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Volume 4 • Issue 12

West Concord Resident launches Electrician Business

Collin Ripley began his business as an electrician here in town this last fall. Collin is a Kasson native and graduated from K-M High School before attending tech school at Dunwoody in Minneapolis. He worked for Valley Electric in Mazeppa and Leth Electric in Kasson before starting his own business in September of 2020.

Collin moved to West Concord because he knew some people here and he found a house he liked in town a year ago. He enjoys playing softball and was elected to the West Concord City Council this fall.

He has a wide range of experience in residential, commercial and agricultural electrical applications and has found most of his referrals are word of mouth in the area. He does new installations and remodels in homes, offices and commercial buildings in the area, Kasson and Rochester. He also does electrical maintenance for the City of West Concord.

He has a website ripleyelectricllc.com and can be reached at 507-421-3268.



Area Business is Part of National Expansion

All American National opened up their fleet service business in Claremont in June of 2019. All American National started as a family-owned business in Los Angeles in 1984. They paint and repair various types of equipment including tractors, trailers, earth moving equipment, cranes, refuse trucks, cement mixers, water trucks, concrete pumping units, backhoes, skid loaders and farm equipment. They also do fiberglass repair, fleet painting, minor fabrication and rebuilding hoods and truck bodies.

(continued on page 12)

Triton FFA

STEAK FEED

Saturday, February 27th
4:00-8:00 PM

Faith Community Church, West Concord

This will be a drive through meal service only. No dining inside.

Snow Date March 6th

\$10⁰⁰ Sirloin Steak Dinner

Kids Hot Dog Meal **\$5.00**

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The Dash and The Making of Our Lives



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

“...for my sake and for the sake of the good news, who will not receive a hundredfold now in this age—houses, brothers and sisters, mothers and children, and fields, with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life” Mark 10:29b-30

We leave 2020 behind in the rear view mirror, but last year feels like it is still blending into this year. Whatever kind of it has been for you, probably a mixture of different occasions (or lack thereof) and with them emotions, we will very well find that these times have already and will continue to change us. It has been said about the term “crisis” that we are never quite the same on the other side of it.

While out on a drive recently on a mild day, I decided to go on a brief drive which included visiting a cemetery in the area. I like the peace, the honored symbolism, and the relative “unchangedness” of cemeteries. On the farmstead in which I grew up

in southwestern Minnesota, we have a small 90-grave cemetery. The Rose Hill Mennonite cemetery (named after our Rose Hill township) dates back to the 1870s. Those stones are hard to read now as they have weathered over time. A church used to sit in front of the cemetery, but has since been removed, and so the cemetery is lined with trees and shrubs on all four sides, and then our farm buildings and pasture are on the other side.


Cemeteries give way to remembering. For those gravestones that have dashes between two dates, a life has been lived and such life now rests with God eternally. What were the paramount occasions held within those dashes—that span between birth and death? The good, the not-so-good, the plain ugly? For yours and my dash, we have the experience of 2020, of remembering dark days in our nation’s history, like 9/11/2000 and 1/6/2021, as well as

celebrations observing birth, baptisms, getting the first set of car keys, weddings, and maybe divorces, natural calamities, and suddenly tragic circumstances, or disease or injuries. Then reality of death is a mark in time, but not a finality. We have Jesus’ work, his crucifixion and his defeat of death as our reality—that death is not our final end but that we will have eternal life with God. I have seen this phrase on a grave stone: “Rest eternal grant her, O Lord. And let light perpetual shine upon her.” These familiar words are spoken by the minister at a graveside service.

I see gravestones in cemeteries that indicate planning for this last stage of earthly pilgrimage has been done. There are only names and birthdates given. The name, or names of a couple, indicates a life still being lived on this side of heaven. What will be

made of this life you still live? How will you react to forces outside of our control? How will you navigate our own way by our own hand? What traits would you most like to be remembered by? What will be your legacy after the dash and death date has been etched in stone? Be assured that God walks with you in the making of your life.

The above questions are potent ones. The beginning of a new year is an opportunity to ponder. We all have our own unique ways about us. And yet we have a solidarity, a commonness to be sure, as well. We carry the torch of faith that God has so richly bestowed on us. We live a faith that is a witness to others, through love and obedience, through perseverance and hope. And with God, there is no dash. For we will live on with Him after our journey is finished here.



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

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
(search Trinity Lutheran, West Concord, MN)
Tuesday Men’s Bible Study at Lion’s Park
(Main St/3rd), 7:00am

United Methodist
2nd & Main, West Concord • 507-475-1157
Pastor Joyce Parker
Sunday 10:30a.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

NOTICE: Due to COVID-19 check your church website or Facebook page for updates.

Area Church Directory

Be Clean

A man with leprosy came to him and begged him on his knees, “If you are willing, you can make me clean.” — Mark 1:40

In Jesus’ day most people believed that disease and sin were connected. Leprosy, a horrible disease that was often contagious and caused deformity, was thought to be evidence of some horrible sin. There was no cure, and lepers were declared “unclean” unless somehow they recovered and could be called “clean” again (see Leviticus 13:1-8, 45-46). They were generally banished from the community because of concerns about spreading spiritual impurity and death.

When the man with leprosy in this story came to Jesus asking to be made clean, it wasn’t just a request to be cured. The man wanted his life back. Lepers were thought of as the walking dead, and he was asking, in effect, to be raised from death!

Jesus, seeming to risk being defiled, does the unthinkable in reaching out his hand and touching the man. And then the unthinkable happens. The contagion of sin and death does not spread to Jesus; instead, the cleansing of heaven spreads to the man! This “dead man walking” is brought back to life by the touch and word of Jesus. We expect the corrosive effect of sin and disease to spread, but the healing power of Jesus prevails against it.

Jesus came in power to take away what is killing us and what we are helpless to get rid of. What is it in your life that you are unable to cleanse yourself of? Jesus can make you clean!

Prayer: Gracious God, cleanse me of my sin and make me whole again. Restore to me the joy of salvation! Thank you for touching me with your healing power. Amen.

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	Dinner 4pm-10pm
Sunday	11:30am-9pm



Minnesota Restaurant Association

Restaurant of the Year Award

Sharon Mae Ryan

A visitation was held from 1:00-6:00 p.m. Sunday, December 27, 2020, at Lauber Funeral Home, Friend. The family received relatives and friends from 3:00-5:00 p.m., also at the funeral home. A Funeral Service was held at 10:30 a.m. Monday at St Joseph's Catholic Church, Friend with a Rosary held prior to the mass. Msgr Adrian Herbek officiated. Burial will be held at a later date. Memorials may be directed in care of the family for future designation.

Sharon Mae Ryan was born on March 14, 1940 in Claremont, MN to George and Patricia Chladek. She was the second child of a farm family of fourteen. She graduated from Claremont High School in 1958 and met her husband Jim at her Senior Homecoming Dance. They did not attend the dance together, but Sharon would quip that after their first dance together she knew Jim was going to ask her out on a date. Jim did ask and they were married the next fall on November 8, 1958 in St. Francis de Sales Catholic Church in Claremont.

Just before getting married Sharon moved to Rochester, MN where she worked as a telephone switch board operator. The young couple lived in Rochester for several years and then moved to West Concord, where they farmed with Jim's dad and their five sons spent their early years. Besides caring for her family Sharon was active in the St Vincent DePaul Catholic church with ladies groups and as a children's teacher and at the West Concord Public School tutoring kids with reading, math issues and special needs. She loved this work very much. She did not pursue being a teacher professionally, but she had the heart, the mind and the grace of a teacher throughout her life.

Their next move was to West Branch IA for a short time and then to Manson IA where Jim had a job at the Land O Lakes Offices in Ft Dodge. In Manson, Her young boys grew up and their three oldest sons graduated from Manson High School. She relished her time as a stay at home mom, caring for her boys and her husband. She knew the importance of her work and the investment she was making.

Throughout her life Sharon collected quotes and scripture that were inspiring and wrote them on slips of paper, posting them throughout her home for her boys growing up and eventually would do the same for the Friend paper when she was the editor. She never stopped finding words that would fill her thoughts with inspiration and love and you can find her posted notes in her home today.

Sharon and Jim moved to Friend 1979 where Jim and his brother Jerry started Brother's Equipment. Friend has become their home and she has held this community and its people close to her heart. Sharon was always ready to serve and helped with funerals, soup suppers, and started a bible study group at St Joseph's Church. She volunteered at the elementary school, waitressed at the Green top and was also the editor of the Friend Sentinel Newspaper for a number of years. Their youngest two sons graduated from Friend High School.

There were so many ways Sharon shared and loved without limit. Sharon was her son Jon's chauffeur during his long struggle and eventual death from cancer. She counted the time she had with him as a blessing as they laughed and cried together. One of her favorite hobbies was having lots of flowers in the summer and house plants, she said her dad told her she could put a stick in the ground and it would bloom and time after time she proved that was true. Sharon loved to send cards and she always remembered to send birthday, Christmas and anniversary cards to all the members of her family over the many years. Christmas Eve was her special family gathering with the most important part having the grandchildren read the bible Christmas story and sing happy birthday to Jesus and blow out the candles on his birthday cake. It was a beautiful memory each of her kids and grandkids have and they all have had their times where they read the story.

Sharon loved her sisters and brothers very much and she loved spending time with them or talking to them on the phone. Her family is a legacy of her gifts and grace. We will miss our sister, our mom, our wife and our friend dearly, but rejoice she is in Heaven at the feet of Our Father. We wait until the day we can see her again.

Sharon is survived by her husband of 62 years, Jim Ryan, her son Steve and wife Carla of Friend, son Paul and wife Valerie of Omaha, son Pat and wife Kirby of Kansas City, daughter-in-law Phyllis of

Lincoln, son Jeff and wife Tori of Lincoln, 17 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren.

Sharon is also survived by four brothers; Timothy Chladek of Rochester MN, Lawrence Chladek of Sacramento CA, Gregory Chladek of Clayton WI, and David Chladek of West Concord MN, her seven sisters; Karen Horsman of Rochester MN, Constance and husband Jack Weilti of Plainview MN, Bernice and husband George Edmond of Dallas WI, Annalee Baumgartner of West Concord MN, Diane and husband Jerry Gottschalk of Bryon MN, Kristine Chladek of Rochester MN, and Cindy Chladek of Charlotte NC.

Sharon was preceded in death by son her Jonathon Ryan, her parents; George and Patricia Chladek, her brothers; Terrance Chladek, Clarence Chladek and Richard Chladek.

Kerry Kyle Glarner

Kerry Kyle Glarner, age 87, of West Concord (Berne), MN, passed away peacefully after a brief illness on Friday, January 1, 2021, surrounded by his family.



Kerry was born in rural West Concord (Berne) on December 26, 1933 to Carl J. and Virginia (Platt) Glarner on the family farm. He was the youngest of 6 children. Kerry went to country school in grades 1-8 and graduated from West Concord High School in 1951. He served in the U.S. Army at Fort Sill, Oklahoma for 2 years in his early adult life. Following his time in the service, he returned to Berne to take over the family farm.

On November 29, 1961, he married the love of his life, Bonnie Rosecke in Rochester, MN. Kerry and Bonnie enjoyed a wonderful 59 years of marriage. They raised two children, Scott and Terri and special nephew, Craig Hofland.

Kerry was a proud, hardworking dairy farmer until he sold the cows in 1997. After farming, Kerry enjoyed working in General Services as a van driver for Mayo Clinic until his retirement in April 2020, at the age of 86. He thoroughly cherished all his friendships he made while working at

Mayo. Twenty plus years were also spent as a member of the planning and zoning board for Dodge County. Kerry was a lifelong member of the Berne Church and a participant in the Berne Swissfest, Berne Pizza night and Cemetery Board. He was proud of his Swiss heritage and loved picking on his Norwegian friends. His favorite pastime was going to town for coffee and BS-ing with anyone that would listen. He had a remarkable memory and the stories were endless. He also enjoyed spending time playing slot machines at local casinos.

Kerry was a loving husband, father, grandpa and great "papa". He loved spending time with his family and friends and especially attending his grandchildren's activities.

Kerry is survived by his wife, Bonnie; son, Scott (Beth) Glarner of Dodge Center; daughter, Terri (Chris) Burdick of Burnsville; nephew, Craig (Mary) Hofland of River Falls; grandchildren, Brady (Devan) Burdick, Taylor (Cody) Capra, and Jacob Glarner; great grandsons, Crew Capra and Brev Burdick; sister, Cherie Rundquist of Red Wing; sister in laws, Dee Hofland of Oakdale and Charlotte Glarner of Faribault; as well as many other relatives and dear friends.

He is preceded in death by his parents; 2 sisters, Donaldda and Arlene; brothers, Newell and Colin; brother in laws, Earl, David and Royce; and sister in law, Ruth.

Memorial Service was held on Saturday, January 9, 2021 at 11:30 a.m. at the Parker Kohl Funeral Home and Crematory of Faribault. For those unable to attend, they could watch the service through a link on Kerry's obituary page. Relatives and friends were welcome, but were asked to please wear a mask and socially distance. Interment will be held in June.

Visitation was held from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. prior to the service.

In lieu of flowers, Kerry's family requests donations be made to the Berne Church or you favorite small business affected by the pandemic.

Cards may be mailed to Bonnie Glarner c/o Terri Burdick, 735 Crystal Lake Road E, Burnsville, MN 55306.

Funeral arrangements were completed by the Parker Kohl Funeral Home & Crematory of Faribault.

To send flowers to the family or plant a tree in memory of Kerry Kyle Glarner, please visit our floral store.

(obituaries continued on page 4)



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Richard Eugene Dessner

Richard Eugene Dessner, 87, of West Concord, died Sunday, December 13, 2020 at St. Mary's Hospital, Rochester.

He was born November 30, 1933 in Strool, South Dakota the son of Frederick and Dorothy (Sanford) Dessner. Richard grew up near Elgin. He attended Elgin schools before serving in the US Air Force from 1951 - 1953. He returned from the service to Elgin and married Mavis Parkin December 30, 1955. The couple moved to the West Concord area to farm in 1958. Richard retired from farming in 1986, moved to town and worked for McNeilus Steel for 12 years until his retirement in 1998.

Richard enjoyed fishing, spending time at his cabin, woodworking, playing cards and attending Marigold Days. He loved his puppies, spending days tinkering in his garage and playing cards with his brothers. Most of all he loved his family and the time he could spend with them.

He is survived by his wife, Mavis Dessner of West Concord; children, Randy (and Mary) Dessner of West Concord, Susan (and Raymond) Northway of West Concord, Sandra Harmon of Grantsburg, WI, June (and Jim) Barnick of Dodge Center, Barbara (and Pat) Fitzgerald of Rochester, Linda (and Lester) Wohlfiel of Kasson, William (and Melissa) Dessner of West Concord; 17 grandchildren; 39 great grandchildren; 2 great great grandchildren; brothers, Harry (and Marge) Dessner of Kasson, Roy (and Joyce) Dessner of Byron; sisters in law, Eileen Dessner of Byron, Ruth Ann Dessner of Elgin and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his brothers, Henry Dessner, Frederick Dessner; sons in law, Grant Harmon, Steven Hartley.

Services will be set for a future date to be determined. Interment will be in the Concord Cemetery in Concord Township.

LaMae M. Erler

LaMae M. Erler, 91, of West Concord, died after a brief illness on Sunday, January 10, 2021, at Circle Drive Manor surrounded by her loving family.

She was born May 23, 1929, in Kenyon, the daughter of Stanley and Lillian (Swelland) Markuson. LaMae was baptized as an infant at her home and was confirmed on November 14, 1943 at Hauge Lutheran Church in Kenyon. LaMae graduated from Kenyon High School in 1947. On August 16, 1953, she married Harold Erler at Hauge Lutheran Church. From that time on the couple farmed together until moving to West Concord in 1987. The most important part of LaMae's life was her

family and taking care of others. Her gift was hosting events for her family and friends and making sure they always had something to eat. LaMae loved spending time with her grandchildren and took pride in attending their activities throughout the years. She enjoyed playing games including Uno, Bingo and spoons. LaMae also enjoyed traveling, cooking, baking and crocheting. She created many doilies and baby afghans especially for her grandchildren. LaMae was a member of the Minnesota Club and a 60-year member of the West Concord American Legion Auxiliary serving in various offices and president for five years. She was also a member of Moland Lutheran Church where she was active in WELCA. LaMae later attended Faith Community Church in West Concord.

She is survived by her children, Donna (and Larry) Fitzgerald of West Concord; Grant (and Barb) Erler of West Concord, and Bonnie (and Pat) Redican of West Concord; grandchildren, Vanessa (Nick) Haltvick, Grant T. (Sarah) Erler, Allison (Jacob) Rislov, Amber (Jerome) Ryan, Brad (Ashley) Fitzgerald, Haley, Kayce and Travis Redican; great-grandchildren, Preston, Laryssa and Reid Erler, Harrison, Stella, Calvin and Walter Haltvick, Emma and LaMae Rislov, Emelia and Syllas Ryan, and Jameson Fitzgerald; sister, Dorothy Nygren of Zumbrota; many nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Harold Erler who died on May 5, 2009; angel baby Fitzgerald; sisters, Helen Mogren and Carol Kooiman.

Visitation was at Faith Community Church in West Concord on Thursday from 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM and one hour prior to the service at the church. Funeral services were held Friday, January 15, 2021 at 10:30 AM at Faith Community Church in West Concord. Pastor David Breederland officiated. Interment was in the Concord Cemetery in Concord Township. Memorials are preferred to the West Concord Fire and Rescue Department, Concord Cemetery or Faith Community Church in West Concord. The service was livestreamed and can be viewed online at: <https://www.wearelivetoday.com/lamae-erler>

A while on earth, forever in heaven, and always with God.

LaMae's family would like to share a spe-

cial thanks to Circle Drive Manor and Seasons Hospice for their amazing and compassionate care.

Gene Frederick Stensland

Gene Frederick Stensland, age 68, of Buffalo passed away Wednesday, November 25, 2020 at Abbott Northwestern Hospital after a 22 day stay due to Covid.

Gene was born November 14, 1952 in Rochester, MN, the son of Fred & Edna (Erath) Stensland. He attended high school in Kenyon and went on to graduate from UM Waseca School of Agriculture in 1973. Gene then moved to Watertown and started his life long career of selling farm implement parts. Farm numbers were important to Gene; who else would use a Case IH piece of equipment as their phone password? To farmers, his friends and customers he was the ultimate farm parts guy. He enjoyed several years of tractor pulling, with one of the tractors being Art Fortwengler's 560 Int'l. In later years he enjoyed watching the tractor pulls with family or friends.

On April 29, 1978 Gene was united in marriage to Diane Salonek at Immaculate Conception Church in Watertown, MN. Without fail on the 29th of each month thereafter, he'd roll over in bed and say "Happy Anniversary." Diane truly felt blessed. He was one in a million.

Gene and Diane were blessed with and proud of their three children: Brian, Jason, and Lisa. Many have commented on the wonderful traits of the kids; they had a good teacher. He also adored their grandchildren: Maria, Connor, Chloe, and Breanna. He enjoyed hanging out with the grandkids, watching the older grandchildren's sporting events and having google duos with the youngest granddaughter. He loved to tell jokes to the grandkids and enjoyed hearing their jokes too. Family was very important to him and he treasured the time spent with them; playing 500 or Euchre was one of his favorite pastimes. Gene had a big heart and he loved helping others. He found joy in working alongside

his brothers-in-law in the field, running to get parts for farmers, researching info on farm equipment or Cub Cadet lawn mowers for people, and fixing what he could for others. He will be missed by family and many friends as he had many gifts and talents he shared. Gene was active in the St. Francis of Xavier Catholic Church participating in men's group and Knights of Columbus. Gene was so looking forward to the 2nd annual Knights of Columbus toy farm show he was helping organize.

Gene is survived by wife, Diane; children, Brian (Tammy) Stensland, Jason Stensland, and Lisa (Travis) Senear; sister, Kay Stensland; grandchildren, Maria Stensland, Chloe Stensland, Connor Stensland, and Breanna Senear; father-in-law, Alfred Salonek; mother-in-law, Elizabeth (Lachermeier) Salonek; brothers-in-law, John (Lori) Salonek, Dan (Sharon) Salonek; sister-in-law, Bonnie Salonek; cousins, nieces, nephews, and numerous friends. Gene was preceded in death by his parents, Fred & Edna (Erath) Stensland; brothers-in-law, Bob Salonek and Jerry Salonek.

Private visitation took place. Mass of Christian Burial was held Wednesday, December 9, 2020 at 11:00 AM at St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church in Buffalo. Interment St. Francis Cemetery, Buffalo MN.

We are planning a Celebration of Life which will take place during the spring of 2021.

While flowers are welcome, contributions may instead be sent to the Gene Stensland Memorial Fund at the MidCountry Bank in Buffalo, MN.

The Peterson Chapel, Buffalo MN served the family. On-line condolences can be made to www.thepetersonchapel.com

LaVonne "Bonnie" Glarner

LaVonne "Bonnie" Glarner, age 81, of West Concord (Berne), MN, passed away surrounded by her family on Sunday, January 17, 2021.

Funeral arrangements are being completed by the Parker Kohl Funeral Home & Crematory of Faribault and will be announced later.



Thank You

I want to express my thanks for the calls, prayers, cards, visits, expressions of sympathy and comforting thoughts after the unexpected death of my brother, Gene, to COVID.

A special thank you goes to Sue Janicke, the network of cousins and my friends for their support.

With the creation of Caring Bridge the last week of his life, we were all with him through his transition even though he may have been alone. Gene had no underlying conditions, so please be safe.

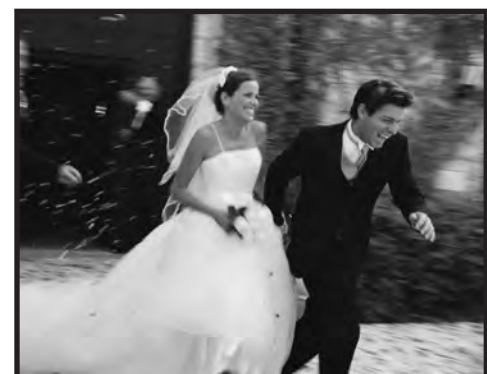
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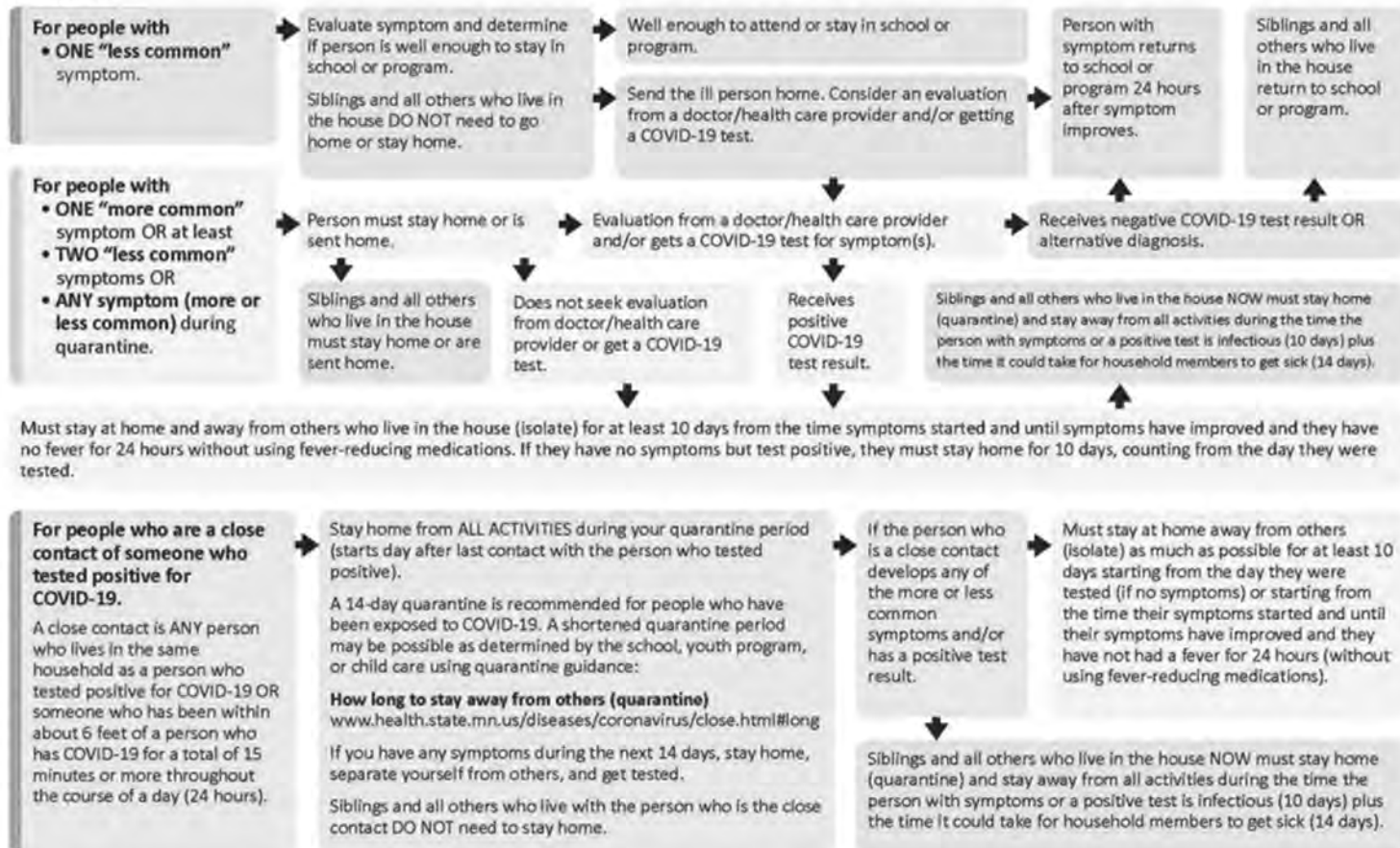
Craig Schlichting
Superintendent

It has been great to have the students back into our Hybrid Learning Model. We have also been given guidance from MDE to implement additional precautionary guidance from the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) and the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH). Along with this new guidance, we have been instructed to implement a rolling start to in-person learning for our PK-5 students. This will begin on February 1st. The first two weeks we will be starting in-person learning for all PK-2 students. This will be followed with in-person learning for 3-5 students on February 15th. At this time, the guidance has only identified this for our elementary students. We are still monitoring the case numbers in the school to make sure we are in the appropriate learning model. If the numbers were to escalate we would need to re-evaluate the learning model. I think this is a good start to getting our students back to school in person and keeping them safe.

COVID-19 Decision Tree for People in Schools, Youth, and Child Care Programs

Follow the appropriate path if a child, student, or staff person is experiencing the following symptoms consistent with COVID-19:

- **More common:** fever of 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or higher; new cough or a cough that gets worse; difficulty/hard time breathing; new loss of taste or smell.
- **Less common:** sore throat; nausea; vomiting; diarrhea; chills; muscle pain; extreme fatigue/feeling very tired; new severe/very bad headache; new nasal congestion/stuffy or runny nose.



MINNESOTA STAY SAFE MN Minnesota Department of Health | health.mn.gov | 651-201-5000 | 625 Robert Street North PO Box 64975, St. Paul, MN 55164-0975 Contact health.communications@state.mn.us to request an alternate format. | Updated 12/21/2020

The guidance has also changed for the quarantine times and protocol that we have been directed to follow. The graphic above

was provided by MDE.

Please reach out to me with any questions that you may have regarding our school district. You can email me at schlich@triton.k12.mn.us or you can call me at 507-418-7530 to reach me at the district office. I would be happy to set up a

time to meet with you or your organization. I believe that communication is an important aspect of my job responsibility, and I welcome the opportunity to learn from your perspective. GO COBRAS!

#WeAreTriton

Triton Student Council to Host Food Drive

The Triton Student Council is hosting a food drive this month to support local families in need. Community members are invited to participate by bringing in items to the school. We will have a drive-through drop-off on Saturday, January 23 from 10am-12pm. This will take place at Triton High School, as well as Casey's in West Concord and the Claremont Service Center in Claremont!

TRITON CLASS OF 2021



2021 SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

Abraham Myer is a senior at Triton High School. His parents are Rod and Wendy Myer and he has two siblings, Elle and Luke.

He is active in basketball and golf and outside of school enjoys fishing and spending time with family and friends.

He likes the movie "21" and the music of Lil Uzi Vert.

After graduation he plans to attend college and study finance and business.



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Harl Burzclaff

Museum Musings

Dashing Through the Snow in 1917

By Colleen Sathrum Hayne

As I sit down to write this article, I can happily acknowledge we've had a mild winter so far, but winter 1917 was one for the record books. The average daily temp for the Rochester area in the winter of 1917 was 8.8 degrees—brrrrrrrr.

The January 18th West Concord Enterprise spoke of a week of severe cold—people were waking up to minus 20 degree temps. A week later the newspaper reported of a “fierce blizzard”, the likes of which had not been seen for 10-15 years. 17 inches of snow fell and according to the paper, “the wind blew a perfect hurricane for 24 hours, making it almost impossible for one to venture out. In some places snow drifts were twenty feet high, and all traffic ceased . . . not a wheel moved on the railroad until late Monday night, except the snow plow.” The oldest inhabitant in town (unnamed) pronounced the storm some of the worst winter days ever.

Since the railroad tracks were blocked from Saturday night until Monday night, a trainload of cattle was stalled south of town and a considerable amount of time passed before the cars could be backed up to the stockyards, and the cattle unloaded, fed, and watered.

The snowstorm caused other problems, too. The teachers in the Berne area couldn't get to their country schools on Monday morning. Mr. Cain, the teacher in District 3, couldn't get to his school until Wednesday morning! We can be sure the students weren't complaining.

Even the Enterprise suffered from the bad weather. Somehow the paper on which the week's news was usually printed, was lost by the railroad, and the February 1st Enterprise had to be published on paper that was not at all customary. Also some of the usual news was missing. Because of blocked roads, the usual news gathering was hard to accomplish.

The February 8th Enterprise reported that the village marshal needed to hire men and horse teams to haul away the snow piled up in front of city businesses on Main Street. Can't you just see it with none of the snow plowing/blowing technology to which we've become so accustomed?

Sleighs, the most common mode of winter transportation in 1917, could be hazardous, too. When Rob Bringgold was visiting Henry Mensing, Rob's sleigh caught on a rack sitting in the yard. Rob was thrown from the sleigh and injured, and the team of horses ran away. Luckily the horses were caught at the Peter Vandernya residence and were not hurt at all.

Community resident, Ed Clark, met with a stroke of frigid bad luck when he was getting ice from the river. He was standing on a block of ice and someone else jumped on the same block, pushing the block into the water and covering Ed's shoes with icy water. When he got home his shoes were frozen to his feet. The shoes had to be cut away from Ed's frozen feet and he lived with painful feet for some time.

The editors of the Enterprise asked if the local fire department should be checking fire hydrants around town to make sure none were frozen.

Reports of frozen hydrants around the state had led to disaster in circumstances of fires and the editors admonished the town to “avoid catastrophe here”.

What was happening that was fun that harsh winter? For one thing, J.C. Conlin packed his sleigh with 30 women in it, and drove to Haugsrud Bros. store, winning a \$5.00 prize for bringing the most people in one sleigh at one time to the store. Sleighs full of people were visiting others in the neighborhood, gathering for dances, and celebrating life. A.A. Bryant of The Pioneer Harness Shop, was selling all kinds of lap robes and wool blankets priced from \$1.65 to \$8.25 to keep people warm and cozy in sleighs and cutters.

There was a Masquerade Ball at the Opera House, complete with prizes for the best costumes. Costumes could be found at the Tailor Shop and masks at the Drug Store. Comedian, Clarence Burgderfer, performed at the Opera House and according to the Enterprise, should have “driven the blues out of West Concord.” The Embroidery Club was meeting and the Bijou and Rex Theaters were showing movies on reels.

The Hotel Concord suggested folks treat themselves to Sunday dinner out. They were offering this dinner for 50 cents: Soup, salted wafers, olives, roast young lamb with dressing, roast prime rib of beef au jus, mashed potatoes, peas, rice pudding, apple and pumpkin pies, cream cheese, dill pickles, and vanilla ice cream with wafers. That was quite a meal!

The February 15, 1917 Enterprise admonished, “Goodbye to February—you have treated us very coldly during your stay here.” But the paper also tried to cheer their readers,

“Yes, it's a tough winter, but spring is just ahead.”

I hope your winter is just the way you like it. Please stay safe and well!




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That's the Latest



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.

I have had for many years a print of a painting done by an Iowa artist named Charles Freitag. I can relate to Freitag's paintings as he was born and raised on a small farm in Iowa. Inspired by Norman Rockwell, Freitag said that growing up on a small farm in the heartland of rural America gave him a deep appreciation of the rural life. His fond childhood memories of life on the family farm are conveyed in his paintings. You see in the picture on this page a glimpse of what the print I have looks like. Freitag named it Oliver Twist. The 660 Oliver tractor narrow front is what I grew up with and it's depicted in this painting.

It's one of the two up by the barn. We did not have an Oliver 77 although we had a wide front Super 88. The use of bale forks to get the hay and straw into the barn through the large barn door is one of my early recollections of baling hay. Our barn on the Kleven farm would hold, when the bales were neatly stacked and filled to the rafters and cupolas, about 3800 bales.

I got my first experience with baling hay in the haymow when I had just graduated 2nd grade. The year was 1961. The use of bale forks, like what is depicted in the Freitag painting, was actually quite scientific, what with all the ropes and pulleys and angles. If you grew up and saw or used this kind of system, you know what I'm talking about. First the wagon load of hay had to be stacked just right. For us I believe it was two rows 8 bales long and four bales high for a total of 64 bales per wagon load. The forks would be put in each corner of four bales. The forks would reach to the second row of bales underneath so 8 bales at a time would go up to the big barn door. To get the hay on the forks to go up, we put a pulley on the front of the old 56 Ford truck and then would pull on the rope with the International Super M tractor.

Once there, the system would glide down the rail that stretched from one end of the barn to the other. I don't know how many feet of rope were used in this system but it was a lot. When the forkful of hay got over the portion of the haymow where we wanted to drop them, I was supposed to yell down to pull. My brother Harvey, who was on the wagon down below would then pull the rope and release the bales. They would tumble down. Now normally we would have older boys helping us stack these in the barn but I guess everyone was gone this particular day. Now being a 2nd grader at the time, most of these bales outweighed me so I would try to move them but I'd only get two or three bales moved and here came 8 more bales. I would quick get out of the



A print of a Charles Freitag painting called 'Oliver Twist' with 3 Oliver tractors depicted brings back plenty of memories of baling hay to Emery Kleven.

way and yell for Harv to drop them. Pretty soon I was like 50 bales behind in stacking. Needless to say, I never did catch up. I think Harv and my dad would come up at some point later and try to sort through the mess the best they could.

I don't remember what year we ended the use of these forks and instead used an elevator. But at first this was not real bale elevator. We went from the bale forks to using the old Kelly-Ryan grain elevator. This was a heavy steel elevator used for moving grain. You'll see them occasionally now sitting under trees in a grove on a farm. When used for hay, the bales had to be put in just right at an angle or they would simply fall out. It was not a good system. Finally we got a real bale elevator. It was red in color. It could have been a Cashman's but I'm not sure what the brand was. It worked great. The bales would hardly ever fall out once you got them in there.

We then added a 24 foot extension that hung from the old rail used by the bale fork system. This would allow us to get the bales to the middle of the barn. I thought this was the greatest invention for handling hay. But then along came the round baler. Delmer Paulson was one of the first in the area to get a Vermeer round baler. Delmer did some round baling for us and then we finally got one of the big yellow balers ourselves. They made vast improvements on

them over the years. That's where I ended my hay baling career but they kept improving systems and along came the big square balers. I'm trying to imagine lifting one of those big square bales with bale forks. It probably could be done but when you drop one of them 30 feet to the haymow floor, it would go right through the floor.

When I left the farm to be a farm broadcaster, people from time to time would ask me what I missed most about the farm. Baling hay is always one of my responses. Yes it was a hot dirty job at times. That chaff would stick to the sweat along with getting in the eyes, especially when throwing a bale 5 high against the wind. Colleen Sathrum Hayne told me that baling hay with her dad Howard is one of the dearest memories of her life. She would be the tractor driver while Howard would be loading the wagon. Having those lunches in the field under the hay rack to get out of the sun made for special memories. I remember my mom would come out to the field with sandwiches and cookies and some cold water or lemonade. They are special memories that I wouldn't trade for anything.

I still have those bale forks. They moved with me from the farm to Iowa, Nebraska and South Dakota, back to Nebraska and now in Minnesota again. They're heavy and awkward to handle but it's a reminder of a past that I miss quite often.

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West Concord Public Library

If you are looking for something new to read during the cold January weather, you may want to check out one, or more, of our new arrivals listed below.

All That Glitters by Danielle Steel

Deadly Cross by James Patterson

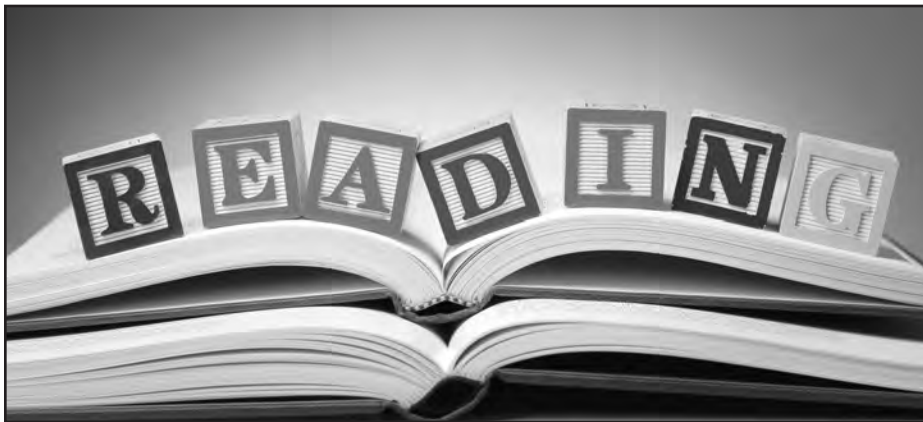
Hush - Hush by Stuart Woods

The Mystery of Mrs. Christie by Marie Benedict

NYPD Red 6 by James Patterson

Ready Player Two by Ernest Cline

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City Council Special Meeting December 17, 2020 at 7:00 pm

(These minutes are unofficial until approved by the City Council at the next meeting)
The meeting was called to order by Mayor Jeffrey McCool at 6:00PM; everyone stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present were Mayor Jeffrey McCool; Council Members Karen Peterson, and Jeff Burse

City Employees: Administrator Mike Plante, Maintenance Supervisor Keith Clammer, Librarian Nancy Schollmeier, and Police Chief Shannon Boerner

Additions to the Agenda:

None

Consent Calendar was presented as follows:

- Approval of Special City Council Meeting Minutes for November 23, 2020
- Approval of City Council Meeting Minutes for October 15, 2020
- Approval of Incidental Bills Paid
- Review of City Financial Reports

Motion by Councilmember Peterson, seconded by Councilmember Burse to approve the Consent Agenda. Motion carried. 3 Ayes. 0 Nays.

Public Comment

None

City Business:

Presentation of the 2021 Budgets for Water, Sewer, Storm Sewer, and the Municipal Liquor Store:

Jeanne Vogt, Ehlers, and City Administrator Michael Plante presented information on the City's enterprise funds. Vogt informed the Council that the budget projects for 2019 came in very close to the actual numbers projected. Looking ahead to 2021 it is projected that the Water Fund will need a 10.5% rate increase, the Sewer Fund a 5% increase, and the Storm Sewer will not have an increase. As it relates to the Municipal Liquor Store the Council was informed that there were significant reductions made to projected expenses in an effort to curtail the cost of business operations in the current environment.

Approval of 2021 City of West Concord Tax Levy: Mike Plante, Administrator

Mr. Plante presented the 2021 Budget to the Council for consideration. The total property tax levy that was presented was \$565,027 which reflects a .6% reduction over the previous year. A motion was made by Councilmember Burse, seconded by Councilmember Peterson, to approve the 2021 Tax Levy as presented. 3 yeas. 0 Nay. Carried.

Authorize the Replacement of Furnaces at the City Maintenance Building: Keith Clammer, Maintenance Supervisor

Clammer provided the Council information related to two bids that were received to replace the faulty furnaces at the City Maintenance shop. The bids came from Reliable Heating and Wencil Plumbing and Heating. After discussion a motion was made by Councilmember Peterson, seconded by Councilmember Burse, to accept the bid from Reliable Heating and Colling in the amount of \$6,000. 3 yeas. 0 Nay. Carried.

Approve Solid Waste Hauler RFP: Mike Plante, City Administrator

Information was presented to the City Council related to seeking a request for Proposals to service the City's solid waste due to the fact that the current licensed hauler faces the prospect of losing their license in February of 2021. A motion was made by Councilmember Peterson, seconded by Councilmember Burse to approve the solicitation of Solid Waste Hauling proposals. 3 yeas. 0 Nay. Carried.

Discussion Regarding Police Services: Mike Plante, City Administrator and Shannon Boerner, Police Chief

The City Council was provided information on staff turnover in the Police Department as it relates to the full-time officer position. The past history of the position indicates that officers typically stay in the position anywhere from a few months to a little over a year. This in part can be attributed to lower pay than surrounding areas and the demand for law enforcement across the State being high. The Council was provided options to try and increase the retention of staff in our current operations or potentially seeking to hire a full-time police chief which are generally more stable positions in terms of length of service. Both options would be able to fit in the 2021 budget. The Council, by consensus, agreed to move forward seeking to hire a full-time police chief.

Administrator Updates: Mike Plante, City Administrator

Plante provided an update on the West Central Wisconsin Bio Solids contract negotiations, the Fire Department's request to carry forward funds from this year's budget to next, and the need to carry forward funds to repave the back-parking lot by City Hall.

Department Report Review

The Council received the reports that were provided by the Library, Maintenance and Police Department.

Motion by Mayor McCool, seconded by Council Member Peterson upon seeing no other business to adjourn the meeting of the West Concord City Council . 3 Yeas. 0 Nays. Carried.

Attest:

Jeffrey McCool, Mayor

Mike Plante, City Administrator

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West Concord American Legion and Auxiliary Annual Cancer Breakfast Held Despite Pandemic

The West Concord American Legion and Auxiliary were not going to let the current pandemic prevent them from their Annual Cancer Breakfast. Over 160 breakfasts were served curbside on Sunday January 10th from the Legion Hall on Main Street. 100% of the \$3,000+ in contributions are destined for the upcoming 5th District Eagles Telethon in Rochester.



Linda Lulf, Darlene Flikke, Linda Vrieze



John Zeller



Paul Ehrich, Rod and Stella Streich

Achievement Takes More Than a Dream



By Harvey Mackay

A scrawny old man wanted to get a job at a nearby lumberjack camp so he approached the boss who politely tried to talk him out of the idea, thinking the old man wouldn't be able to fell a tree, much less keep up with the daily quotas.

"Give me a few minutes of your time, and I'll show you what I can do," suggested the man.

When the two arrived at a grove of trees needing to be cleared, the scrawny old persistent man picked up an ax and proceeded to chop down a huge tree in record time.

"That's incredible," the boss said. "Where did you learn to fell trees like that?"

"Well," said the old man, "you've heard of the Sahara Forest?"

Hesitantly the boss replied, "Don't you mean the Sahara Desert?"

The old man smiled and said, "Sure, that's what it's called now."

"Achievers are producers," writes Glenn Van Ekeren. "They understand the world will not recognize them for what they could have done, should have done or would have done. Recognition is experience by proving what you can do by doing it."

Achievement is one of the desires that drives us. Why do you think we have various awards like Grammys, Emmys, Oscars, Nobel and Pulitzer Prizes, not to mention numerous halls of fame? "Who's Who in America" grows larger with every edition because people feel the need to be recognized.

"The number of new products available and the new inventions which make life easier from generation to generation all testify to mankind's thirst for more achievement," wrote authors Leonard and Thelma Spinrad. "No matter what kind of society or political system a country may have, it seeks to provide recognition for what it regards as achievement."

Outstanding efforts, great courage, heroic deeds, superior commitment and innovative accomplishments all are spectacular achievements that deserve acknowledgment. But recognition shouldn't be the primary motivation for achievement.

I can tell you from personal experience that achieving a goal or completing a major business or civic project is a reward in itself. Yes, my ego appreciates the kudos,

but it doesn't make the achievement any sweeter. I just want to do the best and most complete job I can do.

Finding the motivation to achieve is sometimes a challenge. You know what you can achieve; it's the getting started part that inhibits results. When you feel stuck, you can pull yourself up with an attitude adjustment. The Success magazine website offers some ideas how to make the change.

Rely on yourself first. You'll have to ask others for advice, assistance, and support, but remember that in the end, your success is your responsibility alone.

Have a plan. Don't go off in all directions at once. Work out a solid, detailed plan for getting from your starting point to the result you want.

Focus on commitment. Are you really committed to your goal? If not, you won't be motivated to pursue it.

Concentrate on gaining knowledge. Don't expect instant results. Instead, work on accumulating the knowledge you need to get to where you want to go.

Have some fun. Don't make the work all drudgery. Set a goal you'll enjoy working toward, and look for opportunities to have fun along the way.

Spark your imagination. Be open to anything, no matter how wild it seems at first. Generate ideas through brainstorming with others, exploring the world around you, and seeking opportunities to learn new things.

Challenge yourself. Don't wait for the perfect moment to take action. Take



chances, get out of your comfort zone, and be realistic about your mistakes and the causes of your failures.

We all have the potential to be great achievers. It may not come with a trophy or a job title, but achievement is measured on many fronts. Don't just dream about achieving something – stay awake and do it!

Gretchen Alexander refused to allow her blindness to limit her life experiences. She mastered archery, golf, softball, sailing and water skiing as well as a number of other activities her sighted friends had yet to learn.

Speaking to a group of high school students about her achievements, one student asked if there was anything she wouldn't try. "I've decided not to skydive," she answered. "It would scare the heck out of my dog."

Mackay's Moral: Getting something done is an accomplishment; getting something done right is an achievement.

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“What?! Girls Can’t Play Football!”

By Bill Bealles

Oh, really? Tell that to 2012 Randolph HS grad, Megan Myers, a new member of the Minnesota Vixen, a women’s professional football team based in Minneapolis. Megan, 27, a licensed Elementary Ed teacher, has been a lifelong football fan from a football family. “As long as I can remember, foot-

ball has been a huge part of my life.” The weekend routine in her home was, “Randolph Rockets games on Friday nights; chores, then the Gophers on Saturday and, of course, the Vikings on Sunday!” Halftime was a time to finish chores.

On those fall evenings in Randolph, Megan, a confessed ultra-competitor, could be found mixing it up with the boys in pick-up games on the perimeter of the field. “Mostly, you just killed whomever had the ball,” she says.

Megan filled her years with participation in many different sports, including softball, volleyball, Alpine skiing, and her favorite of all, crossfit training. In high school, she wore the Randolph Rockets orange-and-blue on the volleyball court and did four years of intramurals, including flag football. Later, she greatly enjoyed returning to Randolph to watch her brother, Mark, play during his admirable football career. At North Central, Megan played softball.

It’s in her genes as her parents, Dave and Mary Jo, have been athletes and competitors their entire lives. Mom was a scholarship volleyball player at Winona State and Dad is a water skiing champion. Both are residents of Randolph.

Megan ran across the Minnesota Vixen when she received a link from a friend about the team conducting tryouts, in preparation for the 2021 season. Her friend told her she “could see her doing something like this”. She showed up and impressed the team with her fitness and her football skills. As such, she was invited to join and is now a proud “rookie” linebacker. Asked how she felt about occupying the most important and

rugged defensive position in which she’d have to smash it up with veteran offensive guards and tackles, she says, “Oh I can’t wait! I can’t wait to tackle someone, too!”

Practices were supposed to begin in January, but are on hold due to COVID-19. The 2020 season was lost to the pandemic. An ordinary season, Megan says, would begin with practice from January to March and games from April through June.

Established in 1999 and according to their website (mnvixen.com), the Vixen are the longest continuously operating women’s American football team in the nation and are in the Western division of the Women’s Football Alliance (WFA). The team plays full contact, tackle football following NCAA rules. They play their home games in Edina and take on teams from throughout the nation.

The women playing professional football are not in line for Dalvin Cook or Adam Thielen money, either. In fact, most women pay thousands of dollars to play. There’s a fee paid to the team (\$900), then, the purchase of equipment. Helmets can cost \$200 and more. As well, players spend their own cash to travel to away games. Expenses can be offset by sponsorships from individuals, businesses or organizations.

But, they’re not in it for the money, Myers says. They play for the love of the game and their teammates. “I like the bonds and relationships you build with your teammates. I like being around other competitors and athletes. Those things are most important to me.”

Megan says she’s enjoying her 20’s and loves her life right now. She is already an




Megan Myers

intrepid world traveler, having taken volunteer positions in Belize, the Dominican Republic, and Malaysia. Her most enjoyable adventure was a recent two-and-half year teaching assignment in China. “I’ve been to many places, but I want to go to more!” Now is the time to do it.

Asked what she would tell a young girl who approached her after a Vixen game and wanted to know what she had to do to play football, Megan says, “You just have to do it. The only person who can stop you is yourself.” Yes, girls CAN play football!

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Gratitude



Tim Penny
So. MN Initiative Foundation

With the new year here I have been taking some time to reflect on this past year. While 2020 has been incredibly challenging, I have found myself focusing on the bright spots. It was a year filled with incredible stories of people doing amazing things to help those hit hardest by the pandemic. I am thankful that at Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation (SMIF), we were able to play a role, alongside many partners and collaborators, in moving this part of the state toward a more resilient future.

It is impossible to encapsulate everything

that I was grateful for in 2020, but this top ten list is a start (in no particular order):

Early Childhood professionals. They have continued to support the young children of our region under extremely difficult conditions. We were able to provide early childhood trainings and technical assistance, in addition to emergency grants, to support these professionals throughout the year.

Entrepreneurs. So many businesses have been hit hard this year. I have been energized by the innovative spirit of entrepreneurs in the region who have adapted their business models during a period of rapid changes. We partnered with the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) to disperse more than \$10 million in Small Business Relief Grants directly to businesses in our region. We were also able to provide trainings and technical assistance to businesses.

Our 30 Community Foundations. SMIF offered a matching grant to the community foundations under our umbrella so they could provide relief funding directly to their communities. They were able to help their local food shelves purchase more food, keep essential community organizations afloat, provide critical tools for equitable distance learning and much more.

Local food producers. This year holiday shoppers had the opportunity to shop online for foodie gifts that were produced by 40 vendors from Minnesota, Wisconsin and Iowa. More than 400 unique items were available through the FEAST! Online

Marketplace with products ranging from hazelnut oil and smoked salmon patties to maple syrup and jam.

The addition of a new Prosperity Initiative cohort. This program offers business training and mentoring to new immigrant and minority entrepreneurs in our region. We were excited to welcome a new cohort of 13 clients this year and support the growth of their businesses during this difficult year.

Our AmeriCorps members. AmeriCorps LEAP Initiative members serve in preschool classrooms and nonprofits focused on the social and emotional development of young children. VISTA members serve at nonprofits or local government agencies to help increase economic prosperity of diverse groups in our region. We also welcomed a VISTA member at SMIF who is focused on local foods initiatives, and a Lead for Minnesota Fellow who is focused on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.

Our grant recipients. In addition to the DEED Grants and Emergency Child Care Grants that we have dispersed, we also supported small towns with their COVID response efforts, provided free paint for community projects and launched both the Inclusive and Equitable Communities Grant program and the Early Care and Education Wrap Around Grant program. We also awarded a record 27,828 children's books to 66 organizations through our Early Literacy Grant program (and many more books through other programs). It is



amazing to see how passionate our grant recipients are about serving their communities.

Our incredible donors and partners. None of the work mentioned above would be possible without them. Thanks to our 309 donors – individuals, families, cities, counties, businesses and organizations – we have raised \$1.3 million to date in 2020. I am humbled by their generosity and their belief in the work we do, especially during this critical time.

The staff at SMIF. They were able to quickly mobilize and shift operations to process and distribute hundreds of emergency grants and loans, while providing technical assistance and training to early childhood professionals and entrepreneurs in the region.

Last, but definitely not least, southern Minnesotans. You have proven to be resilient in the face of immense challenges. As I have said previously, we are stronger together, and we will get through this together.

Here's to a new year and a brighter future for southern Minnesota.

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

Area Business is Part of National Expansion

(continued from page 1)

In the mid 1990's the company relocated to Fontana, California and in 2012 expanded to Dallas/Fort Worth area and in 2015 expanded to Phoenix, Arizona where their current headquarters are. They have plans to open an Atlanta, Georgia location next.

Since the beginning they have had a close working relationship with McNeilus Truck and Manufacturing and three of their locations are near McNeilus facilities.

At the Clarmont location there are eight employees and they paint and refurbish equipment. The turnaround for a refuse truck is about seven days for sand blasting, priming and painting. They have multiple spray booths to get equipment back out the door in a short time and pride themselves on quality workmanship of the units they produce.



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Legislative Update



By Rep. Steve Drazkowski
District 21-B

Greetings, everyone. I wanted you to know about some of the news here in St. Paul.

The Rules of the Minnesota House

This past week has been busy at the Minnesota House of Representatives. The first committee meetings have begun, and many bills have been introduced. However, before we can vote on actual bills and legislation, we must first vote on the rules which govern the Minnesota House. These rules determine how the House functions and operates. On Thursday, we voted to approve the proposed permanent rules by a margin of 104-27.

I was one of the representatives who voted against adopting the proposed permanent rules. In the end, the rules did not include several important measures that I believe are necessary for effective lawmaking by the Minnesota House of Representatives. Let me discuss two examples.

First, I authored an amendment to the rules which would waive what is known as the "24-hour rule." This rule states that any amendments to any legislation must be filed

and publicly posted 24 hours before the House meets to discuss the legislation. I wanted to eliminate this rule because it destroys spontaneity in the Minnesota House and gives lobbyists more influence. Representatives should be allowed to amend legislation on the floor. When amendments are required to be publicly posted 24 hours prior to session, lobbyists always go through these amendments and attempt to crush those they dislike. We are not here to serve lobbyists; we are here to serve you. Additionally, allowing representatives to author amendments on the floor would raise the level of debate in the House. Unfortunately, my amendment to eliminate the 24-hour rule was not adopted. The second rule which should have been included in the permanent rules was a provision to prevent the construction of massive omnibus bills. Minnesota's Constitution requires that all legislation relate to only one subject. This is known as

the "single subject rule." However, state legislators and justices of the Minnesota Supreme Court have found ways to avoid real enforcement of the single subject rule. As a result, legislators construct omnibus bills that contain hundreds of proposals. How is a legislator supposed to vote on an omnibus bill if it contains 100 proposals the legislator likes and another 100 proposals that they do not like?

As such, I supported an amendment to the permanent rules which would prevent committees in the Minnesota House from combining bills into huge omnibus bills. Unfortunately, this amendment was not adopted.

The Minnesota Legislature needs to develop a better legislative process. The rules as they were proposed did not create a better process. Therefore, I voted against the proposed permanent rules.

Vet Techs Help Animals and People



Veterinary technicians make up a crucial part of the veterinary care team. Not only do they assist veterinarians in hands-on care of animal patients, but many also provide client education, serve various administrative roles, and even specialize in a specific service area.

While veterinary technicians often obtain and hone skills on the job, those working at the University of Illinois Veterinary Teaching Hospital in Urbana have completed either a two-year or a four-year accredited program in veterinary technology. They have also passed the Veterinary Technician National Exam and must maintain their certification or licensure by regularly meeting continuing education requirements.

Veterinary technicians are the backbone of our busy referral hospital, keeping about 20 distinct specialty services running smoothly. The hospital is staffed by about 80 veterinarians and nearly 90 certified veterinary technicians. Together they care for all animal species as well as prepare veterinary students to enter practice.

To showcase this varied yet demanding career, we spoke with two veterinary technicians who have each worked at the College of Veterinary Medicine for more than 20 years, Heather Soder and Alyssa Duncan.

Heather Soder, a certified veterinary technician since 1996, has worked in general practice as well as at the Veterinary Teaching Hospital. At the university, she has been part of several service units, including imaging/nuclear medicine, radiation therapy, and small animal surgery. She currently splits her time between shelter medicine and "junior surgery."

"I help coordinate the junior surgery course," Soder says, referring to the class where third-year veterinary students learn to perform spay and neuter surgeries.

"I work with area animal shelters to obtain patients and help students with everything from performing physicals exams, bloodwork, and patient prep to gloving, gowning, and draping into surgery.

"When the surgery lab is not being taught, I travel to area shelters with our shelter medicine service, which performs spays and neuters in our mobile surgical unit. I help students sedate, intubate, and anesthetize their patient, prep themselves for surgery, and recover their patients."

Soder says she has always loved working with animals.

"There are so many things that make being a veterinary technician awesome," she says. "Working with veterinary students is probably my favorite part. I enjoy sharing what I know, and it's rewarding to help students grow and become independent.

"Working with shelter animals is another great aspect of the job. It is really wonderful to help animals get healthy and find forever homes."

Alyssa Duncan has been working as a technician at the Veterinary Teaching Hospital since 1992. "Since I can remember, when I was a kid, I have always wanted to do something with animals," she says.

However, after graduating from the Parkland College veterinary technician program, she was very unsure how she wanted to proceed within the field. Then the head of Parkland's vet tech program called her about an opening at the University of Illinois.

"I interviewed, got the job, and now they're stuck with me," she jokes.

Duncan worked in the emergency room and intensive care unit for more than 20 years before transitioning to her current position, patient services coordinator. In this role, she facilitates relationships between technicians, veterinarians, and other staff throughout the hospital.

"I fill the gaps in services where I'm needed, so you just never know where I'm going to be," she says. "I spend a lot of my time in meetings and serve on several hospital committees."

Being in an administrative role means Duncan does not work hands-on with animals as often as she once did, but her interests have shifted.

"I worked in the emergency and critical care service all those years. I always thought what I wanted to do was continue to help care for animals and alleviate their suffering," she says. "Today this [patient services coordinator] is the role I like best. I get to help the people who are caring for the animals instead."

Duncan advises anyone thinking about becoming a veterinary technician to get experience in a clinic first.

"This field is very stressful. People's and animals' personalities play on emotions on different levels," she says. "You must know yourself and know your breaking points, so you know when to get help.

"We all go into this job to help animals. And what we sometimes don't realize is that we're also helping people, and that is a very important part of veterinary medicine."

To find out more about a career as a veterinary technician, visit the website of the National Association of Veterinary Technicians in America: navta.net.

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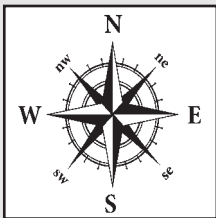
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Changes in Latitudes, Changes in Attitudes World Traveler



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.

Little did I think that when I moved to the middle of the south that I would become a world traveler. I didn't even like to go out of the country and was not in possession of a passport. In fact, the only time I left the good old USA was to go skiing in Canada when I was much younger and had better knees.

But here I am and have found that we take frequent trips to Paris, sometimes a couple times each week, often just to eat a great lunch. And most times we pass right by the Eiffel Tower. And I still admire it as we go

by. What a beautiful structure rising above the trees on the north side of town.

Our all-time favorite restaurant is the Paris Southside Restaurant. Great food, incredible prices, friendly waitresses and out of this world desserts. It is always packed and if you come at lunch time you will stand and wait until a table opens up. The last time we were there we saw a table for five next to us with a couple dining there alone. When a party of three walked in the waitress asked if they would mind sharing a table. In a few moments they were seated and shortly all five were visiting like old friends. Everyone is friendly in the City of Love.

I suppose I might have led you to believe we were talking about the Paris in France, but Paris, Tennessee is less than a half hour down the highway from our home. The rest is true however, and there is an exact replica of the Eiffel Tower in Tennessee. Actually, there are nine cities in the United States using the name Paris, but the one in Tennessee has the second tallest Eiffel Tower in the world. It does have a fence around it because college students found it irresistible to climb to the top.

So it is probably a whole lot less romantic now that you know the real story, but my wife and I love going to Paris, Tennessee to shop at Tractor Supply Company and Lowes.



A Minnesotan in the North: Hoar Frost



By RosaLin Alcoser

One of the most beautiful things about living in Northern Minnesota in the win-

ter is the all hoar frost. It sparkles and glistens in the sun light and basically hangs around all.

It also makes up for the fact that it's both freezing cold and the ice fog... and this close to North Dakota there seems to be a lot more ice fog than I remember from growing up in Southeast Minnesota.

I have found two really good things about 2020 as I look back on the year. First is that like many I now work from home most of the time I don't have to drive through the ice fog every morning. Instead I get to enjoy looking at the hoar frost from my window.

Secondly face masks. I have found these to be great in the winter because it keeps my face warm while I'm outside. Honestly, I might keep wearing them outside in the winter after this is all over just to keep my face warm.

THE SAVVY SENIOR



By Jim Miller

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Dear Savvy Senior,

What are some financial factors to consider when retiring abroad? My husband and I will be retiring in a few years and are interested in living in a foreign country that's cheaper than the U.S.
—Frugal Couple

Dear Frugal,

Retiring abroad has become a growing trend for millions of U.S. retirees who are looking to stretch their retirement savings. Here are some tips and resources to consider that can help you prepare.

Researching Tools

For starters, you can find lots of information and articles on the countries and cities you're interested in retiring to at websites like InternationalLiving.com and EscapeArtist.com.

Another good tip is to talk or network with some expatriates who have already made the move you're thinking about making. They can give you tips and suggestions on many issues, as well as the advantages and disadvantages and day-to-day reality of living in a particular country. Some popular sites for finding expat resources are ExpatExchange.com and ExpatForum.com.

But before committing to location, most experts recommend that you visit multiple times during different seasons to see whether you can envision yourself living there and not just exploring the place as a tourist. Also, consider these financial factors:

Cost of living: Retiring abroad used to be seen as a surefire way to live beyond your means, and for some countries it still is. But the U.S. dollar isn't what it used to be, so your money may not stretch as far as you think. See Numbeo.com for a country-by-country cost of living comparison.

Taxes: No matter what foreign country you decide to retire in, as long as you're a U.S. citizen you must file an annual tax return reporting all income above certain minimums, not matter where it's earned. For details see the IRS publication 54, "Tax Guide for U.S. Citizens and Resident Aliens Abroad."

Health care: Most U.S. health insurance companies do not provide coverage outside the U.S., nor does Medicare. Check with the embassy of your destination country to see how you can be covered as a foreign resident. Many countries provide government-sponsored health care that's inexpensive, accessible and just as good as what you get in the states, or you may want to buy a policy through Medibroker or Bupa Global.

Also know that most people who retire abroad eventually return to the U.S., so you should consider paying your Medicare Part B premiums. If you drop and resume Part B, or delay initial enrollment, you'll pay a 10 percent premium penalty for every 12-month period in which you could have been enrolled.

Banking: Opening or maintaining a bank account abroad has become more difficult because of the Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act, a U.S. law designed to prevent Americans from hiding assets abroad. So, you may have to establish a savings and checking account with an institution that has international reach like Citibank. And/or consider maintaining your U.S. bank account that you can access online, and get U.S. credit and debit cards that don't charge foreign transaction fees.

Rent versus buy: Buying a home in a foreign country can be complicated, so it's usually cheaper and simpler to rent, unless you know you're going to live there for a long time.

Social Security: You can receive your monthly Social Security benefits almost anywhere you live around the world (see SSA.gov/international/payments.html). Your benefits can be deposited into your bank account either in the U.S. or in your new home country, but there are some exceptions.

The U.S. State Department offers a handy checklist that can help you think through all the issues on retiring abroad.

CROSSWORD

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SUDOKU ANSWERS

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

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

- THEME: FAMOUS DUOS
- ACROSS
1. *Timothy Q. Mouse's friend, in Disney classic
 6. River in Germany
 9. Bridle parts
 13. Whatsoever
 14. Like tuna tartare
 15. Forearm bones
 16. Plural of #3 Down
 17. Hardware store
 18. "Gladiator" setting
 19. *Ferb Fletcher's stepbrother
 21. *Mr. White's unfortunate student
 23. Welcome spot for weary traveler
 24. It shall, for short
 25. Cul de ____
 28. Young herring
 30. Dieter's cuisine, for short
 35. Gator's cousin
 37. French "place"
 39. Chunk of iceberg
 40. St. Louis monument
 41. Like new TV set
 43. Front of ship
 44. Singular of loci
 46. Additional
 47. Reality TV's Spelling
 48. *Assistant to regional manager Michael Scott
 50. Missing a limb
 52. More, in Madrid
 53. Like acne-prone skin
 55. Pimple fluid
 57. *Shirley's roommate and fellow bottle-capper
 61. *Rory Gilmore's mom
 65. Make an effort
 66. Legal org.
 68. Long stories
 69. Scottish valleys
 70. Doctor Dolittle, e.g.
 71. *One of The Carpenters duo
 72. Bone-dry
 73. Opposite of WSW
 74. Red or orange announcement
- DOWN
1. Slightly wet
 2. *Malone and Stockton of the ____ Jazz
 3. Skirt length
 4. Shrovetide dish
 5. *Mary-Kate and Ashley
 6. Geologists' studies
 7. *____ and cheese
 8. Moved under the rug
 9. "All ____ , no bite"
 10. Footnote word
 11. *Amy Poehler's comedic partner
 12. Welsh alternative to Siobh-n
 15. Was almost out of gas, e.g.
 20. Source of indigo dye, pl.
 22. "____ Be Home For Christmas"
 24. In the best possible way
 25. Coffee burn, e.g.
 26. *Bow and ____
 27. Spherical bacteria
 29. *Corona's main squeeze?
 31. What willow did
 32. Read-only chip
 33. Greek bazaar
 34. *Clark's fellow traveler
 36. College party chant
 38. Celestial bear
 42. Dancer's beat
 45. Daisy dukes, e.g.
 49. "Wizard of Oz" man
 51. Archimedes' exclamation
 54. Furlough
 56. Flower part
 57. Frog delicacy
 58. Wheel shaft
 59. Swerve
 60. European sea eagle
 61. *David and Paul on the "____ Show"
 62. Italian currency, pl.
 63. Maple genus
 64. Negative contraction
 67. *Jerry's fellow treat-maker



We'd like to share our thanks
and best wishes with everyone
who has been a part of our year.



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