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APRIL, 2021

Volume 5 • Issue 3

Support the VFW poppy sales

Before Memorial Day in 1922, VFW members conducted the first poppy distribution, becoming the first veterans' organization to organize a nationwide distribution. The poppy soon was adopted as the official memorial flower of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, as it remains today.



In 1923 it was decided that VFW "Buddy"® Poppies would be assembled by disabled and needy veterans who would be paid for their work to provide them with financial assistance. The next year, disabled veterans at the Buddy Poppy factory in Pittsburgh assembled VFW Buddy Poppies. The designation "Buddy Poppy" was adopted at that time.

In February 1924, the name Buddy Poppy was registered with the U.S. Patent Office. A certificate was issued on May 20, 1924, granting the organization all trademark rights in the name of Buddy under the classification of artificial flowers. This trademark is a guarantee that all poppies bearing that name and the VFW label are genuine products of the work of disabled and needy veterans. No other organization, firm or individual can legally use the name Buddy Poppy.

Today, Buddy Poppies are still assembled by disabled and needy veterans in VA Hospitals.

The VFW Buddy Poppy program provides compensation to the veterans who assemble the poppies, provides financial assistance in maintaining state and national veterans' rehabilitation and service programs and partially supports the VFW National Home for Children.

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Berne Wood Fired Pizza Announces Season Lineup



The Berne Wood Fired Pizza will return for the tenth year with a full line-up of music and pizza. Their schedule starts

Wednesday June 2nd and continues each and every Wednesday through August 25th. This year they will be offering advance registration through Eventbrite, an online event sales platform. You may reserve seating for groups of 2, 4 or 6 people for the evening concert. Walkups will be seated based on availability. Bring your own chairs with you. Take out orders will be filled as well. There are six different varieties of pizza available with prices at \$20 and \$23 cash, exact change please. Pop, water, ice cream and chips are sold on site. You may bring

your own beverages in as well.

There are two bands each evening starting at 5pm with the opening act and 6:30pm for the headliner. There is no charge for the concert. There will be a classic car and bike cruise-in on June 9th, July 14th and August 11th. An Artisans Market Night is planned for August 4th. Schedule of bands can be found @bernepizza.org. Volunteers staff the event each week and proceeds are donated to numerous local charities and foundations each year.

Dodge County Hockey player Makes All-State

By Kenya Narveson

The Dodge County Hockey Program has a star player by the name of Brody Lamb. Brody helped the Wildcats soar into new heights this season. Brody has received many awards along the way; including a First Team All-State forward and the Associated Press 2021 Minnesota boys hockey Player of the Year. He led the state in goals (52), points (87), short-handed goals (10) and points per game (3.62) as a junior.

The Wildcats went to a state tournament two years ago. Last year they earned the No. 1 seed in the Section 1A playoffs, only to be defeated by Mankato East in the semifinals. That inspired Lamb to return to high school hockey for his junior year, in hopes of helping the Wildcats reach another state tournament.

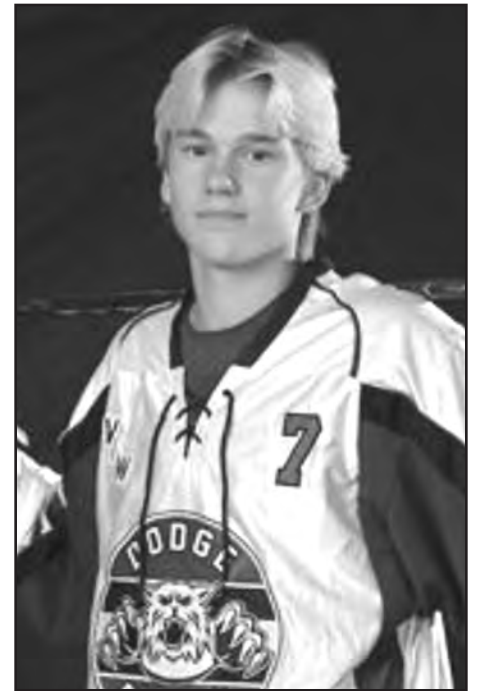
They believed they could go to state again and they did. Going 19-4-1 and beating Mankato West 4-3 for the Section 1A championship on March 24 at Dodge County Ice Arena in Kasson.

"I think he'll look back as he gets older at what he's done for the entire program and for Dodge County hockey, both boys and girls, the younger kids, too," Dodge County boys hockey head coach Nick Worden said. "He probably doesn't fully see it yet, but he will down the road. Not at all to diminish the success of our other good hockey players, but when you have a player like Brody... he has injected another level of excitement."

Hockey roots run deep in the Lamb family. Jeff, His father starred in town at Mayo and eventually moved into professional ranks. Brody has committed to play college hockey at the University of Minnesota.

Currently, the Golden Gophers rank Number 1 in both polls. Lamb feels good about his college choice.

(continued on page 7)



Brody Lamb



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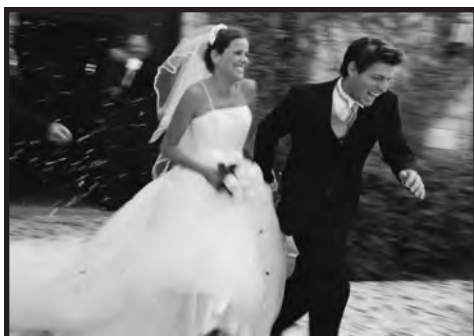
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Don't Forget This Source of Hope

By Pastor Dave Breederland
Faith Community Church

May will soon be here and often it is accompanied by lots of hope. Hope that spring is finally here and there's no more snow. Hope that school is almost over. Hope that the crops are in the ground. Hope that the Twins will be in first place. Hope that Mother's Day will be special. Hope that this year's walleye fishing will be better than last year's. Hope that the COVID-19 intrusions into life and businesses will end.

We need hope. It is difficult to go through life without hope. At times, we may think that hope is as rare as a weed-



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free garden. But there is a source of hope that we can count on, the Scriptures. The Apostle Paul wrote: For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. (Romans 15:4 ESV)

Let's think about that last phrase: through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. Paul is reminding his original readers that the Old Testament is a source of hope. We find encouragement in them, but only if we read them.


Today we know that encouragement comes in many varieties. It comes in the gentle coaxing of a parent to a child to eat their food. It comes in the loud voice of a coach or a drill sergeant. It comes in the forms of incentives. And there are many more ways.

As we read through the Scriptures, we find a wide-array of individuals and situations that bring us encouragement leading to hope. We read of those who got second chances after a dismal failure (i.e., King David, Jonah). Other times we find those who disobeyed and suffered loss, some even on the spot (e.g.: Nadab, Abihu, Uzzah) – leading us to hope that we listen to and obey God's instruction. We find encouragement to have hope when we see others expressing heartache (see the Psalms). There are "impossible situations" that people find themselves in that God delivers them (recall the Red Sea crossing, Daniel in the lions' den, and more). There are plenty of positive examples and negative ones too. The Scriptures are replete with a host of personalities and contexts.

But the greatest encouragement of all comes from those Scriptures that tell us of

the coming One, the Messiah, the Servant of the Lord. We get our greatest hope from knowing that help is on the way. Reading the New Testament, we discover that Jesus is the promised One. We read of the depth of Jesus' love, the redeeming power of his death and resurrection, and our own hope of resurrection through our relationship with the risen Jesus. We read of the Apostle Peter, brash and boisterous, but humbled, and finally restored and recommissioned. We have hope that when our lives follow the trajectory of Peter's, Christ can forgive us and put us back into service. We have hope because Jesus is the resurrection and the life (see John 11:25).

Don't allow your 'hope' to be simply wishful thinking. Have hope because of the precedents set in real history in the Scriptures. Have hope because Jesus is risen. He is risen indeed!



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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
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Hegre Lutheran, ELCA

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Trinity Lutheran, ELCA

301 Highland St., West Concord • 507-527-2778
Pastor Chad Christensen • trinitychurchwc.net
Sunday worship video is posted on Facebook:
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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.

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Pastor Mark Schlasner
Sunday 9:30a.m. Worship

Church of Christ

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

"The Berne Church"
23148 Co. Hwy. 24, West Concord • 507-356-4340
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Area Church Directory

In the Middle of the Garden

In the middle of the garden were the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. — Genesis 2:9

In the school where I serve as a campus pastor and as an English teacher, we talk about metaphors and how important they are in a piece of literature. We also pay attention to imagery used by an author to show meaningful threads throughout a narrative.

The Bible is God's Word to us, revealing to us the grand story of creation, salvation in Christ, and life with God and his people forever. The Bible is also a literary masterpiece, filled with imagery and metaphors that carry through in meaningful threads from beginning to end.

For example, of the many trees described in the Bible, the two here in Genesis 2 are prototypes for other trees mentioned later on: trees that indicate life and fruitfulness, and trees that represent potentials for brokenness and disobedience. The tree of life presented abundant life and intimacy with God, while the other tree presented consequences connected with choosing and doing wrong.

The tree of life especially prefigures many stories featuring hope, redemption, promise, and comfort, indicating that even from the beginning, people were not left to live here alone but were given a protected place of abundance and well-being. Emphasis is placed on the loving relationship between God and creation, summed up in the rich image of the tree of life—and later we find this tree again in the new heaven and new earth, where we will live with God forever (Revelation 22:1-2).

Prayer: Lord, thank you for showing us your loving and generous promises in the imagery of the tree of life. Guide us to hope and truly live in you always. Amen.

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Minnesota Restaurant Association

Restaurant of the Year Award

August Herman Eggert

August Herman Eggert, 87, of West Concord, died Wednesday, March 24, 2021 at Cottage Wood Senior Communities.



He was born January 18, 1934 in Kasson the son of Herman and Letha (Brown) Eggert.

Augie attended school in Kasson but after his family moved later in his high school years, he graduated from West Concord High School. He was a mechanic at Boe Repair and worked 30 years at IBM as an Electrical Circuit Cards Technician. He married Verna Fitzgerald on Sept. 26, 1953 in Owatonna. The couple lived and farmed on a hobby farm near West Concord.

Augie was a member of St. John's Lutheran Church of Kasson and a lifetime member of the West Concord Historical Society. He loved to dance and play cards.

Augie was a talented mechanic and enjoyed helping others by fixing anything from a small engine to a piece of farm equipment for them. He also enjoyed working on the firetrucks as a part of Firehouse #4 for the West Concord Fire Department. Augie was known as the "greeter" at Erdman's County Market in Kasson.

He is survived by his son, Steve (and Cheryl) Eggert of West Concord; daughters, Shari Brandvold of Mazepa, Kathy (and Bill) Krause of Cornucopia, WI, Lori Leron of Glendale, AZ; daughter in law, Judy Eggert of Hayfield; 9 grandchildren; great grandchildren; special friend, Nancy Sanford of Kasson; sisters, Carole Hotchkiss of New Prague, Janet Canfield of Osseo and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Verna Eggert; son, Dan Eggert; two sisters; seven brothers.

Visitation was at Michaelson Funeral Home, West Concord Chapel on Friday from 4pm to 7pm and at St. John's Lutheran Church of Kasson on Saturday from 2pm to 3pm. Funeral services were held Saturday, March 27, 2021 at 3pm at St. John's Lutheran of Kasson. Pastor Nirmala Reinschmidt officiated. Interment was in

the Concord Cemetery in Concord Township. Memorials are preferred to West Concord Fire Department, St. John's Lutheran Church, American Cancer Society or to the donor's choice.

Wren Mary Jones

Wren Mary Jones, 75, of Denver, CO, died unexpectedly Tuesday, March 2, 2021 at her home.



She was born September 16, 1945, in Owatonna, the daughter of Clio and Marion (Holton) Jones.

Wren graduated from West Concord High School in 1963 and Minnesota School of Business in the Twin Cities.

She then moved to Germany for a few years until moving to Denver, CO where she made her home. There she met the love of her life, James "Jim" Wright. They courted for over 30 years.

Wren worked for several local hotel chains in the Denver area. She enjoyed listening to music and knitting afghans for her family. Wren especially enjoyed traveling throughout the United States and overseas.

She is survived by her extended family and the love of her life, Jim Wright.

Wren was preceded in death by her parents.

A private interment was in the Pine Island Cemetery. Memorials are preferred to Concord Church of Christ.

George Arthur Lane Jr.

George Arthur Lane Jr., age 60, died Wednesday, March 17, 2021 at Mayo Clinic Hospital-Rochester, St. Marys Campus surrounded by family. He fought an 11-year illness with his family by his side. Unfortunately, his body didn't match his strong spirit.



George was born August 6, 1960 in Austin, MN to George and Carol (Langemo) Lane Sr. He lived and graduated from West Concord High School in

1979. He was a member of Redeemer Lutheran Church in Rochester. George married the love of his life, Lisa Luehmann on November 28, 2014 in Rochester and enjoyed making her happy.

George was an over the road truck driver. He enjoyed his job, fishing camping and anything outdoors. He loved spending time with his family and making everybody laugh. He was a proud grandfather and great-grandfather.

George is survived by his wife, Lisa; children, Krista Lane of Rochester, MN, Kassi Lane of Kasson, MN, Korrie Lane of West Concord, MN, Kelly Bittner of Plainview, MN, Nathan Irish of Rochester, MN, Megan Irish of Rochester, MN; siblings, Pat Elit of Austin, MN, Cindy Hartley of Rochester, MN; 8 grandchildren; and 4 great-grandchildren.

George is preceded in death by his father, George Lane Sr.; mother, Carol Langemo; and sister, Claire Adams.

A celebration of life will be held at a later date.

Rochelle Lee (Gillard) Kasper

Rochelle Lee (Gillard) Kasper, 64, of West Concord, MN passed away on Saturday, March 20, 2021 at St. Mary's Hospital surrounded by her loving family after a long battle with lung cancer.



Rochelle Lee Gillard was born on August 11, 1956 to Glenn Thomas Gillard and Ardella Mae (Walker) Gillard in West Concord, MN. Rochelle was the first daughter and grew up with 7 siblings. Rochelle learned how to raise animals, garden, and bake from her hard-working family.

Rochelle graduated from West Concord High School in 1974 and pursued a higher education at Faribault Vo-Tech for baking. She graduated in 1976. Rochelle met Robert Kasper shortly after school and was married to him on March 15, 1980. She enjoyed her career as a baker and bus driver before having children.

Bob and Rochelle raised five children on their farm in West Concord. She volunteered in many of their activities including 4-H Leader, Cub Scout Troop Leader, and REP teacher. Rochelle enjoyed a fulfilling career as a daycare provider for 30+ years. Shell was an avid baker and was widely known for her delicious treats she would bring to any meeting, family gathering, or birthday. She enjoyed gardening, both vegetable and flower, and could be found taking care of her plants during the spring and summer months. Rochelle's greatest joy were her children and grandchildren. She was the first to volunteer for a sleepover and would be cheering front and center at her grandchildren's sporting events.

Rochelle is survived by her husband, Robert Kasper; five children, Joshua (Tina) Kasper, Carissa (Joshua) Hoha, Abraham (Elizabeth) Kasper, Nathaniel (Jen Welper) Kasper, and Gabriel (Amber) Kasper; grandchildren, Gabrielle, Jacob, Noah,

Christopher, Charles, Garrett, Isabel, Thomas, Josephine, Emaline, William, Henry, Eleanor, and Richard; siblings, Doug (Michelle) Gillard, Mark (Cheryl) Gillard, Renee (Greg) Paulson, Denise (Wes) Jones, DeAnn (Mark Vacura) Gillard, Mathew (Debra) Gillard, and Melanie Davidson; 17 sister and brother-in-laws, nieces and nephews, and great nieces and nephews.

Rochelle was preceded in death by her parents, Glenn Thomas & Ardella Gillard and in-laws James & Theresa Kasper.

Visitation was from 3:00-7:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 25, 2021 at Czaplowski Family Funeral Homes, 801 7th St SE in Kasson with a prayer service held at 7:00 p.m. A private family service was held on Friday, March 26, 2021.

In lieu of flowers, donations made to the family will be put toward the purchase of plants trees, and flowers for a memory garden at the Kasper Farm.

William "Bill" Hurlbut

William "Bill" Hurlbut, age 77, of Oak Park Heights, Minnesota, passed peacefully away at his home on December 19, 2020 surrounded by family. Bill fought a courageous battle with cancer that began in 2017. No



services will be held at this time.

Bill was born on April 15, 1943 in Minneapolis, Minnesota. He attended school in West Concord and afterward served his country in the United States Marine Corps. Bill lived for many years in the Red Wing and Southern Minnesota area where he raised his three sons. He then moved to Stillwater, Minnesota with his wife of 34 1/2 years, Cheryl Hurlbut of Eyota, Minnesota. Bill then began his 33 year career with Liquid Transport in Lakeland, Minnesota.

Bill loved every aspect of life. In his free time, he enjoyed hunting, fishing, and spending time with his family. There wasn't a place Bill could go that he wouldn't see a friend or be able to make one. Surely he will be missed by many family and friends. Bill was brave, kind, humble, and he knew how to light up a room. He was the type of man this world needs more of. May he rest in peace.

Left to cherish his memory are his wife, Cheryl, of Oak Park Heights; children, Bill Jr., Jody, and Kelly (Michelle) Hurlbut; step-children, Heidi Van Hook and Jennifer (James) Richardson; 11 grandchildren; 2 great-grandchildren; sisters, Scheryl, Patricia, and Penny; brother, Sandy; many beloved nieces and great-nieces, nephews; many cousins; and many friends.

He is preceded in death his father and mother; grandparents; and other family and friends.

(obituaries continued on page 4)



Brian Weber
Melanie Leth
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Darlene "Susie" Sue Heusinkveld

Darlene "Susie" Sue Heusinkveld, 69, of Mantorville, MN passed away peacefully on Sunday, April 11, 2021 at the Seasons Hospice House in Rochester, MN.

Susie was born on June 23, 1951 to Gorman and Doris (Heins) Berg in Zumbrota, MN. She grew up on a farm in Pine Island, MN and graduated from Pine Island high school in 1969. She married Myron Reber and together they had three children. They had a dairy farm north of Mantorville. They later divorced. She married Ellsworth "Ell" Heusinkveld in 1997. They owned Riverside Acres tree farm in rural Mantorville, and they currently resided in Mantorville.

Susie worked as a waitress for many years. She started at the Cookie Jar in Mantorville and later worked at Country Pleasures Café in Kasson. In her more recent years, she was able to spend more time with Ell. They enjoyed playing cards, attending parades, and having many family gatherings. Susie also enjoyed cross stitching, reading, going on walks, having coffee with her friends (Birthday Club and Magnificent Seven), but most of all she

loved seeing her children and grandchildren. She was an active member of St. John's Lutheran church in Kasson and of the Kasson United Methodist church. She will be deeply missed.

Susie is survived by her husband, Ell Heusinkveld; children, Jason (Crystal) Reber of Mantorville, MN, Trista Reber of Nelson, WI, Tiffany (Garrett) Duncanson of Kasson, MN; grandchildren, Victoria "Tori" (Kody) Panacek, Taylor Reber, Haley (Zach Schultz) Reber, Ethan Ramey, Alexa Ramey, Grady Duncanson, Tricity Duncanson, Brody Duncanson, and Bailey Duncanson; great-grandson, Ryatt Schultz; step-children, Mick (Cheryl) Heusinkveld, Tracey (Tim) McGuire, Mark (Lori) Heusinkveld, Darla Samudio; step-grandchildren, Jill Heusinkveld, Olivia Heusinkveld, Quinn McGuire, Amelia Heusinkveld, Eli McGuire, and Shaun Samudio; siblings, Jerry (Carolyn) Berg,

Larry (Mona) Berg, and Tom (Penny) Berg; and many nieces, nephews, and cousins.

She was preceded in death by her parents. A memorial service was held at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 17, 2021 at St. John's Lutheran Church, 301 8th Ave NW Kasson, MN. Pastor Dave Efflandt officiated. Visitation was from 4:00-7:00 p.m. Friday, April 16, 2021 at Czaplewski Family Funeral Homes, 801 7th Street SE Kasson,

MN, and one hour prior to the service at the church. Inurnment was in Evergreen cemetery in Mantorville, MN.

You were invited to join a live stream of the funeral mass on the Czaplewski Facebook page starting at 12:50 p.m.

To share a special memory or condolence please visit www.czaplewskifuneral-homes.com, Czaplewski Family Funeral Homes, 801 7th St SE Kasson, MN 55944 (507)634-6510. Blessed be her memory.



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Vendors Wanted for the Schoolhouse Fall Festival Outdoor Market
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September 18th, 2021
We welcome artists, crafters, antique and collectible collectors, and direct product vendors.
10' x 10' spaces are available for \$16.00 each.
If you would like to be part of the fun, please email wchs@frontiernet.net, call 507-527-2628, or private message the West Concord Historical Society on Facebook.
We will send you a registration form. We look forward to getting acquainted with you and celebrating fall with you.
A wide diversity of vendors would put a big smile on our faces!

Saturday September 18th 2021
Base Ball game at the ball field 1 block south of the museum
Rochester Roosters vs Local Team
Played by 1860 rules
Game starts at noon, weather permitting
Schoolhouse Fall Festival outdoors at the ball field
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Pandemic guidelines for events at that time will be followed.

Museum Musings

A Gift from the PWA

(Part 3 in a series of 3)

By Colleen Sathrum Hayne

The Public Works Administration (PWA, not to be confused with the WPA), was created to combat the hard times of the Great Depression and was part of the “New Deal”.

It was a huge federal infrastructure program that spent \$3.8 billion to fund more than 34,000 projects, from the San Francisco Mint to the Grand Coulee Dam—and most importantly, a school project in West Concord, Minnesota.

In the summer of 1935 when the PWA program was announced, West Concord’s School Board applied for and received a grant in the amount of \$31,500 to be used for the addition of a gymnasium, a high school assembly room, a new heating plant for the old and new buildings, an air washer for ventilation, plumbing and furniture. The total cost for the project was estimated to be \$70,000. The school board felt that they were compelled to try for the grant that they viewed as a gift—or another school district would. At that time West Concord had the highest high school enrollment in the county at 138 students. Their assembly room had a capacity of 81. The school was severely overcrowded.

On October 21st, 1935, a special school election was held to consider the proposition of issuing bonds in the sum of \$38,500 for the purpose of financing the new school building. West Concord voters approved it. The St. Paul architecture/engineering firm of Toltz, King and Day was chosen to draw up the plans and specifications for the new building. Toltz, King, and Day has at least 10 structures on the National Historic Registers in the U.S. and Canada including the Robert Street Bridge and the historic Hamm Building in St. Paul, as well as the Prince of Wales Hotel in Waterton Lakes National Park in Alberta, Canada. Toltz, King, and Day remain a thriving architecture and engineering company today, now known as TKDA.

By November the school board was receiving bids for excavation of the auditorium/gymnasium addition. Payment for laborers was announced at 40 cents an hour for common laborers and up to a dollar an hour for some skilled labor jobs. As excavation began, the West Concord Enterprise suggested that this operation was something well worth watching—especially observing the big gasoline powered machines that were doing the work that would have required many workers in the past. Bids were received for the construction of the new building and Peter Kramer and Nels Johnson were chosen as the general contractors. Mr. Kramer’s work was known as he had built the hotel in town about 20 years before.

Every month brought word of completion of another portion of the project. By July the cement and brick work was done. The roof was complete and the interior work was beginning. Art Moderne was the architectural style of the building. The skylights in the Assembly Room produced a space full of light, even without auxiliary lighting. Most of the window sills were marble. With a beautiful new building beckoning, Superintendent P.C. Snow set about recruiting new high school students county-wide. His enticements included boasting of a fire-proof building with a brand new auditorium and gymnasium; a fully accredited high school; a highly rated music department that had been featured on KROC and WCCO radio; and a multitude of classes from physics to Latin.

School opened on Monday, September 14th with interior work yet to be finished, but enough completed to allow school to go on as scheduled. The basket ball players were imagining what it would be like to be able to play basketball in their own gym and not run to city hall any more. As one of the students wrote in the October 5th, 1936 Enterprise, *“The new building is a fine piece of architecture and we students are mighty proud of it!”*



Toltz, King and Day’s architectural drawing for the new gymnasium/auditorium project



The Prince of Wales Hotel, Waterton Lakes National Park, Alberta, Canada, designed by Toltz, King, and Day and listed on the Canadian Register of Historic Places.



The Robert Street Bridge, St. Paul, designed by Toltz, King, and Day and also on the National Register.



The Hamm Building, St. Paul—another Toltz, King and Day designed building on the National Register

Triton High School's Production of Adrift Concluded April 10th

Triton High School's production of Adrift in New York concluded April 10th after four successful performances. The melodra-

ma has been performed at Triton before, although never in the midst of a global pandemic. And while things looked different this year, such as some actors wearing masks and a smaller, socially-distanced audience, the show was still enjoyed by all. "We could have only 100 people in the audience," said director Anne Schreiber, "but surprisingly, the auditorium felt full, and the audience seemed to enjoy 'booing' the villain and cheering for the hero!" Two of the four performances, in fact, were sold out. Schreiber added, "The students performed so well; they really gave it their all, and I'm so proud of them!" Since most of the cast were in 7th-11th grade, look to see many of these students on the Triton stage next year.



The hero (Weston Haugen) and heroine (Talia Kelley) are reunited once again



The villain, Desmond (August Kozesik), arrives at the scene through unexpected means.



The hero, Jack Merriwell (Weston Haugen), smashes a bottle over the head of Monty Moran (Wyatt Haugen) as Julianne Auer looks on.



The characters investigate some crucial evidence in a murder case. (From L-R: Jude Gosse, Talia Kelley, Katie Courteau, Maddie Jarrett, Weston Haugen, Ashtyne Avery, Liam Dostal)



Francis Desmond (August Kozesik) tries to get the heroine Nellie (Talia Kelley) to come with him; Danielle Fogery (Julianne Auer) possibly objects.

Cobra Communications



Craig Schlichting
Superintendent

This spring has brought numerous things to celebrate. The first thing I would like to mention is the Teacher Achievement Award that was presented to Ms. Rebecca Goossens. She was awarded a \$15,000 check as the recipient winner. We are excited to see her being recognized for all of the great work that she does here at Triton. She is also the lead of the Triton BPA which recently had a number of students that did very well in the state competition. Our Broadcast News Team of Kailey Ellingson, Mariel Faber and Natalie Robinson were the State Champions. We also had the second in state Broadcast News Team with Talia Kelley, Kaitlyn Krupa and Lydia Stanton. We also had Makena Jensen place in the top ten at the state competition for Interview Skills. This program has consistently produced amazing results and achievement for our Triton students. This is definitely a program to be proud of as a Cobra!

Since I am talking about programs to be proud of this month, I must mention my recent visit to the high school band classroom. Mr. Elijah Gray is in his first year leading the band program and has created an atmosphere of pride. I was able to stop into his classroom the other day to check in on a rehearsal and was so proud of what was and is happening in that classroom. He has started a new tradition of having the students stand at the end of their rehearsal to play the school song. I can honestly say, I was moved by that experience and the energy that was in the classroom. The students were playing the school song and genuinely excited and cheering, it was a very cool experience that I was able to record and post on my Twitter feed. I told Mr. Gray that I would be looking forward to stopping in more often for the mini pepfest that was taking place in his classroom.

Ms. Cassidy Breer presented the FCCLA (Family, Career and Community Leaders of America) Program to the school board in April. This is a newer program to Triton since Ms. Breer started it a couple of years ago. She has volunteered her time to get this program off the ground and going. I have asked the board to approve a new paid position on our extra-curricular contract to solidify this program for the future. The students have already been competing and being recognized for their accomplishments. Not only do they perform community service as an organization, but they also partner with local business and industry for their projects and competitions. I am excited to see what the future has in store for this amazing program.

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

4-H Club Pancake Breakfast



Eden Progressive Gophers 4-H club held a pancake breakfast Sunday April 11th. The event was at the West Concord American Legion and the members and parents served customers who drove up for their plate of pancakes, scrambled eggs, sausages and juice from 8 am to noon.

Dodge County Hockey player Makes All-State

(continued from page 1)

"I can't do it by myself. My linemates Matt Donovan, Gavin Giesler and Brendon Wolesky for some of the year, they help me a lot and just shooting pucks in the driveway when I was younger I would say got my shot good," Brody Lamb said. "Vision on the ice helps, too."

PLAYER OF THE YEAR Brody Lamb, Dodge County FIRST TEAM

- Forward — Brody Lamb, junior, Dodge County
- Forward — Kyle Kukkonen, senior, Maple Grove
- Forward — Carter Batchelder, senior, Eden Prairie
- Defense — Jack Peart, senior,

Grand Rapids

Defense — Joe Palodichuk, senior, Hill-Murray

Goalie — Jack Wieneke, senior, Maple Grove

SECOND TEAM

- Forward — Zam Plante, sophomore, Hermantown
- Forward — Luke Levandowski, senior, Rosemount
- Forward — Layten Liffing, senior, Mankato East/Loyola
- Defense — Henry Nelson, senior, Maple Grove
- Defense — Luke Mittelstadt, senior, Eden Prairie
- Goalie — Alex Timmons, senior, Gentry Academy

TRITON CLASS OF 2021



SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

Daegan Dostal is a senior at Triton High School. His parents are Rod and Gena Dostal and he is a brother to Braedon, Sabryn, Landon and Ameryn.

He likes playing Football, cross country, volleyball and track and field.

After school he likes working out.

His favorite food is Plaza Morena Chicken sandwich. His favorite band is Dire Straights.

After graduation he plans to attend Winona State University.



DAEGAN DOSTAL

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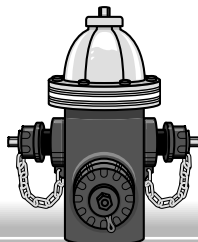
Morrow's Gifts



PUBLIC NOTICE

2021 Hydrant Flushing Schedule

May 10-12
 June 7-9
 July 12-14
 August 9-11
 September 13-15
 October 18-20



The West Concord Firemen's Relief Association would like to acknowledge the following individuals for their generous contributions during the first quarter of 2021. Some of these contributions were provided as direct gifts, while others were provided in memoriam of individuals who have passed-on. Your contributions will help the Department in their mission to provide superior service and protection to those charged in our care, while honoring the memory of those loved, and lost.

West Concord Firemen's Relief Association Donations & Memorials; Quarter 1, 2021

In memory of John Chapin

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 Mary Lou & Glenn Hanson
 Lyle & Betty Chapin
 Charlie & Sue Rohwer
 Twin Creek Farms - Kevin Rohwer
 Family of John Chapin

In memory of Avonelle Mathias

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Saturday, May 1
3:00-6:00 PM

Mexican
Mariachi Band
playing in bar!



May Drink of the Month **Naked Prairie \$3.50**

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Busch Light bottles \$3.00
Bud Light, Budweiser, Michelob,
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City of West Concord

A Proud Heritage, A Bright Future

City Council Meeting March 18, 2021 7:00pm

(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, Sam Schollmeier and Jeff Burse

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

Additions to the Agenda:

None

Consent Calendar was presented as follows:

- Approval of Special City Council Meeting Minutes for February 18, 2021
- Approval of Special City Council Meeting Minutes for March 4, 2021
- Approval of Incidental Bills Paid
- Review of City Financial Reports

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

Public Comment

None

City Business:

Approval of 616 6th Street Lot Purchase – Plante, Administrator

Administrator Plante provided an update to the Council that the original bid that was accepted for 6161 6th Street fell through due to unexpected construction costs for the purchaser. Taylor Ehrler, who initially had made an offer on 619 6th Street requested that the Council consider transferring her offer to the 616 6th Street lot on the same terms and conditions as her previous offer.

Motion by Councilmember Peterson, seconded by Councilmember Burse to approve the sale of 616 6th Street to Taylor Ehrler for a price of \$6,100. Motion carried. 5 Ayes. 0 Nays.

2020 Audit Presentation –Greg Burkhardt, City Auditor

Mr. Burkhardt provide the Council with the annual audit report. The audit showed that overall City funds increased to over slightly \$2.5 million dollars, which reflects approximately a 20 month reserve. Overall the City is in sound fiscal health but there were areas noted that could be improved in financial record keeping.

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

Approve MetroNET Letter Agreement – Plante, Administrator

The City and the EDA have been working with MetroNET regarding the possibility of their company providing fiber internet, and other services, to City residents. The Letter Agreement, which has been reviewed and meets with the approval of the City Attorney, outlines the duties and responsibilities of each of the parties. If approved, construction could start as soon as May and finish up by the end of the summer.

Motion by Council Member Schollmeier, seconded by Council Member Ripley to approve the Letter Agreement with MetroNET. 5 Yeas. 0 Nays. Carried.

Approval of Signatory Authorizations – Plante, Administrator

Annually the City determines who has signing power on behalf of the City. Due to the resignation of Administrator Plante, it was requested to have Mr. Joel Diehn approved as an authorized signatory.

Motion by Council Member Peterson, seconded by Council Member Ripley to approve having Mr. Diehn added as an authorized signer for City affairs and to remove Administrator Plante. 5 Yeas. 0 Nays. Carried.

Street Sweeping Services– Clammer, Maintenance

Mr. Clammer sought authorization to contract for street sweeping services.

Motion by Council Member Schollmeier, seconded by Council Member Ripley to allow Mr. Clammer to contract for those services provided he receives a second bid. 5 Yeas. 0 Nays. Carried.

Line Stripping Services– Clammer, Maintenance

Mr. Clammer sought authorization to have line stripping completed within the City. The Council had provided Mr. Clammer to procure those services.

PERA Opt Out – Joel Diehn, Interim Administrator

Mr. Dhein requested that the Council allow him to opt out of PERA contributions and to have those funds deposited to a deferred compensation plan. There would be no additional cost to the City.

Motion by Council Member Peterson, seconded by Council Member Burse to allow Mr. Diehn to opt out of PERA contributions and have those funds deposited in to a deferred compensation plan. 5 Yeas. 0 Nays. Carried.

Compost Site Discussion – Clammer, Maintenance

Mr. Clammer asked for the Council to consider how they would like to see the compost site operated this year. The options include, but are not limited to, allowing the site to be open at all hours, to having limited staff hours, or to have staffed hours while also having a key at City Hall for non-staffed hours. Mr. Clammer cautioned about his concern for potential misuse. The Council will reconsider this item at a future meeting.

Administrator Updates: Mike Plante, City Administrator

Plante provided updates on various City topics including the reopening City Hall, reacquiring the Stubbs property, the Council Chamber remodel, a People’s Service rate increase, and the start date for the full-time police chief.

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

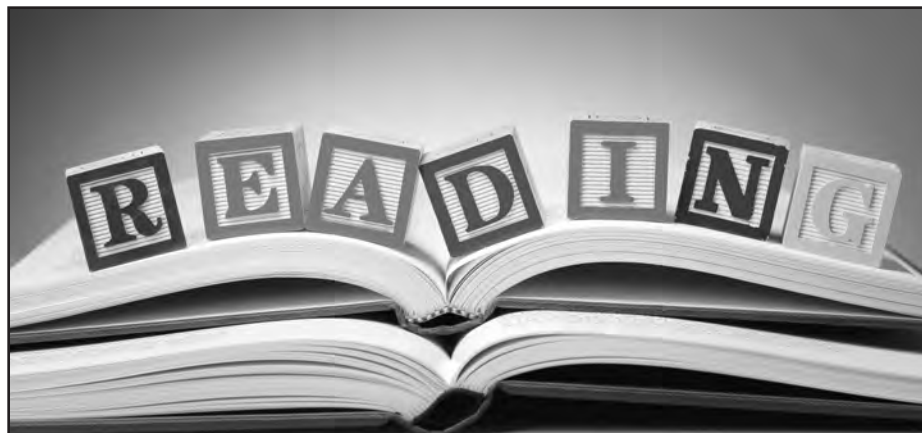
West Concord Public Library

We are planning to start Story time at Lions Park in May, weather permitting. The first story time is planned for Tuesday, May 4th, at 10:00 am. A take home craft will be provided for children after story time.

Our Summer Reading Program will begin in June. Watch for more information regarding sign up, events, etc.

Do you have any extra seeds, or would you like to find a few different seeds for your garden? The library has started a seed exchange. Bring your extra seeds in or look for some seeds you may like to plant. We will continue this service throughout planting season.

Many new books and DVDs have arrived. Appointments are required. We are still following Covid 19 guidelines for capacity, social distancing, and masking.



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 recently found out that a former coworker of mine at KDHL passed away. Some of you might remember Tom Wynn. If you're from the Fargo area you certainly would remember him. Tom was a long time morning host at KFGO in Fargo. In 1989 after KDHL was sold to Ingstad Broadcasting, Tom was hired to come and be the morning host at KDHL. I was the farm broadcaster at KDHL during this time. Tom sold his house in Fargo, bought one in Faribault and made the move. It was only a few months into the job that he realized that he missed Fargo so after about 6 months he sold his Faribault house and bought one in Fargo

again and took back his old job at KFGO. He worked 37 of his 60 years in radio at KFGO. Early in his career he worked at WDGY in the Twin Cities.

It was about the same time that when Tom left Fargo to come to Faribault, Dave Lee left KFGO to go to work at WCCO. Prior to his going to the 'good neighbor', Dave did some consulting work at KDHL and I briefly got to work with Dave in Faribault. Dave is retiring this spring after being at 'CCO' since 1989. Tom retired from KFGO in 2017. Tom co-hosted his morning show at KFGO with a guy I got to know, Larry Ristvedt on the Tom and Larry show. Larry was the farm and ranch director for many years at the 'Mighty 790' in Fargo. I would see him once a year at our annual convention of the National Association of Farm Broadcasting in Kansas City. Larry retired in 2010 and passed away in 2013.

It's always hard to see people you've crossed paths with along life's journey pass away. KDHL Hall of Fame sports broadcaster Mike Morrissey passed away a few years back. He was one of the first guys I met when I was hired at KDHL in 1987. Mike and I got along great and always had fun when we'd visit on the radio. During my radio career, I seldom got to do any sports play by play or color commentary. I did however get to do one very memorable game with Mike in the winter of 1989/90. Mike asked me if I'd like to do color commentary for the St Olaf-Carleton basketball game. I jumped at the opportunity. I

thought it would be great fun. KDHL at the time was broadcasting the St Olaf football and basketball games. And I thought what better game to work than the Northfield rivalry of St Olaf and Carleton.

So Mike and I headed to West Gym on the Carleton campus to get set up for the basketball game. As we get there early, we notice a big white sheet hanging on the far wall of the gym. On it was painted in big black letters; Remember 33-0. Mike, who had broadcast the St Olaf/Carleton football game in the fall of 89, said that refers to the drubbing Carleton gave the Oles in that game. Some of the students were trying to rub it into the St Olaf squad but the Carleton coach wanted nothing to do with this. He did not want to give St Olaf any more incentive to play hard that night so he had the maintenance crew take it down. So Mike and I thought that was the end of that. Not so fast!

It was halftime of the game and Mike and I were taking a break while we sent it back to the studio for a news and weather update. While we're sitting at our broadcast position high above the court on the east end as the halftime was nearing an end, here come three male St Olaf students streaking into the gym. If you remember the streaking craze back in the day, they were wearing nothing but tennis shoes and two smiles, one horizontal and one vertical smile. They were carrying the very sheet that alluded to the 33-0 football score that had been removed earlier by the coach's demand. The 3 literally and figuratively

streaked to center court and laid the sheet down in the middle of the floor so the St Olaf fans could read it again.

They spread it out on the floor nice and neat and started running away when one of them comes back to tidy up one of the corners of the sheet. Evidently his mother taught him well how to make a bed. Just at this point, in come two security men, fully clothed mind you, who were going to try and stop this prank from continuing. Out the far door at full speed went the three streakers with the two security people in hot pursuit. We never knew if they caught them.

The custodian who had removed the sheet from the wall before the game, calmly walked out to center court to remove again the dirty laundry.

Mike and I get back on the air for the second half and Mike's explaining some of the halftime entertainment that Carleton College had provided and I said yes there's a full moon in Northfield tonight, in fact three of them. St Olaf went on to win the game but the halftime show was the most memorable part of the evening. That along with the memories of getting to work with a Hall of Famer in Mike Morrissey.

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(continued from page 1)

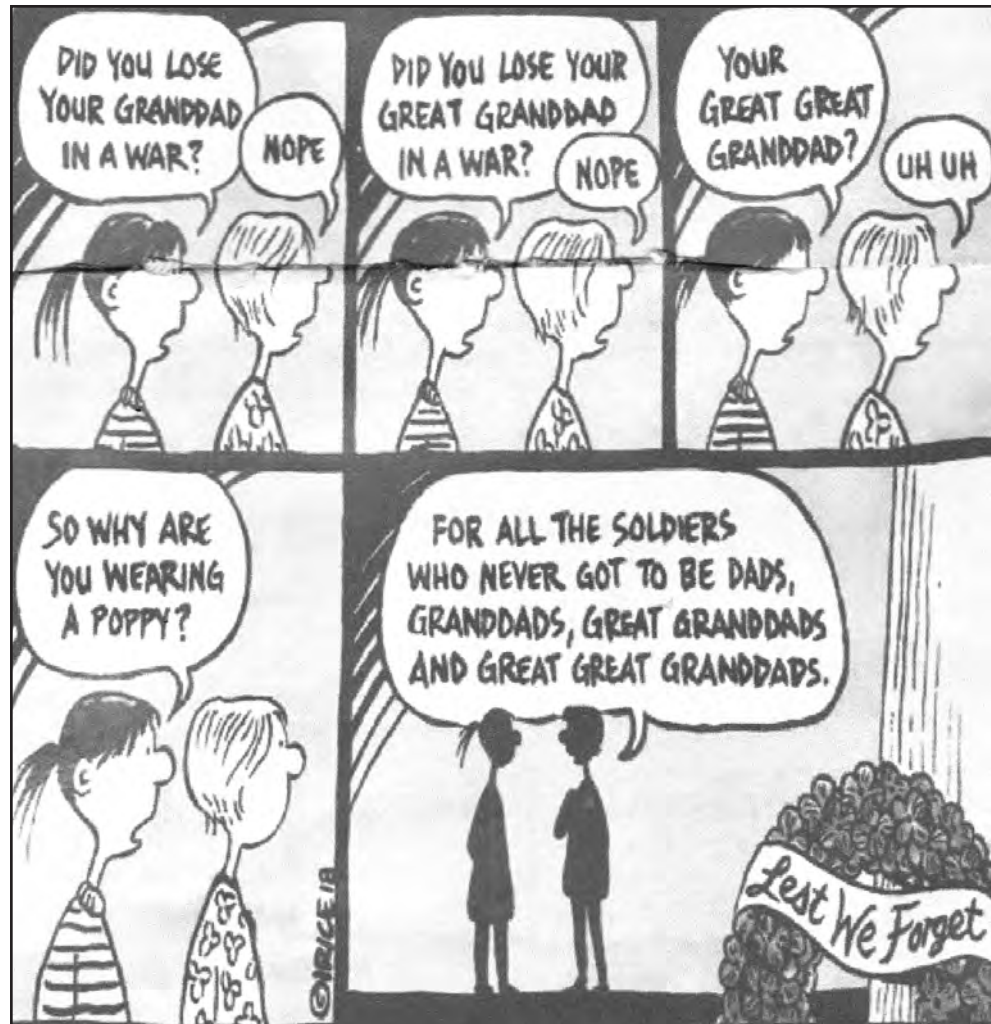
The Buddy Poppy was inspired by the poem, "In Flanders Field", written during the First World War by Canadian physician Lieutenant-Colonel John McCrae. He was inspired to write it on May 3, 1915, after presiding over the funeral of friend and fellow soldier Lieutenant Alexis Helmer, who died in the Second Battle of Ypres. According to legend, fellow soldiers retrieved the poem after McCrae, initially dissatisfied with his work, discarded it. "In Flanders Fields" was first published on December 8 of that year in the London magazine Punch.

In Flanders Fields

*In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.*

*We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved and now we lie
In Flanders fields.*

*Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you, from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow,
In Flanders fields.*



Is Diabetes a Problem in Pets?

"Diabetes mellitus is one of the most common hormonal diseases of dogs and cats," said Dr. Gal. "Treatment of diabetes requires the owner to give daily injections of insulin to the diabetic pet, to switch the pet to a 'diabetes-friendly' diet, and to make frequent visits to the veterinarian to make sure the diabetes is in control."



Maintaining control of the diabetes means giving the right dose of insulin to keep the pet's glucose levels in a safe range to avoid hypoglycemia, or low levels of glucose in the blood. The time, stress, and expense of having a diabetic pet takes a toll on the owner.

"A recent study reported that 20 percent of dogs and cats were euthanized within a year of their diagnosis with diabetes due to the impact that the intensive management of diabetes has on the perceived quality of life of both the pet and the owner," Dr. Gal noted.

Finding a treatment that could reduce diabetic pets' dependence on insulin shots could help more of these pets live longer.

The gastrointestinal microbiome has been defined as "a highly diverse community of microorganisms, primarily bacteria, that inhabit the intestinal tract." There are trillions of bacteria living the intestinal tract of mammals, far more than the number of cells that make up the individual's entire body.

"The gut microbiome has recently been recognized as functioning like a hormonal organ (e.g., the thyroid and pancreas) because it produces hormone-like molecules that affect dog and cat tissues," Dr. Gal said. "Several types of intestinal bacteria produce short-chain fatty acids (SCFAs) by fermentation of dietary fiber. SCFAs influence energy levels, the immune system, and the health of the intestine.

"Recent studies have indicated a strong link between lower levels of SCFAs made by bacteria in the gut and diseases such as pre-diabetes and diabetes in people. Cats with diabetes have also been found to have fewer SCFA-producing bacteria in their gut microbiomes."

It is thought that SCFAs may impact diabetes by producing a substance called glucagon-like peptide 1 (GLP-1), which makes the pancreas more responsive to blood glucose levels.

"Transplantation of feces from a healthy donor into the intestine of a sick patient have been done successfully in people, laboratory rodents, and dogs," explained Dr. Gal. "The procedure was shown to improve insulin sensitivity in obese humans with diabetes. In a recent study from New Zealand, fecal transplantation from healthy dog donors resulted in enriched 'good bacteria' for up to 30 days in dogs with acute intestinal inflammation and hemorrhage after a single fecal transplantation."

Dr. Gal believes that fecal transplantation has the ability to reshape the microbiome ecology of pets.

"We are on the verge of a new era in veterinary (and human) medicine where we can substantially improve the clinical control of diabetes in dogs and people by manipulating gut microbiota," he said.

"Cats develop diabetes through a different pathway from dogs. I believe fecal transplantation has a high potential to induce remission in cats with diabetes, working through the relationship of GLP-1 to pancreatic insulin to substantially improve glucose tolerance and insulin sensitivity."

"Currently, it is not known whether transplanting intestinal microbiota from healthy donors to diabetic patients will re-establish 'good bacteria' that make SCFAs, decrease the 'bad bacteria' associated with diabetes, and lead to better control of blood glucose levels," said Dr. Gal.

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Kenyon Native Named Goodhue County Citizen of the Year

Ray Sands of rural Kenyon, was named Goodhue County Citizen of the year this winter. Ninety-year old Sands started his musical journey eight decades ago when as a nine year old he received an accordion as a gift from his parents. Soon after he was playing music with the family and he knew he always wanted to be a musician. One of Sands favorite band leaders is Lawrence Welk. He recalls seeing him many years ago at the Prom Ballroom in St. Paul, where he watched him from the front row and decided right there to be a band leader. He was also a farmer, milking his cows and running his land until he was eighty years old.

The Polka Dots were formed in 1949 to play a concert to raise funds for a new community hospital in Zumbrota. They continued to play together and recorded their first album in 1953. The band has played continuously since that time, but Ray is the only original member left. Sands remembers the original band members as all great

guys. They drove to many venues to perform over the years and recalls one night traveling to Hersey, Wisconsin. "Coming into town and we see a streetlight. Turns out it was a Hiawatha Train going 85 mph. The car stopped just inches from it. It took the boys a while to calm down before playing. On the way back out of town we stopped to check the railroad crossing out," Sands relates. "Blown over by the wind and laying in the grass was the black and white crossing sign. We could just imagine the headlines – Entire Orchestra Killed by Train."

Some of the highlights for the band include being invited to play at the International Polka Festival in Kitzbuhel, Austria. One hundred and fifty friends and fans accompanied the band. A few years later, the band and its fans toured Scandinavia. Another highlight was performing a concert at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington DC representing the state of Minnesota in 1997.

In November of 2000, Ray Sands and the Polka Dots were inducted into the Minnesota Music Hall of Fame. One of his most notable appearances was in October of 2010 when he did a show with Garrison Keillor at the State Theater in Zumbrota. The following January 23rd the band performed at the Rochester Mayo Civic Center with Keillor's Prairie Home Companion along with "Sweet Dreams" a girl's trio from Kenyon, Wanamingo and Goodhue. This show appeared on over 700 stations to 4.3 million viewers worldwide.

Ray wrote "The Polka Dots Waltz" and "How Soon?". His wife Sue composed "Bryan's Polka" for their grandson. His favorite song is the Ping Pong Polka, which was popular in the early 1950's. "Flyswatter" is a unique tune that was recorded by the California alternative rock band, The Eels. They asked Sue to arrange it "polka style" and was performed by The Eels on the Late Night Show with David Letterman.

Sands said he and the band's music was featured in a 2016 film called "His Neighbor Phil," about a woman with Alzheimer's disease. The movie features Stephanie Zimbalist and Daniel Roebuck. Sands said the first sound of the movie is from the group's old-time hit song "The Ping Pong Polka." He said the reason the band was asked to participate in the movie was because of music's known effect on people with Alzheimer's.

Ray says "we only played four gigs in 2020. So, you get out of practice. I picked up the accordion to play and my fingers



Ray Sands
Goodhue County Citizen of the Year

were rusty. We have some shows to do this year, but it is getting close to the end."

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Tim Penny
So. MN Initiative Foundation

This past year has shown all of us what it means to serve others. Southern Minnesotans have stepped up to stock food shelves, provide support for children during distance learning and find creative ways to support businesses and nonprofits that are struggling. At Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation (SMIF) we work to help our neighbors in many ways, including by placing people in service roles across our 20-county region through the national AmeriCorps program.

As a congressman, I voted to support the creation of AmeriCorps 26 years ago. I

have been pleased to see how central this program has become to our culture of service in this country. AmeriCorps members commit their time in key areas of education, economic opportunity, disaster response, healthy futures, environmental stewardship and veteran support. More than 270,000 Americans across the country serve through AmeriCorps and AmeriCorps Seniors each year to meet critical needs in communities – this has recently been expanded because of the needs that have arisen during the pandemic. Additionally, AmeriCorps is proud to boast more than one million alumni. SMIF has placed more than 600 AmeriCorps members throughout southern Minnesota over the past 26 years.

SMIF is the host organization for a program that focuses on early childhood development called AmeriCorps LEAP (Learning Early Achieves Potential) Initiative. We place up to 20 members in early childhood settings across our region. Members work one-on-one and in small groups with young children, ages three to five, building social and emotional proficiencies to prepare for kindergarten success.

SMIF is also the host for the AmeriCorps VISTA program which helps build capacity for organizations dedicated to providing economic opportunities to citizens in low-income or poverty circumstances. This year SMIF placed three VISTAs across the region and is hosting an additional two VISTA members in partnership with Minnesota Farmers Market Association,

Renewing the Countryside and Sustainable Farming Association. These two VISTAs are working on a Local Food Producer Sustainability Project. James Harren will be developing a needs-based assessment for local food producers to identify where they need support, while Maeve Mallozzi-Kelly will be doing the same thing for farmers and market managers. We are also pleased to be hosting two additional AmeriCorps members: Maddy Fisher is advancing diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives in the region through Lead for Minnesota, and Aliyah Grote-Hirsch is supporting SMIF with recruitment and marketing for the AmeriCorps LEAP program.

One of the things that I love about AmeriCorps is that it embraces members from all stages of life. One of our current LEAP members, Adriana Bermudez, is serving for a second year in her hometown of Northfield and is simultaneously earning her associate's degree. Her experience in the program has influenced her to pursue a career as an early childhood teacher. Another member, Maurya Torgerson, used to own a cosmetology business before she became a parent.. Her time in AmeriCorps has been a meaningful stepping stone as she thinks about re-entering the workforce and earning a degree in social work.

Other AmeriCorps members, like Peggy Rankin who is in her fourth year of service through LEAP at the Sherburn PreK, are retired professionals looking to give back to their communities. Members who complete their service term receive an award which



can be used for paying off student loans or furthering their education. Those members who are 55 or older can gift their award to a child or grandchild. Peggy Rankin gifted her education awards to grandchildren in college.

As we have experienced this past year, we are all invested in helping our neighbors and making this region a place we are proud to call home. It has been incredible to see the impact that AmeriCorps has had in on children and nonprofits in our region over the past 26 years.

We are currently accepting full- and half-time applications for the 2021 – 2022 school year for AmeriCorps LEAP. For questions or to apply, contact Barbara Gunderson, AmeriCorps Director, at 507-456-0353 or barbarag@smifoundation.org. Learn more about AmeriCorps at AmeriCorps.gov.

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

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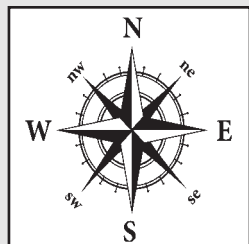
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Changes in Latitudes, Changes in Attitudes



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.

I am sitting on my front porch this morning with my dog. Eating a granola bar and drinking ice water. The morning sunrise is beautiful. The only sounds I hear are the birds singing in the branches and a distant rooster crowing. Our neighbor has peafowl and the lonesome call of a peacock can be heard from time to time. The daffodils are

smiling at the sun with their cheerful yellow petals everywhere. There is a magnolia tree beside the house and light pink blossoms are opening up in the warm spring releasing a fresh fragrance.

It is a peaceful time of the day. I love to relax here in the morning and again late in the evening and think. I look at nature and I reflect on miracles all around me. It is such a wonderful experience to take in all that is welcoming the creation we live in. Then I think about something from church Sunday morning.

One woman related about her week, and how she was at the hospital with her dying mother. The family was there and they were praying for a miracle. For two days the elderly lady had not opened her eyes or said a word. A nurse came in to check on her mom and the family went out into the hall to visit.

Suddenly they heard her call out and the daughters rushed back into the room. Their mother opened her eyes, looked at them and smiled. "Do you see the angels?" she asked. With that she closed her eyes and then she was gone. Carried by angels from this life to her eternal home. That, I would say is a miracle.

A Minnesotan: In the Cities



By RosaLin Alcoser

Back in the late fall there were two things that I said I would not be doing ever. The first was change jobs in the middle of the pandemic. The second was move in the winter. So of course I did both this year.

My parents moved in February of 2019 during a polar vortex which they described to be one of the most difficult moves that they have ever moved and they have moved a lot. After hearing all about that move back when it happened I decided that if I moved back north I would never ever move in the winter.

February of this year I moved from northwestern Minnesota to the Twin Cities on one of the coldest weeks of the year. Needless to say while it was not a polar vortex nor was there much snow moving in the dead of winter was not in my original plans for this year.

I definitely did not plan on moving during the pandemic to go from fairly remote, sometimes, news reporting to an in person marketing job. However, over all the moving on one of the coldest weeks of the pandemic went well. Even if it does mean that I now have to be a city person for the foreseeable future.



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Dear Savvy Senior,
My elderly father gets over 100 pieces of junk mail every week, and I just discovered that he's given away nearly \$5,000 over the past few months to many of the solicitors that mail him this junk. Can you offer any tips on how can I stop this?
—Irritated Son

Dear Irritated,
 Millions of older Americans get bombarded with unwanted junk mail these days, including "mail fraud" schemes that you and your dad need to be particularly careful of. Here's are some tips that may help.

Mail Fraud Alert
 While junk mail comes in many different forms – credit card applications, sweepstakes entries, magazine offers, coupon mailers, donation requests, political fliers, catalogs and more – the most troublesome type is mail fraud, which comes from con artists who are only trying to take your money.

Mail fraud can be tricky to detect because there are many different types of schemes out there that may seem legitimate. Some of the most common mail scams targeting seniors today are phony sweepstakes, foreign lotteries, free prize or vacation scams, fake checks, donation requests from charities or government agencies that don't exist, get-rich chain letters, work-at-home schemes, inheritance and investment scams, and many more.

If your dad is getting any type of junk mail that is asking for money in exchange for free gifts or winnings, or if he's receiving checks that require him to wire money, you need to call the U.S. Postal Inspector Service at 877-876-2455 and report it, and then throw it away.

Unfortunately, once a person gets on these mail fraud lists, also known as "suckers lists," it's very difficult to get off. That's because these criminals regularly trade and sell mailing lists of people who they believe to be susceptible to fraud, and they won't remove a name when you request it.

Knowing this, a good first step to help protect your dad is to alert him to the different kinds of mail fraud and what to watch for. The U.S. Postal Inspection Service can help you with this. They offer a list of the different mail fraud schemes at Postallnspectors.uspis.gov.

Another option is to see if your dad would be willing to let you sort through his mail before he opens it so you can weed out the junk. You may want to have the post office forward his mail directly to you to ensure this.

If your dad feels compelled to donate to certain charities, ask him to let you check them out first to make sure they're legitimate. You can do this at charity watchdog sites like CharityNavigator.org and Give.org.

Reduce Junk Mail
 While scam artists aren't likely to take your dad's name off their mailing lists, most legitimate mail-order businesses will. To do this, start with the Direct Marketing Association, which offers a consumer opt-out service at DMAchoice.org. This won't eliminate all his junk mail, but it will reduce it. The opt-out service is \$2 for 10 years if you register online, or \$3 by mail.

Then, to put a stop to the credit card and insurance offers he gets, call the consumer credit reporting industry opt-out service at 888-567-8688, and follow the automated prompts to opt him out for either five years or permanently. Be prepared to give his Social Security number and date of birth. You can also do this online at OptOutPrescreen.com. If you choose the permanent opt-out, you'll have to send a form in the mail.

You should also make sure your dad's home and cell phone numbers are registered with the National Do Not Call Registry to help cut down on telemarketing calls.

CROSSWORD

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- ACROSS
1. Hedgehog of video games
 6. And so forth, acronym
 9. *Oscar-nominated black and white movie
 13. Treeless plain
 14. Grazing field
 15. Moses' mountain
 16. Sty sounds
 17. Nelson Mandela's org.
 18. Like beer at a kegger (2 words)
 19. *Posthumous nominee
 21. *Anthony of "The Father"
 23. "What's up, ____?"
 24. Huge pile
 25. Protestant denom.
 28. Feed storage cylinder
 30. Load again
 35. Relating to ear
 37. Flighty one
 39. Proclaimed true without proof
 40. Musician David Lee ____
 41. Ascetic holy Hindu
 43. Eastern European
 44. Plural of #10 Down
 46. 500 sheets
 47. Looking for aliens org.
 48. Kitchen whistler
 50. Wails
 52. Bad-mouth
 53. Medieval torture device
 55. Pied Piper follower
 57. Politburo hat fur
 61. *Daniel of "Judas and the Black Messiah"
 65. Raspberry drupelets
 66. Fuss, to Shakespeare
 68. Void, as in marriage
 69. Defective car
 70. Given name of Jack Kerouac's Paradise
 71. ____ of Honor
 72. Adam and Eve's first residence
 73. Money in Myanmar
 74. Shoemaker without shoes, e.g.

- DOWN
1. Undesirable roommate
 2. Medley
 3. Grannies, in UK
 4. Tattooed
 5. Universe
 6. Panache
 7. *Most 2021 Oscar nominations for one film, #9 Across
 8. Secret storage
 9. Stole fur
 10. One opposed
 11. Indian restaurant staple
 12. U.S. customary unit of force, pl.
 15. Soaked
 20. DNA and RNA
 22. Argonaut's propeller
 24. Shared work surface at an office
 25. *Sasha Baron Cohen's "Subsequent Moviefilm" role
 26. Be sorry for one's wickedness
 27. Pita, in UK
 29. *Like Roberto Benigni's fictional son
 31. Husband to a widow, e.g.
 32. Checked out
 33. Stradivari competitor
 34. **"Fences" winner and "Ma Rainey" nominee
 36. Poker ante
 38. **"Nomadland" director
 42. Shadow
 45. *The Trial of the Chicago 7" screenwriter
 49. Greek "t"
 51. Sandwich sausage
 54. Necklace lock
 56. Radio receiver
 57. Nutritious leafy green
 58. Got A+
 59. Ice on a window
 60. Happening soon, old fashioned
 61. Caffeine-containing nut tree
 62. Editing arrow
 63. Chinese monetary unit
 64. Friend in war
 67. *Nominee for Billie Holiday role

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