huckleberry Floral & Gift, Rapp Chiropractic,
 DeCook, River Road, Wescon Lanes, Becks,
 R&M Steel, Boe Auto Center.**

Buyers include:

**Sarah Fate, Mavis Dessner, Cindy Breederland,
 Bill & Missy Dessner, Duke & Elizabeth Harbaugh,
 Tom & Darcy Bond, Jodi Benson, Doug & Sandy Gochnauer,
 Gaylord & Penne Gossard, Nathan Neilsen, Ben Truhe,
 Jenna Burshell, Tom & Lois Turner, Jessica Schleik, Mike Benson,
 Craig Dahms, Jason & Stacy Newman, and Christina Peterson.**

Again, on behalf of all of us at the
 West Concord Fire Department we thank everyone in our
 community for every ounce of generosity that was given
 throughout the year of 2023, and may 2024 be just
 as wonderful.



Join us for Book Group at the Library Saturday, March 9 from 9-10am The Other Einstein by Marie Benedict



In the tradition of *The Paris Wife* and *Mrs. Poe*, *The Other Einstein* offers us a window into a brilliant, fascinating woman whose light was lost in Einstein's enormous shadow. It is the story of Einstein's wife, a brilliant physicist in her own right, whose contribution to the special theory of relativity is hotly debated and may have been inspired by her own profound and very personal insight.

Mitza Maric has always been a little different from other girls. Most twenty-year-olds are wives by now, not studying physics at an elite Zurich university with only male students trying to outdo her clever calculations. But Mitza is smart enough to know that, for her, math is an easier path than marriage. And then fellow student Albert Einstein takes an interest in her, and the world turns sideways. Theirs becomes a partnership of the mind and of the heart, but there might not be room for more than one genius in a marriage. *304 pages, Hardcover, First published October 18, 2016*

Join us for Book Group at the Library Wednesday, March 13 from 4-5pm The Nightingale by Kristin Hannah



France 1939, In the quiet village of Carriveau, Vianne Mauriac says good-bye to her husband, Antoine, as he heads for the Front. She doesn't believe that the Nazis will invade France...but invade they do, in droves of marching soldiers, in caravans of trucks and tanks, in planes that fill the skies and drop bombs upon the innocent. When a German captain requisitions Vianne's home, she and her daughter must live with the enemy or lose everything. Without food or money or hope, as danger escalates all around them, she is forced to make one impossible choice after another to keep her family alive.

Vianne's sister, Isabelle, is a rebellious eighteen-year-old, searching for purpose with all the reckless passion of youth. While thousands of Parisians march into the unknown terrors of war, she meets Gaëtan, a partisan who believes the French can fight the Nazis from within France, and she falls in love as only the young can...completely. But when he betrays her, Isabelle joins the Resistance and never looks back, risking her life time and again to save others. *440 pages, Hardcover, First published October 8, 2015*

West Concord's Pre-St. Patrick's Event Details Saturday, March 16, 2024

Location: Bell Tower Center-401 Main Street

What's Happening?
Limited Pre-Sale Only Tickets. Will Be Available Starting February 10th - March 8th
(All ages welcome-tickets are all the same price)

Includes: Nice Dinner, One Free Spin of Our Blarney Wheel for Free Prizes, CD Music, & Cash Bar to Ticket Holders

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

Cost: \$30.00 per ticket
This is an extraordinary cost savings right here in your local community that includes a nice dinner, game with prizes, CD music, & beautifully decorated venue, all for \$30.00 for a single person or \$60.00 for two enjoying an evening out!

Dinner: **Main Entrée-** Corned Beef and Cabbage, Carrots, Potatoes, & Dessert.
All dinners- include water and coffee. Cash Bar Available for Purchase of Pop and Alcohol

Sponsored By: West Concord Parks & Rec, Cardinal Club, and West Concord Historical Society

Tickets are nonrefundable unless we cancel the event. Event activities listed subject to change. Tickets are for sale only on a first come, first serve basis, get them today!

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 February 10th.
Pre-St. Patrick's Event Tickets available for purchase at city hall, 180 Main Street from February 10th - March 8th. These are Limited!

2024 West Concord Events

- Saturday, March 16th - St. Patrick's Day Event (6:30pm-9:00pm)
- Saturday, March 23rd - Expo (8:00am-2:00pm)
- Saturday, March 30th - Easter Egg Hunt (10:00am)
- Saturday, April 20th or 27th - Tree Planting
- Saturday, May 11th (8-11am) - 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 (6-9pm)
- Saturday, September 21st - 3rd Annual Oktoberfest Event (3-7:30pm)
- October Membership Drive, Date/Time to be determined
- Saturday, December 7th - 18th Annual WC Community Christmas



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BIRDWATCHING 101: TIPS, ID TRICKS AND MORE!

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This program is free and open to the public.

March 23, 2024 10:15am
West Concord Public Library 180 Main St West Concord, MN 55985
(507) 527-2668

Find more events in the region here!

READ ME!

(continued from page 1)

We also want to Thank You for your continued support of the The Messenger again this past year!

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

Your support allows us to continue to improve our print and on line publication. This month we are excited to add Color to The Messenger and bring our Triton communities

of Dodge Center, West Concord and Claremont the news with our expanded twice monthly print edition serving our hometowns.

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

Check it out if you havent 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 able to deliver our hometown news directly to you.

Enclosed in this issue is a subscription en-

velope. I you havent already, 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 don't like to beg, but in a world where digital delivery has taken over the printed word in many parts of our state and country, we are thankful to be able to deliver the print editions of The Messenger.

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

Every year, many newspapers have consol-

idated or gone out of business.

We have watched this happen many times in recent years in small rural communities, including Dodge Center, West Concord and Claremont. The Messenger was established to fill those voids.

With our small staff of 2.5, we understand this challenge first hand here.

Our goal with the Messenger is to help insure our home towns still have a community voice of its own. This format allows your hometown to maintain a local paper, and better connect local residents, businesses and the community.

West Concord Business to raise money for St. Jude's Hospital

(continued from page 1)

The brothers have participated in the St. Jude's Bass Classic at Wabasha Minnesota and were looking for a way to raise more funds for the charity which fights cancer in children nationwide. The fishing contest started twenty-five years ago and raised 41 million last year. This year's event takes place on the Mississippi May 3-5 this spring.

Last year the raffle sold 500 tickets with three winners. This year they are angling to sell 750 tickets and are offering 18 cash prizes. At the time this printing there are only 150 tickets left. The grand prize is \$1,000,

there are six \$500 prizes, six \$250 prizes and five \$100 prizes to be awarded.

The West Concord Historical Society is administering the raffle and tickets are available at WesCon Lanes, West Concord Liquor Store, Burow's Tax Office, Concord Locker and WCHS members. The drawing will be held on March 7th at 7pm at the WesCon Lanes and you need not be present to win. Jeff Burow, who is in charge of the Charitable gaming in West Concord said that this is an excellent opportunity to work together with local businesses and raise funds for a very worthy cause.



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TRITON CLASS OF 2024

2024 SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

Logan Tufte is a senior at Triton this year. His parents are Lindsay and Jason Saxton and Andy and Lisa Tufte. He has three brothers, Cody, Jacob and Griffen and one sister Paeton. He is involved in BPA, Link Crew, SADD, Fall Play and Musical. In past years he was active in student council, jazz band, football and baseball. Outside of school he is active in intramural volleyball and WSU Honor Band. His hobbies are golf, ice fishing, watching sports and gaming with friends. His favorite movie is Oppenheimer and favorite artist is Olivia Rodrigo. After graduation he plans to acquire his realtor's license.

LOGAN TUFTE

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400 Years of Dairy Farming in America

(continued from page 1)

For her senior project this year, she chose to manage and host a statewide dairy show to commemorate the 400th year of dairy cows crossing the ocean, from Devonshire, England to the Plymouth Colony in America in 1624, to begin a herd for the pilgrims. Two cows and a bull were brought over to begin the herd.

All Triton graduates are required to do a project that gives them practical experience in a career field that they are interested in pursuing after high school. Cadence came up

with the idea because she loves everything "cows". She loves owning cows, showing cows, and has a passion unusual for a girl so young for Future Farmers of America, or FFA for short. She plans to attend South Dakota State University next year and major in Agri-Business. Some of her interests in this field are dirt work, which includes laying drain tiles in fields, sales of feed, seed and chemicals to grow everything farmers need to succeed, and Ag Communications where she would network with the producers of feed, seed and chemicals, and the farmers, as an agronomist.

Minnesota is one of our country's leaders in the dairy industry, being the 7th largest dairy production state, with 460,000 cows producing 10.4 billion pounds of milk in 2022 alone! FFA is an intra-curricular student organization for those interested in agriculture, food and natural resource industries, and career pathways. It is one of the 3 components of

agricultural education. Obviously, this is a very important career path for our young people, and one we should all support in whatever way we can. After all, the youth of today are our leaders tomorrow!

Since June is Dairy Month, Cadence decided to put together a celebration to honor the 400th year of the dairy cows arriving on our shores. She is calling it the Quadricentennial Party Til The Cows Come Home event. It will be held at the Dodge County Fairgrounds in Kasson on June 6th and 7th, 2024. It will be a contest for all FFA members grades 7 to 12 to showcase their talents and showmanship when it comes to the cows. Registration for the event opened January 1st and closes May 1st. No late registrations will be accepted. A project of this scope is expensive to put on, and since it is a non profit event, all proceeds from the fundraising Burger bash and all donations received to help finance the event will go to the rent of the fairgrounds, buying the food for the Burger Bash, electricity to run the event, ribbons for placing in the contests, and reserving a block of rooms at the Baymont by Windham in Kasson for out of town participants. Cadence has estimated the cost to pull it all together at \$17,000.00. Any money left over will be given as scholarships to the kids participating.

So, how can you help? First of all, it is open to the public. The Burger Bash is one of the fundraisers, so be sure to come on down and let the FFA members cook you up a great meal. This will happen on Thursday, June 6th from 4 to 7 pm at the fairgrounds. They

will be serving hamburgers, cowboy beans, cold salads and of course, milk. The other fundraiser is 3 days of Bingo at the Dodge Country Club, the last on being on March 9th. It is a public event, with the proceeds going to help with the funds needed to pull off this show.

On June 6th you will see both the Showmanship contest and the Fitting contest. June 7th is the Holstein Show, the Colored Breeds Show and the Supreme Drive. To register for the contests, go to the website at tinyurl.com/Dodgecountydaairyshow. For more information, you can email Cadence at cadencespearman@gmail.com, or Robert Ickler at rickler@triton.k12.mn.us, or Tyffanie Heublein at theublein@triton.k12.mn.us.

Now, back to the donations..... any monies contributed to this special event are tax deductible, and of course for a great cause. There are different levels of sponsorship, and all sponsors will be providing a once in a lifetime opportunity for dairy enthusiasts to celebrate our state's dairy industry. All donors will be recognized at the awards ceremony on June 6th at 7:30 pm. Each donor will receive 2 complimentary meals at the Burger Bash, and a letter of thanks will be published in the Dodge Center Messenger after the event to thank all who saw fit to enable this project to come alive.

Cadence would like to thank everyone who is instrumental in helping her to accomplish this project, and looks forward to seeing you all at the show! Let's Party Til The Cows Come Home!!!

24th Annual Dodge County Business Expo

(continued from page 1)

There will be exhibitors from Dodge Center, Hayfield, Kasson, Claremont and West Concord. We have bankers, farmers, realtors, restaurants and more! Be watching for the March Messenger for more details, and if you know a business that would like exposure to

thousands of prospective customers, please give them this information, and get them signed up. Word of mouth advertising is the best way to get people through the door, and this opportunity only comes around once a year, so we hope to see you there!

Claremont Chamber of Commerce Supports Local Causes

(continued from page 1)

The first year the group raised \$150,000 and last year they reached \$1 million. Over \$224,000 was paid out to over eighty separate entities in the last year. The state is still the largest beneficiary of the local charitable gaming, raking in more than a third of the revenue created.

The charitable gaming includes pull tabs, e-tabs, bingo and raffles and they are located at the Dodge Center Legion, Dodge Center Country Club, Claremont Pub and J & H Bar in Blooming Prairie. The funds raised are used to support local causes that benefit the towns and surrounding communities where it is needed most.

In 2012 the state legislature allowed expansion of features for e-tabs that made the gaming more fun and greatly increased the players use. This created growth in the charitable gaming organizations which serve the small rural communities. In the last year casino lobbyists pushed the state legislature to eliminate these features claiming they too closely imitate the slot machines used at the casinos. Local gaming organizations benefitted from the improved e-tab game features, but found that once the state collected out state funds to pay off the stadium bond, St. Paul suddenly wanted to change the rules again. Opponents argue that forcing charitable gaming to return to older technology is like requiring people with smart phones to go back to flip phones. This will make the gaming less popular and less profitable, directly impacting the funding for many local programs. This would amount to millions of dollars less available to the local community, while directly benefitting the casinos.

Here are the local organizations supported by donations from the Claremont Chamber of

Commerce Charitable Gaming. American Cancer Society, Rachel's Light Women's Shelter, Hospitality House Men's Shelter, Exchange Center for Family Unity, Out of the Dark Suicide Prevention, Ironwood Springs Christian Ranch, Triton School Arts & Academics, Community Pathways of Steele County, Dodge County Food Shelf, Transitional Housing of Steele County, City of Claremont, City of Dodge Center, City of West Concord, City of Blooming Prairie, Pantry of Faith, Steele County Mounted Posse, Cedar Valley Services, Homestead Hospice, Salvation Army, Steele County Humane Society, Fairview Nursing Home, Steele County Healthy Seniors, Let's Smile, Beds for Kids, Homeless Teens, Junior Achievement, Grandparents for Education, Claremont Fire Department, Claremont First Responders, St Mary's School, Ecumen Hospice, Triton Post Prom, St John's Lutheran Church, Claremont Rice Lake Church, Veterans Adventure Group, Dodge County Community Foundation, Toys for Tots, Blooming Prairie Youth Dance team, Triton DC trip, Triton HS Music trip, Taylor Peterson Benefit, Triton FFA Alumni, Blooming Prairie Quarterback Club, Steele County Purple Ribbon, Presbyterian Church, Claremont Razorback Wrestling, Boy Scouts Pack 348, Brian Bohlman Benefit, Venom Wrestling, Feed Our Starving Children, Dodge County Free Fair, Don Daniels Benefit, Tim Ihrke Benefit, Boy Scouts Pack 250, TEAM Parent Group, Angelica Goff Benefit, Just for Kicks, BP Backpack Program, BP Cancer Research, Allied Charities of MN, BPHS Spanish Club, Dodge Center American Legion, Boy Scouts Troop 231, BP Youth Group, Derrick Nelson Benefit, Santa Anonymous, Blossoming Community Foundation, Steele County United Way, Special Olympics of MN, Steele County Food Shelf, Steve Yankowiak Benefit, BP Trap Team, American Legion Baseball Program, American Legion Softball Program, Triton HS Band, Riverside Cemetery, Dodge Center Cub Scouts, Dodge County Veterans Services, Oxbow Park, Faith Lutheran Church, Dodge Center Ambulance, Dodge Center Fire Department, West Concord Fire Department & Claremont Ballfield at Harmer Park

Viterbo University Nightingale Scholarship Winners



Left to right: Grace Hamilton, Jacob Schradle, Samantha Berndt, Danielle Hallaway, and Olivia Heinen

Congratulations to the winners of the annual Viterbo University Nightingale Nursing Scholarship Competition. Samantha Berndt of Prior Lake, Minn. took first place with a scholarship award of \$24,000. Second place was Danielle Hallaway of Claremont, Minn. with a scholarship award of \$16,000. In third place was Jacob Schradle of Cumberland, Wis. with an award of \$12,000. Olivia Heinen of Sheboygan, Wis. took fourth place with a scholarship award of \$10,000. In fifth place was Grace Hamilton of Hartland, Wis. with a scholarship award of \$8,000. All scholarships will be divided over four years. Over 35 outstanding high school students competed in the event.

TRITON CLASS OF 2024



SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

Lauryn Nauman is a senior at Triton this year. Her parents are Crystal and Christopher Nauman. She has a younger brother Landon and an older sister Brooklyn. She is involved in MN Honors Society, Link Crew, BPA, and FCA. Lauryn is active in Triton track and field. Outside of school she likes to attend sporting events, spend time with family and friends, shop and nanny/babysit. She likes most music but mainly country and watching scary movies. After graduation she plans to attend Mankato State University and major in Management Information Systems and become a data analyst.

LAURYN NAUMAN

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Holden Community Park Accepting Reservations



The Holden Community Park is now accepting reservations. This is a gathering place for families, community groups, celebrations, family and class reunions and meetings. The park is open from June 1 – September 30 and is located just west of the Holden Lutheran Church on Co Rd 30, Kenyon.

The park building is equipped with AC, refrigerator, stove, microwave and indoor bathrooms. Folding tables and chairs which are available for use within the facility. Picnic tables, playground equipment and a fire pit are also located just outside the back entrance. A prayer path also winds through the woods.

Please contact Peggy Kroenbach if you would like to reserve the building. (p_kronbach@yahoo.com, # 507/227-4992)

KMTelecom Brings in High Speed Internet

By Cheri Roshon

As we head into winter in Minnesota, and travelling to see friends and family becomes less frequent, KMTelecom has made connecting easier with their new fiber network in Dodge Center.

In 2021, the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) announced recipients for Community Development Block Grant Coronavirus (CDBG-CV) funding from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act (CARES Act). The City of Dodge Center, in partnership with KMTelecom, was one such recipient and was awarded \$3,142,747 to bring high-speed fiber broadband services to residents within city limits. KMTelecom also invested an additional \$1,000,000 to help



bring these services to unserved businesses as well. The intent was to make sure that everyone who wanted or needed a better internet experience could have one. During the pandemic, so many folks were working from home and going to school online that more bandwidth was needed to keep up with the demand to stay connected.

The project is now wrapping up, and all residents and businesses within Dodge Center city limits will have the option to convert to a fiber connection. The benefits of which are increased internet speeds up to 1 Gig, the highest quality and most reliable connection, increased home values, and increased productivity of your family. The ultra-fast speeds, no buffering streams of movies and shows, free modem use, unlimited data and synchronous download/upload speeds make this a great opportunity for everyone.

If you missed the information on how to apply for this upgrade, you may call (507)634-2511 Monday through Friday from 8 am to 5 pm to speak with one of the KMTelecom customer service representatives who will answer any questions you may have. You may also visit their website at www.kmtelecomfiber.com for more details.

Thank you again to KMTelecom, the City of Dodge Center, and the State of Minnesota for bringing affordable high-speed broadband to our community!

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TRITON CLASS OF 2024

2024 SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

Cadence Spearman is a senior at Triton this year. Her parents are Nick and Melissa Herrick. She has one sister, Hayley. She is active in FFA, volleyball and wrestling. Outside of school she enjoys spending time with friends, working and showing cows. Her biggest hobby is showing livestock and networking with other people in the industry. She shows in county fairs all the way up to international shows. Her favorite music is country, and she likes Zack Bryan and the Red Clay Strays. Cadence has been accepted at UWRF and SDSU for Agricultural Business. She has chosen to further her education at South Dakota State University in Brookings South Dakota.

CADENCE SPEARMAN

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PROUD TO SUPPORT NATIONAL FFA WEEK



This year, FFA members and the organization will celebrate
 National FFA Week from February 17-24, 2024.

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



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2024 Triton Wolf Ridge Trip January 12-15

By Kim Swanson

As we geared up to embark on the 2024 Triton Wolf Ridge trip January 12-15, it didn't appear that it was going to look or feel like winter. Then the forecast changed, and Wolf Ridge picked up about 20 inches of lake affect snow in the days prior to our trip; thankfully it was just enough to switch our schedule back to include cross country skiing and snowshoeing!! We got a taste of real Minnesota winter in this unusually warm and dry season.

It truly felt like winter because not only did

the snow hit just in time, so did the cold! With high temperatures right around zero, seventy Cobras embraced the opportunities (and the cold) and made the most of a great weekend. It was packed full of adventures in learning, connecting with each other, and building life-long memories!

The freshmen kept up the traditions of catching perch in Wolf Lake and traversing cables 30 feet in the air on the high ropes course. They climbed rock walls, cross country skied and snowshoed, and expanded their comfort zones as they experienced new ad-

ventures. When they weren't outside, they could be found gathering in the lobby of the lodge playing card games and building community. The energy and morale were high as they took risks and supported each other in challenges.

Students not only picked up opportunities to learn about science and grow their writing skills, but they also practiced many skills that will be essential throughout life. They used critical thinking, communication, and problem-solving skills as they worked with a team to build a fire and shelter in the snow in win-

Rapunzel Dazzled Audiences at Triton!



The full cast on stage after one of the performances

54 students, grades 1st-8th performed the classic story of Rapunzel, with a twist on the Triton stage during the first week of February. Triton Community Ed sponsored the residency of Storybook Theatre who directed the play. Two professional actors spent the week practicing and developing the play with the students. Performances were on Friday night, February 2nd and the Saturday afternoon of the 3rd.



ter survival. They grew their self-awareness as they tackled challenges and expanded their comfort zones on the ropes course and rock wall. They practiced resilience in the face of being cold, and in falling and getting back up – whether on skis or snowshoes.

This trip is a core experience for Triton students, and it wouldn't be possible without the support of our Triton community.

(continued on page 16)

Cobra Communications



Craig Schlichting
Superintendent

I am thrilled to share some exciting new initiatives at Triton Public Schools this fall, starting in 2024. We are expanding our PreK program and adding some amazing programming to our Kindergarten classes. Our PreK

program will be offering 4 and 5 day a week classes this fall. We are also exploring the possibility of adding a Spanish Immersion PreK program that would also be offered 5 days a week. If you are interested in our PreK opportunities registration begins March 1st for our current families and March 15th for new registrations. If you are interested in the Spanish Immersion Program, please contact the community education office for updates and information. Our Kindergarten classes next year will be

play based with an emphasis on STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math). All sections will be based on this model with an additional section that will be nature based.

These will be a great additions to the already amazing opportunities that we have at our elementary school. Currently, we are one of the few elementary schools that still provide physical education to our students every day. As a former physical education teacher, I firmly believe that providing physical education everyday to our students provides and immense benefit from consistent engagement. This is often a program that gets cut in many districts and students are limited to having this experience on a rotating basis rather than every day as we do here at Triton. Of course, we also provide recess on a daily basis, but having these opportunities for young students to play and have a structured physical education class set us apart from many other districts.

Beyond our regular elementary school classrooms that provide optimal small class

sizes are the other specialist classes that are provided for our elementary school students. Music, Computer, Art and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) classes help provide a rich experience for our elementary school students. In the Triton School District our elementary school specialists are experts in their content area that teach each of these courses to our elementary students.

Triton Elementary School also offers daily lessons at their morning meetings in SEL (Social Emotional Learning). The five core concepts of SEL are self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, relationship skills and responsible decision making. These skills help students deal with everyday challenges to help them become better problem solvers. The elementary also recognizes the positive behaviors of students as a PBIS (Positive Behavioral Intervention Strategies) school. This program emphasizes and promotes the four general rules of being safe, respectful, responsible and hard working.

There has been a great deal of talk about the Science of Reading and the new READ Act

that was passed in the last legislative session. The importance of learning to read at a young age is crucial for future success with learning. Our elementary has been implementing these strategies with the curriculum that was purchased a couple of years ago. Witnessing the progress of our young readers is truly exciting. I feel blessed to work in such an amazing school district that provides a world class learning experience.

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

1st Semester 4.0 Distinction



Pictured front left to right are: (12th Graders) Tyler Gnagey, Danielle Hallaway, Elizabeth Hukee, Jenna Kenworthy, Jessica Willette, (11th Graders) Jack Fitzgerald, Ryann Heimer, Macy Klejeski, Anastazia Kozisek, Corey Lilledahl. Middle row: (11th Graders) Gigi Lundi, Camila Medina Romero, Ashley Romero, Olivia Weber, Skyler Wrolstad, (10th Graders) Ollie Akkerman, Mason Bills, Rainey Dobbs, Damian Kanzenbach, Rece Langworthy. Back row: (10th Graders) Cohen McNeilus, Landon Nauman, Pierce Petersohn, Jade Scovill, (9th Graders) Reagan Essig, Neven Horejsi, Viktoriia Kundel, Sydney Naze, Genevieve Starkson. Not pictured: Naomi Lebak, Mya Matejcek, and Madeline Price.

The Triton Chapter of the Minnesota Honor Society would like to recognize the following students for earning a 4.0 grade point average for first semester. Congratulations on this tremendous accomplishment!



Triton Times

Craig J. Schlichting – Superintendent
 Triton Public Schools: 813 West Highway Street, Dodge Center, MN 55927
 Office – 507-418-7530 • Fax – 507-374-2447 • schlich@triton.k12.mn.us

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Driver's Education!

Learn how to drive with Mr. Johnson! Enhanced Driving Institute will be holding driver's ed class at Triton from 9-noon this summer.

Week one: Tuesday June 4th- Friday June 7th

Week two: Monday June 10th-Saturday June 15th

The three Behind the Wheel lessons would be held at the Rochester location. This class is also available to 14-year-olds turning 15 in the near future. If you have questions ask Mr. Johnson via email at jjohnson@triton.k12.mn.us or visit the website for more detailed information and to register at <https://www.enhanceddrivinginstitute-mn.com/triton>

Triton Middle School



EMMA	AXT	JESSICA	HUKEE	CAREY	OSCARSON
DARVELIA	CHABLE	MATIAS	JARA	CHRISTINE	PEARSON
EMMA	CHICOS	HOLLY	JARRETT	RYAN	ROSENAU
ALAYNA	CURRAN	KADEN	JETER	BROOKLYN	RUDESILL
AVERY	DAHL	KEANNA	JOHNSON	AUBRIE	SANSON
BRINLEY	DICKIE	LIAM	KLEIN	CLAY	SCANLAN
BRYCE	DUPEY	JAYDEN	KLEMMENSEN	ALYVIA	SCHEPPMANN
KAYLEAH	DUPEY	AARON	KNUTSON	CONNOR	SCHLEUSNER
ABRIELLE	EMANUEL	KINSLEY	KOSS	LAYLA	SCHLEY
DYLAN	FATE	GERALD	LEE	ELIJAH	SCHROM
JALYN	FATE	COLLIN	LOUKS	DANIKA	SKALICKY
CINTHIA	FELIX	ISABELLA	LUTTERMAN	GRIFFIN	SNYDER
JOSSLYN	FREERKSEN	MADDISON	MAES	JULIA	STANTON
ALLIE	FREIDERICH	MASON	MAES	MAYA	VALLEJO
COY	FROYUM	NOLD	SAMANTHA	KENZIE	VAN BEEK
RORY	GINDER	QUINN	MARQUARDT	IVY	VAN ZUILEN
ABIGAIL	HENSLIN	ALINIKA	MATEJCEK	COLBY	VERMILYEA
AVEREE	HENSLIN	BROOKLYN	MECHTEL	SIRI	WENNES
CHARLOTTE	HENSLIN	HENRY	OGREN	SAMANTHA	WILSON
REBEKAH	HENSLIN	ELIJAH	OKEEFE	ELLIOT	WIRKUS
		BODE	OLEVSON	REBECCA	WOLF

Second Quarter

Triton Middle School



KAIDEN	ADREON	REIGN	HOKANSON	MASON	MEALY
GARRISON	BECKER	MATHEA	HOREJSI	MACKENZIE	MILNER
KHLOE	BENDA	JAXON	JENSEN	BRAYDEN	MUNNIKHUYSEN
SHELBY	BISHOP	CHARLES	KASPER	CAMDYN	PHILLIPS
MCKINLY	BLANCHARD	CHRISTOPHER	KASPER	CARTER	PHILLIPS
COLLIN	BULOW	JENAE	KEENER	SAMUEL	PRICE
CRUZ	CAIN	ADDISON	KODADA	MONICA	RAMIREZ CARBAJAL
LEIGHTON	COCHRAN	K'STIN	KORBISCH	JEMA	REYES
PATRICK	DAVIS	NERAK	KORBISCH	CORA	ROBERTSON
COOPER	FATE	MIKAYLA	KRAEMER	PATRICK	ROHWER
JAXON	FATE	SCARLETT	KRUCKEBERG	BRADY	RONGVE
KORBYN	FATE-KNUDSON	KALEB	KRUSE	KIMBER	SANSON
LILLIE	FREIDERICH	MAVRIC	KUBAT	TEAGAN	SPENCER
GRACELYN	SCHWERING	ADRIANA	KUNZ	MICAH	SZMIOT-McCHESNEY
MYLES	HALL	AUBREY	LAUE	KENDRA	TUSHAUS
HUNTER	HAMM	PEYTON	LAUE	JOSHIAH	VAGT
BROOKLYNN	HEASER	ALYVIA	LEGLER	GRACIE	VONDERSITT
SOPHIA	HERNANDEZ	AVERIE	LOCKE	CASEY	WEBER
WHITNEY	HIMLI	ELI	MARQUARDT	NYLA	WINSLOW
NOLAN	HODGMAN	ANDREW	MCNEILUS	DYLAN	YOUNG
				SOPHIA	ZRUCKY

Second Quarter

Triton High School Honor Rolls

**TRITON HIGH SCHOOL
A HONOR ROLL
SEMESTER 1
3.667-4.000**

GRADE 9

Baker, Brooklyn
Baumgartner, Jaiden
Cain, Nallah
Cummings, Riley
De La Merced Ortiz, Alexander
Essig, Reagan
Flores, Carli
Froyum, Autumn
Horejsi, Neven
Iverson, Harper
Koss, Braxton
Kruckeberg, Emma
Kundel, Viktoriia
Lutterman, Aidan
Matejcek, Mya
Molina, Keanna
Naze, Sydney
Runnells, Sabree
Sackett, Hayden
Scanlan, Austin
Scudamore, Abigail
Solano, Emanuel
Starkson, Genevieve
Thiemann, William
Van Beek, Aidree
Vermilyea, Casey
Young, Gavin

GRADE 10

Akkerman, Ollie
Ascencio, Emanuel
Behne, Nola
Bennerotte, Skylar
Bills, Mason
Dobbs, Rainey
Freiderich, Norah
Harvey, Holly
Holtet, Andrew
Jensen, Garet
Kanzenbach, Damian
Langworthy, Rece
Liudahl, Roselyn
McMartin, Henry
McNeilus, Cohen
Nauman, Landon
Oakland, Addison
Petersohn, Pierce
Scovill, Jade
Stanton, George
Wirkus, Abigail

GRADE 11

Fitzgerald, Jack
Heimer, Ryann
Holmes, Jaden
Klejeski, Macy
Knutson, Craig
Kozisek, Anastazia
Lebak, Naomi
Lilledahl, Corey
Lundi, Giavanna
Medina, Camila
Medina, Romina
Mulder, Alyssa
Price, Madeline
Quimby, Bryar
Romero, Ashley

Rudesill, Spencer
Vermilyea, Cooper
Weber, Olivia
Wheeler, Katerina
Wrolstad, Skyler

GRADE 12

Andree, Kelsey
Boe, Jozey
Broskoff, Poe
Chilson, Caleb
Christianson, Graham
Connor, Casper
Cummings, Ava
Dostal, Ameryn
Edge, Andrew
Ellingson, Kaeden
Fernandez, Nancy
Gnagey, Tyler
Hallaway, Danielle
Hukee, Elizabeth
Jensen, Sarah
Keller, Maguire
Kenworthy, Jenna
Koenigs, Carson
Kraemer, Taylor
Lapham, Sophia
Lundi, Joaquin
Molina, Gabriella
Nauman, Lauryn
Olson-Ramer, Mallory
Ortiz, Alejandro
Peterson, Litany
Peterson, Savannah
Rath, Adrianna
Ross, Katherine
Terpstra, Claire
Thomas, Ella
Tufte, Logan
Willette, Jessica
Wilson, Thomas

**TRITON HIGH
SCHOOL
B HONOR ROLL
SEMESTER 1
3.666-3.000**

GRADE 9

Barnett, Faith
Burt, Emmitt Laurelee
Delia
Chinn, Gwendolyn
Dickie, Broden
Felix-Miramontes, Angel
Freerksen, Brady
Giesler, Greta
Harty, Ethan
Hokanson, Camren
Johnson, Lincoln
Kraemer, Jackson
Krahn, Carter
Lepp, Taylor
Lindquist, Kylie
Madison, Lydia
Nelson, Colton
Rieck, Megan
Robertson, Gunnar
Ronken, Aden
Sowieja, Connor
Stevenson, Claire
Szmot-McChesney,

Isaiah
Thomas, Graden
Thompson, Candice
Van Zuilen, Aiden
Wolf, Jason

GRADE 10

Buenvenida, Patience
Cardona, Roxana
Cochran, Brynja
Gann, Frankie
Heroff, Mason
Holtet, Wade
Huntley, Isabella
Ibarra-Castillo, Diego
Kasper, Jacob
Kasper, Noah
Klankowski, Beau
Maldonado, Lily
McMahan, Kerisma
Noaell, Mason
Ortiz, Alan
Pluto, Graham
Purinton, McKenzy
Reniker, Brylee
Richardson, Hailey
Salazar Ramirez, Reinaldo
Short, Zowie
Skjeveland, Logan
Staub, Brady

GRADE 11

Anderson, Anna
Dearborn, Lily
Dostal, Miley
Johnson, August
Landsteiner, Carly
Lasker, Shane
Lorentzen, Khloe
Majerus, Cooper
Mendoza, Guadalupe
Orozco, Daniel
Rodriguez, Steven
Selthun, Isaiah
Thomas, Brynn
Tushaus, Tessa
Velasco Castaneda, Alisson

GRADE 12

Adams, Gage
Adreon-Hutton, Austan
Castaneda, Maya
Corley, Alyvea
Cruz Ortiz, Joiser
Freerksen, Bronson
Howard, Ayden
Kleinwort, Noah
Lau, Grace
Lecy, Abigail
Leonardo, Jayce
Locke, Emma
McCormick, Owen
Mergen, Gavin
Olson-Ramer, Maxwell
Peters, Kianna
Redican, Travis
Robinson, Elyssa
Solano, Jairo
Spearman, Cadence
Stark, Hunter
Weber, Cara

Triton High School College Opportunities



Triton High School Seniors Vinny Beauchamp, Alex Naze, Tristan Nelson

By Christi Runnells

Each issue of this school year's Triton Times, I usually highlight Triton High School's concurrent course offerings available to our students. But this month, I would instead like to focus on three senior gentlemen who earned college credit by taking part in the PSEO program (postsecondary enrollment options). Similar to concurrent courses, high school students who take PSEO courses earn both high school and college credit. But students must attend class at the college (or online) in order to earn the credit, instead of just coming to Triton to take concurrent courses. Vinny Beauchamp, Alex Naze and Tristan Nelson are the first Triton students to complete the RCTC Welding Technology Certificate in the fall semester of their senior year and now go on to finish their high school classes and earn their high school diploma at graduation this spring. These three attended RCTC full-time in the fall and completed six college classes: Blueprint Reading, Process Theory and Safety; Shielded Metal Arc Welding; Oxy-fuel Welding, Cutting and Braze Welding; Gas Metal Arc Welding; Gas Tungsten Arc Welding; and a Welding Internship. They earned a total of sixteen college credits and completed the Welding Technology Certificate program—all at no cost to them.

I was able to get them to share a little bit about their experience with me. When I asked them why they decided to do the PSEO welding certificate program at RCTC they all immediately said "Because it was free." They also enjoyed the increased amount of freedom in their fall semester with having Fridays off and only needing to report to RCTC and worry about their college classes. They enjoyed these classes because they were so hands-on and of direct interest to them. All of these classes transferred to the high school as elective credits, which meant they got to make great use of their electives required for graduation.

Tristan also added that Paul Titus, the RCTC welding instructor, is awesome. They all agreed that they appreciated his teaching style

where he made it clear it was on them to get their work done, but he would be there to help when they needed it. Alternatively, they admitted the most challenging part of the program was needing to drive to Rochester four days a week to complete the courses and along with that, having the gas money and reliable vehicle to make that happen. In fact, when I asked them what they would tell other students who are thinking about doing this program, they focused on transportation, suggesting that it's helpful to carpool and make sure at least one person has a car with decent gas mileage. Vinny very definitively said, "Do it. It's free, it's fun and you get a certification." Tristan added, "There is no negative." Alex pointed out, "Besides the gas money." Clearly, they've also learned about making wise decisions with their money!

I approached these three last spring about doing this program and while they were interested, they were also hesitant because I was talking to them about going to college full-time and that was not the path they had planned. I asked them after completing this program, "Did you ever think you would have a college certificate before your high school diploma?" The unanimous, emphatic answer, "No." "I didn't think I'd even be in a college," added Vinny. Even though they weren't planning to attend college, they all recognized that having the welding certificate allows them to go straight into the workforce and easily get a job with their certification. They mentioned having more and better career options as another helpful "side effect" of this program. College-credited opportunities can truly be for all students, no matter what path they are planning after high school. I hope that all students consider all options available to them, no matter their intended career path after high school. ALL high school students have the ability to earn college credits and credentials that will always stick with them, for free! If I haven't convinced you, take it from Vinny and Alex who ended with, "Take the opportunity. You won't regret doing it."

2024 Triton Wolf Ridge Trip January 12-15

(continued from page 13)

Scholarships were made possible with the generous support of Welsh Equipment, McNeilus Steel, the Dodge Center Lions, the Rochester Area Foundation, McMartin Electric, the Triton Booster Club, Con-Tech, and the Claremont Service Center. The Somers, Marquardt and Huber families continue to be instrumental with their support, as well. Finally, we were able to secure an LCCMR grant through Wolf Ridge, as well. Thank you again to all that make it possible to keep the cost of the trip attainable for all.

In addition to funding, it truly takes a village to make this experience happen, and we have an amazing village at THS! Thanks to the Triton School Board and Superintendent Schlichting for supporting the journey, and the Triton Transportation Department for making sure we can get there and home safely. Our staff and parent chaperones donate their weekend to ensure that we can make this trip a reality. Thank you to Triton staff members Brian Felten, Alli Horejsi, Karen Kleinwort, and bus drivers Rod Marquardt and Jeremy Dostal. The rest of our chaperone team (parents, uncles, community members) added so much to the trip, as well – thank you Bruce Huber, Laurie Essig, Ruth Madison, Liz Markell, Keith Rosenau, Tim Kruckeberg, Jordan Nielsen, Calli Giesler,



and Brent Freerksen. It was fun that many of these folks went as Triton students, and now experienced the adventure with their kids!

Their enthusiasm, energy, and encouragement was incredible!

With the 2024 trip in the books, we're look-

ing forward to next January, when the class of 2028 heads north to make their Wolf Ridge memories!!



COME SUPPORT PROM AT:

BUFFALO WILD WINGS  **PROM NIGHT FUNDRAISER**

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TRITON COMMUNITY ED YOUTH ENRICHMENT 507-418-7550

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 29
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

ECFE 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:
February 7, 21 March 13, 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.



Mrs. Vermilyea's Evening Adventures Class made fairy gardens and wands with the Green Shack. Each child made their own with the help of an adult. The creativity of each child was impressive! Mrs. V's Evening Adventures classes are for ages 2-5 and an adult.



TRITON COMMUNITY ED YOUTH ENRICHMENT 507-418-7550

Bricktopia Smash 'n Reel Youth Enrichment League Grades 1-5

Hulk smash...and so do you, but with a hammer built with LEGO® bricks. We'll also build a hill climbing race-car, a fishing rod, and more. We'll use these projects to explore engineering concepts. Sign up today to smash...and learn! 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: \$73
March 14, 21,28 April 4,11,18
3:15-4:15PM TES Media Center



Sunshine and Roses Canvas Painting Leprechaun Gnome, and Earth Day

Join Sunshine and Roses Traveling Art Studio to paint and create on canvas. Classes are open to all ages (adults too!) and you do not need any painting experience! (Ages 6 and under must be accompanied by an adult!) Choose Class 1, 2 or both! ** Classes are back-to-back and students taking both classes will stay in the room in between.

March 5
3:15-4:15pm
Lucky the Leprechaun
Cost: \$26
4:15-5:15pm

Earth Day!
Cost: \$26
*** Register for both paintings and pay \$48!
Location TBD



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



COBRA CARE

Age 4 OPENINGS!

Located at: Triton Public School
813 West Highway St.
Dodge Center, MN 55927

Cobra Care will have openings for kids who will be AGE 4 - starting June 3, 2024!! Call or email today if interested and talk with Tiffany to see what we have to offer!! Our waiting list is also an option if your child turns 4 after June 3rd-great time to be thinking about your daycare with our on-site preschool for Fall of 2024!



CALL OR EMAIL TODAY!!

Triton Community Ed 507-418-7550
Email: tlamoree@triton.k12.mn.us
Cobra Care 507-226-3985

- Play
- Explore
- Learn



COMING SOON: TRITON PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION

Class options:

3 YEAR OLDS:

Tues & Thurs. mornings-- 2 sections!

4/5 YEAR OLDS:

Mon, Wed, Fri mornings--2 sections!
4 afternoons/week (Tuesday-Friday)
5 afternoons/week

Transportation available!

Registration begins March 15th!
triton.k12.mn.us/page/preschool

This Year's Musical is Once Upon a Mattress

This year's musical is Once Upon a Mattress, and it's sure to be another crowd-pleaser! The cast and crew have just started preparing, but they're off to a great start. The musical is once again under the direction of Anne Wotherspoon (nee Schreiber), with

music direction by Andrew Wotherspoon, tech direction by Christine Deetz, and choreography by Jaime Geers.

The story is based on the fairy tale The Princess and the Pea, although every fairy tale stereotype is flipped: the princess is

tough and strong, the prince is spoiled, and the king is mute. The story is an enjoyable one with many laughs throughout. In fact, when the musical first debuted on Broadway, Carol Burnett was in the lead role, so her brand of humor is evident.

Mark your calendars now for April 4, 5, or 6th! And we will once again have a senior citizen matinee, although this year it will be on Tuesday, April 2nd. You won't want to miss this fun show!



Play Bingo and Support Triton Student Groups!

February 17	1PM	Dodge Country Club
February 24	1PM	Dodge Country Club
February 24	5PM	Dodge Center American Legion
March 2	1PM	Dodge Country Club
March 9	1PM	Dodge Country Club
March 9	5PM	Dodge Center American Legion
March 16	1PM	Dodge Country Club
March 23	1PM	Dodge Country Club
March 30	1PM	Dodge Country Club

KINDERGARTEN ROUND UP
 Monday April 15th - 6:00pm

Online Registration coming soon!

Triton Elementary School
 Dodge Center - Claremont - West Concord

TRITON THEATER PRESENTS

Once Upon a Mattress

April 4, 5, & 6 @ 7:00 p.m.

A free senior citizen matinee:
Tuesday, April 2nd @ 1:00 p.m.

Triton Backpack Program Fundraiser

Winter Warm Up Family Dance

Bring the whole family to this extraordinary evening that you will all cherish forever. A DJ will play all of the latest songs and have activities on the dance floor to participate in. Light refreshments will be served.

Glow sticks will be available for \$1.
 Please Park and Enter in the Triton Activities Entrance.
All youth Pre- K- 3rd grade are invited to attend.
 All youth must be accompanied by an adult.
 All participants must pre-register by March 4th.
 The dress code is semi-formal.

Saturday March 9th, 2024
 5:00- 6:30 PM in the West Gym
 Preregistration Cost: \$9/Person
 OR \$25/Family of 4 + \$9 for each additional person
 Day Of Cost at Door: \$12 for all

Triton Backpack Program Fundraiser Registration Form- Winter Warm Up Dance

Name _____ Grade _____ Teacher _____
 Parent/Adult(s) Attending: _____
 Address _____ City _____ Zip _____
 Email _____ Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Number attending X \$9 = _____ Due
 OR
 Number of Families of 4 (if any) _____ x \$25
 + Number of Additional Attendees: _____ x \$9 = Total Due _____

Please send completed form and payment to:
 Triton Community Ed's Office by March 4th to assure registration
 UCare/South Country Insurance discounts MAY apply. If you have either of these insurances, please include a copy of the card with the registration -UNLESS it is already on file with Community Ed.
 Registration is not complete without insurance information. Call 374-2898 with questions- Thank You!



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.

Planned FREE Entertainment Provided by:
 Rookie the Clown • The Boy Scouts Pinewood Derby • Music by The Hep Cats
 The 1st Annual Mullet Contest for all ages! • Juggling • Mascot Characters
 A kid's scavenger hunt with prizes

NEW this year — A Taste of Dodge County Food Court!

Come on down to the Expo and grab some lunch....
FEATURING: HammerQ • Plaza Morena • Wescon Lanes Pizza
The Mantorville County Seat Coffee House • Papa's Roast Coffee
And more to be announced!

The 2024 Expo will feature area restaurants and food vendors in a food court style format where the public can purchase their food!

TRITON COMMUNITY ED ADULT ENRICHMENT 507-418-7550

Adult ESL and GED Classes

******FREE******

Triton Community Ed offering free Adult ESL and GED classes!

Our instructors, Tara Bradford and Mayra Monarrez are here to help you reach your adult learning goals, whether it's finally accomplishing your GED or to learn English as your second language.

All levels of ability are welcome.

Please call 507-418-7550 for more information and to get started on your learning goals!

Tuesdays and Thursdays

3:30-5:30PM GED

6-8PM ESL

TES Room 403



New — Pickleball!

Volunteer helpers: Dana Pfeffer and Sonja Hruska

Pickleball has become a favorite for all ages. It's easy to learn and play. This class will be a 2-hour pickup game style for indoor pickleball. There is no formal instructor, however there are some volunteer community members willing to welcome new and seasoned players alike. Participants are encouraged to bring their own paddles, but some will be on hand to borrow. Please wear clean shoes and bring a water bottle.

Cost: \$30 per session

Monday nights from 6:30-8:30PM in the Triton Elementary School Gym (South Gym)

Session Two:

March 4, 11, 18, 25, April 1, 8

Triton Elementary South Gym

Enter/Exit through the Main Elementary Doors



Instant Piano or Guitar for Hopelessly Busy People
Craig Coffman

In just a few hours, you can learn enough secrets of the trade to give you years of musical enjoyment. Learn to play the way professionals do, using chords. Since this class is being held online with ZOOM you will be able to sit at home and take this course with no pressure at all. And since this course includes an online book and follow up video lessons, you will be able to continue to practice and study on your own. An optional periodic online question and answer session is also included. A recording of the class is included as well. The course is part lecture/demonstration and partly hand on instruction.

Cost: \$58 per class, includes all materials and the lesson, the professionally recorded version of the class and unlimited access to the instructor's monthly question and answer session.

Class Options:

Piano: March 18

Guitar: March 19

An on-line link will be sent to you via email prior to the class for you to access the class and materials.

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 34, Dodge Center, MN

Fairy Gardens

March 5 4-6 PM \$38

Spring Wreath Making
 April 9 6-8 PM \$48

Bob Ross Painting
 April 10 6-8 PM \$48



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

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 (if student): _____

First/Last Name _____
 Class Title _____
 Grade (if student): _____ Teacher (if student): _____

First/Last Name _____
 Class Title _____
 Grade (if student): _____ Teacher (if student): _____

Payment Information: Total Due: _____

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: _____

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Sunday 11:00am-9:00pm

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Down on the Farm/ Up at the Cabin Tippie the Bathtub Cat

By Claudia Vanderborght

When Monica moved to SkyMar Ranch, she understood that farm pets would be helpful. Mocha, a lab/shepard mix, could hardly believe her good fortune being able to roam the farm without a leash or tether. Four kittens – each named by a different grandchild – were slowly given greater outdoor freedom as they grew.

It was very sad when the siblings, Shelley and Oliver, died from feline leukemia (passed on by their mother). Their funerals were well attended.

Cuddles and Tippie – also siblings – were healthy and happy, lively and curious. Mice were fun to chase. Goats would chase cats (not so fun). Chickens would peck at you if you got too close. Gopher holes could fascinate for hours. And in the house there was always a warm, sunny cushion to have a

thorough wash and a comfy nap.

Before long, Tippie (named for her blond tippie toes and her blond tippie tail) demonstrated a complete understanding of her job. Headless mice began decorating the driveway. A well-placed gall bladder squished wetly under a bare human foot. Dried vomit marked Monica's favorite chair. But those especially active critters – the birds, chipmunks, once even a bunny – deserved special treatment.

Monica's shower curtain was always kept closed (due to the circa 1972 bathtub – robin's egg blue). Tippie discovered that rodents could not escape the slippery tub walls; birds could not fly through the closed shower curtain. Tippie could play with her new friends for hours until their poor little hearts finally gave out.

Claudia's heart was subjected to Tippie's attacks once or twice. Tippie liked to hide in the tub and when Claudia walked by, Tippie would launch herself at the curtain scaring the bejesus out of Claudia. When Claudia explained her near heart attack to Monica, Monica just replied, "Oh yeah. She does that."

Good to know.

Now Monica is one tough cookie. She will scoot under a tractor in the mud to connect the PTO shaft. She will take apart the side panel of a full, gloppy manure spreader to reattach the drive belt. She will reach elbow-deep into a heifer's birth canal to help deliver a calf.

But she doesn't like snakes and she doesn't like rodents.

Monica got pretty used to the bathtub presents left by Tippie. She'd simply pluck the tail feathers or tiny rodent pieces from the tub before stepping in. Not a big deal. However one day, Mocha was sniffing and snuffling at the shower curtain. Expecting the usual, Monica casually slid back the curtain ...

Monica's ear-piercing shriek brought Claudia running to the bathroom, passing Mocha scampering the other way. What on earth???? There Monica stood at the bathtub, still clutching the shower curtain. Both ladies stared, dumbstruck, at the eight-inch long roof rat laying dead on the tub floor. Beady black eyes staring lifelessly.

For weeks, Monica carefully entered the



bathroom and pulled the curtain back ever-so-slowly. Fortunately, Tippie returned to hunting more reasonably-sized prey.



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<p>FARMLAND AUCTION 196.38 ± ACRES IN HOWARD COUNTY, IA WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2024 10:00 AM Howard County Fairgrounds 220 7th Street W Cresco, Iowa 52136</p> <p>1 Stop Realty and Peoples Company are pleased to be representing the Dietz Family in the sale of 196.38± acres of high quality central Howard County, Iowa farmland. Owned by the Dietz Family for several decades, this is the first time it's been offered for sale to the public.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 189.60 NHEL FSA tillable acres, which includes 180.20 acres of current farmland acres carrying a CSR2 value of 83.7. • Primary soil types include Clyde silty clay loam, Schley silt loam, Floyd loam, and Oran loam. • The farm has been deemed prior converted with substantial 5", 12", and 15" pattern tiling. <p>Wendy Forthun, ALC 507.251.1637 Wendy@FarmlandSales.com IA LIC 863459000 Kirk Swenson 507.254.5468 Kirk@FarmlandSales.com IA LIC 863458000 Steve Bruere 515.222.1347 Steve@PeoplesCompany.com IA LIC 100095578</p> <p>SCAN FOR MORE INFO </p> <p>1 STOP REALTY PEOPLES COMPANY FarmlandSales.com PeoplesCompany.com</p>	<p>KAHN Tile Supply LLC</p>  <p>Schaeffer's SPECIALIZED LUBRICANTS</p>  <p>AGRO POWER</p> <p>Bruce Freerksen (507) 273-9110 brucewithschaefferoil@gmail.com West Concord, MN</p>	 <p>Tatge Jewelry Awards By Tatge Since 1975 625 2nd Street, Kenyon, MN (507) 789-6522</p>	<p>BAKER'S TIRE SERVICE 507-824-2264 11361 Hwy. 60 Blvd Wanamingo</p>  <p>AG TIRES</p>  <p>CERTIFIED FARM TIRE DEALER</p>	<p>SIFT (SAVE IT FROM TRASH) THRIFT STORE 26 RED WING AVE Kenyon, MN</p> <p> facebook</p> <p>Hours: Thur & Fri 12 to 8pm, Saturday 9am to 5pm</p> <p>DOUG AND MARY KLATT www.sift4you.com Call us today! 507.259.2386</p>	

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New HVAC in the Area

By Cheri Roshon

A new generation is taking over not one, but two Heating and Cooling businesses in our local area. Nate Stenzel is the proud owner of both Luiken Heating and Cooling and Jandro Heating and Air. I was able to talk to Nate about his decision to take on both businesses, and asked him what brought him to this decision.

"I was originally going to go to school to be a Wind Turbine technician. I grew up on a farm so I knew I wanted to do something with my hands. I soon realized that this required a lot of travel and decided it would not be a good fit for being away from the farm. A good friend of mine who was currently in the HVAC industry recommended checking out the HVAC department at South Central Col-

lege in Mankato.

After the visit, I immediately knew this is what I wanted to do and here I am. We offer heating, cooling, plumbing, and water systems. water softeners, drinking systems, etc.."

Nate took over for Brad Luiken in May of 2023. Brad was the original owner, and was in business for over 35 years. Nate will be taking over for Joe at Jandro Heating and Air in February. Joe was in business for a long time, and was looking to retire. He wanted someone to take over his business. After meeting with Joe, both Joe and Nate decided it would be a good fit to combine both companies, and that's how the two very successful businesses became one. The business is located in Faribault.

They have a 45 minute service radius. Kenyon, Wanamingo, Zumbrota, and Pine Island are included in their service area. They also serve south metro. Lakeville, Prior Lake, Shakopee, Burnsville, Savage, Apple Valley, Farmington, New Elko Market, Rosemount, Owatonna and south as well, all the way to Albert Lea.

When a business grows and changes hands, there are always modifications to make things fit. I asked Nate what he foresees in the future as he gets the two companies



working together as one.

"The biggest changes will be the plumbing side. We will introduce plumbing this spring with our Master Plumber. We are currently doing water heaters and water softeners, but we will have a full plumbing service by this spring."

"And since you are new in this business, why should people want to work with you, as opposed to other HVAC services?" I asked.

"They should choose to work with us be-

cause we are a locally owned, family run business. I have 12 years of experience in HVAC, and with my crew, we have over 50 years of experience in the field. We believe in hard work and honest craftsmanship, and are passionate about what we do. Some of our employees grew up in Kenyon, so we are local. Unfortunately, there are companies that treat you like a number, and only want to sell you things.

(continued on page 24)

Brightening the Winter Blues: Bonding with Your Pup Through Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD)

Even with days gradually growing longer, lack of sun and winter can cause many Americans to grapple with a familiar companion – the winter blues. The onset of Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD) casts a shadow over our mood, energy levels, and overall well-being. But what about our loyal canine companions? How does this seasonal shift affect our furry friends, and how can we, as dog parents, ensure our bond remains vibrant despite the gloom? What is Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD) and How Can Our Furry Friends Help? Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD) is a type of depression that occurs at a specific time of year, usually during the fall and winter months when there is less natural sunlight. Here are some signs of SAD to look out for:

Low Energy Levels: Individuals with SAD may experience fatigue and a general lack of energy. Physical activities that you previously enjoyed seem far and fewer in between.

Changes in Sleep Patterns: SAD can lead to oversleeping or difficulty sleeping.

Mood Changes: Feelings of sadness, hopelessness, or irritability are common symptoms.

Difficulty Concentrating: Individuals may find focusing or concentrating on tasks challenging.

Social Withdrawal: People with SAD may withdraw from social activities and feel a lack of interest in things they once enjoyed.

Our four-legged friends require specific types of interactions from us to ensure their overall well-being! Winter can be an excellent time to engage in activities with your dog or puppy, providing both of you with physical exercise and mental stimulation. Here are some fundamental interactions that dogs need and some things you can do together to give BOTH of you a "boost!" this winter: Playtime for a Natural Energy Boost:

Engage in regular play sessions with your pup. Play helps with physical exercise and mental stimulation and strengthens the bond between you and your dog.

Maintain a Routine and Enjoy a Healthy Diet: Establishing a routine helps create a sense of security for your dog. That's why you need to keep your routine in check.

Going to bed at the same time every night and waking at the same time can help you maintain a healthy routine. Eat a balanced diet rich in fruits, vegetables, and whole grains

Nutrient-rich foods can positively impact mood. Consider taking supplements or vitamin C if your diet lacks essential nutrients. Remember: When you oversleep, your puppy's routine gets out of whack, too!

Affection and Attention: Puppies and dogs thrive on affection and attention. Spend quality time cuddling, petting, and interacting with your dog. This helps build a strong emotional connection.

Did you know that petting a dog can lead to an increase in serotonin and dopamine levels. These neurotransmitters are associated with feelings of happiness, pleasure, and well-being!

Training and Playing Sessions Help with Concentration: Obedience training and playing with your pup helps control behavior and stimulates the dog's mind (and yours!). Keep training sessions short, fun, and positive. This concentration can provide everyone's mind with a positive boost! Playing helps unleash a dog's inner passion and helps you bond together. Activities such as walks, playing with a dog (fetch, hide and seek, tug of war, etc.), in addition to petting, encourage physical activity.

Socialization and Physical Exercise: Socialization helps your pup develop into well-adjusted and confident adults. Just because it's winter, is no reason to stop being social. Plan puppy play dates or walks in the park. Interacting with a dog provides a form of social interaction and connection. Regular exercise has its own set of cognitive and mood-enhancing benefits. Spend time outdoors during daylight hours. Even short periods of exposure to natural sunlight can improve mood and help circumvent SAD. These tips from your friends at Puppies.com can contribute to the health and well-being of BOTH you and your furry friends! Remember, regular outdoor activities, cuddles, training/playing, and maintaining a healthy routine help everyone enjoy!

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New HVAC in the Area

(continued from page 23)

We are here to tell you that we are not like that. We believe in treating our customers the way we would like to be treated. Let us show you what an HVAC and plumbing company is supposed to be. Unfortunately, a lot of the big-

ger corporate companies are price gouging, and like to sell anything they can, ultimately lying to the homeowner. This is very frustrating on my end. I just believe people deserve to know what is really going on in our industry. We are here to bring back old fashioned values, and will do everything we can to keep our customers happy."

Well, there you have it. I look forward to watching this company grow, and bring back value and affordability to one of the most expensive fixes homeowners face every day. Good luck to Nate and his crew.



THE SAVVY SENIOR



By Jim Miller

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Do I Need to File a Tax Return This Year?

What are the IRS income tax filing requirements for retirees this tax season? I didn't file a tax return the past two years because my income was below the filing threshold, but I got a part-time job late last year, so I'm wondering if I'm required to file this year.

--Retired Worker

Dear Retired,

Whether or not you are required to file a federal income tax return this year will depend on how much you earned last year (in 2023), as well as the source of the income, your age and filing status.

Here's a rundown of this tax season's IRS tax filing requirement thresholds.

For most people, this is pretty straightforward. If your 2023 gross income - which includes all taxable income, not counting your Social Security benefits, unless you are married and filing separately - was below the threshold for your filing status and age, you probably won't have to file. But if it's over, you will.

Single: \$13,850 (\$15,700 if you're 65 or older by Jan. 1, 2023).

Married filing jointly: \$27,700 (\$29,200 if you or your spouse is 65 or older; or \$30,700 if you're both over 65).

Married filing separately: \$5 at any age.

Head of household: \$20,800 (\$22,650 if 65 or older).

Qualifying surviving spouse: \$27,700 (\$29,200 if 65 or older).

To get a detailed breakdown on federal filing requirements, along with information on taxable and nontaxable income, call the IRS at 800-829-3676 and ask them to mail you a free copy of the "1040 and 1040-SR Instructions for Tax Year 2023," or you can see it online at [IRS.gov/pub/irs-pdf/i1040gi.pdf](https://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/i1040gi.pdf).

Check Here Too

Be aware that there are other financial situations that can require you to file a tax return, even if your gross income falls below the IRS filing requirements. For example, if you earned more than \$400 from self-employment in 2023, owe any taxes on an IRA, Health Savings Account or an alternative minimum tax, or get premium tax credits because you, your spouse or a dependent is enrolled in a Health Insurance Marketplace plan, you'll need to file.

You'll also need to file if you're receiving Social Security benefits, and one-half of your benefits plus your other gross income and any tax-exempt interest exceeds \$25,000, or \$32,000 if you're married and filing jointly.

To figure all this out, the IRS offers an online tax tool that asks a series of questions that will help you determine if you're required to file, or if you should file because you're due a refund. It takes less than 15 minutes to complete.

You can access this tool at [IRS.gov/Help/ITA](https://www.irs.gov/Help/ITA) - click on "Do I Need to File a Tax Return?" Or you can get assistance over the phone by calling the IRS helpline at 800-829-1040.

Check Your State

Even if you're not required to file a federal tax return this year, don't assume that you're also excused from filing state income taxes. The rules for your state might be very different. Check with your state tax agency before concluding that you're entirely in the clear. For links to state tax agencies see [Taxadmin.org/fta-members](https://www.taxadmin.org/fta-members).

Tax Preparation Help

If you find that you do need to file a tax return this year, you can free file through the IRS at [IRS.gov/FreeFile](https://www.irs.gov/FreeFile) if your 2023 adjusted gross income was below \$79,000.

Or, if you need some help, contact the Tax Counseling for the Elderly (or TCE) program. Sponsored by the IRS, TCE provides free tax preparation and counseling to middle and low-income taxpayers, age 60 and older. Call 800-906-9887 or visit [IRS.treasury.gov/freetaxprep](https://www.irs.gov/treasury.gov/freetaxprep) to locate services near you.

You can also get tax preparation assistance through the AARP Foundation Tax-Aide service. Call 888-227-7669 or visit [AARP.org/findtaxhelp](https://www.aarp.org/findtaxhelp) for more information. You don't have to be an AARP member to use this service.

Traxler Law PLLC

traxlerlaw.com

Ann Traxler
Attorney

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TRITON CLASS OF 2024



SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

Emiliano Ibarra Castillo is a senior at Triton this year.

His parents are Alex Ibarro and Blanca Castillo.

He has one brother Diego and a sister Sofia.

One of the activities outside of school he is involved in is feeding the homeless.

He enjoys hiking, skiing, swimming, golfing and exploring.

His favorite music is country, favorite movie is Ratatouille and favorite actor is Adam Sandler.

After graduation he plans to attend college for a degree in anesthesiology.



**EMILIANO IBARRA
CASTILLO**

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TRITON CLASS OF 2024



2024 SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

Ella Thomas is a senior at Triton this year. She is the daughter of Ray and Annalee Thomas. She has three brothers, Noah, Graden and Logan. She is involved in Link Crew, student council and FCA. Ella is active in Triton volleyball and basketball. After school she enjoys hanging out with friends and family. Her hobbies are baking and listening to music. She enjoys country music, especially Morgan Wallen. After graduation Ella plans to attend college at Mankato for a degree in elementary education.



ELLA THOMAS

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KABA KASH NOTICE

The Kenyon Commercial Club is disbanding, thus discontinuing the KABA KASH program. Any outstanding KABA KASH will **ONLY** be redeemed for cash by bringing directly to Security State Bank of Kenyon. **DEADLINE** for cash refund of KABA KASH is **5/1/2024**. **NO KABA KASH will be honored after this date!**

Eden Progressive Gophers 4-H Club Pancake Breakfast

Profits donated to upgrade WC Legion kitchen.

Hot pancakes, eggs, breakfast sausage, milk, juice, & coffee.

Date: Sunday, March 17, 2024

Where: West Concord American Legion

Time: 8a.m.-12:30

Suggested Price: \$8 for 5 yrs old-adults; 4 years old & under free

Same price • Same great 4-H'ers

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<p>2021 FORD F-150 XLT 4WD</p> <p>4 door super crew cab, 5.5' box, 25,150 miles, rapid red, 2.7L ecoboost V-6 #23067U</p> <p>SALE \$40,999</p>	<p>2022 FORD BRONCO SPORT BADLAND 4x4</p> <p>6,620 miles, carbonized gray metallic, ecoboost 2.0L I4, turbocharged #23158U</p> <p>SALE \$33,690</p>	<p>2022 FORD EDGE SEL AWD</p> <p>14,248 miles, stone blue metallic, ecoboost 2.0L I4 turbocharged #23213U</p> <p>SALE \$28,775</p>	<p>2022 FORD ESCAPE TITANIUM AWD</p> <p>25,400 miles, star white metallic, ecoboost 2.0L I4 turbocharged #23189U</p> <p>SALE \$29,350</p>
<p>2021 FORD RANGER LARIAT 4WD</p> <p>Super crew cab, 5' box, 4 door, 17,475 miles, oxford white, 2.3L ecoboost, turbocharged #23209U</p> <p>SALE \$38,999</p>	<p>2022 FORD MAVERICK XLT 4WD</p> <p>Super crew cab, 4 door, oxford white, 9,130 miles, ecoboost 2.0L turbocharged #23207U</p> <p>SALE \$29,999</p>	<div style="text-align: center;"> <h3>Cold Weather Car Care</h3> <p>At Milo Peterson Ford Co., our highly qualified technicians are here to provide exceptional service in a timely manner. From oil changes to transmission replacements, we are dedicated to maintaining top tier customer service, for both new and pre-owned car buyers! Allow our staff to demonstrate our commitment to excellence.</p> <p>Call our service department to schedule your maintenance needs. Open Monday thru Friday 7:30am to 5pm.</p> </div>	

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NATIONAL FFA WEEK

FEBRUARY 17-24, 2024



Legal Notices

**CITY OF CLAREMONT
CITY COUNCIL
MEETING
TUESDAY,
JANUARY 2, 2024
7:00 P.M.**

A regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Claremont, Minnesota was held on Tuesday, January 2, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. at Claremont City Hall.

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

City staff and others present: Administrator/Clerk Elizabeth Sorg, Maintenance Director Casey Dahl, Matt Durand, and Donna Gregory.

AGENDA

Motion by McGovern to approve the agenda, second by Sultze. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC INPUT

None

CONSENT AGENDA

The Consent Agenda included: Minutes of the December 5, 2023, City Council Meeting and Resolution No. 24-03: Resolution Expressing Acceptance of and Appreciation of Donation.

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

**COMMITTEE REPORTS
PERSONNEL
COMMITTEE**

Nothing at this time.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Motion by Sultze to approve the financial reports, second by McGovern. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by McGovern to approve the amended list of bills to be paid, second by Sultze. Motion carried unanimously.

**PUBLIC HEALTH &
SAFETY COMMITTEE**

The fire department members voted for Casey Dahl to remain Fire Chief for 2024. Motion to approve Dahl as the 2024 Fire Chief by Sultze, second by McGovern. Ayes: McGovern, Klejeski, and Sultze. Nay: None. Abstain: Dahl. Motion carried.

The MN State Legislature enacted a one-time public safety aid in 2023 and Claremont received \$22,318. It will be split evenly between the Fire Department and First Responders.

PLANNING & ZONING

COMMITTEE

Nothing at this time.

EDA

Matt Durand was present to give an update on his housing project. He has 2 signed purchase agreements, he is working with the building official on permits, and has ordered the houses. He will be building 3 houses in April.

**MAINTENANCE
DEPARTMENT**

Nothing at this time.

PARKS COMMITTEE

Nothing at this time.

PEOPLESERVICE

Their reports were in the packet.

CITY ENGINEER

City Engineer Olinger was not present due to a scheduling conflict but had turned in Tanksco Pay Application #5 (the final one) in the amount of \$12,424.10. Motion by Klejeski to approve Pay Application #5 contingent upon the submittal of final closeout paperwork, second by McGovern. Motion carried unanimously.

**CITY ADMINISTRATOR
REPORT**

The 2024 budget included a 3% payroll increase as a cost of living/inflation adjustment. Motion by McGovern

to approve a 3% wage increase for Deb Ellis, second by Sultze. Motion carried unanimously. Motion by Sultze to approve a 3% wage increase for Casey Dahl, second by Klejeski. Ayes: Sultze, Klejeski, and McGovern. Nays: None. Abstain: Dahl. Motion carried. Motion by Sultze to approve a 3% wage increase for Elizabeth Sorg, second by McGovern. Motion carried unanimously. The wage increases will be in effect for the January 11 payroll.

Administrator/Clerk Sorg will be gone February 28 – March 4. Ellis will cover for her during this time.

CITY ATTORNEY

City Attorney Mark Rahrack was not present due to a scheduling conflict.

OLD BUSINESS

Motion by McGovern to approve Ordinance 24-0105: Ordinance Amending Section 4.60, Subd. 33 of the Claremont City Code, Regulating Fences, second by Sultze. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by McGovern to approve Resolution No. 24-04: Approving Publication of Ordinance by Title and Summary, second by Sultze. Motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Motion by Sultze to keep the appointments for Resolution No. 24-01: Resolution Stating Annual Designations for 2024 the same as it was for 2023 which is: Jacob Klejeski as Acting Mayor in the absence of the Mayor. The 2024 committees will be:

Budget and Finance: Dahl and Sultze

Public Health and Safety: Ellis and McGovern

Planning: McGovern and Ellis

Parks: Klejeski and Dahl
EDA: Mayor and Council Members

Personnel: Klejeski and Sultze

Dahl will be the alternate member.

The official newspaper will

be the Dodge County Independent. The primary depository of city funds shall be Equity Bank and the City Attorney will be Mark Rahrack, second by Klejeski. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Klejeski to approve Resolution No. 24-02: Resolution of 2024 Fees, second by McGovern. Motion carried unanimously.

The March City Council Meeting needs to be rescheduled due to the Presidential Primary Election on March 5. Motion by Klejeski to have the regular meeting on Monday, March 11 at 7:00 p.m., second by Sultze. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Sultze to adjourn the meeting at 7:23 p.m., second by McGovern. Motion carried unanimously.

ATTEST:

Elizabeth Sorg,
Administrator/Clerk
Tasha Dahl, Mayor

**CITY OF CLAREMONT
SPECIAL CITY
COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY,
JANUARY 8, 2024
7:15 P.M.**

A special meeting of the City Council of the City of Claremont, Minnesota was held on Monday, January 8, 2024, at 7:15 p.m. at Claremont City Hall.

Members present: Mayor Tasha Dahl, City Council Members Jacob Klejeski, Hunter McGovern, Deb Ellis, and Krystal Sultze. Members absent: None. City staff and others present: Administrator/Clerk Elizabeth Sorg, First Responder Director Casey Dahl, Dodge Center Administrator Lee Mattson, Dodge Center Ambulance Director AJ Gengler, and a Dodge Center Council Member.

The purpose of this special meeting was to discuss the future outlook of the Dodge County Ambulance. There are staffing challenges as

fewer people are volunteering. They do bill for services, but reimbursement rates are minimal to nothing if the patient is on Medicaid or Medicare. There have been discussions about having a joint powers board or a taxing district to help fund the ambulance service. They are meeting with cities and townships to see if there is support and if so, would a joint powers board or taxing district be preferred. The council said they understand the need and the issues but at this time they don't have a definite preference between a joint powers board or taxing district. The council also has concerns about what would happen if all cities or townships don't want to participate but they did say they are willing to continue conversations on this issue.

Motion by Ellis to adjourn the meeting at 8:14 p.m., second by McGovern. Motion carried unanimously.

ATTEST:

Elizabeth Sorg,
Administrator/Clerk
Tasha Dahl, Mayor

**CONCORD TOWNSHIP
Election Notice**

Notice is hereby given that Concord Township, in Dodge County, will on Tuesday March 12, 2024 conduct the Town Election at the Concord town hall. Polls will be open from 5:00-8:00 pm.

Inclement weather date will be March 19, 2024.

**CONCORD TOWNSHIP
Annual Meeting Notice**

Notice is hereby given that Concord Township, in Dodge County, will on Tuesday March 12, 2024 conduct the Annual Township Meeting at the Concord town hall beginning at 3:30pm.

Inclement weather date will be March 19, 2024.

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Legal Notices

TRITON ISD NO. 2125 – SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES SCHOOL BOARD STUDY SESSION WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31, 2024 TRITON HIGH SCHOOL MEDIA CENTER – DODGE CENTER, MN

Craig Schlichting, Principal Shane Van Beek, Principal Luke Lutterman, Dean of Students Tricia Johnson, Community Education Director Kristy Faber, and Mindy Knutson.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Items discussed:

Superintendent Succession Planning – Gary Kuphal presenting

Enrollment Study Review – Baird and Sitelogiq presenting

Chair Kenworthy adjourned the meeting 8:25 p.m.

School District Clerk

-Meeting Proceedings-

Chair Wendy Kenworthy called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Those members present: Wendy Kenworthy, Rebecca Knutson, Lloyd Henslin, Jr., Duane Bartel, Dale Jensen, Jim Jensen, and Brian Ginder; absent: none. Also present: Superintendent

TRITON ISD NO. 2125 – SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MONDAY, JANUARY 8, 2024 – 6:00 P.M. TRITON HIGH SCHOOL MEDIA CENTER – DODGE CENTER, MN & ZOOM VIDEO CONFERENCING

-Meeting Proceedings-

Acting Board Chair Lloyd Henslin called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Those members present: Duane Bartel, Jim Jensen, Rebecca Knutson, Wendy Kenworthy, Brian Ginder, and Lloyd Henslin, Jr.; absent: Dale Jensen. Also present: Superintendent Craig Schlichting, Principal Shane Van Beek, Dean of Students Tricia Johnson, A.D. Corey Black, Student Council Representative Corey Lilledahl, Tina Kozisek, 3 visitors and 0 visitors present via ZOOM.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Bartel/Ginder motioned to approve the agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

Triton BPA Members and the 8th Grade Academic Triathlon Team were recognized as Cobra Pride honorees.

Acting Board Chair Henslin declared the office of School Board Chair for 2024 open for nominations.

Bartel motioned to nominate Wendy Kenworthy for Chair. Chair Henslin called for nominations 3 times, nominations were closed. Motion carried unanimously to elect Wendy Kenworthy as Chair.

Chair Kenworthy declared the office of Vice-Chair for 2024 open for nominations.

Henslin motioned to nominate Rebecca Knutson for office of School Board Vice-Chair. Chair Kenworthy called for nominations 3 times, nominations were closed. Motion carried unanimously to elect Rebecca Knutson as Vice-Chair.

Chair Kenworthy declared the office of School Board Clerk for 2024 open for nominations.

Knutson motioned to nominate Lloyd Henslin, Jr. for office of School Board Clerk. Chair Kenworthy called for nominations 3 times, nominations were closed. Motion carried unanimously to elect Lloyd Henslin, Jr. as Clerk.

Chair Kenworthy declared the office of School Board Treasurer for 2024 open for nominations.

Ginder motioned to nominate Jim Jensen for office of School Board Treasurer. Knutson motioned to nominate Duane Bartel for the office of School Board Treasurer, Bartel declined. Chair Kenworthy called for nominations 3 times, nominations were closed. Motion carried unanimously to elect Jim Jensen as Treasurer.

The Board appointed Committees and Representatives for 2024.

2024 Triton School Board Committees and Representatives				
Committees:				Alternate
Extra-Curricular	Bartel	Knutson	D. Jensen	Kenworthy
Facilities & Grounds	J. Jensen	Ginder	D. Jensen	Bartel
Budget & Finance	Board			
Meet & Confer	Bartel	Kenworthy	D. Jensen	
Personnel				
Negotiations-Certified	Henslin	J. Jensen	Knutson	D. Jensen
Negotiations-Classified	D. Jensen	Bartel	Kenworthy	Ginder
Negotiations-Administration Support	Kenworthy	J. Jensen	Bartel	Ginder
Policy	Board			
Systems Accountability Committee	Ginder	D. Jensen	Knutson	
Representatives:				
Community Education	Knutson			
Continuing Education	Kenworthy			
Insurance HRA	Ginder			
Legislative Liaison-MSBA/MREA	J. Jensen			
MSHSL	D. Jensen			
Safety	Bartel			
Southeast Service Cooperative	J. Jensen			
Technology	J. Jensen			
Zumbro Ed District	Henslin			J. Jensen

Knutson/Bartel motioned to approve the consent agenda as presented including the December 18, 2023 regular meeting minutes; budget update, claims and bills; treasurer's report; donations; open enrollment nonresident agreements for #010824A; contracts for Kylie Kraemer as Cobra Kids Assistant, Kristine Faber as Community Education Director, and Rebecca Goossens as IT Manager, and extra-curricular contracts for Adam Anderson as G&T Coordinator and Academic Triathlon Advisor. Motion carried unanimously.

Superintendent Schlichting presented the Triton School Calendar for 2024-2025. He stated that it would likely need to be approved again at a later date, since dates were not yet available for READ Act training.

J. Jensen/Knutson motioned to approve the Triton School Calendar for 2024-2025. Motion carried unanimously.

Student Council Representative Corey Lilledahl reported that Student Council was preparing for the annual food drive and Snow Week.

Henslin stated that the Joint Powers were approved and the audit was presented at the last ZED meeting.

A.D. Black reported on the upcoming One Act Play community performance January 23 and sub-sections January 27; basketball double headers and Athletic Hall of Fame Induction January 27, and BPA Regionals.

Principal Van Beek and Dean of Students Johnson reported on Discover Healthcare and the Dodge County Internship Fair, the end of the semester January 18, TMS Spelling Bee, Math Masters, and Academic Triathlon, Wolf Ridge, Pre-ACT, ACT & ASVAB April 9, ACT Prep Course, and State Representative Quam visiting the elementary school.

Superintendent Schlichting reported that the solar application opening date had been delayed, Spanish Immersion meeting, State Representative Quam, and reminder of the study session January 31.

Bartel/J. Jensen motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:30. Motion carried unanimously.

School District Clerk

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DODGE CENTER SUMMARY COUNCIL MINUTES Monday, January 22, 2024

This published information is a summary of the full minutes of the January 22, 2024 Dodge Center City Council meeting. A copy of the full minutes is available for viewing at City Hall, 35 East Main Street or online at www.ci.dodgecenter.mn.us.

Present: Bill Ketchum, Gary Trelstad, Cathy Skogen, Paul Blaisdell, Matt Maas, Lee Mattson, Jeremy Dostal and Kathy Freeman

The City Council approved the following items:

- Agenda and amended consent agenda to include: January 8, 2024 City Council Minutes, Payment of Bills, Appointment of Jaci Gosse to replace Rob Jarrett on EDA Board, 2024 Sheriff's Contract, Pay Equity Report, Authorize Hiring Rachel Jensen as Assistant Pool Manager, Resolution No. 2024-007 A Resolution Accepting Donation to the City, Fire and Ambulance Staff 2024 Pool Passes, payment of 2018 G O Water Revenue Bond and the G O Improvement Bonds payment for the 2020 Street Project;
 - School Resource Officer Contract through December 2024 pending indemnification language is amended and acceptable to City Attorney and City Administrator;
 - Increase in the Wastewater Supervisor position salary if holding a Class A Wastewater License;
 - Amendment of top end salary for City Treasurer to \$104,000.00;
 - Acceptance of Community Development Technician, David Myrom, resignation.
- Meeting adjourned at 6:25 pm

SECTION 00 11 13

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Electronic Bids will be received by the City of West Concord, Minnesota, on the QuestCDN.com website via the VirtuBid electronic bidding application. Only electronic bids will be accepted for this project. Bids will be received on the QuestCDN.com website, until 10:00 A.M., CST on Thursday, March 21, 2024, at which time they will be opened electronically and reviewed for the furnishing of all labor, materials, and all else necessary for the following:

2024 West Concord Utility and Street Reconstruction

In general and pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, chapter 429, the work consists of the construction of storm sewer improvements and street construction with approximately the following quantities:

- 750 LF of 15" & 18" RCP Storm Sewer Pipe
- 1,280 LF of 6" DIP Watermain Pipe
- 3,190 LF of 6" PVC Drain Tile
- 9,300 SY of Bituminous Reclamation
- 1,500 SY of Bituminous Removal
- 6,100 CY of Common Excavation
- 4,050 CY of Class 5 Aggregate Base
- 2,750 CY of Select Granular Borrow
- 7,600 SY of 3.5" Thick Bituminous Pavement (2 Lifts)
- 3,400 LF of Concrete Curb and Gutter
- 570 SY of Concrete Driveway Aprons, Sidewalk & Valley Gutter
- 5,700 SY of Turf Restoration

Along with miscellaneous utility and roadway improvements, removals, and restoration.

Complete digital Bidding Documents are available at www.questcdn.com by inputting **QuestCDN eBidDoc #8987131** on the website's Project Search page. Paper Bidding Documents may also be viewed at the City of West Concord City and at Stantec, 3800 Highway 52 North Suite 130, Rochester MN. (507) 529-6036.

Direct inquiries to Engineer's Project Manager, Joe Palen, at (507) 529-6036.

Bid Security in the amount of 5 percent of the amount of the Bid must accompany each Bid in accordance with the Instructions to Bidders.

For this project, the City will only accept online electronic bids through QuestCDN. To access the electronic bid, download the project documents and click on the online bidding button at the top of the advertisement. Prospective bidders must be on the plan holders list through QuestCDN for bids to be accepted.

The Owner reserves the right to retain the deposits of the 3 lowest Bidders for a period not to exceed 60 days after the date and time set for the Opening of Bids. No Bids may be withdrawn for a period of 60 days after the date and time set for the Opening of Bids.

The Owner reserves the right to reject any and all Bids, to waive irregularities and informalities therein, and further reserves the right to award the Contract to the best interests of the Owner.

The successful bidder must be a "responsible contractor." The term "responsible contractor" means a contractor as defined in Minnesota Statutes, section 16C.285, subdivision 3. Any prime contractor, subcontractor, or motor carrier that does not meet the minimum criteria or fails to comply with the verification requirements is not a responsible contractor and is not eligible to be awarded a construction contract for the project or to perform work on the project. A prime contractor, subcontractor, or motor carrier that makes a false statement under oath verifying compliance with the minimum criteria will be ineligible to be awarded a construction contract on the project, and the submission of a false statement may result in termination of a contract awarded to a prime contractor, subcontractor, or motor carrier that submits the false statement. A prime contractor shall include in its verification of compliance a list of all of its first-tier subcontractors that it intends to retain for work on the project. Before execution of a construction contract, a prime contractor shall submit a supplemental verification under oath confirming that all subcontractors and motor carriers that the prime contractor intends to use to perform project work have verified to the prime contractor, through a signed statement under oath by an owner or officer, that they meet the minimum criteria for a responsible contractor.

Lauren Highfill, City Clerk
City of West Concord, Minnesota

City of West Concord 2024 Budget

Summary General Fund

	2022 Actual	2023 Budget	2024 Budget	Difference
REVENUES				
1 General property tax	\$ 373,591	\$ 378,500	\$ 393,143	\$ 14,643
2 Special assessments	-	2,000	-	(2,000)
3 Licenses, permits and fees	9,539	9,258	11,131	1,873
4 Intergovernmental	361,304	355,223	372,987	17,764
5 Charges for services	19,149	24,300	24,675	375
6 Fines and forfeits	2,980	2,600	3,200	600
7 Interest earnings	7,301	1,400	1,400	-
8 Miscellaneous revenue	19,749	2,650	16,780	14,130
9 TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 793,613	\$ 775,931	\$ 823,316	\$ 47,385
EXPENDITURES				
10 General Government	\$ 369,222	\$ 299,175	\$ 302,850	\$ 3,675
11 Public Safety	170,480	164,848	189,598	24,750
12 Public Works	168,968	156,576	170,519	13,943
13 Parks and Recreation	133,548	149,832	152,799	2,967
14 Miscellaneous	-	-	-	-
15 Capital Outlay	48,946	5,500	7,550	2,050
16 TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 891,164	\$ 775,931	\$ 823,316	\$ 47,385
17 REVENUES OVER/(UNDER) EXPENDITURES	\$ (97,551)	\$ -	\$ 0	\$ 0
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES / (USES)				
18 Transfers In/(Out)	\$ (8,000)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
19 Sales of Fixed Assets	-	-	-	-
20 Bond Proceeds	-	-	-	-
21 TOTAL OTHER FINANCING SOURCES / (USES)	\$ (8,000)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
22 BEGINNING CASH FUND BALANCE	\$ 513,661	\$ 408,110	\$ 408,110	\$ -
23 ENDING CASH FUND BALANCE	\$ 408,110	\$ 408,110	\$ 408,110	\$ 0

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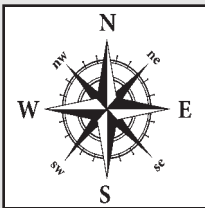
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Changes in Latitudes, Changes in Attitudes Power Outages and Why



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.

Power outages can be frequent in Western Tennessee. Virtually everyone has a generator. I had a generator at the construction site because I built for the first year without service to the address. I just always keep it fueled up and plenty of gas in reserve. Windstorms or tornadoes seem to happen about 12 months out of the year down here.

We have had a number of close calls with windstorms but they always just missed us. One night about five years ago, we had just arrived at our cabin in Big Sandy to do some maintenance. I hadn't even got the tools out of the truck when the rain struck. It usually rains with a vengeance, and wind. We retreated to the house and shortly after the power went out. When the storm passed, we

headed back home, only to find a big tree over the road, blocking our path.

In 2020 we went to Nashville on March 2nd to see Collective Soul at the Ryman. After the concert we discussed stopping at one of the restaurants on Broadway for dessert but decided to head home. On the drive home I could see an angry lightning storm behind us. When we turned on the news at home, we saw that a tornado had struck about two blocks from the concert venue we attended.

Three years ago, while we still lived on the Cumberland River and had just started building our new house on the Tennessee River, a big storm came through. The tornado passed within a mile of our home under construction, jumped the river and tore up a path heading east, destroying homes within a couple miles of where we lived twenty miles away. We were in Minnesota at the time and were quite surprised at the devastation when we returned. I recall driving down Cypress Road and observing the trees flattened out across the landscape, thinking I was going to be cleaning up debris instead of building a house.

Last winter we were in the yard putting chairs away because wind gusts were forecast within the hour. We stood and watched as one tree toppled over in the woods across the road. Then we heard a crash about a quarter mile down the road. We could see the power line on the ground and knew what the outcome would be. I pulled the generator up from the garage and plugged it in and fired it up.

So, this December when I arrived, I had to reset all the digital clocks in the house. It is just a fact of life. I had only been home one

day, when the following evening the lights flickered and went off. After lighting a couple candles, I decided to go to bed rather than start the generator. I woke up a couple hours later and the power was back on. The next day I was talking to my neighbor Harry, who lives about a mile down the road. Since there was no wind that night, we supposed it was one of the local boys with too much beer and too little common sense behind the wheel of his pickup who had run into a power pole somewhere.

A couple days later I was walking my dog and I stopped to visit with my neighbor, the mayor. Before he retired, he was the mayor

in Pulaski, Tennessee, so everyone calls him the mayor. He asked me if I saw what caused the electrical outage. He had the pictures on his phone. He was coming home that Friday evening and a guy had just hit a power pole in the ditch. It sheared off the pole and he continued down the ditch a hundred yards before crashing into a house and the vehicle was lodged in the living room. All that was visible was the rear end of the car framed by the red bricks of the house. Was a Friday night so I guess one could expect it. The funny part of all these intoxicated mishaps is that after living in Stewart County for five years I learned it was a dry county.

A Minnesotan: -10 Degrees or Colder



By RosaLin Alcoser

As Minnesotans we are prepared for the cold and those harsh bitter sub zero days. To the point where for some seeing who can go the longest without switching to jeans and a coat is a thing of pride. We all know at least one of those people who is fine in shorts and a sweatshirt until it is nearly -10 degrees F outside and wonder how in the world they do that while the rest of us are pulling out our heaviest winter parkas.

Whether you are taking pride in not wearing a parka or are safely bundled up in one we are all prepared to face those

sub zero days. Or at least we are when we go outdoors.

The first of the super cold days we had this January were the wind chill and the temperature dropped well below zero. I like many donned my parka and made my way into what should have been the warmth of the office.

My desk is currently right next to the window which is less than ideal in the winter. However, it is also right under a heating vent. So naturally I was expecting to spend the bitterly cold day nice and warm under that vent.

Instead it was spent freezing as the heat in my section of the building was not operating at full capacity. Which made our little corner of the office really, really cold.

I spent half the morning half nestled in my parka to keep from shivering while I worked until I finally couldn't take it anymore and temporarily took over a coworker's desk, who was away for the rest of the day.

The next day Mathanice informed us that not only was our heating vent out but there is also a leak in the window letting in a daft. So those of us who are right next to the window had been sitting in 9 degrees F while inside of the building.

Thankfully now the window has been patched and the vent has been fixed. All in time for things to be a little bit warmer for at least a couple of days.

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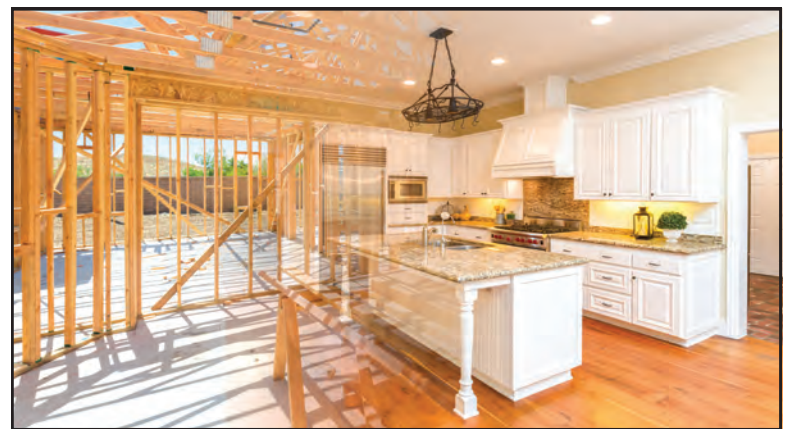
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