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Triton Educator Earns Outstanding Educator Award



Rebecca Goossens

By Kenya Narveson

Rebecca Goossens, a teacher at Triton High School, is being honored with the 2021 Outstanding Educator Award given by the WEM Foundation and Synergy & Leadership Exchange. This award is accompanied with \$15,000. She is one of six educators being honored by the WEM Foundation and Synergy & Leadership Exchange for outstanding accomplishments and contributions to student learning. She is one of two recipients of the Teacher Achievement Award, which recognizes exemplary teachers who support, inspire and assist students to attain greater learning as evidenced by student achievement.

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Triton Senior elected State FFA Reporter

Anna Ridenour was elected to a state FFA office last month. Here she describes her experiences in her own words.

I am currently a senior at Triton High School, and I have a younger sister, Tegan, who is a sophomore. My parents are Rex and Malinda Quam, who work as a Farm Business Management Instructor and Pediatric Nurse when they aren't in the barn. I was born and raised in the Denver suburbs, and moved to Dodge Center with my mom and sister when I was six years old. I begged my mom to buy a farm so that I could have animals, which led to my family's livestock operation.

I have always been active within my community and school. I am currently active in FFA, 4-H, soccer, theater, National Honors Society, Junior Minnesota Meat Goat Association, and serve as Class President. However, I have a deep fondness for FFA, which I joined in 6th grade. Originally, I just wanted to show livestock at the county fair, but since then, I have learned so much about premier leadership, personal growth, and career success. I've had great opportunities to interact with a variety of people, whether it's farmers in our community or members from across the state.

(continued on page 6)



Anna Ridenour

Triton Junior Repairs Small Engines



Vern "Cody" Cunningham

Vern "Cody" Cunningham is in the eleventh grade at Triton High School. He grew up in Dodge Center and his family moved to a farm in the country north of town when he was seven years old.

(continued on page 6)

Memorial Day schedule for Services

Memorial Day services schedule for 2021 will held at 9am at Hegre cemetery, 9:15am at St. Vincent cemetery and 10:30am at Concord cemetery. In case of bad weather the service will be held indoors at the West Concord Historical Society building. Cemetery services will also be held at Milton cemetery at 9:20am and at Berne cemetery at 9:45am.

Dollar General Seeks to Reshape Small Towns

By Brian Depew
SMALL TOWNS

Dollar General has become a ubiquitous feature of America's small towns. The discount retailer is opening new stores at a rate of 1,000 a year.

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What Do You Smell Like?



By Pastor Roger Langworthy
Pastor; Praise Fellowship Church
www.pfc-of-dc.org

A few weeks ago, when we had a spell of warm weather, I was out riding on my motorcycle and made note of how my senses were heightened by the multitude of aromas. Some are very pleasant and some... not so much. Some of the best are freshly mowed grass, freshly worked field dirt, blossoms on the trees, curing cut alfalfa (a little later in the season). Some less pleasant ones are the waste of farm animals. And there is a distinct difference between dairy, poultry, and swine. I remember growing up on a farm and the phrase used to describe these waste odors was, "smells like money." And then the worst - roadkill, especially skunks. This reminds me of a song that you who grew up in the '70s will appreciate, "dead skunk in the middle of the road and it is stinkin' to high heaven"

There are a few aromas of which my wife and I differ about whether it is a pleasant smell or an unpleasant one. Like riding past a farm with the distinct aroma of silage. Mmmm...I think it smells great.

Melanie thinks it smells awful. It is interesting to observe how the same smell can evoke different responses. Most people don't care for the smell of gasoline, but I have a daughter who loves to stand at the pump when filling the car with gas, as she loves the smell of raw gasoline. Go figure.

Then there are aromas that smell good in one place and bad in another. For example, cigar smoke at a farm auction. Somehow it just fits. But the same smell in a dairy barn...it's just wrong. I remember this when I was a Dairy Herd Improvement Association Technician for Dodge County. I don't know if it is the combination with the dairy barn aroma or if it is the heightened alert to hot ash falling in straw and a potential barn fire.

So, what does all this have to do with my question posed in the title of this article - "What Do You Smell Like?" I am not asking you if you have used deodorant or not, or what kind of perfume, cologne, or body spray you use. What I am suggesting is that

if you are a follower of Jesus, you may have an aroma about you that to some may smell very good and to others it is putrid. In 2 Corinthians 2:14-16 it says, "But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and manifests through us the sweet aroma of the knowledge of Him in every place. For we are a fragrance of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing; to the one an aroma from death to death, to the other an aroma from life to life. And who is adequate for these things?"

The "aroma" spoken of in this passage is used metaphorically as the kind of reaction that people will have to you as a result of you living in a manner that reflects the character and the nature of Jesus Christ. To some it will be very pleasant as your words and deeds will remind them of the eternal

life that they have because they have put their trust in Jesus as their Savior and Lord, or they are seeking to know how to do so. To others, you will remind them of death, or a confrontive kind of perspective that reminds them that the ways of Jesus and eternal life are contrary to their choices and they have no intent of changing. This would be described in Romans 1:18-21 that makes reference to those that know the truth about God, but suppress it, and the result is they become darkened in their own understanding, and sadly, their choice will lead to destruction. (Matthew 7:13-14)

For more information on this whole subject you are invited to attend our 9:30am service on Sunday, May 23. Or check out the sermons page of our website as this message will be posted after the fact.

FAITH IN ACTION NEEDS YOU!

Covid 19 has been hard on most individuals. It has closed down many of the things that we all hold dear - seeing family, worshiping together in church, going out to a favorite restaurant, browsing in shops, and on and on. Faith in Action has felt the impact of the pandemic also. Many of our limited volunteer drivers chose to put volunteering on hold early on in the pandemic. At first, it didn't effect our services because most medical appointments were canceled or postponed so there was no need for transportation services. As things began opening up, appointments became available again but some drivers still weren't comfortable transporting someone in the confines of their cars. The vaccine is helping to get us back on track but there is still an urgent need for volunteers to drive seniors to appointments.

Being a volunteer for Faith in Action is a very flexible position. When clients call for transportation, our coordinator contacts volunteers with the dates and times needed. At that point, it is the volunteer's decision whether they can take the transport or not. If not, the coordinator will contact other volunteers to fill the need. In a given month, a volunteer might choose to provide transportation for seniors perhaps 1 to 4 times. Please consider putting your "faith in action" by becoming a Faith in Action volunteer driver. On our website, fiadodgecounty.org (under forms on the menu) you will find a volunteer application to print, complete and return. If you do not have internet access, please call 507-634-3654 for an application.



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<p>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</p>
<p>Hegre Lutheran, ELCA 51939 Highway 56 Blvd., Kenyon • 507-527-2353 Sunday: 9:15a.m. Sunday School; 10:30a.m. Worship</p>
<p>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.</p>
<p>United Methodist 2nd & Main, West Concord • 507-475-1157 Pastor Mark Schlasner Sunday 9:30a.m. Worship</p>
<p>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</p>
<p>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</p>

Area Church Directory

Armed with a Bow

Scripture Reading — Revelation 6:2
There before me was a white horse! Its rider held a bow. . . . — Revelation 6:2

What does it mean that the rider on a white horse "held a bow"? Are we to imagine a soldier who has the training to kill with a bow and arrow? Or perhaps we picture a hunter, with bow in hand, standing over a downed deer.

It is tempting to read God's story that way. But if we did, we would think the first rider is all about bringing death and destruction. To read the story that way would miss the surprising good news that the One who is skilled with a bow is God. He has worked with a bow for a long time.

In the first book of the Bible, Genesis, we find a promise that God gave to Noah after the great flood. "I have set my bow in the clouds" God said, "and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth" (Genesis 9:13, NRSV). We usually understand the bow in the Genesis story as being a "rainbow." But it is the same word that is used in this story in Revelation.

In other words, the first horseman, Jesus, is armed with God's covenant promise. His goal is to bring God's promises for the renewal of creation to every part of creation.

Prayer
Lord, our Lord, you surprise us with your promises and your determination to bring life and healing to your creation. Thank you for so loving this world that you gave your one and only Son to give us life. Amen.

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Phillip Gerard Langr

Phillip Gerard Langr passed from this life into eternal life on May 11th, 2021.



Phil was born on March 14th, 1956 in Owatonna, MN to parents Jerome and Phyllis Langr. Phil was baptized and confirmed at St. Vincent de Paul Parish in West

Concord, MN where he grew up alongside his sister and four brothers.

In 1974, Phil graduated from West Concord High School and went on to pursue a degree in law enforcement from Alexandria Technical College. Still, Phil would say his biggest achievement at Alexandria was to meet the woman who would become his wife. Phil and Joan Schiele were united in marriage on November 5th, 1977 at St. Ann's Parish in Brandon, MN. Their family would soon grow to include sons Joshua, Christopher, and Kyle.

In 1979, Phil joined the Waseca County Sheriff's Office as a Sheriff's Deputy and later an investigator; a role he fulfilled with integrity, dedication, and true servant leadership until his retirement in 2006. In his retirement, Phil drove a school bus for Clemons and Palmer Bus Service for 13 years and delighted in educating his students on the merits of oldies music on their way to class.

Whether by boat, motorcycle, or his own two feet, Phil enjoyed much of his free time outdoors. Always an aviation enthusiast,

Phil would go on to obtain his private pilot's license and could be found in his Grumman Cheetah flying high above Waseca.

Back on the ground, Phil was a dedicated Harley rider and often enjoyed attending Sturgis rallies. An avid hunter and fisherman, Phil was happiest when sharing his passion for the outdoors with his family and friends.

Though he was a man of many interests, Phil was most simply the bedrock of his family. Whether serving his community or his loved ones, Phil put the needs of others first, a legacy that lives on in his wife and sons. We will miss many things about Phil, but most of all, we will miss the twinkle in his eye when he spoke of his love of 43 years and the warmth and pride in his voice when retelling the latest escapades of his grandsons.

Phil is survived by his mother, Phyllis; his wife, Joan; his brothers, Tom (Mary), Ken (Cindy), and Paul (Pam); his sister, Geralyn (Tony); his sister-in-law, Karla; his sons, Joshua (Kelly), Christopher, and Kyle (Trisha); and grandsons, Everett and Elliott.

He was preceded in death by his father, Jerome; his brother, David; and his father-in-law and mother-in-law, Joe and Betty Schiele.

A funeral service was scheduled for 1pm on Sunday, May 16th at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Waseca with reception to follow at The Mill in Waseca. Interment followed at Holy Trinity Cemetery-Litomysl in rural Owatonna. A visitation was held on Saturday, May 15th from 4pm to 7pm at the State Street Chapel of Dennis Funeral & Cremation Services in Waseca.

Robert "Bob" Francis Hartman

Robert "Bob" Francis Hartman, 71, of Kasson, died Monday, May 10, 2021 at St. Mary's Hospital in Rochester.



He was born August 15, 1949 in Adrian, Minnesota the son of Joseph and Adeline

(Middendorf) Hartman. He graduated from Wilmont High School in 1967. Bob was drafted into the United States Marine Corp in 1969 and was honorably discharged from active duty in 1975 and reserve duty in 1975. Following his military service he settled in West Concord with his family.

On May 19, 1973, he married Pamela Plevke in West Concord.

He is survived by his wife, Pam Hartman of Kasson; siblings, Pat (Jim) Stroh, Sandy (Ron) Altman, Judy (Jerry) Miller, Gary (Patti) Hartman, Randy (Yvonne) Hartman and Jim (Marcia Hartman) and multiple nieces and nephews and special buddy, Urijah.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Joseph and Adeline; brother, Wally Hartman.

Visitation was at Michaelson Funeral Home, West Concord Chapel on Saturday, May 15, 2021, from 5:00 - 7:00 PM. A Private graveside service with military honors was held at the Minnesota State Veterans Cemetery in Preston.

Jaelyn Sue Laue

On Saturday April 24th our beloved Jaelyn Sue, surrounded by her loved ones, gained her angel wings and went to heaven. Jaelyn was such an amazing human being. She was a smart, talented, and beautiful young woman. She was so generous with her love and showed compassion to all the people she encountered throughout her life. She would do anything for anyone.



Jaelyn made her parents, Melissa and Lucas, better people and better parents. She was a wonderful sister to her brothers Trey and Brady. She loved them both so much! She was in love with her boyfriend Taylor, who made her smile every day!

The only fault Jaelyn had was that she cared too much about everyone else but did not give herself enough credit for all the achievements she made in her short life.

Jaelyn enjoyed her job at Early Advantage Developmental Child Care Center in Byron taking care of kids! She was on the Honor Roll & a member of the National Honor Society while going to school at Triton High School as well as doing post-secondary classes at RCTC. She had plans to enroll in the nursing program this fall in Rochester and dreamed of being a Registered Nurse.

Jaelyn was preceded in life by her Great Grandmothers Bev and Bonnie and others. She is survived by her parents Lucas Laue (Marcus) and Melissa Rongve (Chris). Her big brother Trey and younger brother Brady. Her Grandparents Rick Laue, Shari Laue, Don and Patricia Rongve. Her Uncles Tyler Laue, Cody Laue (Hillary), and Daniel Rongve. Her Aunts Jennifer Melder (Scott) and Kristina Rongve (Eric). As well as her 13 first cousins.

Jaelyn had such a beautiful soul! Her family will continue to tell her story!

A funeral service was held at 11:00 a.m. on Thursday, April 29, 2021 at Faith Lutheran Church, 308 2nd St NW Dodge Center, MN. Reverend Kira Anderson officiated. Visitation was from 4:00-7:00 p.m. Wednesday, April 28, 2021 at Czaplowski Family Funeral Homes, 25 South Street Dodge Center, MN, and one hour prior to the service at the church. Interment was in Riverside Cemetery in Dodge Center, MN.

You were invited to join a live stream of the funeral service on the Czaplowski Facebook page starting at 10:50 a.m.; <https://www.facebook.com/Czaplowski-Family-Funeral-Homes-Crematory-336420016774213/>.

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

Brian Weber
Melanie Leth
Timothy Woessner

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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.

When I left KDHL radio at the end of November, 1990 to become the farm broadcaster at KMNS Radio in Sioux City, Iowa, I had a whole new group of co-workers to get to know. There's only two who I have kept any kind of contact with. Gary Ellenbolt was the program director and midday announcer when I first started at AM620 KMNS. Gary, originally from southwest Wisconsin went by the name Gary Erickson at that time. Later, when he took a job at South Dakota Public Radio, he used his real last name.

Gary and I were the morning team on KMNS for about 4 years. I was the morning newsmen along with my farm news and markets. Early on in our tenure, Gary came up with a name for this morning duo calling us the 'Comrades of the Angry Dawn'. Why he came up with this name is still uncertain. Our station manager asked us politely one day if we could find a kinder, gentler name. We didn't say yes or no at the time but about a couple months later, in the middle of our morning broadcast, we had one of those feel good stories about someone who helped out a person in need. Gary called the person a real 'Heartland Hero'. I said, "That's it!" We'll call ourselves the 'Heartland Heroes'. Even though we didn't do anything quite as heroic as the person in the news story, the name stuck. And our boss was glad to get rid of the Comrades.

Gary and I would always talk about our experiences growing up in a small rural

town. I would always bring up the fact that I know exactly what I was doing on any given historic day. Such as the day Anwar Sadat, President of Egypt was assassinated. The date was October 6, 1981. I told the story how we were combining soybeans on the Marshall Svec farm just south of West Concord. I explained how the beans were a bit tough from the morning dew when we first started that day and I proceeded to plug the bean header and combine. After getting that situation resolved, the bean stalks dried and the harvest moved on. But then my dad and I hear on the radio that Sadat had been shot.

Then there was the day that Elvis died. Gary and I got talking about Elvis and his music and movies. So he asked what was happening on the Kleven farm on that August day in 1977. I proceeded to tell him about making room for a new grain bin just to the south of our grain dryer. We had to take part of the old grainery down along with getting all the ground work done so I had lots to do. I had the radio on listening to Steve Cannon on WCCO. You might remember the 'little Cannons' like Morgan Mundane, Ma Linger and Backlash LaRue. I was glued listening to all the reports plus I got a lot of work done that day.

Then there was the day that President Reagan was shot in Washington D.C. That story came up in our conversation and Gary again asked what was happening on the Kleven farm that day. "It was in March, right?" he asked. "Yes," I replied, "March 30th, 1981." It was just over 6 months before the Sadat shooting. I recall it was a cool and cloudy day up and down highway 56. I bring that up because Gary and I had this running bit that he would say I grew up on a southeast Minnesota farm right there on highway 52. I would correct him every time by yelling 'FIFTY-SIX'. So on the day that Reagan got shot, the ground was too wet and the temps too cool to do field work so I was hauling brush and cleaning up the yard that day. It was while I was hauling branches when I heard on the pickup radio about the news out of Washington.

Any day that had an historic event happen, I would explain what I was doing on the farm. And still to this day, even though Gary lives out in Stockton, California now, in emails and on Facebook he confuses highways 52 and 56. And I still have to correct him.



Emery Kleven in the KMNS radio studio in Sioux City, IA in 1994 where the Heartland Heroes were named.

Gary was the morning host on South Dakota Public Radio for 19 years before he moved out west to be closer to grandchildren. He was always one of the best radio play by play sports broadcasters I've heard. He did play by play on radio for South Dakota High School state tournament games for many years. Today he's doing public address announcing for various sports at the University of the Pacific in Stockton. That's not to be confused with Pacific University which is in Oregon. Gary is also the PA announcer for the Stockton Ports, a class A baseball team which is part of the Oakland Athletics organization. His wife Sandy works at the University of the Pacific as well.

I have one other note on remembering events. The date was July 18th, 1962. That was the day the Minnesota Twins hit two grand slam homeruns in the same inning. Harmon Killebrew and Bob Allison did what hadn't been done since 1890. I was at my Uncle Gordy Ryg's place playing with cousins Gene and Alan. We had the barn radio on when we heard Herb Carneal and Halsey Hall describe the game against the

Cleveland Indians. The date is also memorable to me as it was the first and only time I rode a horse. I know that sounds odd but I never really had much opportunity to ride a horse. Cousin Gene lives in Montana now and rarely is he not on a horse.



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Museum Musings

Fred Cowles' West Concord Nursery

By Colleen Sathrum Hayne

I love to visit green and growing garden centers any time of the year, but spring is my favorite time. How I wish I could do a bit of time travel and visit Fred Cowles' West Concord Nursery during the years of 1894-1945. Drive west through West Concord on County Road 24 and you will pass the lovely frame home on the north side of the road that was known for years as the Mamie and Louie Leach residence. Louie had come to West Concord in 1931 to work for Fred. Eventually the Leaches bought the house and surrounding 65 acres from Fred. Fred retained 15 acres for the nursery and he and his wife, Louesa, moved to a smaller house across the road.

Even though Fred had no formal training in botany, he was a serious horticulturalist. His nursery became one of 16 state trial stations, testing new varieties of plants and trees each year and reporting on the strength and weaknesses in the Minnesota Horticulture Journal. Here is an excerpt from Fred's 1904 Minnesota Horticulturist submission:

"Strawberries bore a very good crop. I picked 10,000 quarts. I lost about 2,000 quarts by rain. I like the following varieties, in the order as I name them: Warfield, Senator Dunlap, Lovett's, Splendid, Bederwood, Enhance and Crescent. I have been testing Rough Rider, Nic Ohmer, Plow City and Aroma, but these I shall discard as they are not productive enough on my grounds."

What a strawberry crop! Fred also championed the planting of apple trees as street trees. In the 1919 Minnesota Horticulturist Fred reported that 250 apple trees had been set out on the streets of West Concord. He advised:

"Select some nice, straight trees and those that grow upright. Set them about six feet from the sidewalk and about twenty feet apart . . . Why not set out a tree that is useful—and what tree is nicer than an apple tree?...Come to West Concord when these trees are in bloom, and note their beauty, and then come again in the fall and note the value of what these trees produce."

I truly wish I could have seen those trees in bloom in the Spring. Since apple trees generally have a life span of 50 years or so, if they're not the dwarf variety, those trees would have been dying out about the time I attended high school in West Concord. Fred was a master at top-grafting apple trees and was always working on developing the best variety to grow in the West Concord area. He also frequently visited farms to encourage farm families to buy and grow their own apple trees, strawberries, and raspberry bushes. Fred was quite the entrepreneur.

Flowers were also a passion of Fred's. His report on his Trial Station in 1918 included this section:

"We believe where there is fruit there should be plenty of flowers, and we enjoy the hardy perennials and recommend them to busy people on account of easy culture. Iris did well with us, also peonies. It seems as if these did remarkably well this year and how the girls did enjoy picking them for Children's Day at the church; they gathered arms full. We have been watching the Chinese clematis for the past few years. We do not remember ever seeing it as beautiful as this year; it seemed to be in bloom all summer long and the flowers were so fragrant.

Gladioli are sure to bloom, especially if they are well cultivated they are so large and thrifty . . . Peace should be planted this year—it is a beauty. War is a rich red and is beautiful, but we have had war enough—Europa, the purest white of any we have tried." (Did you notice Fred's commentary on World War I?)

Evergreen trees were also part of Fred's nursery. In 1910 he advertised that he had 50,000 evergreens for sale. His report in the Minnesota Horticulturist that year told this story:

"Our evergreens came through the winter and spring in good condition, except white spruce and balsam fir. These two varieties made a very early growth, and the hard freeze killed the new growth. Some of the trees, while not dead, are not putting out any new growth, as all or most all of the buds were killed. We are watching these, wondering how they are coming out. Arbor vitae were not injured any this winter and showed no signs of blight."

Fred published catalogs to let the public know what was for sale. His 1905 catalog was published by the West Concord Enterprise. Its greeting page thanked customers for their business and their appreciation of the quality stock offered at the nursery. Fred emphasized, "We recommend only well-trying varieties, as novelties so frequently give dissatisfaction; and what we desire is 'once a customer, always a customer.' And that can only be done by handling reliable goods." In this catalog the nursery sold apple trees, plum trees, strawberry, raspberry, blackberry, gooseberry, currant and grape plants, evergreen trees, deciduous trees, ornamental shrubs, roses, and perennials. The catalog included reviews by satisfied customers from Crookston to Sleepy Eye.

Train service in West Concord was an important part of Fred's business, allowing him to easily send orders to customers across the state.

Fred was a very busy man. The September 1st 1910 West Concord Enterprise reported that "Fred Cowles left on Tuesday for the Twin Cities. He will have charge of the Horticultural Department at the State Fair, the same as in previous years." I have always loved visiting the Horticultural Building at the State Fair and now I will think of

Fred when I stop by.

In 1946 Fred and Louesa retired, sold the nursery, and moved to Whittier, CA where their daughter and grandchildren would be nearby. Of course Fred proceeded to beautifully landscape their new residence. Fred passed away in California in 1954.

I have become an ardent admirer of Fred's nursery. As you can see, Fred's contributions to Minnesota horticulture were substantial. If you'd like to learn more about Fred's West Concord Nursery, stop by the Museum. We have Minnesota Horticulture Journals on hand with Fred's contributions, a copy of a seed catalog, and the wonderful "Green Book", a collection of information and photos about the nursery compiled by Elaine and Mamie Leach. A special thanks to Brenda Leach DeBlicek, Elaine Leach, and Fred's granddaughter, Mary Apte, for providing me with information and photos about the West Concord Nursery and its glory days.



Fred Cowles' Nursery, the middle photo, bottom row



The beautiful grounds at the Fred and Louesa Cowles' West Concord Nursery



Left to right: Louis Leach, Fred Cowles, John Holiday, Buford Waldren (Working in the evergreen field, 1940 or before)



Proud parents, Louesa and Fred, in the beautifully landscaped yard of the Nursery on the day of Marion Cowles' West Concord High School graduation in 1923.

Triton Senior elected State FFA Reporter

(continued from page 1)

Triton FFA has taught me the power of community and the power I hold as an individual. I've also competed in a variety of different Career Development Events (CDE's) and Leadership Development Events (LDE's). This last year, I competed at State Convention in Farm Bureau Discussion Meet and Extemporaneous Speaking, but have also competed in Livestock Evaluation, Small Animals, Meats Evaluation, Food Science, Fish & Wildlife, Creed Speaking, and Employment Skills. Each year, I also complete a goat proficiency and sheep proficiency application.

At Triton, I am currently the Co-President. In the past, I have served as the

Vice President and Co-Reporter. However, I have also served as a Region VIII (Southeast Minnesota) Officer for two years. This last year, I was the Region Reporter, and was an Assistant Officer previously.

My Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) has several different components, including the production of goats, sheep, and poultry, and the management of breeding dogs. However, the two main parts of my SAE are the goats and sheep. I have raised goats alongside my family since 2010, and began raising sheep shortly after. Most of the goats that I own are Boer goats, which are used for consumption. My sister and I just dispersed our sheep flock, but we had been raising Southdown sheep, which are a dual-purpose breed that is used for meat and wool. Some of my roles include assisting with artificial insemination and embryo transfers, developing nutrition plans, teaching other young people showmanship skills, and caring for newborns. One of my favorite parts of raising livestock is having the opportunity to exhibit them on different levels. I show animals on

local, regional, state, and national levels, and have had success in many different show rings. I hope to increase the quality of my own goat herd in the upcoming years.

This fall, I will be attending the University of Minnesota Twin Cities, studying Animal Science with a Pre-Vet emphasis. After my undergraduate education, I will attend vet school and seek a career in the veterinary field. This was fueled by my love and involvement in the livestock industry, where I had hands-on experience with the treatment and management of animals.

The interview process for MN FFA State Office was rigorous. I first had to submit an online application, which included essay questions and a resume. Then, I was selected to continue on the interview process, which took place the weekend before the State Convention. There were many aspects to the interview, and the nomination committee was composed of members from each region. I first had one-on-one interviews with each of the nomination committee members, which lasted for nearly three hours. Then we had to give a prepared speech, take a written test, take a knowledge test, and create a workshop with other candidates. Finally, we ended with one big group interview. The following Friday, the results were announced, and I was selected to serve as the Minnesota FFA State Reporter. I had so much support from my family, advisors, alumni, and other supporters, and I could not have done it without them.

As a State Officer, it's my duty to be the

face of Minnesota FFA and to provide support to the over 12,000 FFA members and 35,000 agriculture education students. I will facilitate a variety of camps and conferences over the summer, as well as attend stakeholder events to interact with supporters. Throughout the year, I will visit chapters and agriculture businesses across the state, which is a great opportunity to see what agriculture looks like in different parts of the state. Next spring, our team will host the State Convention. As Reporter, I also have special duties to fulfill. I will help manage the social media of Minnesota FFA, and connect FFA to agriculturalists across the state. I strive to share news about the agriculture industry so that all can be informed. Communication is the most important aspect of my role.

Right now, my plans are very tentative. I know I want to be involved in agriculture and the animal science field, and there are many opportunities here in the Midwest. I am currently considering practicing large animal medicine (cattle, goats, sheep) or working with a specific organization, agency, or company (AVMA, USDA, Purina, etc). Eventually, I would also be interested in a career in education, so I may teach veterinary or animal science courses on the collegiate level. I love agriculture here in Southeast Minnesota and would like to stay close to family, so I would also like to come back here to settle down. I will continue to raise livestock alongside my family, and will be an active FFA and 4-H alumni.

Triton Junior Repairs Small Engines

(continued from page 1)

When he was 13 years old, he began working on engines. His first project was a garden tiller that was not running. His dad is an over the road truck driver and while he was away Cody took it apart and fixed it and had it operating before his dad returned home.

He milked cows on their own farm when they still had them and has milked cows for Brian Weis near Wasioja. He also worked for Hanson Truck repair in West Concord for a couple years.

Cody took shop classes at Triton and has built a truck from the ground up with his dad. They converted a dairy barn into a work shop where he has repaired lawn mowers, ATV's, cars, trucks, snow blowers and garden tractors. A couple years ago he started a business repairing small engines. During the past winter he has repaired over sixty lawn mowers. He also sells these refurbished mowers and advertises them on Facebook.

After graduation he would like to get a cargo trailer to pull with his pickup and go out as a mobile service, an idea his aunt

gave him. That way he could come to the customers place and do small repair jobs, tune-up, oil changes and blade sharpening.

Anyone looking for a rebuilt lawn mower or service can call Cody at 507-923-0922.



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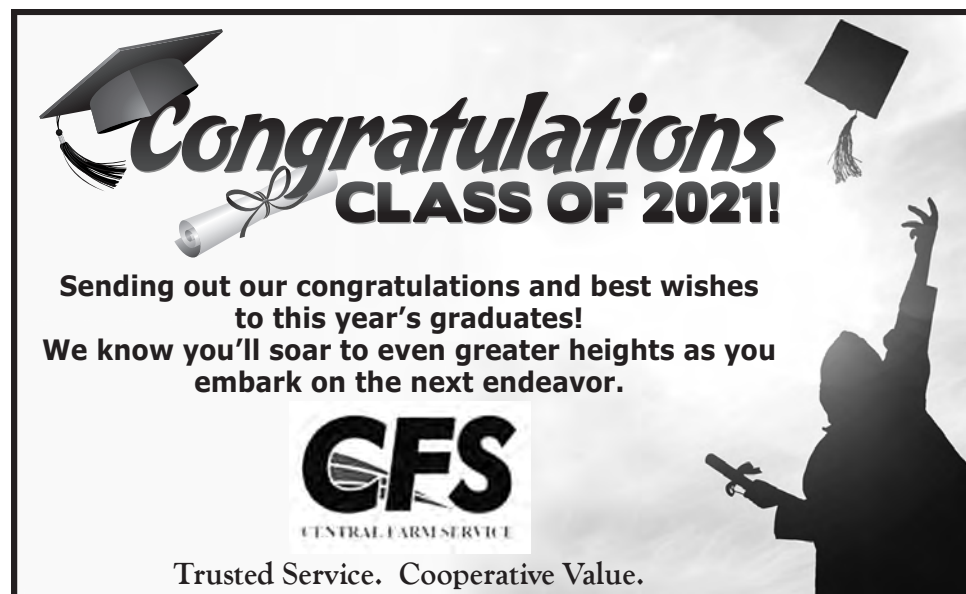
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Craig Schlichting
Superintendent

We are constantly faced with the element of change. Sometimes, change can bring about new and exciting opportunities. Recently, our elementary principal took a new position as the superintendent of Houston Public Schools in Southeast Minnesota. This will certainly be an exciting new challenge for Ms. Morem. We wish her well in her new position. With Ms. Morem leaving, we posted the position and ended up getting 23 applicants. This is an amazing turnout for an administrative position, and we were excited to see so many interested applicants in our school district. Our middle school assistant principal/activities director, Mr. Shane Van Beek came out on top and was an obvious winner once we completed the process. I am excited for Mr. Van Beek to take over at the elementary school. He is a proven hard-working dedicated professional that we are fortunate to have in our district. His transition to the elementary school will leave us

with another search to fill his role at the middle school. I believe in the team of educators that we are fortunate to have at Triton and feel that we are continuing to hire quality people that will keep moving our district in positive direction. Next year we will have a few new faces on our Triton teaching staff and I am excited about the excellent hires that we have made. A great teacher really can make a positive impact on the school. I know that I mentioned it in my article last month, but Mr. Gray has done exactly that with our band program. The spring concert that needed to be held in the gymnasium due to COVID sounded amazing and I can't wait to hear them in the Performing Arts Center!

Another change that we recently found out about was the change in mask mandates. We will continue to do our best to navigate the ever changing regulatory guidelines. It certainly makes it difficult to plan events like graduation when the guidelines are changing so frequently without any warning. I understand the frustration that we hear from our parents, but please know that we are doing our best to navigate these changes while we adjust and change plans to do our best to provide the best experiences we can for our students. Currently, the mask mandate has not and is not supposed to change for schools. I am very hopeful that the change we will see for next school year will be one of post-covid and a return to a sense of normalcy in our schools.

The changes we will see after this summer to our facilities will be very nice as well. The roof sections that are need of an upgrade will be finished. It will be a roof system that doesn't need to use the river

rock to hold down the membrane. The materials that they have now to do roofing is a great upgrade to the old system. We will also have our parking lots redone. The pot holes and drainage issues will be able to be fixed. The other major part of the project will be to complete the dehumidification of the entire facility along with an ionization system that helps to keep to clean and improve the air quality. These will all be wonderful changes for our facility.

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 Educator Earns Outstanding Educator Award

(continued from page 1)

"Mrs. Goossens has transformed education in the Business Education department, but even more importantly she has used her gifts to catapult our students toward success after graduation and empowered her colleagues as lifelong learners," shared Luke Lutterman, principal.

Goossens currently teaches business education courses at Triton High School. She has been a teacher for 10 years. Goossens teaches the importance of teambuilding and creates a community for her students to thrive in each of her classes. One way she does this is through weekly check-ins with each of the students in her classes. The check-ins provide students with an opportunity to self-reflect and be proactive in their education goals. She also has students fill out self-evaluations at the end of each unit where they reflect on how comfortable they are with the learning targets. If there are learning targets that she can help them understand better, or how balanced they feel the workload was. And whether the assessments were meaningful and helped them learn. She then routinely makes changes to curriculum and teaching methods based on their responses.

"I learned many valuable life skills from her, like dealing with difficult people and

groups, how to be creative in a structured environment, and how to deal with disappointment, said a former student. The experiences that students have in her classroom are enriched because Mrs. Goossens is willing to share about her own life in a way that is teachable and relatable to students."

She also serves as Senior Seminar Project Coordinator, coaches varsity volleyball and advises the Business Professionals of America Program (BPA) chapter. The BPA chapter was established by Goossens and has had extraordinary achievements in recent years. In the last five years, she has led fifty-three state top-ten finishes, state champions, and numerous national top-ten finishes.

Educators are first nominated for the WEM Outstanding Educator Awards Program by students, parents, colleagues or community members. Those who accept the nomination provide additional information for consideration by Synergy & Leadership Exchange and a blue ribbon selection panel, which reviews and ranks the nominees. In addition to the six statewide honorees, additional educators have been selected as regional honorees for 2021. For more information on the WEM Outstanding Educator Awards and Synergy & Leadership Exchange, visit www.synergyexchange.org.

TRITON CLASS OF 2021



SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

Nick Adamson is a senior at Triton this year. His parents are David Adamson and Jennifer Goodman and he has two siblings, Nora and Finlee Adamson. In school he is active in Football, Trap and Track & Field. After school he enjoys Working, Lifting Weights, hanging out with friends, and video games. His favorite food is chicken, and his favorite band is 3 Days Grace. After graduation he plans on doing an apprenticeship to become an electrician.



NICK ADAMSON

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West Concord City Council Meeting April 15, 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: Interim Administrator Joel Dhein (via Zoom), Maintenance Supervisor Keith Clammer, Librarian Nancy Schollmeier, and City Clerk Drew Adams.

Community Members: Joyce Dubois, Colleen Hane, Dan Lulf and Karen Jorgenson (via Zoom).

Additions to the Agenda:

None

Consent Calendar was presented as follows:

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

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

Public Comment

None

City Business:

Dan Lulf Presentation on Centennial Park Addition- Dan Lulf, Lions Club
Mr. Lulf came before City Council requesting an addition be made to the cur-

rent flag display in Centennial Park. This addition would be paid for with money that was donated by Ethel Quimby upon her death in December 2017. The request was to add 6 more flags, as well as a plaque. The flags added on would be for the Airforce, Army, Coast Guard, Marines, Navy and Space Force. The plaque would honor Ethel's father Paul Farka- US Army WW1, her brother Ward William Farka, US Navy WW2, and son Timothy Charles Quimby- US Navy Vietnam. Council unanimously agreed to this addition.

Schoolhouse Fall Festival Location Discussion- Colleen Hane, West Concord Historical Society

On September 18, 2021 the West Concord Historical Society will be holding a festival featuring two events: an old fashioned baseball game held at the softball field played by rules from the 1860's, and also an arts and craft sale that would be held in the open grassy field to the north of the ball diamond, across the street from the Catholic Church. Upon further discussion it was also determined best to close a portion of First Street, From Clyde Street to Eugene Street.

Motion by Council Member Schollmeier, seconded by Council Member Peterson. 5 yeas. 0 nays. Motion carried.

Municipal Liquor Store Key Request by Jeff Burow-

Jeff Burow, who services the pull tab machines and manages the pull tab money at the Municipal Liquor Store and Bar, requested to obtain a key for the bar so he can get in and out as he pleases to do his work. As it has always been policy to not

give keys out to vendors, City Council unanimously agreed not to grant him a key.

Council Chambers Remodel-

It has been decided that the City Council Chamber needs remodeling, and money has been budgeted for that. The plan includes knocking out the wall of an existing storage room and moving the break room/kitchen area to a different location in order to increase the space of the Chamber. Ceiling, lights, and walls will also be redone. Design plans will be formulated shortly. When the time comes to accept bids from contractors, all bids will be comparable for the same things.

West Concord Brush Dump-

It has been determined that the City will require citizens to fill out a permit application and pay a fee of \$10.00 to utilize the brush dump. This fee is up \$5.00 from last year. Unlike last year, there will be no key given out to residents to let themselves in and out. That resulted in the gate often being left open and unlocked, vandalism, and improper materials being dropped off at the dump. Instead, the City will have the dump open to residents with a permit during the staffed hours of Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4:00pm-6:00pm, as well as

on Saturdays from 7:30am-11:30am. Permit stickers will be ordered, Keith will post signs, and the date of opening will be determined soon.

Motion by Council Member Schollmeier, seconded by Council Member Burse. 5 yeas. 0 nays. Motion carried.

Department Report Review

The Council received the reports that were provided by the Library, Maintenance, PeopleService, 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 at 8:00pm. 5 Yeas. 0 Nays. Carried.

Attest:

Jeffrey McCool, Mayor

Joel Dhein, Interim City Administrator

American Red Cross Blood Drive

**Tuesday, June 15, 2021
from noon until 6:00 pm.**

Location: Faith Community Church
of West Concord

The City of West Concord is seeking part-time, on-call bartender help for its municipal liquor store.

To apply go to westconcordmn.com or stop by city hall for an application.

Saturday, July 24, 2021 1:00 p.m.

SELCO Vetted Performer



Laura MacKenzie

Lions Park, West Concord, MN

Laura MacKenzie presents The Irish Piper story, using traditional music on a fascinating array of wind-powered instruments, including a variety of wooden flutes and tin whistles, various types of bagpipes (bellows and blown), concertina, gemshorn and voice.

Bring your family and friends!

In case of rain, this performance will be held inside the Methodist Church.



THIS PROGRAM IS MADE POSSIBLE BY A LIBRARY LEGACY GRANT. ALL PROGRAMS ARE FREE.

West Concord Public Library

Outside children's story time has started! Meet us at Lions Park every Tuesday morning at 10:00 (weather permitting) for some great stories. We are also providing a craft-to-go for the children.

Our library Summer Reading Program kickoff will be Tuesday, June 15th at 10:00 am at Lions Park. Join us for activities, surprises, and to sign up for our Summer Reading Program. The theme this year is "Reading Colors Your World." Reading logs will be available at the kickoff and at the library.

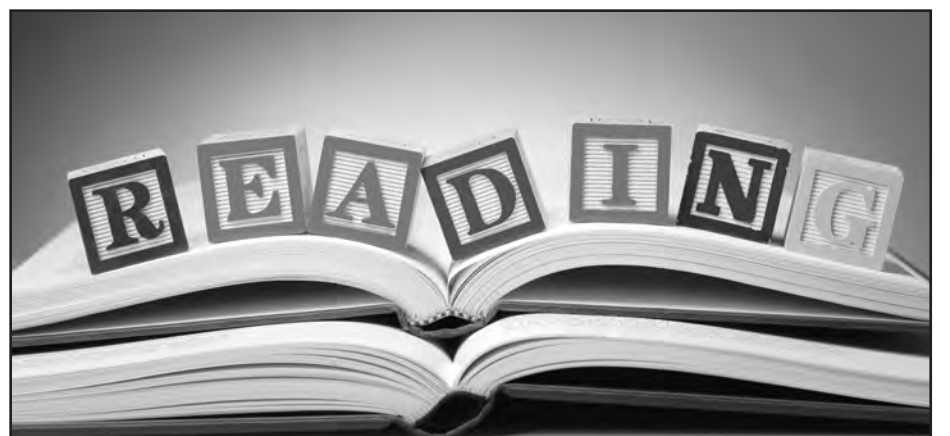
The library is having a sidewalk book sale Saturday, June 5th from 8:00 am until 12 noon. We have a wide variety of books to sell. There is something for everyone, just in time for summer reading and relaxing! If it rains, the sale will be held inside City Hall.

We are excited to be able to provide a live outdoor performance by Laura MacKenzie, July 24th, at 1:00, at Lions Park. This program has been funded through the Library Legacy Fund in cooperation with SELCO. In case of rain, this performance will be held inside the Methodist Church.

Please call the library for any questions, (507) 527-2031.

Library hours are:

- Monday 1:00 pm – 7:00 pm
- Tuesday 10:00 am – 5:00 pm
- Wednesday 10:00am – 5:00 pm
- Thursday 1:00 pm – 7:00 pm
- Friday 10:00 am – 5:00 pm
- Closed Saturday and Sunday





May Drink of the Month Naked Prairie \$3.50

Beer of the Month

Busch Light bottles \$3.00
Bud Light, Budweiser, Michelob,
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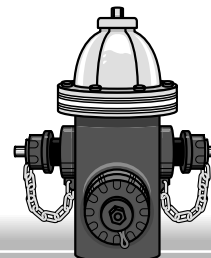
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Remember to watch our Facebook page
for updates and events.

PUBLIC NOTICE

2021 Hydrant Flushing Schedule

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



Moms, Dads, and Grandparents

Send in a cute photo (no larger than 4x6) of son, daughter, grandson or granddaughter (Grandparent, parent, or child must be a resident of West Concord)

OPEN TO CHILDREN 0-36 MONTHS OLD as of 7/23/21

ALL PICTURES MUST BE RECEIVED BY NOON ON JULY 9, ALONG WITH ENTRY FORM AND \$5 FEE.

Email to: wntrbrz@hotmail.com or Mail to:
Crystal Winter - 514 5th Street, West Concord, MN 55985
or drop off at Heritage Bank, Casey's, or City Hall

**PLAN TO ATTEND THE ROYALTY PAGEANT AT
the NEW SPORT COURT by the pool on Friday, July 23rd at 7:00pm!**



Name of Child _____

Date of Birth _____

Parents Name _____

Parents Address, Phone Number _____

Submitted By (if other than parent)

Name _____

Relationship to Child _____

Address _____

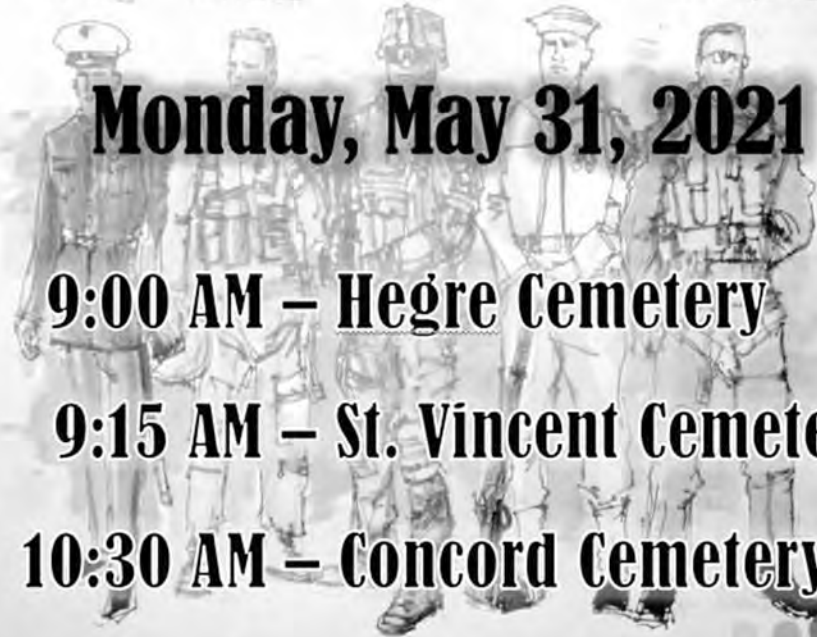
Phone Number _____

Return Photo? Yes No (If yes, please include self-addressed stamped envelope)

More details and additional forms at Heritage Bank, Casey's, and City Hall.

West Concord Memorial Day Services

MARINES AIR FORCE ARMY NAVY COAST GUARD



Monday, May 31, 2021

9:00 AM – Hegre Cemetery

9:15 AM – St. Vincent Cemetery

10:30 AM – Concord Cemetery



In case of inclement weather, a program will be held at 10:30 AM in the Community Center of the West Concord Historical Society building - 600 W 1st Street

Don't Let Incompetence Become Your Titanic



By Harvey Mackay

The Titanic was state-of-the art. No expense had been spared to make sure that it would be unsinkable. The officers were unconcerned by their inability to get accurate information on possible hazards which might lie in its course.

The ship had two lookouts on its masts, but they had no binoculars. The crew could see far enough ahead to react to danger, but unbelievably they had no way to get that information to the captain if they did see a problem approaching.

And we all know what happened. The unsinkable ocean liner went to her death,

along with most of her passengers on her maiden voyage – the victim of a disastrous collision with an iceberg.

Disasters like this can happen in business also if we aren't careful to make sure vital intelligence doesn't get swallowed up by internal bureaucracy and inattention to detail.

Most of you have probably heard of the Peter Principle, a management concept developed by Dr. Laurence Peter. It observes people in a hierarchy rise to a level of incompetence. They don't start out as incompetent, but rather are promoted until they reach a level of respective incompetence.

An obvious solution to the Peter Principle is for companies to provide training for employees before they receive a promotion to ensure they are qualified for the job for which they are being promoted.

For example, I've seen many outstanding sales representatives promoted to sales manager when they don't have any experience developing business plans, setting sales quotas and sales plans, analyzing data, mentoring a sales force, hiring and firing and so on.

Besides a lack of training, there are numerous other factors resulting in incompetence in the workplace, such as sheer laziness, poor communication and lack of people skills.

People are lazy for a variety of reasons from Covid fatigue to reliance on technology. People become sloppy in checking their work and thus make multiple mistakes.



They show up late for work and often don't look professional when they do. Waiting until the last minute to get assignments done can also be a sign of laziness.

The most basic yet crucial leadership skill is communication, yet many people struggle with giving clear instructions. To make communication really work, we have to make sure the people we're talking with understand what we are saying as well as we do. Communication requires both effective sending and receiving. To avoid a breakdown in communications, break down

your message so that everyone can understand it.

From time to time, it's a good idea to re-evaluate your performance in these fundamental areas: speaking, listening, writing, leading meetings and resolving conflict. Talk is cheap, but misunderstandings can be costly.

Communication ranks high among top people skills, but incompetent people also lack social skills like patience, politeness, sympathy and teamwork.

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Don't Let Incompetence Become Your Titanic

(continued from page 10)

They are often rude, overbearing, hot-headed, tactless and have trouble getting along with others.

Many companies have had to reduce costs, which puts a heavy burden on otherwise competent employees by spreading them too thin. Where possible, managers should consider outsourcing or hiring contractors to take away some of the burden. Those costs will be money well-spent.

Other companies hire people and expect too much, too soon. Hiring is much more

than filling an open position. Not everyone hits the ground running. People grow at various speeds. Help them prove their competence by setting clear, achievable goals. If they fail, the fault may lie more in the hiring process than the employees lack of skills.

Incompetence in one area doesn't necessarily carry over. We all have strengths and weaknesses. The balance between the two often determines the perception of competence. Build on your strengths but don't ignore your weaknesses.

Lets face it, everyone has had an incompetent moment or two or three in their lifetime. That includes me. When I was starting my envelope manufacturing company many years ago, I worked many long, long days. One night when I got home late again, my very pregnant wife Carol Ann, told me that the light in the hallway wasn't working. I flipped the switch and sure enough, no light. I thought there was a short in the switch or something, so I called our electrician.

He fixed the problem early the next morning, handed me the bill and said, This is the first time I've ever made a house call to change a light bulb!

Mackay's Moral: The time to right the ship is before incompetence becomes impossible.

Reprinted with permission from nationally syndicated columnist Harvey Mackay, author of the New York Times #1 bestseller "Swim With The Sharks Without Being Eaten Alive."

West Concord Memorial Park Project



There's still time to purchase a paver in memory of a loved one. We have lots of room left for more names. Cost is \$100

We are still taking donations of any size so we can complete this awesome project. Please consider donating. Thank you!

Checks can be sent to West Concord Memorial Park at 57302 State Hwy 56, West Concord, MN 55985.

E-mail your engagement, marriage or birth announcement to the West Concord Messenger!

E-mail address:
hometownmessenger@gmail.com

Horses Need Farriers

What animal regularly wears shoes and needs help putting them on? It's a horse, of course!

Horses need their hooves trimmed and horseshoes placed regularly, a procedure referred to as "shoeing" a horse. The person trained to shoe horses is called a farrier. Farriers provide an important part of the regular care that keeps horses healthy.

Farriers have a big responsibility to horses and their owners because we maintain the length, balance, and integrity of the hoof capsule and all the components of the hoof,

The horse hoof has many weight-bearing parts that affect how the horse moves and its athletic success. The outer part is called the hoof wall, and the inner portion includes the sole and the frog.

Most people who want to become a farrier attend farrier school and then do an apprenticeship to get hands-on experience and practice. Currently, there is no U.S. regulation of farriers; the tools and shoes can be purchased by anyone.

We shoe horses for three reasons: protection, traction, and correction. Protection from injuring the hoof, traction to avoid falling, and correction to modify any deformity of the hoof.

Although most horses are regularly shod, not all horses must be. Some horses do just fine without shoes.

The process of shoeing a horse typically starts with evaluating the horse's hoof balance. Farriers make their assessment by watching the horse move at a walking pace and at a faster pace. "After watching the horse move, they examine the horse up close by looking at the hoof itself. To do this, a well-behaved horse can be tied to a stall or in stalls. If the horse is less calm, another person can help hold the horse still. In some cases, a veterinarian is needed to sedate the horse for a better exam. The farrier will safely position themselves to hold the horse's limb

While looking at the underside, one can determine the excessive growth of the outer portion of the hoof, and better evaluate the sole of the foot, you can also see the shape of the hoof to determine what shoe will fit best. It is important for the horse's comfort to be fitted with an appropriate shoe. If the shoe is ill-fitted, the horse will not be able to walk around like normal and its athletic performance may be impacted.

Before a new shoe can be placed, the hoof itself must be the correct length. This is done with a variety of tools that wear down the excessive growth of the hoof.

Farriers have hoof knives, nippers, rasps, and various hammers. These tools allow the farrier to properly trim the hoof down to a more natural length, making walking easier and more comfortable for the horse.

Many companies sell machine-made horseshoes, while many farriers make their own. The type of shoe a horse needs depends on what the horse's job is, what substance it walks or works on, and the shape of its foot. Horseshoes come in a variety of materials such as steel, aluminum, plastic, rubber, and wood. The most common material of horseshoes is steel or aluminum.

Once the exam is completed and the correct shoe is selected, the shoe is safely burned or seared on to the hoof and often nailed in place through that same hoof wall. Although this sounds like it would be painful to the horse, it is not. The outer section of the hoof, the hoof wall, does not contain any nerve endings and therefore feels no pain.

Every horse is different, but most horses will need a visit from a farrier every 4 to 6 weeks. This length of time is determined by the way the hoof grows and the wear on their shoes.

The biggest benefit of having a farrier shoe a horse is to keep the horse sound. A sound horse is one that has no issues with lameness or discomfort. Lameness is one of the most common reasons that horses are no longer able to do their job, whether that job is on a farm, on a racetrack, or in a show ring. Shoeing horses helps keep horses in business.

If you have questions about shoeing your horse, contact your local veterinarian.

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Dollar General Seeks to Reshape Small Towns

(continued from page 1)

There are now more than 16,000 spread across the country, including two in the county where I live. The unmistakable concrete walls, steel roof, and bright yellow sign are now commonplace on the outskirts of small towns and stand out like palmer amaranth in a soybean field.

Many local economic developers see the discount retailer as a threat to local retail. Dollar General added limited groceries in 2003, posing a unique threat to local grocery stores, which often operate on tight margins.

Other economic developers argue Dollar General creates jobs and helps keep shoppers in town. I get it. In thousands of miles spent traversing the rural Midwest, I have found myself in small towns with no other retail or grocery options.

The irony is that this solution makes the situation worse with low-wage jobs, loss of local ownership, and loss of local tax revenue when other businesses close or fail to open because they cannot, or don't want to, compete with a corporate behemoth.

We must grow and nurture the communities we want to live in. Local ownership of small businesses, farms, and ranches makes communities stronger. Local owners care about their towns, neighbors, and customers.

When you shop at the local hardware store, the profit stays in town and builds the local economy. At Dollar General, every dollar of profit goes to Wall Street. The company reported \$27.8 billion in sales in 2019, and its stock climbed 700% in 10 years.

Protecting our communities from these corporate interests is difficult, but here are a few strategies to consider.

End the common practice of awarding tax and development incentives to massive corporations. Dollar General is a highly profitable company. Subsidizing new stores is a cash transfer from local taxpayers to corpo-

rate shareholders.

Use local zoning codes to encourage good growth and discourage harmful businesses. A report available from the Institute for Local Self Reliance outlines zoning strategies to limit construction of box outlets like Dollar General.

Raise the minimum wage. The stagnant minimum wage is a subsidy we allow Dollar General to collect from the working poor. An increase will improve the lives of low-wage workers, and make Dollar General foot more of the real cost of labor.

Support local retail options when you can. We can each choose, when possible, to

spend our retail dollars at stores that keep profit and ownership closer to home.

Write and call lawmakers to ask for stronger antitrust protections. While I am highlighting the case of Dollar General here, the same can be said about Walmart and now Amazon, too. Elsewhere in the rural economy multinational meatpackers, seed companies, and input suppliers have hammered local business.

In the Dollar General model, large corporations and their shareholders get rich while workers and communities suffer. There is an alternative. We must work together to create it.

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The Case for Rural



Tim Penny
So. MN Initiative Foundation

Anyone who knows me well knows that I regularly champion the benefits of living in rural Minnesota. Not only was I born and raised here, but I have served Greater

Minnesota for many years, first during my time in the U.S. Congress and now as the president and CEO of Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation (SMIF). Now there is growing evidence that many young people are putting down roots in small towns, drawn to a strong sense of community, the lower cost of living, the proximity to natural areas and, increasingly, the awareness of the ability to work remotely.

Married couple Caleb and Blake Lauritsen-Norby were happily settled in the Twin Cities but made the decision to move to Lanesboro after their first visit there reminded them of the small towns where they grew up. They ended up opening a grocery store, Parkway Market and Coffeehouse – a much-needed amenity in Lanesboro. With the help of a Small Enterprise Loan from SMIF and loan partner CEDA, Caleb and Blake were able to update the building's equipment. Caleb also has a Lego business, Planet Brick, upstairs. For Caleb and Blake, the reasons

behind moving to rural were plentiful. The real estate is more affordable, the high-speed internet is faster than what they experienced in the metro, they are surrounded by beautiful landscape and they are able to have a close connection with their customers.

For Shawn Vogt Sween, one of SMIF's Board of Trustees, her move to rural Minnesota was about returning to the place where she grew up, in a small township between Grand Meadow and Spring Valley. Now a Harvard-educated lawyer, Shawn initially left her hometown to pursue her education and kickstart her career. She found herself moving across the country for a span of 14 years with her husband and high school sweetheart, Patrick. From Washington D.C. to California, nothing felt home to the couple quite like life in rural Minnesota. The pair realized they wanted to raise their children in their home community. Today, Shawn, Patrick and their five children live on a hobby farm two miles from the farm where Shawn grew up and her family still lives. Shawn serves her community through her law practice and is proud to demonstrate that small towns are an excellent place for business owners to be. She has found that people are eager to support local businesses and has enjoyed being able to give back to the community where she grew up.

A recent report from the Center for Rural Policy and Development found that wages in rural Minnesota can go further in meeting the cost of living compared to the seven-



county metro area. Employers and economic development professionals can use this report, and the accompanying tool that shows wage data for various occupations across the state, to recruit more people to move to rural Minnesota. Additionally, remote work has become so commonplace that more people are able to live where they want to live instead of where their work is located. This is a huge opportunity for small towns to gain a younger generation of workers who are committed to building their lives in rural Minnesota.

SMIF is able to play a supporting role for people moving back to the region. For entrepreneurs who want to start or grow a business here, we offer business financing and training opportunities. For families who have young children, we support early childhood through a variety of programs and funding, including efforts to enhance the availability and quality of childcare facilities.

Personally, there is no place I would rather be than in rural Minnesota. As the pandemic continues to shape our lives, I believe more and more people will be moving back home or choosing rural where they can work remotely or start their own businesses while taking advantage of small-town life.

To read more stories about young people who are choosing to work and live in SMIF's 20-county region, visit smifoundation.org/stories.

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

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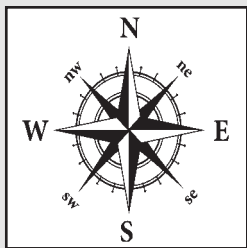
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Changes in Latitudes, Changes in Attitudes



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 like to watch birds. All kind of birds. They have an incredible ability to fly and sing, neither are things I can do. This morning I looked out the front door and there were a couple robins on the porch. The one closest had its head tucked in and feathers quite ruffled. I had never seen one sleep that close to the house. But when I opened the door, it didn't fly away with the other, but moved to the end of the railing. As I got closer it then fluttered off the porch to the ground and hopped away.

I let my dog out in the yard and when I walked around the deck the robin was still hopping along the ground, but seemed a little distressed. My chocolate lab, Sable, always comes out of the door in the morning like a jet taking off. As she circled the house for the first time came tearing by and the robin tried to fly away but sort of crash landed after a few feet, with the dog run-

ning right over top of the hapless bird. I picked the bird up, and set it in the box of the Gator so the dogs wouldn't be tempted to harass it. They are retrievers after all, and bringing me a feathered prize would be quite in character for them. The robin weakly looked at me and huddled up in the Gator box in a defeated and disheveled manner.

When I came back to the Gator, the bird was laying there dead. I imagined his friend had stayed by him through the night knowing the end was near. Maybe he was an old robin and the cold winter was just too much. It was sad to ponder the end of the bird, once sailing through the air with such freedom and singing merrily to welcome each new day. But as I thought about it, I was also reminded of hope. God watches even the birds and not one of them can die without Him knowing it.

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THE SAVVY SENIOR



By Jim Miller

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Dear Savvy Senior,

What are the best Medicare coverage options for COVID-vaccinated retirees who are eager to travel? My wife and I will both turn 65 over the next few months and would like to know which Medicare plans are best for extensive travelers. --Almost 65

Dear Almost,

The best Medicare plans for retirees who plan to travel will vary depending on your destinations. But, before you book a trip make sure you know the current CDC COVID-19 travel recommendations (see [CDC.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers)), and research your destinations too so you can know if restrictions apply wherever you're going.

Medicare Review

Before we dissect how Medicare works for travelers, let's start with a quick review of your different Medicare options.

One option is original Medicare, which covers (Part A) hospital services and (Part B) doctor's visits and other medical services.

If you choose original Medicare, you may also want to get a Medicare (Part D) prescription drug plan (if you don't already have coverage) to cover your medications, and a Medicare supplemental (Medigap) policy to help pay for things that aren't covered by Medicare like copayments, coinsurance and deductibles.

Or, you could get a Medicare Advantage (Part C) plan instead, which is sold through private insurance companies, and covers everything original Medicare covers, plus many plans also offer prescription drug coverage and extra services like vision, hearing and dental care all in one plan.

To help you evaluate your options contact your State Health Insurance Assistance Program (see [ShiptaCenter.org](https://www.shipta.org)), which provides free Medicare counseling.

You can also shop and compare Medicare health and drug plans and Medigap policies at [Medicare.gov/find-a-plan](https://www.Medicare.gov/find-a-plan).

Also note that whatever Medicare plans you choose to enroll in, if you find that they are not meeting your needs or your needs change, you can always switch to a different plan during the open enrollment period, which is between Oct. 15 and Dec. 7.

U.S. Travel

If you and your husband are planning to travel domestically, original Medicare may be the better option because it provides coverage everywhere in the U.S. and its territories as long as the doctor or hospital accepts Medicare.

Medicare Advantage plans, on the other hand, which have become very popular among new enrollees may restrict your coverage when traveling throughout the U.S. This is because most Medicare Advantage plans are HMOs or PPOs and require you to use doctors, hospitals and pharmacies that are in the plan's network within a service area or geographic region. So, if you're traveling outside that area you may need to pay a higher fee, or your services may not be covered at all.

If you do decide to enroll in a Medicare Advantage plan, be sure you check the benefit details carefully to see what costs and rules apply when traveling outside your service area.

Traveling Abroad

If you're planning to travel abroad much, a Medicare Advantage plan may be a better option because many Advantage plans today offer emergency care coverage outside the U.S. But be sure you check before you choose a plan because not all plans offer it.

Original Medicare, on the other hand does not provide coverage outside the U.S. and its territories except in rare circumstances (see [Medicare.gov/coverage/travel](https://www.Medicare.gov/coverage/travel)), and Medicare drug plans will not cover prescription drugs purchased outside the U.S. either.

But if you do choose original Medicare, you can still get some coverage abroad through a Medigap policy. Plans D, G, M and N plans will pay for 80 percent of medically necessary emergency care outside the U.S. to new enrollees, but only for the first 60 days of the trip, and you have to meet an annual \$250 deductible first. There's also a lifetime limit of \$50,000, so you'd need to cover any costs above that amount.

Some beneficiaries, regardless of their Medicare coverage, purchase travel medical insurance for trips abroad, which you can shop for at [InsureMyTrip.com](https://www.InsureMyTrip.com) or [SquareMouth.com](https://www.SquareMouth.com).

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A Minnesotan: Third Winter



By RosaLin Alcoser

The thing that we all know about spring in Minnesota is that the weather can literally do anything. April 2021 alone went from being in the 70's on Easter Sunday to shifting into the third winter. Because after all we already had the first and second winter; how could we even live without a third winter? That would just be unheard of and unthinkable!

The point is that anything can happen in Minnesota's spring months. It can be snowing one day and 100 degrees the next; well maybe not 100 degrees but it

can get quite warm.

I remember in May of 2012 it went from being alright weather in the mid to lower 50s to snowing on Mother's Day weekend.

The reason I remember it is because that Mother's Day weekend is also the weekend that I went to junior prom in the snow. The snow that weekend made for many memorable photos for a lot of my peers that year. A lot of people posted Facebook photos that weekend of them dressed up for prom and playing in the snow.

I on the other hand was posed in front of a dead lilac bush; that had been in full bloom the Mother's Day weekend the year before. I remember it being cold, windy and a bit awkward standing on a shoveled off strip of brown grass in front of this dormant bush for photos.

While I am sure that 2012 was not the only Mother's Day snow that I or any of us have seen it is definitely one that sticks in my mind because of that bush. With any hope the good weather that we have seen at the end of April will be sticking with us for the rest of this spring and lead us into the summer months... or it will snow mid May because it's Minnesota and it has to do a fourth winter this year.

CROSSWORD

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 19. "It isn't easy 'bein' green" for him
 21. *First bilingual Sesame Street puppet
 23. Flower precursor
 24. Rental on the links
 25. Rowing prop
 28. Banana remnant
 30. Besmear
 35. Poker variety
 37. Away from wind
 39. Like helium gas
 40. Coconut fiber
 41. Like an iPhone
 43. Singular of #33 Down
 44. Per ____, or yearly
 46. Guesstimate phrase, 2 words
 47. Raise, as in child
 48. Bob Marley's music
 50. TV classic "____ Make a Deal"
 52. Hi-____ monitor
 53. Oscar Wilde's Dorian ____
 55. *Sesame Street's Meryl Sheep
 57. *Every starred clue in this puzzle
 60. *Self-described as lovable, cute and furry
 63. One born to Japanese immigrants
 64. Be in the red
 66. He had no cause?
 68. Thin mountain ridge
 69. Local area network
 70. Unmanned flyer
 71. Hospital statistics unit, pl.
 72. NaOH
 73. Church assembly

- DOWN
1. D.C. V.I.P.
 2. "Star ____"
 3. Either Gauche or Droite in Paris
 4. Like a lemon
 5. Beginning of a workout
 6. Special law enforcement unit, acr.
 7. Elephant's distinguished feature
 8. Uncredited actor
 9. Lake ____caca, South America
 10. *Ernie's roommate
 11. Diva's delivery
 12. Swedish shag rug
 15. "____ your seatbelts"
 20. Think tank output
 22. Eyeball shape
 24. "I can see ____ now the rain has gone..."
 25. *Trash can dweller
 26. Be sorry for one's wickedness
 27. Repenting
 29. *He avoids pronouns and speaks in falsetto
 31. Gloomy
 32. More competent
 33. Arm bones
 34. *Mama, Papa, Baby and Curly
 36. Chemical cure
 38. Gaelic tongue
 42. Load carrier
 45. Crow's cousin
 49. Old English for before
 51. Arya Stark's Needle and Jedi's Lightsaber, e.g.
 54. Lagoon wall
 56. Each and all
 57. Bog down
 58. From a second-hand store
 59. Four-legged friends
 60. Autry or Wilder
 61. Jet black
 62. Nevada city
 63. Pick up, as in suspect
 65. Modus operandi
 67. Light-emitting diode

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Red Cross Urges Americans to Give Blood and Make It a Summer Full of Life

The American Red Cross along with actor James Van Der Beek and his wife, Kimberly, have joined together to urge all who are healthy to make this a summer full of life for patients by scheduling an appointment to give blood or platelets.

As the nation transitions to a new, hopeful phase of this devastating pandemic and people begin to return to some of their favorite activities, the Red Cross is concerned about the impact this could have on blood donor turnout and the blood supply this summer. The need for lifesaving blood transfusions never takes a break. It's critical to have blood ready to go when every second counts.

The Van Der Beek family knows firsthand how important blood donations are in a health crisis. In the past year, Kimberly Van Der Beek experienced back-to-back pregnancy losses. Each time she needed emergency hospital care and blood transfusions to save her life.

"Donating blood is something that I've always done throughout my life," said James Van Der Beek. "It seemed important. But I never knew how important until the woman I love most was in a situation where that much blood made the difference between life and death. It just brought it home in a very real way."

Hemorrhaging is the leading cause of pregnancy-related complications that can occur anytime during pregnancy. "In instances of severe bleeding, blood transfusions often play a lifesaving role," said Dr. Ross Herron, divisional chief medical officer for the Red Cross. "For mothers with complicated pregnancies or deliveries, generous donors are the only source of the transfusions they may need to survive."

"If you've never given blood before, allow this to be your formal invitation. Will you please give blood?," added Kimberly Van Der Beek.

Individuals of all blood types are urged to schedule an appointment now to give blood, and in most cases, those who have received a COVID-19 vaccine can donate. However, knowing the name of the manufacturer of the vaccine they received is important in determining donation eligibility. Appointments can be made by downloading the Red Cross Blood Donor App, visiting RedCrossBlood.org, calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or enabling the Blood Donor Skill on any Alexa Echo device.

In thanks for making it a summer full of life, those who come to give blood, platelets or plasma in May will automatically be entered for a chance to win a travel trailer camper that sleeps five*, powered by Suburban Propane, via their SuburbanCares initiative. The Red Cross is also thanking those who come to donate May 28-June 12 with a limited-edition T-

shirt, while supplies last.

"Suburban Propane is honored to partner with the American Red Cross and actor James Van Der Beek on their summer campaign to help bring attention to the need for blood donations," said Nandini Sankara, Spokesperson for Suburban Propane. "Our SuburbanCares corporate pillar highlights our continued dedication to giving back to our local communities and through this platform, we support a host of community outreach initiatives throughout the nation; including our national partnership with the American Red Cross. It is our hope that this promotion for a chance to win a travel (trailer) camper will encourage donors to show their support and to help fulfill the need for blood collection."

Health insights for donors

The Red Cross is testing blood, platelet and plasma donations for COVID-19 antibodies. The test may indicate if the donor's immune system has produced antibodies to this coronavirus, regardless of whether they developed symptoms. Testing may also identify the presence of antibodies developed after receiving a COVID-19 vaccine.

Plasma from routine blood and platelet donations that test positive for high levels of antibodies may be used as convalescent plasma to meet potential future needs of COVID-19 patients. Convalescent plasma is a type of blood product collected from COVID-19 survivors who have antibodies that may help patients who are actively fighting the virus.

The Red Cross is not testing donors to diagnose illness, referred to as a diagnostic test. To protect the health and safety of Red Cross staff and donors, it is important that individuals who do not feel well or believe they may be ill with COVID-19 postpone donation.

At a time when health information has never been more important, the Red Cross is also screening all blood, platelet and plasma donations from self-identified African American donors for the sickle cell trait. This additional screening will provide Black donors with an additional health insight and help the Red Cross identify compatible blood types more quickly to help patients with sickle cell disease. Blood transfusion is an essential treatment for those with sickle cell disease, and blood donations from individuals of the same race, ethnicity and blood type have a unique ability to help patients fighting sickle cell disease.

Donors can expect to receive antibody test and sickle cell trait screening results, if applicable, within one to two weeks through the Red Cross Blood Donor App and the online donor portal at RedCrossBlood.org.

Blood drive safety

Each Red Cross blood drive and donation center follows the highest standards of safety and infection control, and additional precautions – including temperature checks, social distancing and face masks for donors and staff – have been implemented to help protect the health of all those in attendance. Donors are asked to schedule an appointment prior to arriving at the drive and are required to wear a face mask while at the drive, in alignment with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention public guidance.

Blood donation opportunities:
West Concord
6/15/2021: noon - 6 p.m., Faith Community Church of West Concord

Kenyon
6/7/2021: 1 p.m. - 7 p.m., St. Michaels Catholic Church, 108 Bullis St.

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- ★ 4H & FFA Shows
- ★ Hill Billy Bob
- ★ Street Talk Band
- ★ Dog Stack A Tack
- ★ The White Keys
- ★ Oxbow Park



For complete schedules, entry forms, advance carnival tickets and sponsorships, visit us at:

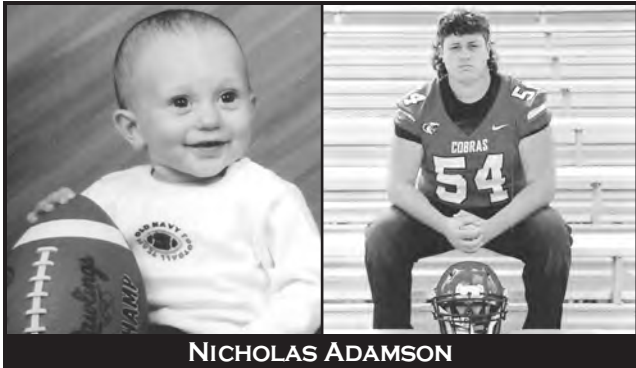
www.dodgecountyfreefair.com



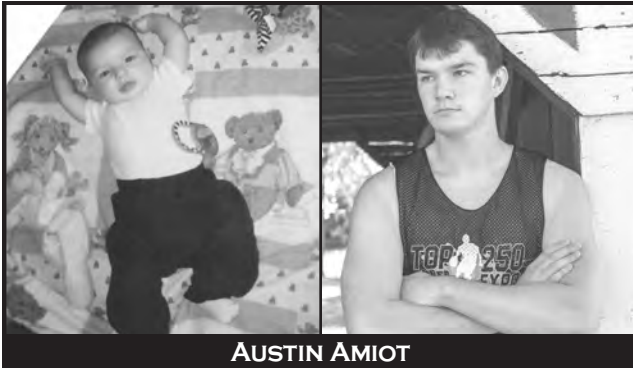
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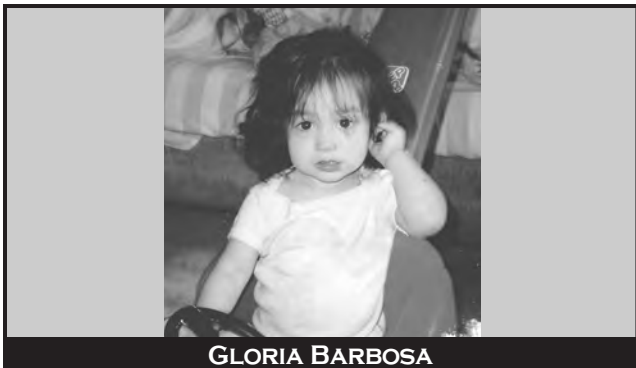
NICHOLAS ADAMSON



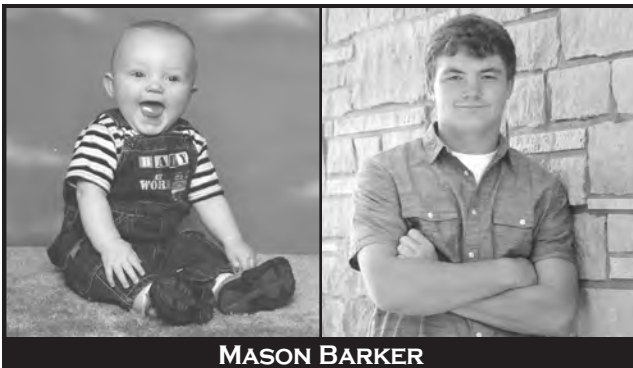
AUSTIN AMIOT



CHRISTOPHER ANDREE



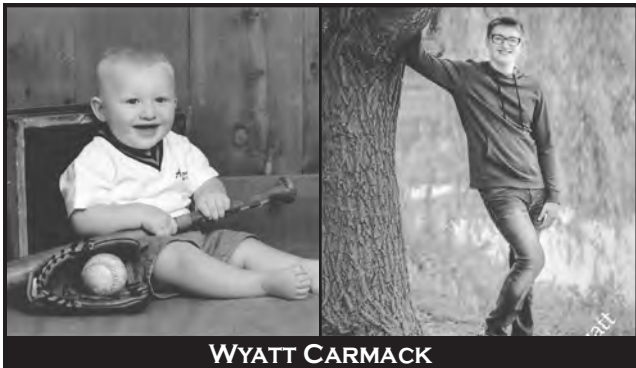
GLORIA BARBOSA



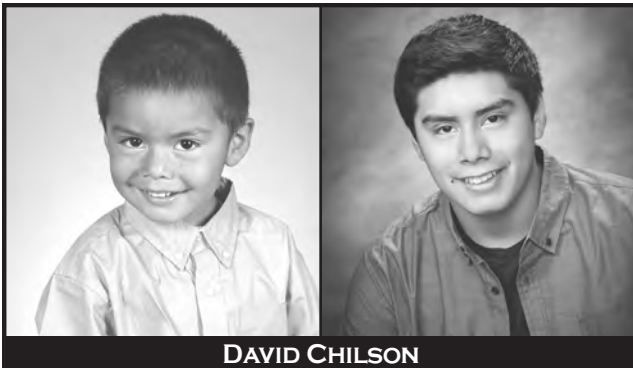
MASON BARKER



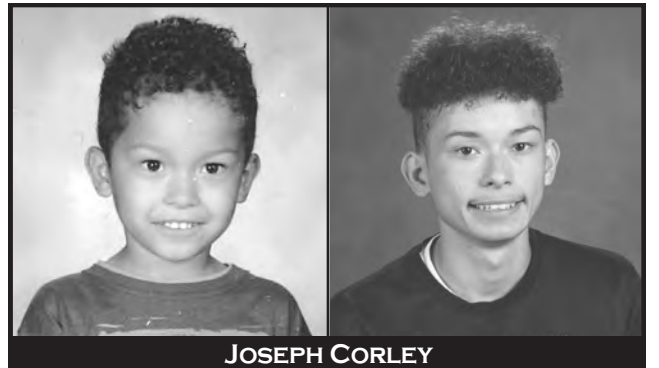
ELYSE BESTOR



WYATT CARMACK



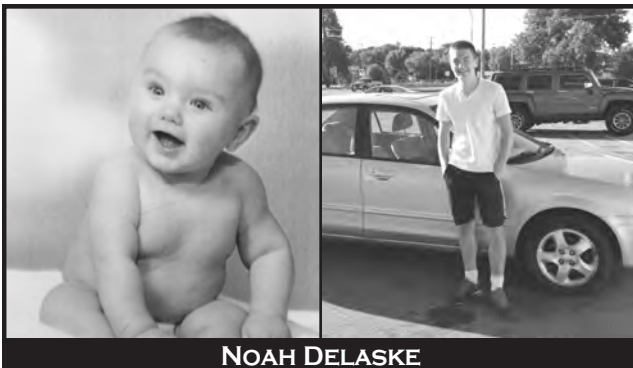
DAVID CHILSON



JOSEPH CORLEY



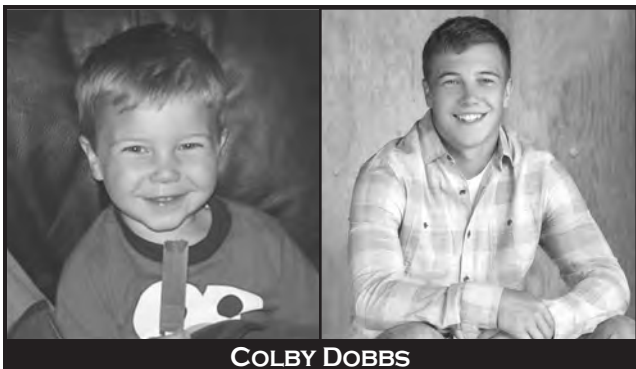
SHANE CROFTON



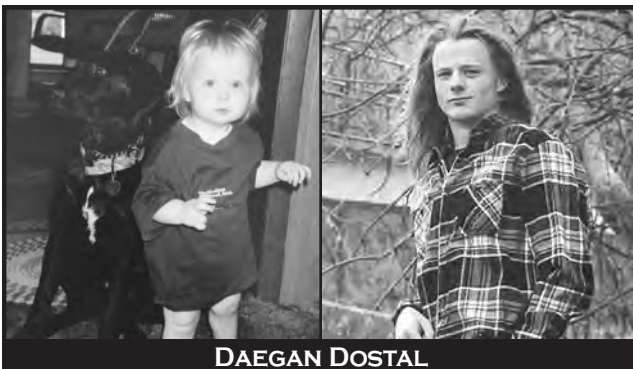
NOAH DELASKE



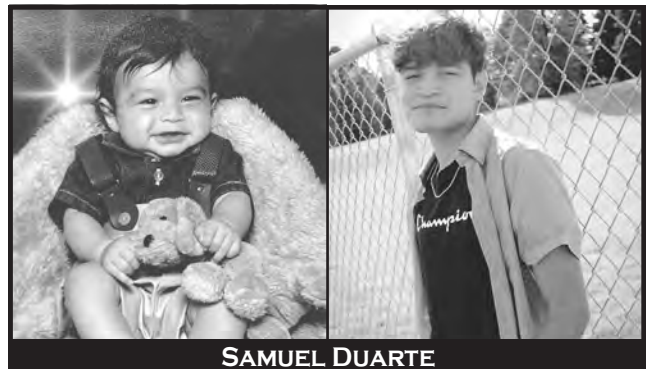
EMILY DEVETTER



COLBY DOBBS



DAEGAN DOSTAL



SAMUEL DUARTE



KAILEY ELLINGSON

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MARIEL FABER



OLIVIA FATE



VICTORIA FAVILLA



KALEB FLORES



McKENNA FREERKSEN



ANTHONY GONZALEZ



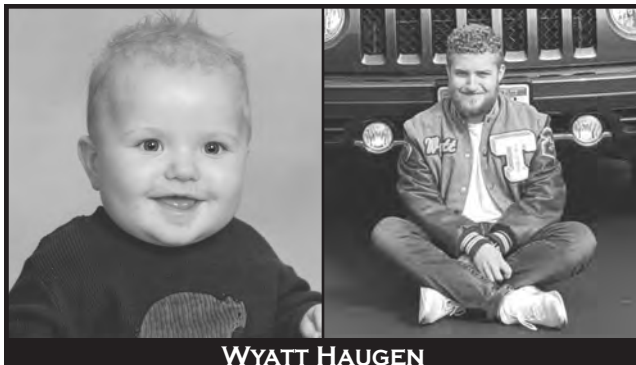
BRANDON GOTTLIEB



JAILEENE GUEL



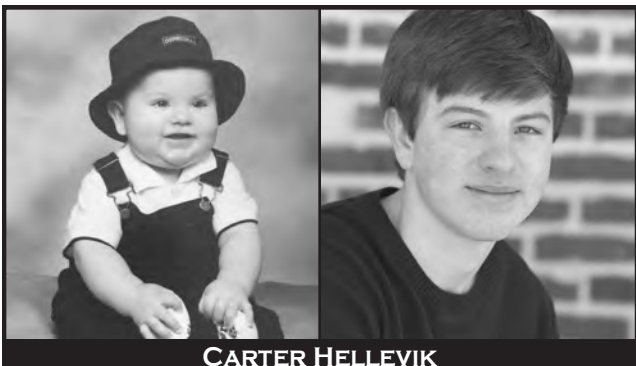
KYE HANSON



WYATT HAUGEN



KATRINA HEIMER



CARTER HELLEVIK



TERESA HUERTA



ELIJAH HUNTER

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We're celebrating the Class of 2021 and all of their amazing accomplishments. We wish every one of our local grads much happiness, success and good fortune today and always!

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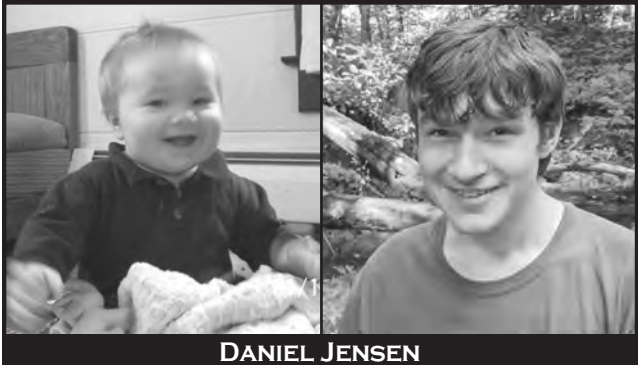
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DANIEL JENSEN



MAKENA JENSEN



ELLA JOHNSON



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MEGAN JUSTICE



ISAAC KENWORTHY



DUSTIN KLEMMENSEN



ALEX KRUCKEBERG



JACOB LARSON



JAELYN LAUE



AUSTIN LENTZ



TYLER LEQUE



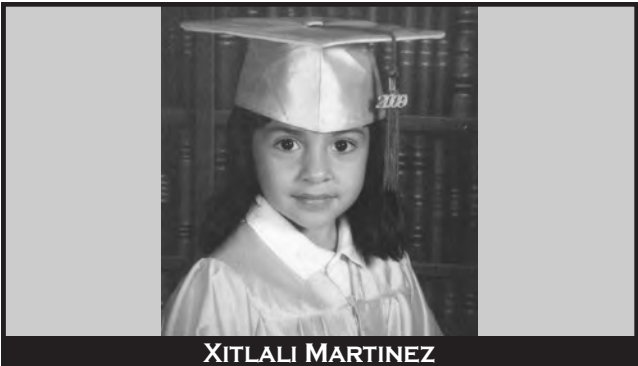
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TANNER MARQUETTE



KALLISTA MARTINEZ



XITLALI MARTINEZ


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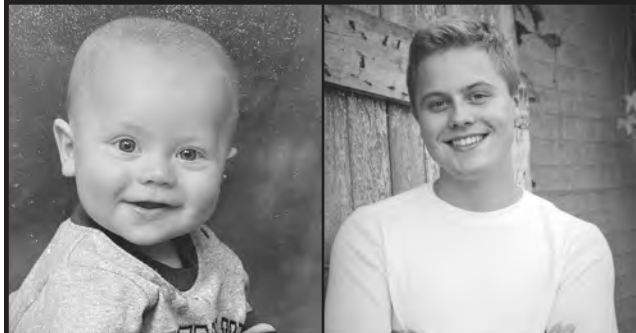

You're Going Places!
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HAEVAN QUIMBY



DESTINEE RAMIREZ



ISAAC REYANT



ANNA RIDENOUR




KAIDEN REICK




NATALIE ROBINSON

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 To the hardworking graduates of 2021, we salute your perseverance through a uniquely challenging senior year.



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Triton Class of 2021

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JASMIN WILLETTE

NOT PICTURED:
SAVANNAH BLOMQUIST
DIANA REYES



Celebrating the
Triton Class of 2021

We know you'll go far, and we wish you all
the best on graduation day and always!

150 Main St.
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**Triton
High School
Class of 2021**

**Sunday, June 6
2:00p.m.**

Class Motto:
"All we have to decide is what to do
with the time that is given to us."
- J.R.R. Tolkien

Class Flower: Rose

Class Colors: Burgundy and Grey

Class Officers:
Anna Ridenour, President
Brenna Essig, Vice President
Mariel Faber, Secretary
Makena Jensen, Co-Treasurer
Marcaisia Mlenar, Co-Treasurer

YAY Grad!

I wish you the best in all of your future endeavors!

Holly J. Burow 211 Main Street • PO Box 585
CPA, LLC West Concord, MN 55985

Certified Public Accountant
Office: 507-527-2898
hollyjcpa@mncpapro.com Cell: 507-838-2970
Fax: 507-527-2445

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We know you'll go far, and we wish you all
the best on graduation day and always!

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Congratulations and good luck, graduates!



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