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Small Towns are Dependent on Volunteers and Citizen Generosity



Memorial Park

WEST CONCORD – Many small towns are dependent on volunteers and citizen generosity to build a better future for their communities.

Evidence of that is plentiful in West Concord, where a nearly \$500,000 project approaches completion. A flagpole and flag donated by Scott Hodgman's family flutters above the new black-and-white engraved monument that contains names of people and businesses who donated to the project. An engraved bench donated by the Gunhus family stands beneath the memorial.

(continued on page 6)

Meet Dodge County's Dairy Princesses



Katrina Thoe

Katrina Thoe, is a 6th generation Dairy farmer in Hayfield MN. She is currently attending college at Winona State where she will graduate this December with a Nursing degree. She loves to read, spend time outside, skiing, skating, swimming, hiking,



Amanda Sauder

etc., and to hang out with family and friends. Her parents are Susie and Jeffrey Thoe. She has 3 sisters. Oldest sister Bonnie is 39 with 2 little boys, then Amanda at 34 with 1 little boy, and then McCayla Thoe at age 27, and Katrina is the youngest at age



Gabriela Espinoza

22.

Here she introduces herself in her own words.

I grew up on our small family owned and operated dairy farm. I feel very lucky to have grown up caring for cattle and the land along with my grandparents, parents, sisters, and now my nephews. I loved following my older sisters around the farm like a little duck and it brings me great joy to be the leader for my little nephews to follow me around on the farm. I started helping on the farm as young as I can remember. Working on the farm has instilled a great worth ethic in me that has benefited me in all areas of life such as school, sports, and other jobs.

Another characteristic I have that was strengthened from being a farmer is that I am someone who cares a lot. I grew up learning the importance of caring for our animals and our land.

(continued on page 6)



Duane Quam

New Attorney at Dodge Center Law Firm

By Kenya Narveson

There is plenty of legal work to do in rural communities. Farmers need estate plans, contracts, and business advice. Drivers commit the occasional DWI or get in a car accident. Nobody wants to search for a lawyer from the city; when they can solicit help from their local lawyers. Weber, Leth, and Woessner PLC is the leading law firm in Dodge Center that delivers a wide range of legal services to residents of Dodge County and the surrounding area. Duane Quam is the newest Associate Lawyer at the firm.

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The Legion Hall is showing it's age (1911), and the Post needs to do some very needed repairs, but has limited revenue.

Please join us for a night of backyard grilling and help fund our building projects.

Your support will help keep this hall available for you and the community.

Connecting to God: The Story of Samuel



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

[Excerpt from *Connecting with God in a Disconnected World: A Guide for Spiritual Growth and Renewal*, by Carolyn Mowchan and Damian Vraniak. Publisher: Augsburg Fortress, Minneapolis.]

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

Samuel's mother, Hannah (from the Old Testament), was torn apart in a bitter struggle. In her pain she turned to God. Her frustration about being childless led her to offer God a son, if only God would assist her. Samuel, the result of this promise, was dedicated to God and sent to the temple where priests raised him. Their lives revolved around worship and obedience to God. In this setting, Samuel learned how to prepare for God's contact and presence. An older man of faith, Eli, taught him how to understand God's communication. (Read 1 Samuel 3:1-11)

Notice that Samuel demonstrates willingness to be contacted by God and willing to be a servant. When people give up on prayer, it's because they keep asking God to serve them and God is not always willing to be our servant. But God is faithful to those

who seek, ask, and knock (Luke 11:9-13), looking for opportunities to "let God be God." The journeys God asks us to take, like Samuel's, may be difficult. He was asked to deliver a message of destruction, knowing no doubt that kings often beheaded the messengers when they didn't like the message! God's work sometimes seems impossible. But God walks with, directs, strengthens, and empowers those who take up the mantle of God's work. When we pray asking God to use us in service, demonstrating our willingness to let God lead, God invariably answers those prayers. We can pray, "Speak Lord, for your servant is listening" or "Thy will, not thine be done."

Most of God's message, most of the stories we read about in the Bible on God's

contact with us, have to do with God sending servants on a mission, often terribly difficult ones. Many if not most of God's servants were reluctant to take up the task, and therefore in the process they had to trust in God's strength and not their own.

Contact with God then includes stepping aside, pausing, and inviting God to speak. The speech may be nonverbal. Communication comes in many forms and in many ways. But we are promised that those who seek God and those who respond when God seeks them out will begin to experience the presence and guidance of God. When we pray for wisdom and guidance and are willing to be parented, God is there. May you have a rich and meaningful summer!

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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Area Church Directory
Seeing and Welcoming

Scripture Reading — Hebrews 11:1-2, 13-16
They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance. — Hebrews 11:13

Hebrews 11 gives us a glance in the Bible's rearview mirror. The faithful witnesses mentioned in this chapter lived long ago, even before Jesus came. And they had this in common: they all lived by faith in God's promises. And before they died and were taken to live with the Lord, "They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance."

"Seeing from a distance" is how we can describe the sights, sounds, and scenes in the book of Revelation. Revelation 11 closes with a scene in which all heaven rejoices and gives thanks to God because "the kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Messiah." It is a powerful picture of God reigning on earth as in heaven. And the promise is that "he will reign for ever and ever." Hallelujah!

With eyes of faith, we can see this "from a distance." Close-up in the world around us, though, we often see terrible things such as cancer, COVID-19, poverty, racism, violence, addiction, and death. And there are times when these appalling things make us weep. At such times, faith is the Holy Spirit's muscle that enables us to see "from a distance."

Faith also welcomes the future of God's full kingdom today. Faith has this power because it is "confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see."

Prayer: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done" — here today — "on earth as it is in heaven." Amen.

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Robert M. Vangness

Robert M. Vangness, age 73 of Kenyon formerly of West Concord died on Wednesday, May 19, 2021 at his home.

Robert Michael was born on December 9, 1947 at Fort Bragg, Cumberland County, North Carolina the son of Robert and Alma (Giesler) Hopkins. Robert's dad, Robert Junior Hopkins was killed on October 21, 1951 serving our country. Robert and his mom moved to Rochester. His mom remarried Harold Vangness and they moved to a farm outside of West Concord where Robert grew up. Robert graduated from West Concord High School where he wrestled in the state tournament his senior year. He then attended the University of Minnesota and Rochester Community College. On July 12, 1969 he married Dianne Feldmann from Kenyon and moved to Rochester. In October of 1969 they moved to a farm outside of West Concord where they enjoyed farming and life in the country for 48 years. Due to health reasons, they moved to Kenyon in 2017.

Robert worked for IBM from 1969 till 1993. From 1980 till 1990, he traveled for IBM instructing employees how to use the programs at IBM. From 1993 till 1995 he did various small jobs until he bought his



first semi ("Big Blue") in 1995. He was owner operator and hauled product to various parts of the Country. Due to health issues he had to give up trucking. Bob also acquired his Private Pilot's License in 1980. This was his passion. He gave rides to many people; he was able to fly a small plane to various IBM Sites allowing him to take his family with him.

Robert is noted for his Flashing Gel Rings that he passed out to people at the Mayo Clinic, with the motto "Where there is Light, there is HOPE." He made many people smile and gave them hope for healing. He is noted among many for all his "flashing lights." He loved making people happy. Robert loved spending time with his grandchildren. He took them on fun outings and made sure there were go karts, scooters, snowmobiles and other toys at the farm for them to enjoy.

He is survived by his loving wife, Dianne; sons, Jeremy (Kerri) Vangness, John (Amy) Vangness; grandchildren, Drake, Daniel, Bethany, Jackson, Norah; mother, Alma Vangness; siblings, Marlene Ray, Karen Schultz and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his birth father, Robert Junior Hopkins and his dad, Harold Vangness.

Visitation was at St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church on Saturday, May 22, 2021 from 9am to 10am. Memorial services was held Saturday, May 22, 2021 at 10am at St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church. Lunch followed at the West Concord American Legion. Interment was in the St. Vincent de Paul Cemetery in West

Concord. Memorials are preferred to Paws & Claws, Autisms Association or to the donor's choice.

Arthur Amos Boe

Arthur Amos Boe, 88, of Faribault, died Monday, May 24, 2021, at Three Links Care Center in Northfield, MN.

In lieu of a memorial service, the family met privately to celebrate Art's life. In place of flowers, well-wishers can make donations to the Faribault Area Hospice Foundation.

Art Boe was born on April 27, 1933, to Norman and Jessie (Bryant) Boe. Art was the second of nine tight-knit siblings in West Concord. After serving in the Navy, he attended Utah State University where he graduated with a BS, MS, and PhD in Plant Sciences. Art embarked on a successful career as a plant-science researcher in Brazil and Portugal and as a scientist, college professor, and department chair at University of Idaho and NDSU before shifting to a second career as a nurseryman, founding North Star Seed & Nursery in Faribault with his wife, Mertyann, in 1993. A horticulturalist, he developed and patented numerous plants including the Proven-Winners brand North Pole. Running the garden center was his dream, a dream that

he lived every day for 28 years.

Art married Francisca Hildete Calvalcanti de Freitas in Brazil in 1966. They had five daughters: Susan (b. 1967), Norma (b. 1968), Ana, Michele, and Gloria (b. 1971). They lived in Brazil and Idaho until their marriage ended in 1971 with the death of Hildete, Michele, and Gloria in childbirth. Art met and married Mertyann June Bertoline in 1974 in Moscow, ID. They built a life together in Moscow, Fargo, and Faribault.

Art is survived by his loving wife of 47 years, Mertyann Boe of Faribault; a stepson, Charles Rice of Faribault; two daughters, Norma Boe (and Robert Radtke) of Golden Valley and Ana de Freitas Boe (and Debra Nagy) of Cleveland, OH; two granddaughters, Alice and Eleanor Radtke of Golden Valley; two sisters, Margaruite (and Gregg) Albert of Tomahawk, WI and Zoa (and James) Heckman of Cushing; two brothers, Ervin (and Susie) Boe of Dover and Stanley (and Tamera) Boe of Faribault; three sisters-in-law, Signora Boe, Lois Boe, and Marilyn Boe of West Concord, and a brother-in-law, Billy Leonelli of Tooele, Utah.

He was preceded in death by his first wife, Hildete, and three daughters, Michele, Gloria, and Susan; his brothers, Peter Boe, Arlo Boe, and Burton Boe; his sister, Elizabeth Leonelli; and a niece, Pauline Richey.

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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.

There were some pictures floating about Facebook recently of the old train depot in West Concord. Some people were sharing some of the memories they have about the depot and about riding the train from West Concord to the Twin Cities. I never had the pleasure of riding a train out of West Concord and really don't remember the depot much except for one day when I was about 8 years old, I rode my bicycle into town and was hanging out with some friends and we decided to go over to the depot. As I recall, it was locked up and we just looked inside the windows. At the

time, there wasn't much to see and very little activity going on around there. The thing I remember most is how hot the rails got in the summer sun.

My recollections about the trains were watching them travel up and down the rails that were just on the east side of highway 56. When we happened to be sitting outside at our farm and a long train was going by, we would count the cars. Again the memory is a bit fuzzy about all of this but I think the highest I recall was around 150 cars.

The picture included with the column this month is of an old railway marker that happens to be about a mile east of my house in Cannon Falls along the Cannon Valley trail. It's one of those rails to trails projects that popped up after a number of rail lines were abandoned and sold around the country. When the line quit out of West Concord, Tom Avery bought a number of acres of railroad right of way. He did a lot of dirt work with his heavy equipment. He had dug out a similar cement marker that was along the rails almost due east of our farm. It said KC469. It told the railroad engineers that it was 469 miles to Kansas City much like the one in the picture that told the engineers that it was 75 miles to Mankato.

In the early 1980's I bought the KC marker from Tom for \$50 and put it at the end of our farm driveway. A few years later I sold it to Scott Nelson who put it up in his yard on his place which was about two miles east of highway 56 on County Road B or

530th Street. I happened to drive by there a few weeks ago to see if it was still there and it was not. If you're reading this and happen to know where it went, let me know. I don't want it; I just would like a picture of it.

As a youth, I couldn't wait to be in 6th grade so I could be one of the crossing guards who would get out of the bus at railroad crossings, look both ways, and then wave the bus driver across the tracks. My dad was the driver and I think he thought it was a dumb way to do it because, first if he saw a train, he would not open the door to let any kid out so they could get run over by a train. So a driver before he or she would open the bus door would already know if a train was coming. My dad said any driver could see and hear enough to know if there was a train coming. The government eventually agreed and thought the same way. There would be those few crossing guards who would run out and go as fast as they could across the tracks waving the driver over as they're running across the tracks without even looking up. Today's law has the driver open the window to their left and after stopping, open the door to look and listen, then close the door before moving on across the tracks.

I have one final note about the old depot that was used in West Concord for many years. If the story threads are correct on Facebook, the old depot was sold and



This is an old railroad marker located in Cannon Falls that told train engineers that it was 75 miles to Mankato. Emery writes about a similar marker that was just north of West Concord many years ago.

moved to Dodge Center where today it still sits near a rail line but is used as a storage shed and/or garage at a place near the old water tower. And not the water tower that's out by the school but the one just east of 4th Avenue SE and just north of 3rd Street SE which would put it just northwest of the DC airport.

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Vendors Wanted for the Schoolhouse Fall Festival Outdoor Market

At the Ball Field in West Concord

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
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Game starts at noon, weather permitting

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Museum Musings



Summertime

By Colleen Sathrum Hayne

I was a child of the 50's and 60's and the months of June, July, and August of 1956 found me enjoying the freedom of an old-fashioned summer on the farm before I started first grade at West Concord in the fall. I would venture into the bustling town of West Concord when my dad asked me if I wanted to go with him to town to grind feed. I always wanted to join him, but I didn't like it that he talked and talked and talked with everyone he met. Now I realize that's one of the pleasures of a small town—knowing your neighbors. Sometimes I stayed overnight with my grandparents on Olive Street and then I got to experience what it was like being a “town kid”.

What was happening in town that summer? The W.C. Enterprise did a lot of boasting about the residential streets in town. A gentleman from Kenyon had stopped by the Enterprise to compliment our town by saying there wasn't a “community in the area” that had as well maintained streets as West Concord. The Enterprise editor responded by saying that Kenyon had a swimming pool. The Kenyon visitor replied that a pool is only good for the summer months but streets make a difference all year long. When the village streets were seal coated with oil and sand, the council asked that drivers be on their best behavior—avoid speed and “spinning your wheels”—and help West Concord streets remain “the best in southern Minnesota.” Four new street lights were installed on the corners of Main Street and Highway 56—four 40 watt fluorescent bulbs in each fixture, considerably brightening up the area.

The newly graduated W.C. Class of '56 left for their Senior Class trip on Tuesday, May 29th. Their first stop was the Wisconsin Dells and then on to Chicago. They spent 3 days enjoying the sights and sounds of the windy city and then traveled to Kentucky and Churchill Downs before returning to West Concord a week later. In 1968 when our class trip took us to Washington DC and New York City we were one bunch of thrilled young people.

The West Concord High School Band, under their new and fine band director, Clarence Lee, played weekly summer concerts downtown for the community. In appreciation, before school began, the band was given a trip to the State Fair complete with spending money. I can attest to how much fun that was when I was old enough to participate. We were free to explore on our own for the day and no one seemed to worry about us very much.

Local children were bused to Kenyon's swimming pool for lessons and free swimming. Season passes for swimming could be purchased from \$2.00 to \$3.00 depending on age. “Midget” baseball was offered (that term wouldn't pass muster today) and regular practices and games were held for town boys between the ages of 11 and 15. (What—no ball games for girls??)

Farmers had their choice of implement dealers right in West Concord. If you were an International Harvester aficionado, Bucher Implement was your headquarters. F.L. Faulkner sold his John Deere farm implement business to Tom Avery that summer. One of the first tractors Tom featured was the new John Deere 520, complete with a 3-point hitch and a double remote cylinder. Don Walker of Friendly Farm Realty was advertising farm land in the West Concord area at prices between \$100 and \$200 an acre. The federal government's soil bank program was paying 237 Dodge County farmers a total of \$99121 for plowing under 2174 acres of oats, hay, and soybeans. Gordon Peterson, a manager/buyer for Hormel & Co., was offering planning help to assist hog farmers in the technique of multiple farrowing.

Carl Raddatz, John Swanson, Superintendent Espeseth, Fay Reed, Don Smith and Chuck Sagedahl took in some Minneapolis Millers' minor league baseball games at the Bloomington Stadium. They reported that over 25,000 people were in attendance at one game and they hoped that before too long a major league baseball club would be in the picture. They didn't have to wait too long—the Minnesota Twins arrived for the 1961 season. Another leisure activity that summer was the Dodge Center Conservation Club vs. the West Concord Conservation Club Crow Hunt. West Concord won handily.

A statewide poll taken that summer revealed that a majority of Minnesota citizens believed that drivers should be 17 years of age or older before they could get driver licenses, rather than the 15 year age that was in force. You would not have wanted me alone on the roads at age 15—I'm sure of that.

If you were a licensed driver in 1956 you had several choices about where to get fuel and/or service for your vehicle. Curley's, Swanson's, Walker's Phillips “66”, Dodge County Service, Concord Service Co., Boe Repair, Blaisdell Motors, and V & A Chevrolet, purchased by Harold Ervasti from Helmer Anderson in the summer of '56. The new 1957 cars were being promoted as a year of big change—lower slung bodies and smaller wheels, swivel seats, more powerful motors, and automatic transmissions as standard on most cars.

One of the innovations extolled was built-in sanders for icy roads. Did cars really ever have that feature? Seat belts were not yet a part of cars and that summer a 7 year old from West Concord suffered a skull fracture when he fell out of the back seat of his car. He was trying to open the window to let a fly out when he accidentally pulled the door latch and was thrown out of the car. I can remember nearly doing the same thing back then. Close calls weren't uncommon.

Weddings and other summer events were taking places at our local churches. A beautiful wedding was held at the Episcopal Church, no longer in West Concord.

The Zion Lutheran Church, now a residence, hosted festivities that summer, too.

Erdman's Cafe changed hands, with Mr. and Mrs. Ed Leighton being the new owners.

Winona State Teachers' College offered two off-campus courses at Dodge Center that summer and several West Concord teachers availed themselves of the opportunity: Marian Moreland, Nina Noser, and Betty Osborn among them.

The West Concord School Board had a lot on its plate in the summer of 1956. It was considering a site for the proposed new high school that eventually opened in the fall of 1958. After examining various sites, the Board voted to enter into an option agreement to purchase 38 acres of land from Bert Hittletvedt on the south side of town for \$400.00 per acre. The new high school's architects had this to say, “This office has inspected the site for the proposed new building which the Board has under option and finds it a piece of property which will nicely accommodate a new building unit. Its proximity to village sanitary and water facilities and its natural drainage greatly enhance its value . . . May we take this opportunity to commend the Board and its Advisory Committee for its far-sightedness in considering a site of such sizable proportions and desirable features.” That purchase has served our town well.

There was almost no talk of the weather in the newspapers of the summer of '56 which makes me think it was a “normal” summer. We at the Museum hope your summer is a good one: relaxed and fun and free. Here's hoping the weather moderates a bit.

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Also Holstein Cows, 2 to 8 weeks Off.

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Phone 270 West Concord, Minn.

Meet Dodge County's Dairy Princesses

(continued from page 1)

I feel that this caring characteristic I developed from dairy farming is a huge reason why I decided to become a Nurse. Farmers care so much about what we do because we care about making a high quality and nutritional dairy product for everyone to enjoy.

Not only do we care for our cows, but we care for a small group of cats on our farm. One time during a rainstorm, I was getting the cows settled safely in our barn and I heard some meowing outside. It turns out one of our cats had a litter of kittens that I didn't know about.

I rushed out in the rain and wind until I was able to rescue all 3 little kittens. This is one of my favorite stories to tell because it exemplifies that there is so much more about our dairy farm than meets the eye. Some other things I like to mention is that each of our cows have a name because we believe in caring for our animals as an individual along with the whole herd. We even bought a large back scratcher for our cows so they can have a high quality of life with the comfort they deserve.

I milk our cows and feed calves in the morning at about 6 am and again at 5 pm. I also help pick rocks in our fields so that when harvesting our crops the tractors don't hit these rocks. One of the fields I pick rock in is our alfalfa/hay field, this field grows very nutritious food for our cows to eat and enjoy so that they then make nutritious milk for us to have and enjoy! I also make sure the cows safely walk to pasture after

Milking. I am actively involved in harvesting our other crops as well.

I love being a dairy princess and I want to be the next Princess Kay of the milky way because the dairy farmers of Minnesota are so deserving of representation, and I am the person for the job. I love the fact that I can wear overalls to care for my cows in the morning, and then go put on my sash and crown for a dairy princess appearance. I have always loved to talk with people so getting to have conversations with people so that I can answer their questions about dairy is so fun and very rewarding. When people come to talk with their local dairy princesses they are able to feel confident in choosing dairy products for them and their family.

As a Dodge County Dairy Princess I go to events held at farms where people can come see how local dairy farms operate and just how local and fresh their dairy products are! I also hand out dairy products at local banks and local events. Additionally, I go into classrooms to teach young minds about how milk will help them grow big and strong from the 9 essential nutrients milk provides. I also teach about how milk gets from my farm to their local grocery store in just 48 hours and how that happens! I also love making educational videos and posts about dairy on my social media platforms to reach a greater audience. We do more events too!

I am honored to be 1 of 10 finalists for Princess Kay of the Milky Way. I was selected in May after competing in a couple of areas. I did a written application, a speech, a mock media interview, and a personal interview. I am so proud to have been selected and plan to use this opportunity to advocate for dairy to a greater audience. I am so excited to spend time with the other finalists, to compete, and to spend time at the state fair. I am extremely excited to get my facial likeness carved out of a 90 pound block of butter at the state fair! I am especially excited because I know how good that butter tastes, for all 3 of my older sisters were finalists and I got to enjoy the but-

ter from their carvings as well. :)

August 23rd-25th I will be competing for Princess Kay of the milky way and coronation will be the 25th, the evening before the first day of the state fair.

I plan to work as a Nurse and to continue caring for our family dairy herd. In the near future I plan to enjoy being a dairy princess and continue to promote dairy goodness and to advocate for how responsibly produced our products are!

Amanda Sauder is representing our local dairy farmers as a Dodge County Dairy Princess this year. She is the 2nd of 5 girls and her parents are Stan and Amy Sauder. Amanda was raised adjacent to her uncles' dairy farm where she has been able to experience the responsibilities of farming first hand. From a young age she began showing dairy calves at the county fair and became more involved within the dairy community through FFA, 4-H, and various other youth opportunities within agriculture.

As part of the 6th generation at Pine Shelter Farms, Amanda is proud of her heritage and the ability to continue a passion that has lasted over a century and still continues on today.

While home from school, she is heavily involved on the farm where she milks cows, raises calves, helps with hay and corn silage harvests, and completes various other tasks. "I love having the opportunity to work with my family while doing something I'm passionate about and wouldn't trade it for the world", Amanda comments.

When Amanda was younger she remembers trying on her mom's old dairy princess crown and she looked up to her older cousins and sister as they served in this position as well. Amanda says, "I have always known I wanted to be a dairy princess, not only to follow in my family's steps, but also because I love sharing my passion for the dairy industry and agriculture with others. It is an honor to serve as a county princess while representing the hardworking dairy farmers who provide safe and nutritious dairy products for us to enjoy every day!"

Some of the ways she will represent dairy as a Dodge County Dairy Princess are by visiting school classrooms, making appearances at local events and parades, as well as doing interviews and talking with the public.

This fall, Amanda will be entering her sophomore year at The University of Wisconsin-River Falls where she is majoring in Agricultural Communications and Marketing with a minor in Animal Science.

This is **Gabriela Espinoza's** first year as a Dodge County dairy princess. She just graduated High school from Kasson-Mantorville and currently lives in Kasson with her parents and 2 brothers. Gabi is involved in 4-H, FFA, Big Brothers Big Sisters, National Honor Society, band, softball, and is the Kasson ambassador. She currently works at St. Johns preschool in Kasson and at Bright Horizons child care. She loves to work with children.

"I've been around the dairy industry my whole life and have grown a passion for it", Gabi explains. Her parents are Ramon & MaryBeth Espinoza. Her mom grew up on a dairy farm and currently works in child care and her dad works on a dairy farm. She has two brothers, Carter who is 21 and

majoring in Dairy Science at SDSU, and Diego who is 14 and works on a dairy farm. Her family lives in town, but have a small family herd of dairy cows that they keep at the farm her dad works at.

Gabi grew up and lived on a farm until she was 5 when they moved into town. Her father and grandpa dad had always worked on a farm so she spent a lot of time around the farm. She loved getting to go help feed the cows and go for tractor rides. Her mom and siblings were all involved in 4-H and they showed dairy cows while she was growing up. She regularly goes out and helps with some of the chores around the farm like feeding calves or bedding. She does this for free as a way to pay the farm back for keeping her animals on the farm.

"My dad has been working on dairy farms since I was a baby", Gabi relates. "I've spent a lot of time on the farm and have been able to help on the farms growing up as well. I've been showing dairy cattle since I was 4 years old and have joined Dairy Judging and Dairy bowl teams throughout FFA and 4-H. Farming and the Dairy industry have been important throughout my family".

Growing up Gabi always wanted to be a Dairy princess. She loved getting to see them at the fair and other events. As she grew up, she has been able to look up to them and follow their footsteps to promote dairy. "I want to be able to continue to help and promote the Dairy industry and spread a positive light on it, while also being able to go out and make connections with my community. The Dairy industry to me means a lot. I don't think people realize how important it really is and all the hard work that goes behind it. It's not just farmers that make the industry run, there are a lot of people involved who are working hard to make quality products for the community. The dairy industry has been a huge part of my life and will continue to be", Gabi closed with.

As a dairy princess she will be able to attend different events and promote the industry in different ways. There they inform and teach the community about where the milk comes from, how it went from the farm to their table, and redirect some of the negative ideas about the industry.

Gabi plans to attend South Dakota State University and major in nursing. She hopes to move back to this area because of the many job opportunities and the amazing community.

Small Towns are Dependent on Volunteers and Citizen Generosity

(continued from page 1)

The new pool house, which will have its formal grand opening June 17, needs finishing touches before it welcomes swimmers for the first time in nearly two years.

A new walking trail winds its way past the pool and exercise facility, which has received a massive facelift. The newly resurfaced facility features basketball hoops, and in summer room for pickleball and tennis. The floor is flooded in winter for hockey players and skaters.

The Miss West Concord competition will be held on the floor July 23.

Kim Jones is excited about the event as well as her continuing effort to sell pavers that rest in stone rest in stone in the monument' shadow. She has sold more than 90, but there is room for 300. Pavers are available for \$100 and can be purchased by calling Jones at (507) 951-7535.

Jones said the paver project has yielded unexpected rewards.

"I have reconnected with so many people

because of the project," she said.

For example, a schoolmate who moved to Alaska and she lost touch. They reconnect when the family purchased pavers.

Best of all, the community is so supportive of the project.

"It is hard to put into words how heartwarming it is," she said. "The community has rallied around the project. The support has been overwhelming."

It shows, she said, that people's roots run deep even if they live a long way from where they grew up.

Jones is quick to thank those who helped make the project so successful.

Ellingson Companies matched donations dollar for dollar and Jeremy Ellingson and his team labored on the project. Many others also contributed to the effort.

It is heartening to realize that so many people got involved in the project.

"It is great to see that so many want to give back to the community," Jones said.

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Craig Schlichting
Superintendent

Gratitude. I am very grateful for the amazing staff at Triton Public Schools. I am also very thankful for the amazing families in our district. This past school year was full of challenges that I would prefer not to repeat. The constantly changing guidance and executive orders made day to day operations of school a constant challenge. Many times we were told of these changes without any time to prepare or adjust the plans we already had in place. On a positive note, working through this pandemic provided the opportunity for a number of individuals to shine. Difficult situations can often bring out the best in people, and it was amazing to see all of the great things staff did to help serve our students. We were able to overcome a number of barriers and obstacles and still provide our students the education they deserve. It wasn't an easy task to keep up with the constantly changing guidance, but we were able to keep our students in the building most of the school year. We only had a short period

of time in which we needed to resort to distance learning in December. None of this would have been possible without the cooperation and teamwork of so many people in our Triton Community. I am very thankful to work in such an amazing school district with so many amazing people. I believe that our students are the focal point of everything we do, and making sure that we are able to serve their needs make it all worthwhile.

Now that we have made it through the school year, it has provided time to reflect on the things that went well. It also provides a time to look at what didn't go as well as we would like, and how we can improve. One area that I have received feedback on is the way we communicate. We have had our emergency calling system for a number of years, but I heard of calls that got cut off and incomplete messages. We found a company that will update our webpage and link it to an app that you can put on your phone that will really update our ability to communicate with people in our community. This updated system will also provide us with the ability to send text message and updates via the app. It also connects a number of social media platforms, so we can put the same message out in a variety of formats from one place. I am looking forward to getting this in place over the summer to be ready to go this fall.

It will also be very nice to have all of the work in our district completed after this summer. We will have the entire building dehumidified which will create a much better learning environment for our high school students early in the fall and late in the spring. Our roofing will all be update and free from any worries about leaking. Our 20 year roofs have served us well since 1996, but they were in need of being

replaced. The other major area that will see improvements is our parking lot. If you have ever driven through our parking lot, I don't need to say anymore about that topic. It will be smooth and graded to drain and move the water out of the area. I will be a busy summer around the building, but it will address all of the major concerns that need to be addressed and overall, our facilities are in excellent shape, and we have room to grow!

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

New Attorney at Dodge Center Law Firm

(continued from page 1)

He specializes in family law and criminal law, and assists with estate planning and other legal matters.

He began his journey with Weber, Leth, and Woessner PLC in February of 2020 as a law clerk and a student at Mitchell Hamline School of Law. He commuted to school on nights and weekends, and took care of his wife and two children. The commitment to his dream was rewarded when he passed the Bar Exam and transitioned from law clerk to Associate Lawyer.

Duane, like many other young lawyers who choose to work in a rural area, said he grew up in Dodge County and plans on deepening his roots in the community. He explained, "The firm has been here a long time and the people here are great.

You spend so much time with the people you work with; so working at a small-firm feels like a second family and it shows with the personable service we provide."

Big or small, every legal matter directly affects the client. The relationship between a small firm and its clients takes time and effort to nurture. Large firms are frequently forced to initiate tried and true strategies. Whereas, smaller firms have the advantage of having a deeper knowledge about the client and their case. If a client has difficulty paying the remaining balance on their bill; small firms can be generous and offer payment options. Giving the client payment options during difficult times establishes compassion and trust.

Regardless of the size of the firm, one of the most important considerations in choosing a lawyer is your level of confidence and trust. Duane Quam focuses on the client's needs and representing his clients; while assisting the team of lawyers at Weber, Leth, and Woessner PLC. He has committed himself to a path of a rewarding and fulfilling career in law; while building relationships that will last a lifetime.

TRITON CLASS OF 2021



2021 SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

Chloe Staub is a senior at Triton High School. Her parents are Chris and Julie Staub. She has two siblings, Gabi and Brady. Her school activities include Volleyball, Track and Field, BPA, MHS, Link Crew, SADD, Student Council, AFS. Her favorite food is Chipotle Chicken Burrito. After Graduation she plans to attend the University of St. Thomas and major in Marketing and Real Estate Studies. She will also be participating on the track and field team at St. Thomas.

CHLOE STAUB

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Saturday 11:00am-9:30pm
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The Fireside www.firesidelounge.net
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Re-opening Wednesday, July 14th at 4:00 pm

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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 current 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

The Survival Days Committee is seeking nominations for "2021 Citizen of the Year"

This person does not need to live in the City of West Concord. He or she must have contributed to the West Concord Community.

**Nominations are due by:
Wednesday, July 7, 2021 at 5:00 pm**

Nomination forms and boxes can be found at West Concord City Hall, Casey's, Colleen's, Heritage Bank and West Concord Municipal. The Citizen of the year 2021 will be announced Friday, July 23 at the Miss West Concord Pageant to be held at Memorial Park at 6:00 pm.

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.

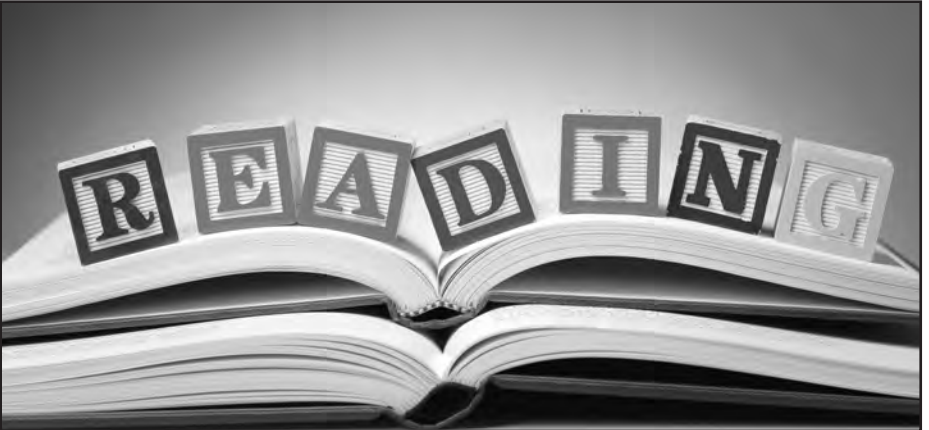
West Concord Public Library

The library's Summer Reading Program has begun! Stop into the library to sign up and get your Reading Log to join the fun. Our theme this year is "Reading Colors Your World." Prizes/incentives will be given for progress on the reading logs. We would like to thank Ginny's Drive-In and Casey's for generously donating some delicious prizes to our Summer Reading Program.

Summer story time is at 10:00 am on Tuesdays at Lions Park. We will read stories and provide a craft. Immediately following, we will have shared story time with any children who can read on their own. A craft or game will follow for those children. You do not need to attend Tuesday mornings to participate in the Summer Reading Program.

Be sure to mark your calendars for 1:00 Saturday, July 24th. Laura MacKenzie will be presenting "The Irish Piper" with music at Lions Park. This free 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.

Stop in to check out some summer reading or movies. We have many new arrivals, and it's cool inside!





We're Hiring!

ACCOUNTING CLERK

The City of West Concord is seeking an accounting clerk.

For more information and to apply go to www.westconcordmn.com or email: mike@westconcordmn.com or stop by City Hall by June 23, 2021.

PUBLIC NOTICE

2021 Hydrant Flushing Schedule

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



Survival Days City Wide Garage Sale



Anyone having a garage sale during Survival Days should send a message to the West Concord Survival Days Facebook page. We'll post them there.



Baby PHOTO CONTEST

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.

June Drink of the Month Naked Prairie \$3.50

Beer of the Month
 Busch Light bottles \$3.00
 Bud Light, Budweiser, Michelob, Coors Light \$3.50

Special Spirit
Minnesota Prairie Vodka

Minnesota- Distilled from corn, this organic vodka is beautifully smooth with hints of melon and pear on the nose, creaminess on the palate and a bright finish. 100% organic and gluten-free. Prairie Organic gives 1% to help farmers go organic! Consumer Choice Winner - 2020 SIP Awards.



ON SALE & OFF SALE
 OPEN 4-8 WED. & FRI.; SAT. 11am-11pm

West Concord MUNICIPAL
 ON & OFF SALE

TWIG FEST
 June 24th 5-9PM Special music!

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Remember to watch our Facebook page for updates and events. 

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 Survival Days 2021

July 22 – 25
36th Annual

Thursday, July 22

7:00 pm Guns vs Hoses Charity Softball Event (Police, Firefighters, EMS)

donations will be made to Mental Health Awareness and Suicide Prevention

Surprise button
design forthcoming!

Friday, July 23

7:00 am-11:00 am Methodist Church Coffee Shop & Doughnuts

8:00 am City Wide Garage Sales begin - Map available in WC Messenger Newspaper

9:00 am-1:00 pm Garage Sale & Museum Open - West Concord Historical Society

9:00 am Book Sale at West Concord Library

6:00 pm Garden Tractor Pull—South on Front Street

6:00 pm Food Stands/Beer Garden Open

6:30 pm Bean Bag Tournament Registration w/7:00pm Start Time--East Main Street Area (if rain, held in Fire Hall)

6:30 pm Memorial Park Ribbon Cutting Ceremony & Activities (kids games & food)/Mayor's Key/

Miss West Concord Pageant/Citizen of the Year/Baby Contest – Memorial Park Sport Court (next to swimming pool)

7:00 pm 5 K Color Run/Walk Registration w/7:15 pm Start Time- Line up at Memorial Park – by the pool

9:00 pm-12:00 am Music under the Big Tent - "Still Jammin' Too - Band" - Admission \$5 or Button

10:00 pm FIREWORKS - East Main Street (Bring Lawn Chairs) [Rain Day is Saturday Night 10:00 pm]

12:30 am -Last Call, 1:00 am Beer Garden Closes

Saturday, July 24 ** Garage Sales & Library Book Sale Continue**

8:00-11:00 am Fire Department Burrito Breakfast – Fire Hall

8:00 am-noon Scott Hodgman Classic Car & Bike Show – Main Street

8:00 am Softball Tournament Starts

8:30 am-3:30 pm Garage Sale & Museum Open - WCHS

9:00 am Sandpit Volleyball Tournament begins

9:00 am 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament

11:30 am Treasure Hunt at the Swimming Pool - ages 2-12 are welcome, bring swim suit

11:00 noon-4:00 pm Kids' Activities/Bounce House - East side of mini storage

1:00 pm Library Program, "The Irish Piper Story" with music, presented by Laura MacKenzie – Lion's Park (in case of rain, Methodist Church) *"This presentation made possible by a Library Legacy Grant"*

2:00-5:00 pm Rochester Rough Riders "Mud Bog"-- Hyland Systems (Old Football Practice Field)

3:30-6:00 pm Rookie the Clown – East end of Main Street

5:00 pm Beer Garden/Food Stands Open

7:30 pm Excavator Rodeo – East end of Main Street

8:30 pm-12:30 am Dance Under the Tent- "Devon Worley Band" ~Admission \$10 or \$5 with a button

12:00 am Ticket Sales End, 12:30 am-Last Call, 1:00 am Beer Garden Closes

Sunday, July 25

7:00-11:00 am American Legion/Auxiliary Breakfast -- Legion Hall, Main Street

8:00 am Softball, & Volleyball Tournaments Resume

9:30 am Community Worship Service – Lion's Park (bring your own lawn chair – in event of rain, service will be held at the Methodist Church)

Noon Beer Garden/Food Stands Open

Noon-3:00 pm Trinity Lutheran Pie & Ice Cream Social-- Under the Tent

1:00 pm **Grand Parade** -- Route: Streets (Main/Front → Main → Third → Eugene → First → Olive → Front → Main)

2:00 pm Firefighters' "Water Fight" - East End of Main Street

2:00-3:30 pm Music under the Big Tent after the Parade "CCB Jazz"

3:30 pm BEER GARDEN CLOSES

Support Your Local Community - "Celebrate & Buy a Button"

Limited Quantity of 500 Buttons

"Thank You" to All Who Donated to Make Survival Days a Success!

For More Information call City Hall (507) 527-2668 or visit www.westconcordmn.com

All Events Subject To Change or Cancellation

WATCH FOR
MEDALLION
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ALL WEEK!
PRIZES
AWARDED!
(Prizes can be obtained)

Explore Your Hidden Talents



By Harvey Mackay

Novelist Kurt Vonnegut Jr. learned a valuable lesson at age 15 that shaped his life and may shape yours.

According to a story in "Bits & Pieces," he spent a month working on an archaeological dig. At lunch one day one of the archaeologists asked Vonnegut a bunch of questions to learn more about the young man. Vonnegut said he participated in theater, choir, enjoyed art and played the violin and piano.

The archaeologist was impressed, but Vonnegut then admitted that he wasn't "any good at any of them."

The archaeologist then gave Vonnegut the lesson that changed his life. He said: "I don't think being good at things is the point of doing them. I think you've got all these wonderful experiences with different skills,

and that all teaches you things and makes you an interesting person, no matter how well you do them."

Vonnegut then admitted he went from someone who hadn't been talented enough to excel at anything to someone who did things because he enjoyed them.

He said: "I had been raised in such an achievement-oriented environment, so inundated with the myth of talent, that I thought it was only worth doing things if you could 'win' at them."

Many of us have that mentality, and it prevents us from living up to our full potential. Consider this my permission to change your thinking and explore available options for new and exciting challenges.

As Henry Ford said, "Every experience is worth having."

This may seem contradictory in our society, which is built on being the best, doing the best you can and focusing on your strengths. The subtitle of one of my books is "Do what you love and love what you do." That's the bottom line.

So why not try as many things as you are able. You never know how you might enjoy an experience or when something might click. Never be afraid to take chances, try new things, make mistakes and learn from them and just have fun.

Unless you open yourself up to trying new things, you can't find what you love. In the end, we only regret the chances we didn't take. It's better to look back on life and say, "I can't believe I did that," rather than to look back and say: "I wish I did that."

I had several sales jobs growing up, from having a paper route to working in a men's

clothing store to my first job out of college, being an envelope salesman. I knew I liked and enjoyed sales.

I also knew that I wanted to own my own factory and have people look up to me as I walked the plant floor. My envelope manufacturing company is still thriving many decades later, but I didn't put my name on the business until a couple years later when I knew I was going to succeed.

Throughout my life I've tried a variety of things. I've volunteered for many organizations, served on many for-profit and non-profit boards, joined various organizations and written about many subjects in my books and nationally syndicated column.

My passion for sports led me to try many adventures including running 10 marathons, scuba diving and snorkeling, biking, bowling, ping pong, golf, dance, trap shooting, fly fishing, tennis, just to name a few.

Make a list of new things that you would like to try. Continue to experience the euphoria of trying new things.

You have a lifetime of experiences to explore. Learn to play a musical instrument or a new language, visit a place you've always wanted to go, attend a sporting event, plant a garden or help an aging neighbor. The opportunities are endless.

A father decided his daughter was old enough to learn about helping others, so he took her to help an older neighbor: raking the leaves, organizing his garage, putting the trash out and performing other small jobs around his house. The child had not really seen the elderly neighbor up close, but on this day she was going to meet him



for the first time.

She asked him how old he was. The father was flabbergasted by his child's question and attempted to apologize. The neighbor laughed and said that's okay. The child is curious. He said he was 92 years old.

The child had a look of disbelief and asked the neighbor, "Did you start at number one?"

Mackay's Moral: When was the last time you tried something for the first time?

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."

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Top Minnesota Dairy Farms Honored for Superior Cow Care



Minnesota Agriculture Commissioner Thom Petersen today released the annual list of top Minnesota dairy herds with low somatic cell counts (SCC). Somatic cell count is a key indicator of milk quality – a lower SCC count is better for cheese production and a longer shelf life for bottled milk. In honor of June Dairy Month, 96 Minnesota dairy farms are being recognized for superior herd management skills by achieving an average SCC of under 100,000.

“I’m honored to be able to recognize these 96 dairies for their high level of excellence,” said Commissioner Petersen. “These dairy farmers work hard 365 days a year to produce high quality, wholesome dairy products for all of us to enjoy, and I thank them for their contributions to feed Minnesota and the world.”

Although somatic cells occur naturally and are not a food safety concern, dairy farmers monitor them because they can be

used as a measure of the health of their cows. Processors also pay a premium for milk with low counts. A farmer whose herd has a very low count can receive a significantly higher price per hundredweight compared to a farmer whose herd average is high.

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) and University of Minnesota dairy experts have worked with the state’s dairy farmers to lower somatic cell counts. When the initiative began in 2003, the 100 herds honored that year included those with SCC averages as high as 144,000, compared to the current goal of obtaining a SCC under 100,000.

The SCC list of Minnesota dairy farms is online at <http://www.mda.state.mn.us/lowsc>

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The Future of Farmland



Tim Penny
So. MN Initiative Foundation

Many of the farmers that I know in southern Minnesota work on the same land that their parents, grandparents or even great-grandparents farmed. Because of this, the farm is more than a parcel of land to grow crops or raise animals – it is a living piece of family history. At the same time, we are faced with the reality that the average farmer is close to retirement age, and that not everyone has an heir to transfer the land to when the time comes. Fortunately, Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation (SMIF) has a program that can help farmers safeguard the legacy of their land while simultaneously giving back to their com-

munities.

SMIF's Acres for Good program allows farmers to donate their land as a charitable gift. What makes this model unique is that rather than liquidate the asset as most charities do, SMIF retains the land and keeps it in production by a rental arrangement. This allows retiring farmers the peace of mind that their land will continue to be farmed. The landowner receives a tax deduction and bypasses capital gains tax while still being able to maintain a stable revenue source for life.

As the name suggests, the Acres for Good program is also a way to do good things for your community. The income stream from the land is used to support southern Minnesota communities well into the future. With more than \$7 billion of wealth in SMIF's region expected to transfer by 2030, this program can help retain that wealth locally while creating a unique opportunity for farmers to make a long-lasting impact on rural Minnesota.

Farmers will choose how they want to allocate their gift of land. It can go toward one of SMIF's 30 community foundations which invest in their communities through grants and programs. For a region-wide reach, farmers can allocate their land toward SMIF's general endowment, or SMIF's specific funds which support youth and entrepreneurs in the region. Farmers can even set up a Donor Advised



Fund to allocate resources to their specific interests and values such as their place of worship, alma mater or local charity. We will work with farmers to make the process as simple as possible.

If you know a farmer who is thinking about estate planning, please let them know that there is a way their land can remain active farmland and provide them with a steady revenue stream, while in the long-term also benefitting the communities and

causes they care about most. This is gifting with a purpose at its best – and SMIF is here to help.

To learn more about the Acres for Good program visit smifoundation.org/acresfor-good or contact Alissa Oeltjenbruns, Philanthropy Officer, at 507-214-7023 or alissao@smifoundation.org.

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

Traveling with Pets

"Most people consider pets as family members and often bring their pets with them when traveling," says Dr. Adriana Roman-Muniz, a veterinary medical officer for the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) Veterinary Services. Recently Dr. Roman-Muniz spoke with students at the University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine about regulations governing pet travel.

"Pets travel with their owners by car, train, air, or sea," notes Dr. Roman-Muniz. "These travel methods have requirements established to protect people, animals, and ecosystems from the spread of diseases, pests, and invasive or injurious animals."

The advice offered here is also provided in more detail on a USDA pet travel website: <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/pet-travel>. The regulations vary depending on whether the pet will travel within a state, between states, or internationally. For the purposes of interstate and international travel, horses are regulated differently from pets such as cats and dogs.

When traveling between states with a pet, owners should contact the state veterinarian's office in the state of destination to learn what documentation is needed, according to Dr. Roman-Muniz.

In most cases of interstate travel, the animal must be accompanied by a certificate of veterinary inspection issued by a veterinarian. This documentation requires the animal to have a full physical examination by their primary care veterinarian shortly before the trip. The animal should have no health concerns.

"Some states require certain vaccinations or laboratory tests in order to allow an animal to enter," Dr. Roman-Muniz explains. "Most states will require the rabies vaccine that your veterinarian already recommends to you during your annual visit."

Certain species are not allowed in some states. For example, ferrets and hedgehogs are not allowed in California. Owners need to research state regulations before traveling to avoid legal ramifications.

Most species traditionally kept as pets in the U.S. can travel internationally when accompanied by an international health certificate. Restrictions are determined by the country of destination.

In many cases, a country-specific health certificate is required. If a country does not have its own certificate, the APHIS pet travel website provides a standard form that may be used.

"The required health certificate is completed by a veterinarian and, in most cases, needs to be endorsed by APHIS Veterinary Services," Dr. Roman-Muniz explains. "For travel to most countries, the veterinarian completing the certificate must be accredited by the USDA in addition to being licensed." The website above can help owners find an accredited veterinarian.

Some countries may require other documentation, such as an import permit, vaccination record, or owner's declaration.

To make travel documentation easier, the Veterinary Export Health Certification System allows veterinarians accredited by the USDA to issue international health certificates electronically. In some cases, the certificate can also be endorsed electronically by APHIS Veterinary Services. Using this system can potentially save the traveler time and money.

"It is so important for owners to be well informed about their travel requirements to avoid unnecessary stress and obstacles when traveling," Dr. Roman-Muniz says. Some countries require a quarantine period during which the pet will be detained. In other countries, pets that do not comply with the country's requirements, such as having the correct documentation, may also be placed in quarantine until they meet entry requirements. Quarantine expenses are the responsibility of the pet owner.

"Allow time to complete the necessary paperwork and forms for travel," Dr. Roman-Muniz advises. Although some countries' pre-travel paperwork may be completed in a few days, in other cases the process takes much longer. For example, Australia requires preparation for cats and dogs that will take up to 6 months.

Dr. Roman-Muniz recommends that owners start planning as soon as they know they will be traveling with a pet.

Veterinarians play a vital role in pet travel. They assist with interstate and international movement by advising owners of requirements, completing the proper certificates, and performing required examinations, tests vaccinations, and treatments.

"Veterinarians are a resource for client education and have a responsibility for making sure animals are healthy and fit to travel and meet all travel requirements," Dr. Roman-Muniz says. APHIS Veterinary Services is here to help owners, and the organization's pet travel website is another great resource.

If you have any questions about traveling with your pet, contact your local veterinarian.

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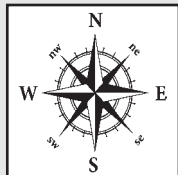
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Changes in Latitudes, Changes in Attitudes Hillbilly Dating



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.

The local newspaper has a personal section in the back of each issue and we often read it just for a good laugh. I do not believe Internet dating has taken hold in this area and the person to person ads in newsprint are sometimes way too funny.

They run them for free so anyone can have a chance at romance down here

Our all-time favorite has run a couple times and it is just too much of a gem to not share. Kind of gives you an idea of the type of guys a girl can find down here if they look hard enough.

White male, 5' 11", 170 lbs., looking for a loving lady who still likes sex and don't mind taking it all off and jumping in bed with her man. She should be 70 to 80 years old. I take my ladies on trips and stay in motels, give them \$50 a week in spending money and take them shopping one or more times a week. I am always happy and never get mad. I am a retired cop and have my own home and a late model van. I know how to enjoy life. My age is 80+ but still young and full of life. Respond to PTP506.

Don't give up ladies. There are still a few good ones out there even though they are getting up in years. Now whenever we see something that seems too good to be true, we look at each other, chuckle and say, "\$50 a week and a late model van."

A Minnesotan: Why did the turkey cross the road?



By RosaLin Alcoser

Never did I ever think that while living in the cities I would have to wait through a green light because a turkey was using the crosswalk. I mean actually using the crosswalk; this turkey looked both ways

and everything.

Traditionally I have not had the best of luck with turkey's, or fowle in general, over the course of my life. I have been chased by turkey's, have had them run in front of my car, and have been spooked by turkey's pretending to be flying armadillos.

Now in the case of the turkey posing as a flying armadillo it was a hen roosting in the bushes and she was trying to remain hidden. So of course teenage me saw her out of the corner of my eye and mistook her for an armadillo.

Unfortunately I yelled armadillo, causing her to take off flying which resulted in me yelling flying armadillo! Flying armadillo is a phrase that my sister has not let me forget even though it has been almost 10 years since that happened.

All of these things happened out in the rural never in town, let alone in the Twin Cities. So I'm sure that you can imagine my surprise to see a turkey using the crosswalk in the middle of the city.

THE SAVVY SENIOR

By Jim Miller

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Dear Savvy Senior,
I'm concerned that my 80-year-old mother is taking too many medications. She currently takes 10 different drugs prescribed by three different doctors, which I think is causing her some problems. She also struggles to keep up with all the drug costs. Any suggestions?
—Concerned Daughter

Dear Concerned,

There's no doubt that older Americans are taking more prescription medications than ever before. According to the Journal of the American Medical Association, around 40 percent of seniors, age 65 and older, take five or more medications. And the more drugs a person takes, the higher their risk for medication problems, and the more likely they are to take something they don't need.

Brown Bag Review

To help you get a better handle on the medications your mom is taking, gather up all her pill bottles – include all prescription drugs, over-the-counter medications, vitamins, minerals and herbal supplements – and put them in a bag and take them to her primary doctor or pharmacist for a thorough drug checkup. This "brown-bag review" will give you a chance to check for duplicate meds, excessive doses, and dangerous interactions, and for you to ask questions.

Medicare Part B covers free yearly medication reviews with a doctor through their annual wellness visits, and many Medicare Part D plans cover medication reviews with a pharmacist too.

You should also note that October 21, is "National Check Your Meds Day." A number of pharmacies – Albertsons, Costco, CVS, Sam's Club, Target, Walmart and many independents – have agreed to support the effort. Some may even have extra staff on hand to help you review your meds. Ask your local pharmacy whether it is participating.

When you get your mom's review, go over the basics for each medication or supplement, such as what it's for, how long she should take it, what it costs, and any side effects and potential interactions. Also ask if there are any meds she can stop taking, and find out if there are any nondrug options that might be safer, and whether she can switch to a lower dose.

To help your mom avoid future medication problems, make sure her primary doctor is aware of all the medications, over-the-counter drugs and supplements she takes. You should also keep an up-dated list of everything she takes and share it with every doctor she sees. And, be sure that your mom fills all her prescriptions at the same pharmacy and informs her pharmacist of any over-the counter, herbal or mail order prescriptions she's taking so that there is complete oversight of her medications.

How To Save

To help cut your mom's medication costs, there are a number of cost savings tips you can try. For starters, find out if there are any generic alternatives to the drugs she currently takes. Switching to generics saves anywhere between 20 and 90 percent.

You should also ask your mom's prescribing doctors if any of the pills she takes could be cut in half. Pill splitting allows you to get two months worth of medicine for the price of one. And for the drugs she takes long-term, ask for a three-month prescription, which is usually cheaper than buying month-to-month.

Because drug prices can vary depending on where you buy them, another way to save is by shopping around (GoodRX.com will help you compare drug prices at U.S. pharmacies), and find out if your mom's drug insurance plan offers cheaper deals through preferred pharmacies or a mail-order service.

And finally, if your mom's income is limited, she can probably get help through drug assistance programs offered through pharmaceutical companies, government agencies and charitable organizations. To find these types of programs use BenefitsCheckUp.org.

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We Recognize the Hardworking Dairy Farmers this Month

Our local dairy farmers work hard every day to nourish our nation with delicious and nutritious dairy products. Over the years, their ongoing dedication and commitment to quality has helped us grow up healthy and strong. But the dairy industry is more than just an important part of our lives and our children's lives, it's an integral part of our local economy too.



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