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Two Triton Students Advance to State FCCLA Competition

By Kenya Narveson

The Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America organization was started in 1945. During that time the organization was called Future Homemakers of America. In 1999, the name was changed to Family, Career and Community Leaders of America. The FCCLA's purpose is to help students with personal development and prepare students for adult life. And to prepare students for the multiple roles they will contribute to their home and community. The FCCLA program encourages teamwork, positive relationships, and career development.

The FCCLA prepares its members for careers through four Career Pathways: Human Services, Hospitality and Tourism, Education and Training, and Visual Arts and Design. The organization also prepares students for college and careers by emphasizing skills that include

Critical Thinking, Resource Management, and Technology use. FCCLA develops skills that will last a lifetime and are critical for success.

Triton High School Juniors Kiya Avery and Dasmine Marquardt have qualified for the Family, Career and Community Leaders of America state competition. This is the first time Triton High School students have qualified for the state competition. The competition events allow students to explore Career Pathways and address important personal, work, and societal issues by competing at the regional, state, and national levels.

Kiya Avery's qualifying project focused on a career investigation in agronomy. Agronomy is the study of soil management and crop production. She has worked for local farmers on summer breaks. Her interest in agronomy sparked with a conversation about how chemicals affect the soil

and crops. Her career goal is to be in Agriculture Business Management.

Dasmine Marquardt's project focused on Early Childhood Education. She has experience working at an in-home daycare and daycare centers. Her project included teaching 1st Graders over Zoom about reading body language. The lesson focused on paying attention to people's eyes because of the face masks. Her career goal is to own an in-home daycare or become a teacher.

The students submitted their projects to qualify for the competition. They were invited to present their projects to a panel of judges in March. This event will be held virtually. Their presentation will be video recorded and uploaded to FCCLA web portal. The presentations are 8-10 minutes long. The panel of judges will consist of 3-5 experts in various industries like Childcare, Culinary art, education, and etc.



Kiya Avery



Dasmine Marquardt

There will be keynote speakers from various industries at the competition too. FCCLA competitions help students build connections with other students and industry leaders.



Winter Golf Comes to Dodge Country Club

By Kenya Narveson

Brrrrrr. It's cold outside and sitting inside the house with a plush blanket, a warm beverage and watching Netflix sounds cozy. It's easy to stay indoors and tuck yourself away for the winter. However, there are so many fun winter activities to choose from such as: ice fishing, ice skating, sledding and skiing, just to name a few. Another great activity and new to the Dodge Center community is winter golf. "Golfing in the snow?" You may ask. Yes! It's true, golf can be enjoyed in the winter. The Dodge Center Country Club is hosting a golf event in March. This spectacular event is organized by Sue Osborn, Kim Marquadt and Dawn Leppert.

Sue Osborn had the opportunity to experience a winter golf event for the first time near the Twin Cities and thought it would be a great event to bring to this community. "It was great doing something new and getting out of the house," Sue commented. "It was so much fun holding hot chocolate and trudging through the snow with friends." She rallied her friends Kim and Dawn to begin organizing the first Dodge Center Winter Golf event to be held this March 2021! The team is working closely with the course manager to ensure that the event is sustainable, safe and fun.



(continued on page 10)

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

West Concord Fire Department French Toast Breakfast

Sunday, March 21st from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m.
at the West Concord Legion

Cost: \$8.00
suggested donation

Serving:
French Toast,
Sausage, Eggs



The Beautiful Not Yet.



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

“But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.”

(Romans 8:25, NRSV Bible)

The other day, my husband Steve got us tickets to a concert. No, we weren't going to be standing in a stadium waving bic lighters for encores from an aging rock legend. We weren't going to crowd into a nightclub to hear an up-and-coming group. We weren't even going to his daughter's high school band concert. All of those sound wonderful! But, Covid.

Instead, we were going to curl up on the couch and tune in to a new concert-stream-

ing site to see and hear one of my favorite singers of spiritual music—Carrie Newcomer. We listened to some of her newer songs, as well as most of my old favorites, including one called “The Beautiful Not Yet.” And I thought of you.

*Spring is humming... Bits of something
A melody the simple part... A song that I
once knew by heart
Juniper, wild indigo... Foxglove, lupine,
Queen Ann's lace
Will be coming any day
The restlessness... The quickening...
The almost but...
Not yet*

Carrie was singing about spring. As the days grow longer and brighter, I catch her excitement. Could we soon be past the frigid temps and frozen drifts? Could seeds and buds be restless even now to awaken? One warm sunny day comes our way, and then a cold spell dashes our hopes again.

Yet spring will come.

And Carrie was also singing about something else, something more. Something just beyond the edge of our vision, something we want so badly but cannot yet quite grab hold of. For many of us, that something is an end to pandemic isolation, and a return to gathered worship and fellowship, and to family reunions, breakfast groups, pizza nights, sports events, county fairs and yes, concerts. A return to hugs and handshakes and hanging out with anyone we want, anywhere we want, no worries.

At times, we get the sense the tide is turning, it will be coming any day, just as soon as we get vaccines in the arms of our community. We feel restless. And then at other times, we feel like it'll never come, that viral variants will keep us spiraling indefinitely through pandemic. Almost. But not

yet.

Jesus's first words in the Gospel of Mark were about the Beautiful Not Yet, too. “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news” (Mark 1:15). Carrie was singing about this, too—the already and not-yet nature of the Kingdom of God. God's realm is near. Sometimes a glimpse of it thrills our heart, and we know for certain that “all things work together for good for those who love God” (Romans 8:28a). And other times the Kingdom of God seems an eternity away, and repentance and belief impossible.

Already. Or not yet. Or both at once. The good news is that God's steadfast loves endures forever, regardless. Covid or post-Covid, our beautiful God has been, is, and will be... with us through it all.

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hometownmessenger@gmail.com

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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:
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 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

Area Church Directory
Who Then Can Be Saved?

Scripture Reading — Mark 10:17-31
The disciples were even more amazed, and said to each other, “Who then can be saved?” — Mark 10:26

In reading stories about people like the man in this episode, people who don't really understand Jesus, I'm tempted to look down on them. The man appears to have been wealthy, and he had a high opinion of how well he kept the law. But he seems to have had no idea that Jesus was simply calling him to give his whole life to God—or maybe he just didn't want to do that. I think to myself, “I guess he just doesn't get what it means to follow Jesus.”

And yet I often respond to Jesus in the same way that man did. Often I don't catch what Jesus is about, or understand what he has just said, or realize what he expects of me.

But in this story, Jesus doesn't look down on the man. Jesus looks at him and loves him, the Bible says.

I am so thankful that—even though the man had it all wrong—Jesus didn't just dismiss him or condemn him. Instead, Jesus loved him and invited the man to follow him.

Right there is something wonderful I can learn from Jesus. When I don't understand his teachings, or when I misunderstand the truth about Jesus and his kingdom, there is still a loving invitation from Jesus to follow him and keep learning.

Whatever else Jesus says to the man in the story, it's in the context of Jesus' love for a person who doesn't fully get it. That is reassuring to me!

Thank you, Jesus, for looking at me with love even when I have it all wrong. Instead of seeing what I have done, show me what you have done for me. Amen.

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Sunday 11:30am-9pm



Minnesota Restaurant Association

Restaurant of the Year Award

LaVonne "Bonnie" Jean Glarner

LaVonne "Bonnie" Jean Glarner, age 81 of West Concord (Berne), MN, passed away peacefully surrounded by her family on January 17, 2021. She passed due to complications of COPD and Broken Heart Syndrome after the recent passing of her beloved husband Kerry, 16 days prior.

Bonnie was born in Austin, MN on July 6, 1939 to Lloyd and Helen (Anderson) Rosecke. She graduated from Austin High School in 1957 and married the love of her life, Kerry Glarner on November 29, 1961, after meeting on a blind date. They enjoyed 59 wonderful years of marriage and raised two children, Scott and Terri, and special nephew, Craig Hofland. Bonnie loved being a homemaker and was known for her delicious home-cooked meals, much of it provided from her abundant vegetable gardens. Her favorite pastime was having coffee or going out for lunch with her neighbors and dear friends. Later in life, she worked at Dayton's in Rochester for several years where she cherished her new friendships. Bonnie was also an active member of the Berne Church where she and Kerry especially loved attending Berne Wood-Fired Pizza Nights. Together they enjoyed going for drives, traveling, going to local casinos, breakfast in Wanamingo at Area 57 Coffee Cafe and spending time with family. By far, Bonnie's greatest joy was her children and grandchildren and attending their activities. She will be dearly missed by her family, friends and everyone whose lives she touched.

Bonnie is survived by her children, 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 Dee Hofland of Oakdale; sister-in-laws Cherie Rundquist of Red Wing and Charlotte Glarner of Faribault; as well as many other loving family and friends.

She is preceded in death by husband Kerry, her parents, 3 sister-in-laws, and 5

brother-in-laws.

Memorial Service was held on Friday, January 29, 2021 at 5 p.m. at Parker Kohl Funeral Home and Crematory of Faribault. Visitation was held from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. prior to the service. Relatives and friends were welcome, but were asked to please wear a mask and socially distance. For those unable to attend, they could watch the livestream of the service through a link on Bonnie's obituary page at www.parkerkohlfuneralhome.com.

Interment for Bonnie and Kerry will be held at the Berne Cemetery summer of 2021.

In lieu of flowers, Bonnie's family requests memorials be made to the Berne Church or your favorite small business affected by the pandemic.

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

Dorothy V. Fitzgerald

Dorothy V. Fitzgerald, 82, of West Concord, died Friday, January 29, 2021 at Benedictine Living Community in Owatonna surrounded by her family.

She was born August 13, 1938 in Vale, Oregon the daughter of Merrill and Lydia (Morris) Pettis. Dorothy lived throughout the United States with her family until settling in West Concord. She graduated from West Concord High School in 1957. She worked for JCPenney in the accounting department for four years. On March 25, 1961 she was united in marriage to Bobby Fitzgerald at the United Methodist Church in West Concord. They had four children and farmed together for many years. Dorothy later had an in-home daycare for 13 years and was a personal care assistant for 12 years. The families she cared for became an extension of her own family. Dorothy was caring, thoughtful and also very witty. She enjoyed gardening, birds and crocheting, especially gifts for her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Dorothy lived by her faith and was a member of the United Methodist Church in West Concord where she was active in the UMC

Women, served as a Lay Leader for 13 years and a Sunday School teacher for many years. She loved sharing her faith with her family and friends. She went on a trip to the Holy Land which was the highlight of her spiritual life. Dorothy's greatest accomplishment in her life was her family.

She is survived by her children: Katherine "Kay" (Gary) Smith of Lenox, IA; Barbara "Barb" (Grant) Erler of West Concord and David (Ann) Fitzgerald of West Concord; grandchildren: Daniel (Sarah) Hanson; Matthew (Ashley) Hanson; Elizabeth (Boyd) Eser; Vanessa (Nick) Haltvick; Grant T. (Sarah) Erler; Allison (Jacob) Rislov; Cody Fitzgerald; Brianna Fitzgerald; Katie Fitzgerald and Jack Fitzgerald; great-grandchildren: Nina, Malachi, Melody and Adam Hanson; Lilliana and Cael Eser; Harrison, Stella, Calvin and Walter Haltvick; Preston, Laryssa and Reid Erler; Emma and LaMae Rislov; brother, Larry (Jeannie) Pettis of Plainview; and many extended family.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Bobby Fitzgerald who died on June 5, 2014; infant daughter, Maureen Fitzgerald; and sister, Betty Laue.

Visitation was at Faith Community Church in West Concord on Saturday, February 6, 2021 from 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM prior to the service. Funeral service was held Saturday, February 6, 2021 at 11:00 AM at Faith Community Church. Pastor David Breederland and Pastor Barb Streed co-officiated. The service was available online at: <https://wearelivetoday.com/dorothy-fitzgerald>. Interment was in the Concord Cemetery in Concord Township. Memorials are preferred to the West Concord Fire and Rescue or to the donor's choice.

Luke Gordon Nash

Luke Gordon Nash, 56, of Mantorville, MN passed away on Sunday, February 7, 2020 at Mayo Clinic Saint Mary's Campus in Rochester, MN.

Luke was born May 5, 1964 in Red Wing to Luke M. Nash and Muriel

(Haas, Nash) Weber. He was baptized and confirmed at St. John's Evangelist Lutheran Church in Red Wing, MN. He graduated from Red Wing High School in 1982, being active as a lifeguard and in football, wrestling, and chess club. In addition, he was on the Olympic powerlifting team. Luke joined the United States Army in 1982, as a MP in the Old Guard stationed in Washington, DC.

After his career in the military, Luke started his law enforcement career in Goodhue County, thereafter, joining the Dodge County Sheriff's Department, starting as dispatcher, and ending his career as a sergeant. During this time, he married his wife Lynnette (Kenworthy) Nash, and they had two children, Alexa and Luke B. Nash. He retired from the Dodge County Sheriff's Office in 2012, but continued to be active in the community as a member of the Mantorville City Council, having once served as Mayor, and in his church as a deacon, as well as a moderator at the First Congregational Church in Dodge Center. Luke also continued to work at the family business, the Chocolate Shoppe, as head cook. He enjoyed fishing, hunting, gardening in the church food shelf garden, and riding motorcycle with his son. As a final act of generosity, he donated his organs to others with Life Source, continuing to give to others and help anyone who needed it, whether it was his family, his friends, or even those he never got to know.

Luke is survived by his wife Lynnette; children, Alexa and Luke B.; mother, Muriel Weber; siblings, Jody Nash and Scott Nash; mother-in-law, Lynne Kenworthy; father-in-law, Forest (Kay) Kenworthy; brothers-in-law, Scott (Amy) Kenworthy, Matthew Kenworthy, and David (Wendy) Kenworthy; along with numerous nieces, nephews, and extended family.

Luke Nash is preceded in death by his maternal and paternal grandparents; father, Luke M. Nash; stepfather, Bill Weber, and brother-in-law, John Kenworthy.

Visitation was from 4:00-7:00 p.m. Monday, February 15, 2021 at Czaplowski Family Funeral Homes, 801 7th St SE in Kasson. A private family service was held at 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 16, 2021 at First Congregational Church in Dodge Center, MN. Inurnment was in Concord Cemetery with military honors.

To share a special memory or condolence, please visit www.czaplowskifuneralhomes.com, 801 7th Street SE Kasson, MN 55944 (507)634-6510. Blessed be his memory.

(obituaries continued on page 4)



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THANK YOU

Eunice Eloise Sackett

Eunice Eloise Sackett, 99, of Dodge Center, MN passed away on Thursday, January 21, 2021 at Mayo Clinic Saint Mary's Campus in Rochester, MN.

Eunice was born on February 4, 1921 in Dodge County, MN to Edward and

Beatrice (Beldon) Sackett. She worked at Triton Public Schools in the library. She loved all the Triton students and always treated them with little gifts. She was very well liked in her community.

Eunice enjoyed gardening and spending time with her many nieces and nephews. She looked forward to her visits to Arizona and Georgia. She was a member of Living Water Assembly Church in Dodge Center, MN. She will be deeply missed.

Eunice is survived by many nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents, two brothers, two sisters, and several nieces and nephews.

A private family service has been held with Reverend Dan Johnson officiating. Interment was in Wildwood Cemetery in Wasioja, MN.

To share a special memory or condolence please visit www.czaplewskifuneral-homes.com, Czaplewski Family Funeral Homes, 25 South Street, Dodge Center, MN 55927 (507)374-2155. Blessed be her memory.

Loretta Marie Brandli

Loretta Marie Brandli, age 87, of West Concord, MN, formerly of Kasson, MN passed away on Sunday, January 10, 2021 at Chicos Board and Lodge in West Concord, MN where she resided for the last 10 years.

Loretta was born on November 24, 1933 in Faribault, MN to Henry and Matilda (Schwartz) O'Malley. She graduated from Mantorville High School. Throughout her life she spent most of her time raising her six children. She will be deeply missed.

Loretta is survived by her children, Linda (Don) Marti of Kasson, MN, Char (Dean) Greenslade of Pine Island, MN, Rosie (Steve) Koebele of Sunbury, OH, Jim (Janet) Brandli of Cornell, WI, and Joe

Brandli of Baltimore, MD; siblings, Larry (Kathy) O'Malley of Kasson, MN and Geraldine O'Kane of Vadnais Heights, MN; 8 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents, daughter, Sarah Bursau, two brothers, and one sister.

A Celebration of Loretta's Life was held from 1:30 to 3:00pm on Wednesday January 13th, 2021 at Czaplewski Family Funeral Homes, 801 7th Street SE Kasson, MN 55944. Inurnment was in Maple Grove Cemetery in Kasson, MN. Social distancing and masks were required for the celebration.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be sent to Chicos Board and Lodge, 520 State St, PO Box 648 West Concord, MN 55985.

To share a special memory or condolence, please visit www.czaplewskifuneral-homes.com, 801 7th Street SE Kasson, MN 55944 (507)634-6510.

Loretta's memory is blessed by the fact that near the end of her journey, she accepted Jesus as her Savior.

Duane Clayton Urch

Duane Clayton Urch, 83, of Owatonna, died Wednesday, February 3, 2021 at Benedictine Living Community in Owatonna.

He was born April 22, 1937 in Rochester, Minnesota the son of Paul and Joy (Osborn) Urch. He was raised on a dairy farm near West Concord

where he graduated from high school. He married Phyllis Sanders on November 4, 1961 at Our Saviors Lutheran Church in Owatonna. The couple made their home in Owatonna where they raised their three children. He worked at the State School in Owatonna and was a mail carrier for 30 years, retiring in 1992.

Duane's life has revolved around poultry. He has been actively involved in the poultry industry since 1949, raising pure bred poultry, first in Dodge County. He started his own mail order business in 1958, selling hatching eggs and chicks nationwide. He has served on the Steele County 4-H poultry committee beginning in the 1970's and was instrumental in its reorganization. He has

hosted numerous poultry workshops over the years. He served on the Minnesota State 4-H committee for 23 years, the American Poultry Association District 5 as director for 30 years retiring in 2004 and was re-elected in 2008.

Duane holds a judging license in the American Poultry Association and American Bantam Association and has judged numerous poultry shows throughout the United States. His involvement in the Society for the Preservation of Poultry Antiquities from 1972 to 1981 has allowed him to serve all of the officer positions from President to Secretary. He was on the committee to start a National Poultry Museum which opened at the National Agriculture Center Hall of Fame at Bonner Springs, Kansas.

For many years, Duane had exhibits at the local county fairs and in 2000 received his 50 year award for exhibiting at the Minnesota State Fair. He is a founding member of the Minnesota State Fair Foundation, The American Legion Post 77, Steele County and West Concord Historical Societies, the Bird Shippers of America, numerous poultry clubs and Trinity Lutheran Church in Owatonna.

He is survived by his wife, Phyllis Urch of Owatonna; children David Urch of Owatonna, Julie (Tim) Turnlund of Owatonna and Dan (Candy) Urch of Owatonna; 7 grandchildren, Michael Urch, Nicole Urch, Karl Turnlund, Jessica Turnlund, JD Rogers, JC Rogers and JB Rogers and siblings, Mary Lou (Glenn) Hanson of West Concord and John (Kathy) Urch of Viroqua, WI.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Paul and Joy Urch; and grandson, Joshua Turnlund.

The family extends a heartfelt thank you to the Benedictine Living Community and Ecumen Hospice team for the excellent care given to Duane and the family.

Visitation was at Michaelson Funeral Home on Saturday from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Funeral services were held February 6, 2021 at 1:00 PM at Michaelson Funeral Home in Owatonna with The Reverend Amanda Floy officiating.

Interment was in St. John Cemetery in Owatonna.

Memorials are preferred to Trinity Lutheran Church or Ecumen Hospice in Owatonna.

Glen Edward Leighton

Glen Edward Leighton, 81, of Eyota, MN passed away Saturday, January 30, 2021 peacefully in his sleep at home.

Glen was born on March 4, 1939 in Wasioja, MN to Ed and Anna (Blood) Leighton. Glen attended Claremont High School and graduated from West Concord in 1957. On January 21, 1961, he married Donna M. Egge at Zumbro Lutheran Church in Rochester, MN. Glen worked at IBM for 34 years.

Glen's passion was horses and he spent most of his life riding, showing, and judging (WSCA) horses throughout southeastern Minnesota. One of Glen's most cherished memories was participating in a Buffalo Roundup in South Dakota. Glen and Donna traveled many winters to Donna, TX, where they enjoyed happy hours with friends and LOVED dancing! Glen relished the great outdoors; hunting, fishing, boating, and camping. His grandkids were his pride and all of them will never forget their first horse ride with Grandpa Glen.

Glen is survived by his wife of 60 years, Donna; son, Jon (Donna) Leighton of Lake City, MN; daughters, Julie (Don) Blumer of Fountain, MN, Janae (Dan) Monnet of Rochester, MN; seven grandchildren, Nicole (Karl) Gerber, Corey (Bailey) Leighton, Jessica (Bryan) Leighton, Justin Blumer, Jenna Blumer, Taylor (Dillon) Monnet, Lindsey Monnet; one great granddaughter, Karlee Gerber; sister, Betty (Phil) Schuster of Kasson, MN; sister-in-law, Marian Leighton of Cedar Falls, IA; and many other relatives.

He was preceded in death by his parents, and brother, Jack Leighton.

A celebration of Glen's life was held in the River Park Chapel at Macken Funeral Home, 1105 12th St. SE, Rochester, MN on Friday, February 5, 2021. The family greeted visitors from 1:00-3:00pm followed by a service at 3:00pm. Interment was at Oakwood East Cemetery following the service.

Memorials are preferred to Parkinson's research at michaeljfox.org



DO YOU HAVE A STORY IDEA?
E-mail: hometownmessenger@gmail.com
West Concord Messenger

Thank You!
The Concord Cemetery Association would like to thank the following for their 2020 donations. These donations will help in restoring cemetery stones and maintenance of the cemetery grounds.

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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.

About 7 years ago when I was broadcasting for the Minnesota Farm Network I did a radio interview with the owner of a company called Vintage Aerial. This is a company that has thousands upon thousands of aerial photographs of farms and homesteads across the United States with most of the pictures coming from the 1960's and 1970's. If you were on a farm at the time, you may have had a sales person stop by the farm to sell you a copy. The salesman who brought the Kleven farm picture you see on this page came with a special deal. We could get a painted 24" by 16" enlargement of the black and white photo framed.

My parents bought one and today it hangs on my office wall. My parents had it on the kitchen wall for many years. When they moved to town, the picture hung in the dining room.

Painting the picture means something different than a painter doing everything from the beginning. They took the picture, enlarged it and offered to paint out the junk behind the buildings. My mom was always skeptical of salesmen anyway but she blurted out to him that we don't have junk behind our buildings. Even though I knew there was some junk behind the old grainery and I'm pretty sure also behind the old chicken house. But rest assured that was not the time to correct her. Actually there was never a time to correct her when she was scolding a salesman. The gentleman did offer to basically white out anything we did not want in the 'painting'.

Well over the years I've always compared the original black and white to the painting and it's like those two pictures side by side where you're asked to find the differences. In the original there is a corn crib by the south end of the barn. My dad said that was going to be torn down so we should paint that out. So they painted what it might look like if the corn crib was eliminated. Today if you were to look close at the painting, you can see an outline of the corn crib. We never did tear it down; we lined it with steel siding and used it for storage of shelled corn. In fact it was still standing when I sold the farm in 1990. It is however gone today so the painting is finally more accurate.

There's an Oliver side rake near the garage. For some reason, my parents wanted that painted out. I guess my mom thought it was too junky looking. But the rake was painted over with green to match the grass under it. But the painting today has a kind of brown splotch with an outline of the rake in the middle of that splotch. I remember the salesman asking if they wanted the school bus painted out. They said no and I'm glad they did. They told him it was too much of a fixture on the place to remove it from the picture. The old bus garage in town did not have room for all the buses so my dad offered to store it in the quonset machined for a small annual fee. This is why I got to drive a school bus at the age of 11. Occasionally I would have to back it out to get to a tractor. I would back it out and then park it where



Vintage 1967 picture of the Kleven farm north of West Concord

you see it in the picture. There was a pull type backhoe that was parked outside the south door of the quonset. The tractor that was hooked up to was inside. My mom thought that should be painted out. Don't ask why, I don't know. That today in the painting is a green splotch with an outline of the backhoe.

The other painting over of things on this picture was the roof of the hog house, chicken house, people house and garage. The originals I thought looked good but they took an awful lime green color and put that on the roof of those four buildings. When we first saw it we thought it looked unnatural and as I look at it today, it has not gotten any better.

Vintage Aerial has vastly improved how you can go looking for your old farm picture if one was ever taken. And apparently they took one of every farm. You can go online at Vintageairreal.com and search by state, county and by a particular part of a county. I did that the other day just to see what I could find. The picture you see on this page is still on the website. And I found a few neighboring farms. The Roberts Brothers farm which was the next door farm was on there with pictures from 1967 and 1969. Lots of machinery and Oliver's were scattered about as that is where the Oliver dealership was located for many years. I found the farms of Harold

Vangness, Ernie Johnson, and Owen Engvall among others. There used to be a house with a detached garage just to the north and west of the Engvall farm. I saw a picture of it from the 60's. It's all farmland today but that was where my parents lived when they moved back from California in the mid 40's. The land and house was owned by Grover Dengler. My dad moved from Braham, MN to here in 1936 to work for Grover. My parents lived in this house when my brother Harv was born in 1945.

I have aerial pictures of my old homeplace from other years including 1939 when Clyde Saugen used to fly around and take pictures. Clyde flew a 2-seated plane with a plain box camera and his own telephoto lens that he made from a cardboard box. The West Concord Historical Society has a picture of the town of Skyburg, MN that was taken by Mr Saugen in 1936.

Just an FYI, all of my back columns of 'That's the Latest' are now online at Roadfarming.com. Click on the 'That's the Latest' button and you see a complete list by date and title. I've added more pictures to many of the columns. The above column, when it gets posted will show several other aerial pictures I have of the old farm. It'll also have a picture of the painting where you'll be able to see the ugly lime green roofs for yourself. And I'll post that Skyburg picture as well.

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PROUD TO SUPPORT NATIONAL FFA WEEK



This year, FFA members and the organization will celebrate National FFA Week from February 20 to 27, 2021.

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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Craig Schlichting
Superintendent

We are back to full in-person with our PK-2 students and begin in-person with the 3-5 students the week of February 15th. The school board will be voting on a plan to bring back the 6-12 students on February 16th. If that plan is approved, we will be able to have all of our students back to in-person by the end of March. The guidelines from the state limit how many grades we can bring back at a time, so we are doing the best we can to get our students back to in-person learning. At this time, we have over 80% of the staff that work in the district vaccinated. I am so thankful for the excellent work that was done by Dodge County Public Health to get the vaccination to those that wanted it in the school district. We are well ahead of many other schools in the state of Minnesota due to the work of Dodge County Public Health.

The Triton School Board has approved a renovation project that will do a great job of ensuring that our school building is well

taken care of for years to come. The renovation project will start this summer. It involves three major areas that needed to be addressed. The first area is the parking lot. We are able to use special state funding process called Abatement Bonds to address our parking lot. The main concern has been the lack of proper drainage that has caused issues during the freeze and thaw cycles. This project will fix some drainage issues that we currently have and fix the areas that are deteriorated. This will also include some new designations of traffic flow in our elementary pick-up area that will help in that area. This will also include an additional area for bus parking on the West side of the bus barn. When we have large events, the visiting busses can congest the parking area and this will help eliminate that issue as well. The next major area of the project will be the roof. We have large sections of our roof that are at their end of life cycle and need to be addressed. The district has done a great job of maintaining the roof areas that have needed to be addressed, but this project will take care of a large portion of the roof that is in need of replacement. The last major part of this project will be to update and dehumidify the remaining areas of the building that need to be done. Most of the high school classrooms and the areas around it are not dehumidified including the main gymnasium. If you have ever been to a graduation in June, you know what that can feel like. The learning environment in the fall and spring for our high school students will see a nice improvement. This will also update the controls to make sure that all of the areas in the building are receiving the proper air flow as well as the installation of a ionization system to help purify the air in

our buildings. The overall cost of the project was put together and sold in bond that is spread out over 15 years. There will not be a major tax impact for our community since it is spread out in this way. This type of funding is called Long-term Facilities Maintenance (LTFM) which is a way for districts to maintain their facilities.

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 FFA Highlights



Anna Ridenour



Kiya Avery

Triton FFA members; Anna Ridenour and Kiya Avery. Anna and Kiya both qualified for state in Discussion Meet and Anna qualified for state in Extemporaneous Speaking.

Triton FFA chapter members were active this past year. Here are some of the highlights of competitions for the year:

Best Informed Greenhand- 2nd in the region

Ag Mechanics- 2nd in the region

Isaac Reyant was 1st individual in the region

Extemp speaking- Anna Ridenour 1st in the region

Discussion Meet- Anna Ridenour and Kiya Avery qualified for state

Students applying for state FFA degrees:

1. Anna Ridenour
2. Hannah Stark
3. Megan Justice

4. Emily DeVetter
5. Isaac Reyant
6. Isaac Kenworthy
7. Kaiden Reick
8. Ari Thompson
9. Katrina Heimer
10. Madi Styndl

Students applying for proficiencies:

- Katie Fitzgerald- Beef Entrepreneurship
- Anna Ridenour- Goat Entrepreneurship
- Anna Ridenour- Sheep Entrepreneurship
- Kiya Avery- Beef Placement

Students applying for American Degree:

1. Katie Fitzgerald
2. Devin Dohrmann

Officer team:

Co-Presidents: Megan Justice and Anna Ridenour

VP- Emily DeVetter

Secretary: Kiya Avery

Reporter: Madi Styndl

Treasurer: Hannah Stark

Sentinel: Isaac Reyant

Parliamentarian- Isaac Kenworthy

Jr. Advisor- John Moening

TRITON CLASS OF 2021

SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

Megan Justice is a senior at Triton High School. Her parents are Mike and Pam Justice and she has one brother.

She is active in FFA, MHS, Link Crew and trap shooting.

Outside of school she enjoys showing and riding horses.

Megan likes George Strait and classic country music.

After graduation Megan plans to attend Colorado State University-Fort Collins and major in Equine Science with an emphasis in reproduction.

MEGAN JUSTICE

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NATIONAL FFA WEEK

FEBRUARY 20-27, 2021



The City of West Concord Valentine drawing winner is Reed Burke

His name was entered by Kim Jones

Here is her entry:

I would like to enter my 6 year old grandson, Reed Burke. He is a first grader at Byron Primary and is just the sweetest boy.

I do daycare for him and his 4 year old brother and I recently had cellulitis in my finger that really concerned him. Every day I picked him up from school, the first thing he would say to me was "Grandma how is your finger? Is it getting better?"

He's been away from me for almost 7 hours during the day and yet this is his first concern.....certainly warms this Grandma's heart. On bad weather days, he makes his Mom call me after leaving their house to make sure I make it home okay. I am so grateful for this kind hearted boy in my life and think our whole world could learn a lesson from this 6 year old...his heart is full of kindness.



PAINTING CLASS THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25th 6:30pm

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Huckleberry Floral will host a class Saturday, March 13th at 11am!
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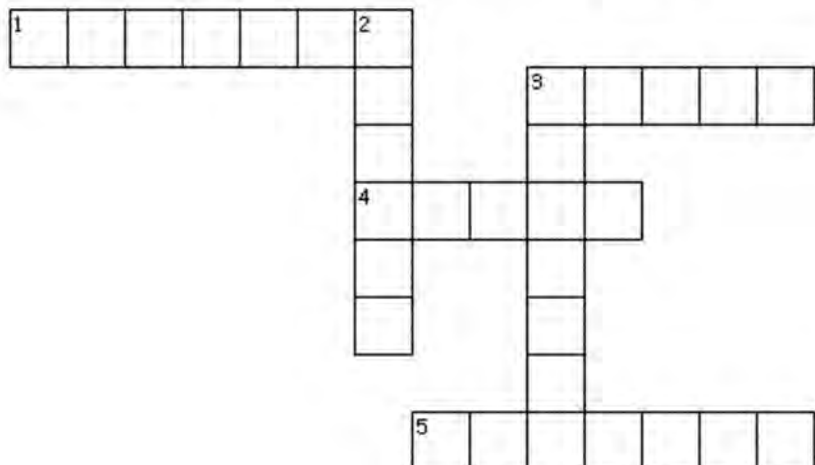
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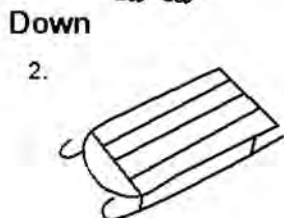
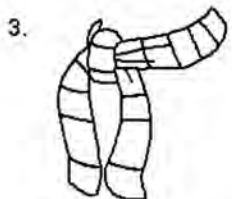
Huckleberry ST. PATRICK'S day



Winter Crossword



Across



Winter Word Search

F	S	N	O	W	M	A	N	Y	P	V	W	R	U	E
X	I	U	E	I	L	I	G	O	F	I	A	R	H	T
U	C	R	C	T	U	O	L	D	N	G	K	L	I	A
C	S	E	E	G	I	A	Z	T	S	O	R	F	B	R
C	N	O	N	P	R	H	E	O	M	H	Q	C	E	G
H	M	E	P	B	L	R	W	C	Y	P	K	M	R	I
I	P	O	E	E	K	A	L	F	W	O	N	S	N	M
L	O	A	G	T	O	Q	C	I	Z	U	C	P	A	U
L	R	Z	A	K	O	C	P	E	I	J	J	D	T	Z
Y	T	H	O	T	C	H	O	C	O	L	A	T	E	J

chilly
fireplace
frost
hibernate
hot chocolate
migrate



penguin
polar bear
snowflake
snowman
white
winter



City Council Special Meeting January 21, 2021 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 7:00PM; everyone stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

City Employees: Administrator Mike Plante, Maintenance Supervisor Keith Clammer, and Librarian Nancy Schollmeier.

Additions to the Agenda:

Tree Trimming on Irvin Street

Consent Calendar was presented as follows:

- Approval of Special City Council Meeting Minutes for December 17, 2020
- Approval of Liquor Store Public Hearing Minutes for December 15, 2020
- Approval of Incidental Bills Paid
- Review of City Financial Reports

Motion by Councilmember Schollmeier, seconded by Councilmember Peterson to approve the Consent Agenda. Motion carried. 5 Ayes. 0 Nays.

Public Comment

None

City Business:

Conditional Use Permit Hearing – 219 Main Street – Holly Burrow

The purpose of this hearing is to take public comment either for or against a Conditional Use Permit being sought for the following property located within the City's Commercial District: 219 Main Street, West Concord, MN 55985. The Conditional Use Permit sought is for a dwelling unit or dwelling, single family, provided the dwelling unit or dwelling, single family, is

attached to a building and incidental to the City's permitted principal uses. The City received a handful of contacts regarding the proposed action that were all in favor of allowing the CUP to be granted.

Conditional Use Permit Decision Regarding 219 Main Street – Mike Plante, City Administrator

Motion by Councilmember Peterson, seconded by Councilmember Burse to approve the Conditional Use Permit for 219 Main Street with the only condition being that the property remain in compliance with the City's zoning code. Motion carried. 5 Ayes. 0 Nays.

Approval of Designations: for City Council Meeting Calendar, Official Newspaper, Official Depository, City Attorney, City Engineer, and LBA&E meeting.

Motion by Council Member Burse, seconded by Council Member Schollmeier to approve the designations as presented. 5 Yeas. 0 Nays. Carried.

Appointment of Acting Mayor: the City Council appoints Councilmember Peterson as Acting Mayor for any situation in which the Mayor is unable to provide those duties.

Motion by Council Member Schollmeier, seconded by Council Member Burse to approve the designation of Councilmember Peterson. 5 Yeas. 0 Nays. Carried.

Authorization of City Administrator to Pay Incidental Bills:

the City Council authorizes the City Administrator to pay for the following items: salaries, wages, benefits, related withholdings, utility bills, postage, vehicle registration/tabs, claims that are due and would incur interest or penalties, and any claim authorized by state statutes and agencies.

Motion by Council Member Peterson, seconded by Council Member Schollmeier to approve the authorization. 5 Yeas. 0 Nays. Carried.

Compliance Bond Regulations: regulations require the City to have declared an

official intent (the "Declaration") to reimburse itself for previously paid project expenditures out of the proceeds of subsequently issued bonds. This item declares that intent.

Motion by Council Member Schollmeier, seconded by Council Member Burse to approve the declaration. 5 Yeas. 0 Nays. Carried.

2020 Fee Schedule Update: Annually the Council reviews and updates the fee schedule for the City.

Motion by Council Member Schollmeier, seconded by Council Member Peterson to approve the updated fess schedule. 5 Yeas. 0 Nays. Carried.

Fire Relief Association Report: City Administrator Mike Plante Fire Chief Chad Finne was present to provide the annual update to the Council regarding fire department activities for the past year as well as discussing potential opportunities for the upcoming year. Chief Finne also provided an update on recent department elections. A request was made to increase the stipend given to department offices from \$1,175 to \$1,225.

Motion by Council Member Schollmeier, seconded by Council Member Burse to approve the request. 4 Yeas. 0 Nays. Carried. Abstain: Bachman,

Approval of 2020 Council Committee Assignments

Motion by Council Member Burse, seconded by Council Member Peterson to approve the committee assignments as presented. 5 Yeas. 0 Nays. Carried.

Approval of 2020 Fire Relief Association Officers

Motion by Council Member Peterson, seconded by Council Member Burse to approve the appointments as presented. 5 Yeas. 0 Nays. Carried.

Approval of 2020 Library Board Members

Motion by Council Member Schollmeier, seconded by Council Member Burse to approve the appointments as presented. 5 Yeas. 0 Nays. Carried.

Approve Purchase of Christmas Wreathes and Garlands – Plante and Clammer

As part of the 2021 budget the Council included \$6,000 worth of funding to purchase replacement wreathes, garlands, etc. Maintenance Supervisor Clammer was able to solicit multiple quotes for options. Motion by Council Member Peterson, seconded by Council Member Burse to approve the purchase of the referenced items in an amount not to exceed \$8,500. 5 Yeas. 0 Nays. Carried.

Approve Purchases for City Maintenance Shop - Clammer

The City received two bids for the building work itself. The work included would be any demolition that is necessary, all framing, siding and windows, tinning, material, and labor. Bid one was from Northway for \$30,717. Bid two was from KPS for \$28,250. It is recommended that the Council utilize bid 2. The City received two bids for the HVAC and CO2 system. Bid one was from Wencl for \$11,216.00. Bid two was from Reliable which was \$4,500. While there is quite the price discrepancy, the two bids appear to cover the same work and detail. The City has been assured that the low bid meets code. It is

recommended that the Council use bid 2.

The City has two options for garage doors. Bid one was from Quality Overhead for a "standard" insulated garage door system (2 doors). The bid was \$5,315.00. Bid two was from Powerlift Door for a hangar style door for \$11,763.00. While there is a significant difference in price, the recommendation is to utilize bid two as the door allows for more usage of the shop, allows for more overhead clearance for cleaning the plow, etc. Long term it is viewed as a better investment. The Council has already approved the furnace work for \$6,000 and there is approximately \$3,500 left in electrical work. All told if the Council utilizes the recommended bids the price would be \$53,973. The City budgeted \$80,000 so it is significantly less than what has been put aside for the project.

Motion by Council Member Schollmeier, seconded by Council Member Burse to approve the contracts for bids as recommended in the amount of \$53,973. 5 Yeas. 0 Nays. Carried.

Mayoral Appointment of Emergency Management Directors – Mayor McCool

By Statute the Mayor of the City is allowed to appoint its Emergency Management Director. Recently the City was informed by Dana Lulf, the current Emergency Management Director, that he would be stepping down from the position. The Mayor has determined that he will appoint Keith Clammer as Emergency Management Director and Jake Froyum as Assistant Emergency Management Director.

Dispose of Garage Doors at City Maintenance Shop – Clammer

Motion by Council Member Schollmeier, seconded by Council Member Burse to approve the disposition of the garage doors at the City maintenance shop. 5 Yeas. 0 Nays. Carried.

Tree Trimming on Irvin Street – Clammer

Upon review of City Maintenance Supervisor Clammer, it is recommended that the City conduct routine tree trimming of Boulevard Trees along Irvin Street. Clammer was able to receive a quote from Boyum Construction who has performed those services for the City in the past. The quote was dependent on work required and was estimated to be anywhere from \$3,500-\$5,000.

Motion by Council Member Peterson, seconded by Council Member Schollmeier to approve the utilizing Boyum Construction for tree trimming services on Irvin Street in an amount not to exceed \$5,000. 5 Yeas. 0 Nays. Carried.

Administrator Updates: Mike Plante, City Administrator

Plante provided updates on various City topics.

Department Report Review

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

Motion by Mayor McCool, seconded by Council Member Schollmeier upon seeing no other business to adjourn the meeting of the West Concord City Council. 5 Yeas. 0 Nays. Carried.

Attest:

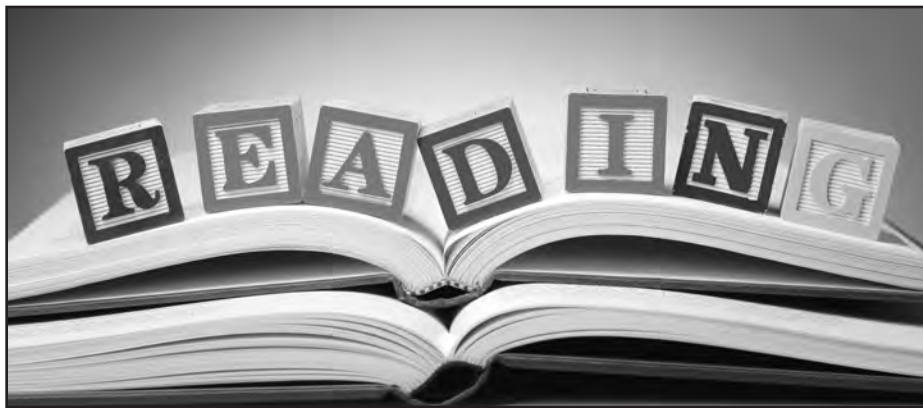
Jeffrey McCool, Mayor
Mike Plante, City Administrator

West Concord Public Library

The library continues to be open by appointment Monday and Thursday from 1:00 pm until 7:00 pm, and Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday from 10:00 am until 5:00 pm. When you'd like to schedule a time to browse, request materials for pickup, or use a computer, just call us at 527-2031. We also provide curbside pickup of materials.

Our most recent arrivals available for checkout are

- American Traitor by Brad Taylor
- The Children's Blizzard by Melanie Benjamin
- Deep Into the Dark by P.J. Tracy
- The Four Winds by Kristin Hannah
- Mrs. Lincoln's Sisters by Jennifer Chiaverini
- Neighbors by Danielle Steel
- Robert B. Parker's Someone to Watch Over Me by Ace Atkins
- The Russian by James Patterson
- West With Giraffes by Lynda Rutledge



Stand-up Comedy at West Concord Muni last month

Jerry Johnson grew up just four miles west of the Big Woods State Park, outside Nerstrand. In his youth he would break horses with his brother during the summer months. He remembers riding his horse to the Nerstrand school and tying it up to a pole outside when he went to pick up his

report card after the last day of school for the year. From there he rode over to the grocery store for some treats before returning home to the farm.

Horsing around was natural for Jerry and he had a knack for keeping a straight face while telling a story and his parents couldn't always tell if he was joking or not. As a kid he loved to tell one liner's and make people crack up. His dad and grandfather instilled the love of a funny story in Jerry. His grandparents Holger and Irene lived east of town on a farm, with a pasture where the Jesse James Gang camped out after their failed Northfield raid in 1876, as they fled the posse.

Jerry decided to get into stand-up comedy to help take people's mind off the current events. "There is so much sadness in the world," Jerry states, "I just want to put a smile on their face." His first foray into comedy was in September of 2018 at the Faribault Community Center. He has entertained at local nursing homes quite a few times and did a spot on KDHL radio one morning. Jerry has appeared twice at Goonie's Comedy Club, twice at the House of Comedy at the Mall of America in Bloomington and has opened at Boxer's Bar & Grill in Faribault. His last appearance was at the West Concord Municipal Liquor Store the last Wednesday in January.

ing business and does some metal recycling on the side. He also is a Zamboni operator at Shattuck St. Mary's in Faribault where he resurfaces the ice rinks during skating practice season.



Jerry Johnson

Winter Golf Comes to Dodge Country Club

(continued from page 1)

To play golf well in winter elements, it is important to dress appropriately; there is nothing worse than being cold and wet. It is recommended to layer up so that if weather changes, you can remain comfortable. It is also important to stretch and do light exercises prior to leaving your house. This will help get the blood circulating and prepare your body for the outdoor elements.

Depending on the weather conditions, switching to a firmer ball may be more effective. Firmer balls will spin less and travel further. The color of the golf ball is important for visibility; the ball should be a color that will stand out from surrounding elements. Another fun fact is that it's

important to keep the golf balls warm. It's been proven that a warm golf ball flies further than a cold golf ball. If you're worried about which iron to use in these elements, it's recommended to use one of your "practice" irons. Typically, only one club is used for winter golf. The golf course may shorten the fare ways and use green dye to guide people throughout the course.

Being active outdoors in the winter is beneficial for both your mental and physical health. So get outdoors and enjoy family and friends at the Dodge Center Country Club in March. Let the winter games begin!

For more details: TEXT Sue Osborn (507) 226-4899.

Many of his comic sketches are drawn from his experiences growing up with his family in a small town. He worked with his Uncle Dennis doing construction and masonry work where work site humor is a daily occurrence. He recalls once when he was young that his uncle dropped his cousin and him and two coon dogs off outside of Nerstrand one night. They were following the baying dogs when they discovered that the dogs had cornered a couple skunks. It was a long ride back to Faribault in the station wagon with two dogs freshly sprayed by a skunk.

His stand-up routines run from 15 to 45 minutes and sometimes include interaction with the crowd. "If you sit in the front row of a comedy show," Jerry says, "You may get pulled into the dialogue."

Jerry is semi-retired and has a snow plow-



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Museum Musings

Excitement at the Museum

By Colleen Sathrum Hayne

Have you heard the news? As of January 19, 2021, Dodge County now has eleven properties on the National Register of Historic Places, the newest listing being our very own West Concord Historical Society Museum and Community Center. Placement on the Register was a culmination of a 3 year odyssey that included a study to see if the school was eligible for placement on the Register and then the completion of a cumbersome application for placement. The expertise of Blue Planet Museum consultants of Rochester was utilized via two grants from the Minnesota State Historical Society. These monies were made possible by the Legacy Amendment—your tax dollars at work.

So how did this building come to be and what qualifies it for the National Register? In the late 1800's the state of Minnesota was tightening up its School Compulsory Attendance laws and state aid was beginning to be given to schools. That meant that state education inspectors came to towns and examined schools. In the spring of 1901, Mr. A.W. Rankin, inspector of state graded schools, came to West Concord and reported: "The teachers are doing very well. In fact your school is best when looked at from the teachers' side. I do not think that the community is to be congratulated at all in putting up with such poor accommodations . . . It will be with some little misgivings that I shall recommend your school for the aid this year. Now that the state pays \$400.00 a year it would seem to me best to hold the standard pretty high." (West Concord Enterprise, May 16, 1901) The school, a frame building on Main Street, had become so crowded that a room above a business on Main Street had to be rented for teaching the Primary children—60 students in all. In support of building a new school an anonymous school board member presented an argument in the May 16th newspaper. His case was that paying rent would add up, losing state aid would cost, and what would the town have at the end of 10 years—in his words, "an old schoolhouse unfit for school purposes."

In June, a little more than a month later, a Special School Meeting was called to vote on bonds for erecting a new school. 145 citizens voted, 84 against and 61 in favor. Apparently school bond issues have always been controversial. In the November 7th, 1901 Enterprise, state inspector Rankin is quoted again. He told the school board that only 2 graded schoolhouses in the state were worse than West Concord's. He scolded that how could the town allow the school to have such poor equipment when the town's residential areas compared well with any of such a size? The school was too small and not well ventilated.

The November 14th issue of the Enterprise included an article that "roasted" the town for not investing in a new school. It ended with this: "It's tough to be the laughing stock of the whole state—but we are never-the-less, and we will be until we get a decent schoolhouse." The December 12th issue of the Enterprise featured an article by E.E. Harrison, one of the town doctors and school board member, arguing eloquently for the building of a new school. He reported that when Inspector Rankin was asked if the West Concord school would lose its \$400 state aid, Mr. Rankin replied, "I shall have to report the accommodations inadequate. With your present accommodations you have not the slightest chance of securing High School recognition. There is no school of its size in Minnesota with poorer accommodations, and very few as poor." Official High School recognition would bring an additional \$600 of state aid. Doc Harrison closed his plea with these words, "When we vote Monday, December 23rd, let us remember the 250 children dependent upon us for their school; let us give them a school building not as poor as the poorest in the state, but one that will be a credit to the village and one in which we may take pride."

One week later in the Enterprise, Mr. Bosshard presented the opposition's argument highlighting the \$10,000 debt the school district would incur if a new building were erected, and admonishing the practical thing to do would be to add an addition to the old school.

On December 23rd a Special School Meeting was held at 7 p.m. and a second vote taken on the proposition of raising \$10,000 to build a new school building.

This time more people voted and the proposition passed, 147 in favor to 84 against. By January bids were being taken for purchase of the old schoolhouse and a minor battle ensued about whether the new schoolhouse should be built on the site of the old, or if a new site should be found. On February 27, 1902 the citizens voted to retain the Main Street site, but that was not the end of the matter. Some of the arguments against building the school on Main Street were practical, including 1800 loads of black dirt that would have to be hauled in to make the site suitable. Other arguments were ethical: did parents really want their children to be exposed to the sights seen and language heard on Main Street that could be "degrading to the young mind"? Hmmm. On March 20th a second vote was taken on a new school site. This time the vote was 176 to 103 to purchase the A.E. Ball property, where the school is now located, for \$1500.00. The Enterprise admonished its readers to "bury the hatchet and "pull together" because the "majority rules". From that time on the whole project moved forward. The First National Bank of West Concord's bid for the \$10,000 school bonds was the best of 5 bids and accepted. Fremont D. Orff of Minneapolis was retained as the architect for the new building. Mr. Orff's distinguished works include at least 10 on the National Historic Register—from courthouses to a Carnegie Library. Mr. Orff's plans for West Concord's building were for a structure of 8 rooms and a capacity of 250 students. The high school room would accommodate 75 students. The August 21st Enterprise expressed the pride citizens were feeling, "Our new schoolhouse is a beauty! West Concord is to have a football team in the near future." In September of 1902, almost 120 years ago, West Concord students started their year in a beautiful new school which is now our Museum. Tune in next month to find out why in 1914 an addition was built on the south end of the new school. It's another saga of progress vs. dollars.



The 1902 school faced north, and as you can see, originally had dormers. Note the beautiful windows. At the time the building was erected, it was deemed very important for children to have as much light as possible in classrooms.



Wayne County Courthouse, Nebraska, also designed by Fremont D. Orff



Waseca County Courthouse, also designed by Fremont D. Orff

Collaboration is Our Way Forward



Tim Penny
So. MN Initiative Foundation

When I served in Congress, I was dedicated to representing my southern Minnesota district. I was not there to simply vote the party line; I did my best to take into consideration the differing political ideologies that existed at the time among my constituents. As a legislator, I made it a priority to develop partnerships with other legislators – in both parties – to find common ground and to influence legislation to the benefit of the communities I served.

As divisions in our country and state have become amplified in recent years, I believe it is important to emphasize that collaboration is central to how we will be able to move forward. Here at Southern Minnesota

Initiative Foundation (SMIF), collaboration is a key value and a guiding force in how we do our work.

SMIF's vision is that southern Minnesota will be a prosperous and growing region with vibrant communities, innovative and successful economies and engaged and valued citizens. As we celebrate SMIF's 35th anniversary this year, and more than \$121 million invested in our 20-county region during that time, we know that we would not have been able to make progress on this vision without the many partners that have supported our efforts over the past three and a half decades.

Partnerships have made it possible for SMIF to award 4,300 grants since our inception. For example, we work with Ace Hardware and Arrow Hardware & Paint, to distribute paint to communities for projects like murals through our Paint the Town Grants. We partner with publishers ABDO and Capstone to distribute thousands of books to children birth through age five through our Early Literacy Grants (and many more thousands of books get distributed through our Early Childhood programming). We recently partnered with Region Nine Development Commission and SE MN Together to launch a special Inclusive and Equitable Communities Grant program, awarding \$160,000 to organizations that are increasing equity and inclusion within communities and supporting entrepreneurs of diverse backgrounds.

Since 1986 we have been able to support more than 700 businesses through our lending program because of our partnerships



with financial institutions and economic development agencies. We have also partnered with our 30 Community Foundations by providing \$823,000 in matching grants over the years, offering direct support to their communities.

Our commitment to collaboration made it possible for us to distribute \$12.1 million in COVID-19 response dollars. SMIF partnered with the State of Minnesota throughout 2020 to distribute grants and loans to support children, childcare providers, entrepreneurs and communities in our region during this crisis. Most recently we partnered with the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) to distribute \$10.2 million in Small Business Relief Grants, helping keep more than 1,000 southern Minnesota businesses

afloat. We also worked with the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) to award \$180,000 in Early Care and Wrap Around Grants to fund early care and education wrap around services for children birth to age eight from underserved populations impacted by the pandemic.

It is impossible to name every partner that has made a difference in SMIF's work, but we are appreciative of each and every one of them. Without this culture of collaboration, we would have a vision for our region's prosperity without the means to execute that vision. Likewise, Minnesota – and our country – will make progress when we all work together.

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

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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.

Democrats and Comprehensive Sex Education

I serve on the Education Policy Committee of the Minnesota House of Representatives. In this committee we hear about all kinds of proposals that will influence how our schools operate. This week we heard HF 358. This bill, authored by Democrats, would mandate comprehensive sex education in schools across Minnesota from kindergarten through grade 12.

I find this bill to be reprehensible. The idea that schools would introduce comprehensive sex education to innocent kindergartners is awful.

We know parents have always been the individuals best equipped to raise their children. For some unknown reason, Democrats do not trust parents to raise their children in a responsible way. I intent to stand against this bill when it comes to the floor of the Minnesota House.

We should not let government and sanctimonious politicians dictate values to our families. The beauty of America is we get to choose our values and live by those values. Unfortunately, the Democrats seemingly do not care about this freedom. Instead, they demand that everyone conform to their worldview.

For more information about HF 358, please see the following article: <https://alphanewsmn.com/controversial-bill-would-require-minnesota-schools-to-teach-diverse-sexual-orientations-and-gender-identities/>

Reopening Schools

On Thursday, Republicans made a motion to bring forward a bill that would reopen schools. We debated this motion and took a vote. I am proud to say that I voted to bring the motion forward because I believe our schools should be reopened.

Governor Walz has done many extremely terrible things throughout the course of this pandemic. However, the Governor's self-

righteous refusal to help our students during these times is among the most egregious things he has done.

We are approaching a full year of school closures due to the Governor's oppressive executive orders. Throughout this pandemic, our children have suffered in silence.

I hear from constituents across my district who describe how their children are suffering because of these closures. Student athletes have been prevented from playing sports, friends have been separated from one another, and students are stuck staring

at a computer screen for hours.

Many students have fallen behind, lost hope, and do not know what to do. Yet Governor Walz does nothing.

We need our kids back in school, and I will continue to vote to make that happen. Unfortunately, the Democrats have a majority in the Minnesota House of Representatives, and they voted down the motion.

Steve Drazkowski





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February is National Pet Dental Health Month



"Periodontal disease is the most common disease in dogs and cats over 3 years old," says Dr. Mallory Kanwal, a veterinarian who is pursuing specialization in dentistry at the University of Illinois Veterinary Teaching Hospital in Urbana.

Periodontal disease begins in pets just as it does in people: as inflammation of the gums that can be avoided with regular toothbrushing. "Unfortunately, dogs and cats aren't brushing their teeth themselves, and that is where we come in. Brushing is the best way to support our pets' oral health" says Dr. Kanwal.

Dr. Kanwal recommends, "Brushing daily or every other day has been shown to significantly reduce the buildup that leads to inflamed gums."

The first step is choosing a pet friendly toothpaste. "Human toothpaste is not safe for pets. It may contain fluoride and xylitol, which are toxic to animals."

If your pet doesn't like any of the commercial toothpaste varieties, Dr. Kanwal suggests using non-toothpastes, such as watered-down peanut butter or cream cheese. "The goal of toothpaste is to make toothbrushing enjoyable, so choose based on what your pet enjoys."

Adding new routines to a pet's schedule is sometimes difficult. "Starting slowly and making sure it is a positive experience is key. Start with them licking the toothpaste off the brush and slowly build to a few strokes of the toothbrush," Dr. Kanwal says.

Pets can sometimes be very excited and move around during toothbrushing. To effectively brush a pet's teeth, the owners should focus on brushing the outside of the teeth. Dogs and cats have very low cavity risk due to differences in tooth shape and the bacteria that live in the mouth.

Starting daily tooth brushing at a young age is ideal, but older pets can learn to enjoy it. Going slowly and using positive reinforcement is key, as is consulting with your veterinarian.

Always consult your veterinarian before starting your pet on a new routine. Your veterinarian can assess your older pet's gum health before you begin brushing. If your pet's gums are already painful, toothbrushing will not be a positive experience.

Tartar buildup on teeth is common. Although brushing can slow additional buildup and progression of gum disease, only a dental cleaning under anesthesia can remove tartar from your pet's teeth.

Pets still need regular dental checkups with a veterinarian even when you brush their teeth routinely.

"Toothbrushing will never replace anesthetic oral exams with dental radiographs, similar to how people still need to go to the dentist twice a year," says Dr. Kanwal. "Dogs that are more prone to periodontal disease, such as small dogs or those with tooth crowding, benefit the most from toothbrushing. However, large dogs still benefit from toothbrushing to improve breath and avoid periodontal disease."

Brushing teeth helps to improve overall pet health, and the training can be reinforced with a dental treat. Dr. Kanwal recommends choosing a treat that has been approved by the Veterinary Oral Health Council (VOHC), a group of veterinary dentists and scientists. VOHC reviews scientific literature on chews, diets, treats, water additives, and other products to evaluate whether those products meet pre-set standards of plaque and calculus reductions.

"The VOHC guides what I buy for my own dog," she says.

Lastly, some pets do not like taking treats, so water additives are an option for picky eaters. "Water additives won't be as effective as toothbrushing or a dental diet, but it can help some animals," says Dr. Kanwal.

"Always have a bowl of water available without any additive so your pet can choose. VOHC-approved dental wipes also help to remove plaque."

Dr. Kanwal says that toothbrushing is the gold standard of at-home dental care for pets. "It is the most effective way to disrupt the plaque buildup that leads to periodontal disease," she says. "It can take time to train your pet to tolerate or enjoy brushing, but once they get the hang of it brushing becomes an enjoyable bonding time and your pet has better breath for giving kisses!"

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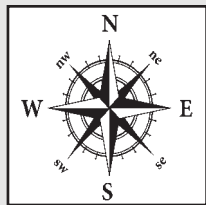
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Changes in Latitudes, Changes in Attitudes Soft Spoken Sweet Southern Sunshine



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.

There is a language all of its own in the south, and a curious delivery by the natives who have coined the expressions. Sometimes you get the idea and other times you haven't a clue.

My first exposure was the kindly looking lady working at the local landfill. You were to pull onto the scale to declare what you were hauling but you didn't have to weigh

leaving after unloading. So, I pull up with my truck and trailer and got too far on the scale. After asking what I was delivering, she smiled and sweetly said, "Honey, you pulled up too far on the scale. If you do it next time I am going to have to come out there and kill you."

You get used to terms of endearment. The ladies are effusive in buttery words. It is "how you doin' love, what can I get you darlin', what'll you have dear, how are you honey." Don't think that you are special because they say it to everyone. You will sit down at the booth in the diner with your wife and the young waitress steps up to take your order, looks you right in the eye and calls you sweetie. Whoa girl, we kind of reserve those words for the special lady we are with where I came from. One day while paying for my lunch at the local café, one of the elderly matrons walked through the door, looked straight at the cashier and said "how are you beautiful?"

Well, you get used to it. And you actually start to really enjoy it. A kind word and a pleasant demeanor brightens up the day. But don't start thinking that those southern belles are pushovers. I still remember the first summer we were in Tennessee, and a little old lady was describing encountering a copperhead in her yard. She said, "I emptied my .380 on him and then came back out with the 12 gauge and blew his head off.

A Minnesotan in the North: Snow Boots



By RosaLin Alcoser

In Minnesota it is a fairly common practice, as in I have seen a lot of people do this over the years, for people to wear their snow boots and carry their dress shoes when it is snowing and they have to go somewhere where they will need their dress shoes. Then change shoes when they get there.

This is just a practical practice that many Minnesotans have adopted over time to keep their feet warm and dry... unless you're a pastor from the Caribbean and have lived in Minnesota for 20 years.

One Sunday morning when we had about

three or so inches of snow come down before the night before my mother and I both did this as we got ready to go to the church. My father on the other hand did not.

Since it was not spouse to snow there was a chance being way up north like we are that the church parking lot would not be plowed when we got there; after all the pastor always has to get there first. So I reminded my father that he should wear his boots to which he replied that he would not need them.

Except the parking lot had not been plowed out yet and he decided to shovel paths in the parking lot so that people would not have to walk in the snow.

After people got to church he was telling them all about how he had to shovel the parking lot and how his feet were now cold. I could hear all of this from where I was in the sound booth.

So into the social hall I popped saying, "don't take pity on him. He was told to wear his snow boots and bring his shoes so that if he had to shovel his feet wouldn't be cold and he told me, 'no, I don't need my boots.' So don't take any pity on the pastor because he was told." Then back to my sound booth I went while people laughed at him.

THE SAVVY SENIOR



By Jim Miller

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Dear Savvy Senior,

What are the eligibility requirements to get Medicaid coverage for nursing home care?

—Caregiving Daughter

Dear Caregiving,

The rules and requirements for Medicaid eligibility for nursing home care are complicated and will vary according to the state where your parent lives. With that said, here's a general, simplified rundown of what it takes to qualify.

Medicaid Eligibility

Medicaid, the joint federal and state program that covers health care for the poor, is also the largest single payer of America's nursing home bills for seniors who don't have the resources to pay for their own care.

Most people who enter nursing homes don't qualify for Medicaid at first, but pay for care either through long-term care insurance or out-of-pocket until they deplete their savings and become eligible for Medicaid.

To qualify for Medicaid, your parent's income and assets will need to be under a certain level that's determined by their state. Most states require that a person have no more than about \$2,000 in countable assets that includes cash, savings, investments or other financial resources that can be turned into cash.

Assets that aren't counted for eligibility include their home if it's valued under \$560,000 (this limit is higher – up to \$840,000 – in some states), their personal possessions and household goods, one vehicle, prepaid funeral plans and a small amount of life insurance.

But be aware that while your parent's home is not considered a countable asset to determine their eligibility, if he or she can't return home, Medicaid can go after the proceeds of their house to help reimburse their nursing home costs, unless a spouse or other dependent relative lives there. (There are some other exceptions to this rule.)

After qualifying, all sources of your parent's income such as Social Security and pension checks must be turned over to Medicaid to pay for their care, except for a small personal needs allowance – usually between \$30 and \$90.

You also need to be aware that your parent can't give away their assets to qualify for Medicaid faster. Medicaid officials will look at their financial records going back five years to root out suspicious asset transfers. If they find one, their Medicaid coverage will be delayed a certain length of time, according to a formula that divides the transfer amount by the average monthly cost of nursing home care in their state.

So if, for example, your parent lives in a state where the average monthly nursing home cost is \$5,000 and they gave away cash or other assets worth \$50,000, they would be ineligible for benefits for 10 months (\$50,000 divided by \$5,000 = 10).

Spousal Protection

Medicaid also has special rules for married couples when one spouse enters a nursing home and the other spouse remains at home. In these cases, the healthy spouse can keep one half of the couple's assets up to \$120,900 (this amount varies by state), the family home, all the furniture and household goods and one automobile. The healthy spouse is also entitled to keep a portion of the couple's monthly income – between \$2,030 and \$3,022. Any income above that goes toward the cost of the nursing home recipient's care.

What about Medicare?

Medicare, the federal health insurance program for seniors 65 and older, and some younger people with disabilities, does not pay for long-term care. It only helps pay up to 100 days of rehabilitative nursing home care, which must occur after a hospital stay.

Find Help

For more detailed information, contact your state Medicaid office. You can also get help from your State Health Insurance Assistance Program, which provides free counseling on all Medicare and Medicaid issues.

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L	O	V	E	S	T	O	R	Y	N	U	S	L	O	V	E	S	T	O	R	Y	N	U	S	L	O	V	E	S	T	O	R	Y	N	U	S			
W	H	I	P	E	T	A	S	R	E	N	O	W	H	I	P	E	T	A	S	R	E	N	O	W	H	I	P	E	T	A	S	R	E	N	O			
A	C	H	E	R	E	N	O	G	H	E	N	T	A	C	H	E	R	E	N	O	G	H	E	N	T	A	C	H	E	R	E	N	O	G	H	E	N	T
B	E	S	T	D	U	N	B	E	S	T	D	U	N	B	E	S	T	D	U	N	B	E	S	T	D	U	N	B	E	S	T	D	U	N	B	E	S	T

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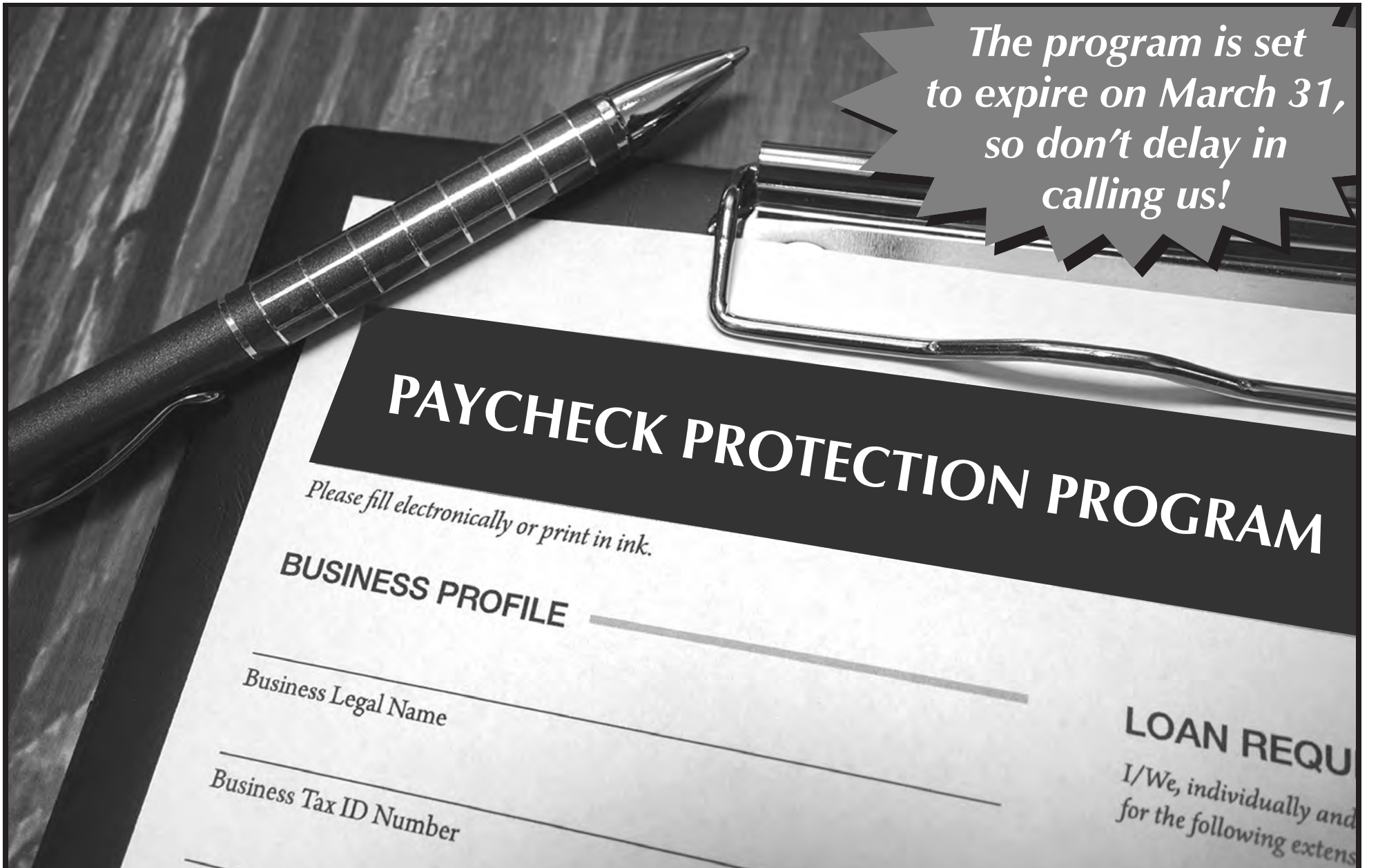
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		2		8	1			
	6	7	4					
						2	1	7
	8	1						6
4								7
	3						2	4
	7	5	6					
						4	7	2
			5	3		9		

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: VALENTINE'S DAY
- ACROSS
1. "You're the ____!"
 2. Canyon sound
 5. Horse color
 8. Interesting person, acr.
 11. *Feeling of the heart
 12. Nevada city
 13. City in Belgium
 15. Use a whisk
 16. Greek H's
 17. *Popular Valentine's Day delivery, pl.
 18. "'Love means never having to say you're sorry' movie
 20. Ballpark calls
 21. Strong adhesive
 22. Greek letter N, pl.
 23. Lord's subordinate
 26. Given to drinking
 30. Ovine mom
 31. Old storage medium
 34. Fairy-tale beginning
 35. Politician Pelosi
 37. Tokyo, once
 38. Bone hollows
 39. Sky bear
 40. Fitted with a name tag, e.g.
 42. "Ever" to a poet
 43. With more seeds
 45. Attic
 47. Summer sandwich?
 48. Fraternity letter
 50. Medieval headdress
 52. *Only day more popular than Valentine's for card giving
 56. Like blue sky
 57. Walk the Pacific Crest Trail, e.g.
 58. Samoan money
 59. *Dionysus' pipe-playing companion
 60. Affirm
 61. Give off
 62. Plays for pay
 63. *Color of Valentine's Day
 64. *Lovers' reunion
- DOWN
1. Cry like a baby
 2. Canyon sound
 3. Convict's weapon
 4. Conical dwellings
 5. Get on juice diet, e.g.
 6. Opposite of binary
 7. Like a gossipmonger
 8. Exterminator's target
 9. Change for a five
 10. Part of T.G.I.F.
 12. Like an abridged classic
 13. Tiler's paste
 14. "'I Will Always Love You" singer
 19. Stupefied
 22. Us, in Mexico
 23. *Cupid's mother
 24. In the know
 25. Common thing?
 26. Smoke plus fog
 27. Lay to rest
 28. Rocks at mountain base
 29. *Symbol of Valentine's Day
 32. Infantry's last row
 33. Roulette bet
 36. *Chocolatier, pioneer of the heart-shaped box
 38. ____ apple
 40. Risk something
 41. Between eggy and eggst
 44. Feeling worse than before
 46. Gave away
 48. Thin piece
 49. Annoyed
 50. Russia's alternative to caesar
 51. Aries or Taurus, e.g.
 52. Burn to a crisp
 53. MADD member, colloquially
 54. Climbed down, as from a carriage
 55. Fill beyond full
 56. Pharaoh's cobra



The program is set to expire on March 31, so don't delay in calling us!

PAYCHECK PROTECTION PROGRAM

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Business Legal Name

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