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SEPTEMBER, 2021

Volume 5 • Issue 8

A Blast in the Past at the Schoolhouse Fall Festival

By Megan Ziegler, Staff Writer for the Hometown Messenger

The new Schoolhouse Fall Festival, organized by the West Concord Historical Society, debuted on Saturday, September 18th with an old-fashioned base ball game, base ball being two words back in the day. The Locals took on the Rochester Roosters at noon, honoring the vintage way the game used to be played during the 1860s, complete with period-correct uniforms and gear. Prior to the game, the Roosters provided a brief history lesson by teaching The Locals the 1860 rules of the game. The event ran from 11am until 4pm, with approximately 200 people in attendance.

Colleen Hayne, one of the event organizers, stated that the West Concord Historical Society board was initially approached by the Rochester Roosters when one of their representatives attended a regular monthly



Teams picture at the end of game

WCHS board meeting last spring. The board decided hosting the Roosters would be a great way to celebrate the WCHS building being added to the National Register of Historic Places in January of 2021. Board members picked a date and

decided to expand the event to include food, museum tours, vendors and wagon rides as well.

Board members of the West Concord Historical Society recruited community members to play for The Locals by reaching out to family and friends. They also posted a message on the WCHS Facebook page until they had nine volunteers. Although the 1860s didn't have women base ball players, the local team had both guys and gals out there having fun during the festival. The feedback given to Colleen from the players who participated was that everyone "had a fabulous time playing. It exceeded their expectations for the fun that it was!"

(continued on page 4)

Announcements

• Faith Community Church is planning another Senior Festival Hymn Sing on Thursday, October 21, 2021 at 2:00 p.m. Come and join us for singing some of your favorite hymns and fellowshiping with others. Note that the event may be subject to change depending on Covid-19 regulations. For more information call the church at 527-2245.

• Vang Lutheran Church Annual Lutefisk and Norwegian Meatball Supper will be Wednesday, October 13. *(see ad on page 12)*

Triton Welcomes New Teacher

By Kenya Narveson

The Triton School District has welcomed new teachers to their team for the school year. Teachers must have the ability to engage all of the students' various reading levels and understanding to pass the grade-level assessments. As a teacher you have to find ways to engage all students and find opportunities for them to learn and grow in your classroom.

Jennifer Wyttenbach had been a teacher and instructional coach for over a decade at

Kasson-Mantorville schools. She felt led to join Triton School District after hearing wonderful accolades about the staff. "I felt called to this district.

(continued on page 6)



Jennifer Wyttenbach
English Teacher

West Concord American Red Cross Blood Drive

American
Red Cross



A Red Cross Blood Drive will be held on Monday, October 4, 2021 from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

It will take place at Faith Community Church, 305 State St N (Hwy 56) in West Concord.

To schedule an appointment, please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter: West Concord.

Streamline your donation experience and save up to 15 minutes by visiting RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass to complete your pre-donation reading and health history questions on the day of your appointment.

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Pilate's Question Today

By Pastor Dave Brederland
Faith Community Church

Pilate's question is still relevant today and it is crucial that we have a proper answer to it. What is Pilate's famous question? "What is truth?" is the question Pilate asked in response to Jesus in the Gospel of John 18:38.

At a basic level, truth is what conforms to reality. Truth is what is actual. The facts are truth. Yet for some in our nation today, truth is up for grabs. Truth can be marginalized or silenced if it is not the "truth" that some would prefer. As Sen. Daniel Moynihan once observed: "Everyone is entitled to his own opinion, but not his own facts."

Those who claim to follow Jesus should be concerned about truth. Not only the truth of our faith, but truth in all areas of life. Jesus said, "Everyone on the side of truth listens to me" (see John 18:37). We must continually tune our ears to hear Jesus in the Scriptures.

Os Guinness in a talk given at Cambridge University stated that "... humans are not only truth seekers we're also, let's be honest, truth twisters. And there's two ways you can always handle truth. We can try and make the truth conform to our desires of reality or make our desires conform to

the truth of reality."

Truth twisting is not new. Rejecting truth is not new. The Apostle Paul in his final letter wrote to Timothy to let him know what to expect. For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths. (2 Timothy 4:3-4 NIV).

Let's make a commitment to seek the truth. May we desire to speak the truth in love. Francis Schaeffer said: "Truth always carries with it confrontation. Truth demands confrontation; loving confrontation nevertheless. If our reflex action is always accommodation regardless of the centrality of the truth involved, there is something wrong." Os Guinness adds that

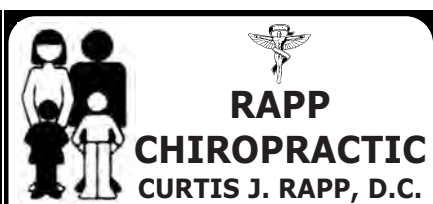
a current challenge for Christians today is "to stand for truth and to be people of truth where telling the truth is becoming a revolutionary act."

May we recognize our own tendencies to twist the truth instead of letting truth transform us. Just as a surgeon uses a scalpel to remove harmful tissue, let us wield truth with skill, compassion and with a goal to bring spiritual health.

We all need truth – especially Jesus, the Way, the Truth, and the Life.

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www.fccwc.org

Facebook: WC Faith Community Church

Hegre Lutheran, ELCA

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Sunday worship video is posted on Facebook:

[TrinityLutheranChurchWestConcordMN](https://www.facebook.com/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.

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Pastor Mark Schlasner

Sunday 9:30a.m. Worship

Church of Christ

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Pastor Peter Moen

9:00a.m. Sunday School; 10:30a.m. Worship

concordchurchmn.com

Zwingli United Church of Christ

"The Berne Church"

23148 Co. Hwy. 24, West Concord • 507-356-4340

Pastor Karen Larson

Sunday 10:00a.m. Worship; Find us on Facebook

Area Church Directory

Fear for Nothing?

"Does Job fear God for nothing?" – Job 1:9

I can remember a time in college when everything was going really well. I had lots of friends, I was getting good grades, I was having fun, I was involved in a great church, my relationship with God was thriving, and I even enjoyed my part-time job. Everything was going great, and I was extremely happy.

When everything is going well, it is relatively easy to honor and praise God and follow him wholeheartedly—to fear God in the biblical sense of being devoted to him.

In Job 1, Satan claimed it was easy for Job to fear God because his life was going so well. Job had 10 children, thousands of animals, and many servants. Job was a great man whose kids threw great parties. He would even offer sacrifices just in case someone in his household sinned against God. So of course Job feared God, Satan said. His life was great!

As the story of Job continued, however, all those blessings were taken from him. His family, his possessions, and even his health were taken away. Yet Job still feared God. Our devotion to God shouldn't be dependent on how well life is going for us. If we fear God only because life is good, then we really don't fear God at all.

As you think about your devotion to God, make sure you fear God because of who he is and not because he can give you great blessings.

Prayer

Awesome God, help us to adore and worship you because of who you are—God above all things. Amen.

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Dallas Joseph Laqua

Dallas Joseph Laqua, age 27, of Dodge Center, MN, died on Friday, August 14, 2021.



Dallas was born on May 9, 1994 to Tamera Joy (Schletty) Laqua and Thomas Michael Laqua. Dallas graduated from Triton High School in 2012.

Prior to attending Triton, Dallas was a student at Lake City High School. A highlight of Dallas' high school years was playing football. He played a variety of positions and was honored to be a part of the Triton Cobra state competition his junior year.

As a youngster, Dallas enjoyed the outdoors, especially climbing trees and zip lining. His joy of climbing trees led him to begin a career, alongside his father, as an Arbor Man. Together they ran their own small business for a few years. Dallas then began roofing, working 6 years for Above All Roofing. Most importantly, Dallas' greatest passion in life was his daughter, Eden, and spending time with her. She brought joy to his life and he to hers.

Dallas is survived by his daughters, Eden and newborn, Karma; mother, Tammy, Dodge Center; father, Tom (Sue) Laqua, Millville. Siblings: Travis Schletty, Harmony; Nichole (Tony) Engesser, Mankato; Trevor (Netta) Laqua, Oak Center; and Trenton (Kimberly) Laqua, Austin. Stepbrothers: Scott (Tanya) Kornexl, Austin; Josh (Carrie) Kornexl, Chandler, AZ. Grandmothers: Pat Laqua, Mazeppa and Adeline Schletty, West Concord. Nieces & nephews: Niko, Owen

and Aria Engesser; Brandi and Riley Schletty; Zakai, Talia and Tynan Laqua, along with step nieces and nephews, aunts, uncles and cousins.

Dallas was preceded in death by his infant sister, Trisha Joy Laqua; grandfathers: Richard (Dick) Laqua and Rolland (Rollie) Schletty, an aunt and two cousins.

Dallas will be forever remembered for his blue eyes, sly smile, charming and caring disposition, relentless desire to help others, sacrifices for friends and family, and unconditional and unending love for his daughter.

A Public Visitation was held on Friday, August 27, 2021 from 3:00-4:00 PM at the Michaelson Funeral Home in West Concord, MN. A private funeral service will be held later.

Memorials can be sent to the family or to a suicide foundation of the donor's choice.

Gordon Harold Sorenson

Gordon Harold Sorenson, affectionately known as "Gordy" to his family and friends, was born on December 16, 1937 in Storm Lake, Iowa, to his parents, Harold and Carol Sorenson. Gordon was the eldest of three — younger brother Gary and youngest sister Peggy.

Gordon grew up in Storm Lake, Iowa and attended Storm Lake High School. At age 14, he gave his life to the Lord Jesus, was baptized, and never looked back. After graduating in 1955, Gordon wanted to see what was beyond Iowa so he set out in his '41 Ford 2-door V-8 sedan and headed to Los Angeles with his buddy...ready for adventures.

Gordon met Betty Ann Smith while attending a young adults group at church and "that was all she wrote." They married on June 6, 1959, at the Rosemead Church of Christ in Rosemead, California and enjoyed 63 years of "Wooly Headlock" to the love of his life and best friend. It was during his time in California that Gordon felt the call of God on his life to become a minister and decided to attend Minnesota Bible College, in Minneapolis, MN. He graduated in 1963 with a Bachelor of Theology degree and was ordained.



Throughout his life Gordon lived and breathed the Great Commission and shared the good news of Jesus Christ, every opportunity he had with anyone who would listen. Gordon's vision of ministry was never limited to a church building. He spent his life in jobs of service — whether in the pulpit or working in some sort of ministry or community service capacity, he faithfully provided for his family.

Gordon served and pastored many small congregations during his lifetime and each one became family. Gordon pastored the following congregations: the Hickory Church of Christ, Hickory WI, the Liscomb Church of Christ, Liscomb, IA, the Fort Dodge Church of Christ, Fort Dodge, IA, Interim Pastor for the Rockwell City Church of Christ, Rockwell City, IA, Youth Pastor at the Webster City Church of Christ, Webster City IA, the Marion Church Christ, Rochester, MN, the Peninsula Christian Church, Hancock, MI and the Concord Church of Christ, Concord, MN.

Gordon was a "Jack-of-all-trades." He worked as a railroad brakemen, a bus boy at a Sorority, a courier for a bank, a furniture delivery man, and he lugged beef for Iowa Beef Packing. In 1967 both he and Betty served as house parents at the Gerry Rabiner Boys Ranch. In the early 1970's Gordon established a Neighborhood Opportunity Center through Community Action Agency in a low-income, black neighborhood in Fort Dodge, IA. The program grew and his job evolved into a four-county regional manager's position overseeing the Manpower programs; working with teens through the Neighborhood Youth Corps program and helping the unemployed find jobs through Operation Mainstream. Throughout these years, Gordon and Betty fostered 3 kids and became the guardian for a co-workers' 13 year old brother. In 1975 Gordon moved his family to Show Low, AZ and went to work building the American Indian Christian Mission from the ground up. While living and working in Arizona he also preached on Sundays and worked for the Clay Springs Sawmill as a Lumber Jack. Just prior to his last pastoral position and formal retirement in Tomball, TX, Gordon was a carpenter for Reed Construction in Indianapolis.

Gordon had a life-long passion for cars — from the '41 Ford, the '54 Chevy Pickup and the baby-blue Chevy Impala to the Datsun 280Z, or the little red Fierro — there was always a different car in the driveway.

Gordon was a natural athlete. During high school, he won all of his wrestling matches, set records throwing the shot-put and discus, and excelled at playing right tackle and middle guard on the football field, so much so that he was offered two scholarships, one being from the University of Minnesota.

Gordon loved to sing. He was either singing with ensembles in high school and college, or singing duets with Betty at church gatherings. He enjoyed playing the banjo and listening to bluegrass music. Gordon's love of trains came from his dad. He had his own model train collection and eventually planned a family vacation from Iowa to California on the Union Pacific. Gordon worked with his hands and got great satisfaction in building things like a log church building. Gordon thrived on taking youth groups on mission trips — whether to Mexico to build homes or to New Orleans to help after Hurricane Katrina hit.

Gordon loved his family and he loved people — talking to people, serving people and helping people — and made lifelong friends everywhere he went. No matter where they traveled to in the United States, there was a friend to visit.

Gordon is survived by his wife, Betty Ann Sorenson (Tomball TX), first born daughter, Cindy Buehler and Jeff (Dodge Center, MN), grandchildren Drew (Laura), Allison Schley (Andy), and Abby; middle daughter, Sherry Paavola and Boyd, (Minneapolis, MN) grandchildren, Joshua and Chloe; youngest daughter, Shannon Farrier and Dan, (Tomball TX), grandchildren Caleb (Caitlin), Coleman and Clay. Great-grandchildren, Natalie Schley and twins, Charlotte & Ben Schley, Nicci Buehler and twins Lana and Edison Buehler.

Gordon died peacefully on Tuesday, August 24, 2021 at age 83. His family prayed, read scripture and sang him on his way into the presence of Jesus and he will be greatly missed. He was preceded in death by his parents, Harold and Carol Sorenson, younger brother Gary, and sister Peggy McPherson.

A Celebration of Life will be held on Sat, October 16, 2021, 11 AM at the Marion Road Christian Church, 4051 50th Ave SE, Rochester, MN 55904.

A second Celebration of Life will be held on Sat, October 23, 2021, 11 AM at CyFair Christian Church 9730 Grant Rd, Houston, TX 77070

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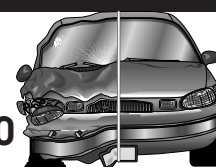
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A Blast in the Past at the Schoolhouse Fall Festival

(continued from page 1)

One of the nine players for The Locals was Sam Wilmes. I asked him about the difference between baseball today and base ball during the 1860s. He stated, "The basics were pretty similar. The biggest difference was the softer ball and that there was no glove to protect your hand." The final score was 18-11 with the Roosters winning. Despite coming up short of the win, team members from West Concord focused on the positive experience and the historical perspective they gained. Sam continued, "It was fun to be out there on a beautiful day to support the community and hometown."

I spoke with several members of the West Concord Historical Society. Glen Hanson, who serves on the WCHS board, said the event helped to "get our name out a little more so people see who we are and come and visit us." Glen helped provided tours of the WCHS museum from 2-4pm once the game had ended.

Another board member present and working hard to support the historical society was Michael Wilmes. He also assisted with WCHS tours from 2-4pm, highlighting the museum's themed rooms, impressively set up with care and attention to detail. Michael stressed that one of the goals of the new Schoolhouse Fall Festival was to "increase awareness of the museum amongst city dwellers and to have momentum going forward to improve the museum." Mr. Wilmes mentioned that WCHS was recently awarded a \$10,000 grant from the Minnesota Historical Society. The grant money will be used to consult experts about the condition of the WCHS museum. As with any historical building almost 120 years old, constant improvements are needed. Feedback will be provided by the experts on topics such as structural, electrical and HVAC concerns. The WCHS board will analyze the results to better understand

the overall needs of the building moving forward, allowing for a more comprehensive plan for the future.

Besides museum tours, event goers also had the option of taking a wagon ride after the game. Bill Giesler brought his Percheron horses and wagon to give rides during the last two hours of the festival. Bill's two horses were the mother-daughter combo named Reba and Beauty. Mr. Giesler's deep appreciation and love of horses stemmed from his father who used to farm with horses.

A variety of food options were available throughout the day. Taco Express, Don's Crumble Beef Sandwich Shoppe, and Mrs. Patty's Sweet Treat Truck provided event goers with delicious food to enjoy in a hospitality area, or to take home.

Approximately 25 vendors had their booths set up to the north of the ballfield. There was an incredible array of items for sale. Some of the items being sold were honey from the Rice Lake Honey Company, seasonal décor items, Scentsy products, signs, towels, wreaths, Pampered Chef items, Homemade Bread by Suzy, beads, diamond painted key chains, rugs, Smooth and Soothe Bath and Body Products, Color Street nail polish, table runners, United Methodist Church donuts, books from former teacher and local author John Schreiber, and wine from the River View Winery that is based in La Crescent, WI. River View takes the honor of being the only booth I know of that sold out of product.

Also in the vendor area were three tables hosted by the West Concord Historical Society. One table had information about the museum, and two more tables sold sundry items with proceeds supporting the West Concord Historical Society.

As with all things these days, Covid considerations were made. The event was held out of doors, and hand sanitizer was available throughout the vendor area.

Local law enforcement officers from the West Concord Police Department and the Dodge County Sheriffs Office were present at the event to ensure everyone had a safe time. A special thanks to West Concord's Chief of Police Shannon Boerner, not only for his service during the event, but also for being a new board member for the West Concord Historical Society.

I wrapped up my visit to the Schoolhouse



Bill Giesler giving wagon rides

Fall Festival chatting more with Colleen Hayne and Kathy Wilmes, both energetic ladies passionate about history and supporting this event. Kathy appreciated the "community spirit that showed up." Colleen loved the fact that a "beautiful fall day can bring the community together with interesting things to do."

Multiple entities worked together on the logistics of the festival. Colleen noted the important cooperation between the city of West Concord, in particular the City Maintenance Engineer, the West Concord Historical Society, and the Venom Softball team who manage the field area.

The community is proud of the prestige of the former West Concord High School

building being listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The West Concord Historical Society looks forward to future opportunities where residents can embrace local history and culture. Events such as this allow residents, businesses, community members and organizations to strengthen the vested interest in their hometowns.

Thank you to all who organized and participated in the Schoolhouse Fall Festival. We hope you had a blast celebrating the past! If you haven't already, please take an opportunity to visit the WCHS museum, open weekdays from 9am-1pm. More information can be found on their website at <https://westconcordhistoricalsociety.org>.



Vendor area



Shaking hands at the end of game

Museum Musings

Another September - Seventy-six Years Ago

By Colleen Sathrum Hayne

We've all just watched the long war in Afghanistan come to a close. September 2nd, 1945 brought the official end of another shorter, but catastrophically tragic and deadly conflict, World War II.

How did the war's end affect West Concord? Relieved and jubilant families were hearing from their servicemen by the droves. The West Concord Enterprise noted many soldiers were home on leave: Neil Blaisdell, Frances Kilness, Arvin Peterson, Donald Wilcox and many more. Don Campbell wrote home with a new military address. Sergeant Burton Iverson sent his greetings from Eisenartz, Germany and said he was very happy over the peace deal because it meant he would eventually get to return to the "Good Old USA". The Walter Eayrs family received a letter from their son, Clement, serving on the USS Missouri. Near the end of the war his bombardment group made a night bombardment on the Hitachi Arms Factory, Engineering Works, and Copper Refinery on the coast of Honshu, Japan. Some soldiers were home for good. Palmer Brekke returned after his service in Africa and Italy. Donald DeFlieger came home after 3 years as a ship fitter in the Navy. Donald Kutzler returned after 3 1/2 years served in the Pacific front. Karol Stucky was back after service in France, Germany, and England. Vance Nelson arrived home with his leg in a cast. What joyous reunions there must have been!

Among the most relieved of families were the Clarence Horens. Their son Keith was taken as a prisoner in the fall of Corregidor in the Philippine Islands in the spring of 1942 and was held by the Japanese for 3 1/2 years. Keith's work "family", the Blaisdell Motor Company, was celebrating too.

There were honors, too. James Newell was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for his performance as the radioman of a carrier-based torpedo plane that engaged in an attack against a Japanese battle ship. Aldrich Iverson was awarded the Purple Heart which was on display at the Farmers State Bank in town. George Babcock, a Marine, was posthumously honored with the Bronze Star medal for bravery in Tarawa and Saipan, where he was killed in action, his parents accepting the honor for him. Sergeant Allen Wendell was awarded the Bronze Star for when, as a member of a tank destroyer battalion in Germany, in "complete disregard of personal safety, he repeatedly exposed himself to heavy enemy artillery and mortar fire in order to direct and control the movement of his men at all times."

Some county War Price and rationing Boards were beginning to be closed, but rationing was still in effect for many items, including shoes. It would remain so until supply came closer to meeting demand. Sugar, meat, butter, cheese, and oils remained on the rationing list, while fuel oil, gasoline, stoves, and canned goods were taken off.

Citizens were admonished to drive carefully now that gas rationing had been lifted. By and large everyone's tires were well worn and needed to be conserved as much as possible.

Good things were happening in town. The West Concord Hotel had been purchased by Paul Mueller and a crew was working hard to make needed repairs to the roof, as well as painting all the interior spaces.

The West Concord Butter and Cheese Association held a meeting about plans for expansion, with 150 patrons in attendance. \$15,000 worth of new equipment was proposed. The new equipment and modernization would allow the creamery to handle twice as much milk and cream and would allow the plant to measure up to any creamery of its size in Minnesota. The local Business Men's Association pledged their support. The Enterprise was "more than pleased to see that the patrons approve of this post-war reconversion program."

The American Legion bought the Odd Fellows Hall and recreation room, and they and the Ladies' Auxiliary moved in and started repairs. The community was urged to attend a benefit for the new Legion quarters. It would be held at the former McCarthy store on the corner and promised "big entertainment".

The local Boy Scout troop 58 received the General Eisenhower Award for collecting 1000 pounds of waste paper per scout during March and April. That was quite an accomplishment.

On September 10th school opened. With the war over, a large freshman class was anticipated. The men returning from war would be able to help alleviate the farm labor strain and farm kids could return to school. The Enterprise stated, "It's for your good and the good of your country, your duty to return to school." Dewey Scott was operating school buses that would bring students in from the country. Residents were reminded of the village curfew—all students off the streets by 9 p.m.

There was optimism in the air that autumn. The Second World War had come to a close. Clement Eayrs, on the USS Missouri, was eloquent as he finished his letter to his parents: "We are all proud that we have been able to help win this war. Let us all hope that this will be the last time that a war has to be won. Many of our friends have died with that hope. That hope has carried us through many a grinding, grueling day. Let us pray that it carries those charged with formulating and preserving the peace to a successful accomplishment of their task. Goodbye, now, and I hope to see you soon."

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Superintendent

is valued. Committed to student achievement by honoring interests, individuality, and high-quality education. Encourage and celebrate innovation and creativity. Committed to high standards, expectations and accountability."

An effective strategic plan guides the work we do as a school district. It is a document that the district uses as a roadmap for success. This document also has our aims and goals for our district. It has also been recently updated with the "Profile of a Graduate." This was developed by our school community to be like a reflection of the things we need to emphasize, and ultimately the qualities our graduates will have from Triton Public Schools. This graphic (posted on the right) emphasizes the qualities that a group of stakeholders identified as a priority for our students.

When I began as a superintendent in 2019, I felt that many positive things were happening in our district, but we were not doing a very good job of promoting those things to our community. When I was able to get out and about in the community to talk about our operational levy, I realized many people were unaware of some of the positive things that were happening in our district. In order to build the pride in our district, I needed to do a better job of communicating the positive things that are happening. I feel that we got a little sidetracked doing that with the onset of COVID that took place half-way into my first year as a superintendent. As I begin my third year, I hope to reestablish the goal of promoting

Triton Public Schools, like most schools has a Strategic Plan. It begins with our school district vision statement – "Developing Lifelong Learners" and then our mission statement, "Inspiring and preparing learners for life by providing educational opportunities in a safe, caring and respectful environment." These are guiding statements for me as a leader of our school district. My job is to ensure that we are doing everything we can to fulfill those statements and make sure that they are more than just words on a piece of paper. The next piece of our plan describes our core values. This is a short paragraph that states:

"Building relationships where everyone is welcomed, has a sense of belonging, and

the good things that are happening in our district. I am very excited to announce that Triton Public Schools has an app that you can download to keep up with what is happening in our district. I hope you find it easy to use, and informative. One could say that I picked the worst time to become the next superintendent, but I am often reminded that times of adversity really provide the best time to have an impact as a leader. I hope that my leadership can really help to emphasize the great things our staff and students are doing here at Triton Public Schools!

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 Welcomes New Teacher

(continued from page 1)

Everybody loves working here. Teachers, custodial staff, kitchen staff had nothing but great things to say about working here. The supportive culture is important to me and led me here."

She currently teaches 7th & 8th Grade English. And she also assists with 6th graders transitioning into middle school. There is so much more to teaching English in middle school than introducing great books to students. As an English teacher your focus is to prepare the students to read and understand an array of different texts from: novels, short stories, to poetry.

"I have a definite passion for education. And I believe before you can educate the kids with the academics you have to build those relationships. I'm really excited to foster the love for learning and help them to believe they can do anything. It's new for me to get to know three different communities and learn what it means to be a Cobra. I'm hoping to inspire them."

English Teachers must teach reading and writing skills. It is important for English teachers to be reflective and to think about their effectiveness on a day-to-day basis. Each student will differ greatly in their reading and writing skills. This means that teachers must be problem-solvers and find ways to meet the needs of all their students. Jennifer further goes on to explain, "I do teach English, however I feel passionate about developing good humans to be productive and successful citizens."

Each new school year brings about a positive change for students. And Jennifer Wytttenbach is dedicated to excellence in education and looks forward to helping Triton students reach their full potential. Mrs. Wytttenbach earned her Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education with a Language Arts endorsement from Winona State and her Masters Degree in Education is also from Winona State. She was awarded the Kasson- Mantorville School District Distinguished Service Award in 2020.



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TRITON CLASS OF 2022



2022
Senior

SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

Scott Nolan is a senior at Triton High School. His parents are Naci & Alex. His siblings are Farran Berg and Cody Christian. In school he is active in Student Council. He is involved in Football, Basketball, Baseball, Trap Shooting and Soccer. His hobbies and pastimes include video games, reading books and spending time outdoors. His favorite actor is Ryan Reynolds. After graduation he plans to go to college.



SCOTT NOLAN

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Triton FFA State Fair Awards



Carissa Kleinwort

Summary of accomplishments in goat show:
 Champion Doe, Champion pair of Doelings, Champion pair of markets
 And reserve champion showmanship breeding doe.



Reserve Champion junior dairy cattle showmanship - Cadence Spearman!



Dasmine Marquardt. Reserve champion carcass meat goat



Elyssa Robinson - red and white Holstein Junior Champion



Cadence Spearman had the sr. Purebred champion Holstein. Same cow won grand champion

Triton FFA Members Attend Workshop



By Robert Ickler

On August 25, Chris and Julie Staub of Staub Farms hosted a crops workshop for Triton FFA members to learn about soil moisture monitoring probes developed by Earthscout. Students learned the probes can keep data on soil temperature, humidity in the growing zone of the plants, soil moisture percent and cation exchange capacity of minerals in the soil profile. Pictured left to right are Jacob Kasper, Brady Staub, Henry McMartin and Morgan Styndl.



West Concord City Council Minutes August 19, 2021

PRESENT: Mayor Jeffrey McCool, Councilmembers: Council member Karen Peterson, Council member Jeffrey Burse, Council member Sam Schollmeier, Council member Collin Ripley

ALSO PRESENT: Interim Administrator Shirley Slater-Schulte, Librarian Nancy Schollmeier, Police Chief Shannon Boerner, and Public Works Superintendent Keith Clammer

- Consent Agenda
- Approval of Minutes of July 15, 2021
- Approval of Payment of Claims
- Approval and Authorization of Bond Payments in the amount of \$54,297.75
- Hiring of Interim City Clerk Sandra Borders
- Approval of additional hours and pay for the staffing of City Hall on Mondays and Fridays by the Library staff
- Accept Final TIF – Decertification of 12/31/2016
- Resolution 2021-12 – Authorizing Signatory change

Motion: Motion to approve the Consent Agenda.

Motion was made by Council member Peterson, seconded by Council member Burse

Ayes: Mayor McCool, Council member Peterson, Council member Burse, Council member Schollmeier, and Council member Ripley Nays: none

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Jody Esch was present to voice concerns regarding ATV usage within the city limits. She stated that some of the ATV users are not mindful of the laws and regulations regarding the usage. Chief Boerner will be patrolling and informing the users of the regulations. Council discussed some options: Reduction in the speed limits to 15 MPH, usage permits, restricted to certain streets, or the option of outlawing the usage within the city. It was recommended that there be a message on the water bills regarding the usage of ATVs.

PAVEMENT MANAGEMENT PLAN:

Joe Palen was present from Stantec to discuss the Pavement Management Plan. The plan describes the city streets and the potential life span of the streets. The Plan outlined the streets that need major repairs, crack sealing, and seal coating. The Plan included maps of the streets and the condition of the pavement. Mr. Palen mentioned that there are areas that need improvements in the utilities. There have been some issues with water main breaks. The appendix of the Plan shows the estimated cost for the repairs and the rating of the streets.

WWTF NEEDS ASSESSMENT:

Doug Rassman was present from Peoples Services, Joe Palen was present from Stantec. Mr. Palen mentioned that at the present time there are no concerns regarding the capacity of the wastewater treatment plant. There were suggested improvements in the plan. There is some funding that would be available from Rural Development and Minnesota Clean Water Revolving fund. Doug had included the biosolids report. The contract the city has with People Services expires on December 31, 2021. This will be discussed during the budget meetings.

RESIGNATION OF Emergency

Management Director Keith Clammer.

Keith Clammer submitted a letter of resignation as Emergency Management Director effective August 19, 2021.

Motion: Motion to accept the resignation of Emergency Management Director Keith Clammer.

Motion was made by Council member Peterson, seconded by Council member Ripley

Ayes: Mayor McCool, Council member Peterson, Council member Burse, Council member Schollmeier, and Council member Ripley Nays: None

APPOINTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIRECTOR:

Mayor McCool recommended the appointment of Jake Froyum to the position of Emergency Management Director.

Motion: Motion to approve Jake Froyum as Emergency Management Director

Motion was made by Council member Schollmeier, seconded by Council member Burse

Ayes: Mayor McCool, Council member Peterson, Council member Burse, Council member Schollmeier, and Council member Ripley Nays: None

Swimming Pool Lights – Quote:

Keith Clammer presented the Council with quotes for the swimming pool lights. The quote from Cole’s Electric, Inc. would furnish, and install all labor, materials, and inspection to change 6 existing fixtures for pool from metal Halide to 52W LED fixtures at a cost of \$950.00.

Motion: Motion to approve the lighting quote from Cole’s Electric in the amount of \$950.00.

Motion was made by Council member Peterson, seconded by Council member Burse

Ayes: Mayor McCool, Council member Peterson, Council member Burse, Council member Schollmeier, and Council member Ripley

Nays: None

REJECT WATER METER BIDS AND SET MEETING TO REVIEW QUOTES:

Motion: Motion to reject the bids for the water meters and set a special Council meeting for August 31, 2021 to review quotes.

Motion was made by Council member Peterson, seconded by Council member Burse

Ayes: Mayor McCool, Council member Peterson, Council member Burse, Council member Schollmeier, and Council member Ripley Nays: None

UPDATE ON THE REMODEL OF CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS:

Council member Schollmeier presented the item for discussion. He included pictures for cabinets and countertops for the chambers. There was discussion that if the project was not done in 2021 that the \$25,000 in the budget be carried to 2022.

QUIT CLAIM DEED FOR BRIAN STUBBS:

A Quit Claim Deed has been issued for the property at 620 5th Street in West Concord. Kennedy and Graven are handling the transfer of the property. The City will purchase the property for \$4,000.

Motion: Motion to approve the Quit Claim Deed for the property at 620 5th Street in the amount of \$4,000.

Motion was made by Council member Burse, seconded by Council member Peterson

Ayes: Mayor McCool, Council member Peterson, Council member Burse, Council member Schollmeier, and Council member Ripley

Nays: None

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Keith Clammers, Nancy Schollmeier, Doug Rassman, Chief Shannon Boerner, and Interim Administrator Shirley Slater-Schulte presented Department reports.

RESIGNATION OF POLICE OFFICER JOSIAH REHMANN

Chief Boerner received a letter of resignation from officer Josiah Rehmman. Chief will be advertising for a part-time officer to fill the vacancy.

REPLACEMENT OF WASTEWATER PUMP

The city received quotes for the replacement of the pump at the wastewater facility.

There was discussion regarding the possible coverage by the insurance company for the replacement. Staff will check with the insurance agent about the coverage.

OTHER BUSINESS:

There was discussion regarding a driveway ordinance. Staff will check the driveway policy.

Beth from the liquor store was present to discuss the liquor store. There was discussion regarding the increase in the hours that the store/bar are open. The bar will be closed on Saturday, August 21st because there is no one available to work. Council member Burse volunteered to work.

Council discussed the reinstating the current lead bartender to her former wage before Covid.

There was also some discussion regarding a point-of-sale system for the store.

Motion: Motion to reinstate the wage of \$16.74 and the back pay to January 2021 to Elaine Hanenberger.

Motion was made by Council member Schollmeier, seconded by Council member Ripley

Ayes: Mayor McCool, Council member Peterson, Council member Burse, Council member Schollmeier, and Council member Ripley

Nays: None

Adjournment:

Motion: Motion to Adjourn.

Motion was made by Council member Peterson, seconded by Council member Burse

Ayes: Mayor McCool, Council member Peterson, Council member Burse, Council member Schollmeier, and Council member Ripley

Nays: None

Attest:

West Concord City Council Minutes August 31, 2021

PRESENT: Mayor Jeffrey McCool, Councilmembers: Council member Karen Peterson, Council member Jeffrey Burse, Council member Sam Schollmeier, Council member Collin Ripley

ALSO PRESENT: Interim Administrator Shirley Slater-Schulte, Interim City Clerk Sandra Borders, Jean Vogt from Ehlers, Doug Rassman from Peoples Services

SEWER AND WATER BUDGET:

The 2021 City Water Budget has \$165,000 in Capital Outlay for the purchase of water meters. The water meters would be a radio read and would be uploaded into the computers for billing. In 2022 budget there is nothing in the line item for Capital Outlay. There will be a transfer into the fund of \$131,181 to close out the 2020A Bond. The city would bond for the \$170,000 to purchase the water meters.

Insurance will be quoted, and staff will check as to where the expenditure for insurance was coded to.

Peoples Services have proposed a 10% increase in their cost from what it was 3 years ago. Peoples Services would like to have a 5-year contract, but the city would like to keep it at 3 years.

There is \$6,000 in Repair Maintenance budget.

The amount listed under the Chemicals is for water / sewer and some pool chemicals. Contract services are being increased from \$49,445 to \$50,000.

Staff will send the engineering report to Jean Vogt regarding the sewer plant. Sewer / Water rates will be set in December.

The Sewer budget has \$6,000 in the supply line item. The budget for 2021 was only \$500. Staff will check what was spent in that budget. There is a 5.5% increase in the sewer fund. Peoples Services bill has been divided equally between sewer and water. Ms. Vogt mentioned that a larger portion of the bill should be going to sewer.

The Bio-Solid contract is a 15-year contract. Staff will send the contract to Ehlers for examination.

Storm Water

There is nothing in the Capital Outlay budget for stormwater.

There was discussion regarding investment of the city money. Ehlers has a division of their company that handles investments. Staff recommending moving some money from the checking account into investments. Staff will be in contact with Ehlers regarding investments and report back to the Council.

POLICE DEPARTMENT BUDGET:

Chief Shannon Boerner presented the Police Department Budget for 2022. He proposed an increase in full-time wages and health insurance. There is also an increase in the part-time wages. Professional services decreased. The 2022 proposed budget is \$154,021 compared to 2021 of \$156,333 or a decrease of \$2,312. The IT services are provided by the County.

Councilmember Peterson commented on National Night Out and the good results for the evening.

Next Budget Meetings:

September 7th at 7:00 p.m.- Public Works, Park Department, and Pool

September 8th at 7:00 p.m. Fire, Ambulance, and Library

September 14th at 7:00 p.m. EDA, Liquor Store, and Administration

Adjournment: 8:19 p.m.

Motion: Motion to Adjourn.

Motion was made by Mayor McCool, seconded by Council member Burse

Ayes: Mayor McCool, Council member Peterson, Council member Burse, Council member Schollmeier, and Council member Ripley

Nays: None

Attest:



City of West Concord Special Meeting Minutes

August 31, 2021

PRESENT: Mayor Jeffrey McCool, Councilmembers: Council member Karen Peterson, Council member Jeffrey Burse, Council member Sam Schollmeier, Council member Collin Ripley

ALSO PRESENT: Interim Administrator Shirley Slater-Schulte, Librarian Nancy Schollmeier, Doug Rassman from Peoples Services, Jean Vogt with Ehlers

The Special meeting had been called by the Council to discuss and review quotes for water meters and readers.

Quotes were obtained from four companies.

DSG \$115,784.40
Metering and Technology \$131,362.24
Core & Main \$168,428.00
Milbank Winwater Works
\$107,710.22 – Mueller PD Bronze Meter
\$115,151.74 – Mueller Ultrasonic Bronze Meter

Council discussed the pros and cons of the meters. A representative from Core & Main was in the audience. The prices include the meters, the reading equipment and the installation of the meters. The Core & Main meters have a 20-year battery life warranty.

The City is working on a bond issue with Ehlers in the amount of \$165,000 for the cost of the meters. The meters will be a radio read. The current meters run slow and are some are not accurate. Ms. Vogt would like in a year to compare the usage between the old and the new meters.

Motion: Motion to accept the quote from Core & Main in the amount of \$168,428.00 for the meters, reading equipment and installation of the meters including the grounding strap if necessary.

Motion was made by Council member Burse, seconded by Council member Ripley
Ayes: Mayor McCool, Council member Peterson, Council member Burse, Council member Schollmeier, and Council member Ripley

Nays: None

Adjournment:

Motion: Motion to Adjourn.

Motion was made by Council member McCool, seconded by Council member Schollmeier

Ayes: Mayor McCool, Council member Peterson, Council member Burse, Council member Schollmeier, and Council member Ripley

Nays: None

Attest:

City of West Concord Council Minutes September 7, 2021

PRESENT: Mayor Jeffrey McCool, Councilmembers: Council member Karen Peterson, Council member Jeffrey Burse, Council member Sam Schollmeier, Council member Collin Ripley

ALSO PRESENT: Interim Administrator Shirley Slater-Schulte, Public Works Supervisor Keith Clammer and Glenda Andrews Pool Supervisor, Interim City Clerk Sandra Borders

COMMUNITY POOL BUDGET:

Glenda Andrews and Shirley Slater-Schulte presented the line-item budget for the Community Swimming pool for 2022. It was explained that there is \$1,000 for

chemicals and that there is a full tank of chlorine gas. The telephone will be left on for the winter because of the ice rink. Utilities were cut to \$3,000 from \$6,000 as to date there wasn't as much used. Building repairs were cut to \$1,000 because of the building improvements made in 2021. There was added \$1,500 for ADA lift for the pool for batteries and the receiver.

The total expenditure budget was \$45,831.

WAGES: Ms. Andrews stated her wages are currently at \$11.80 per hour. There was discussion regarding the part-time wages. Councilmember Peterson mentioned increasing the part-time wages. Councilmember Peterson would like each pool employee to make a list of their job duties.

PARKS:

Mr. Clammer would like to include in the park budget \$15,000 for batting cages from Capital Outlay account. He mentioned that someone is willing to donate the cement and that the city has the turf for the project.

The city has a non-profit account, and it is still active. Mr. Clammer mentioned the purchase of Porta-potty instead of the rental. They would still need to contract the cleaning of the porta-potty.

Mayor McCool mentioned the ice rink and having employees working in the warming house. There was discussion regarding the purchase of ice skates and renting them to the residents. The Council discussed wages for ice rink attendants, getting sponsors for the ice rink, and setting aside \$1,000 for the purchase of skates for rental.

The total park budget is \$27,700.

SURVIVIOR DAYS:

There was \$28,000 in the 2021 budget and nothing has been used from that budget. The budget for 2022 was reduced to \$5,000.

CIVIL DEFENSE:

There was discussion of moving the \$25,000 from the 2021 budget to the 2022 budget for Civil Defense siren. There was discussion regarding a stipend of \$1,000 - \$1,500 for the Emergency Management Director. There was \$1,000 added in for supplies.

STREETS:

The streets budget was discussed. There were increases in the wages, part-time wages, and insurance premiums. There were decreases in uniforms, supplies, and equipment repairs. There was discussion regarding the hours for the dump / brush site and the hours for the site. Wages for the part-time were discussed: \$10 per hour for dump site, \$15 per hour for mowing, and \$20 per hour for plowing streets.

Mayor McCool mentioned that the vehicle titles were in the safe deposit box at the bank.

Mayor McCool discussed allocating money for new smoke detectors because the current ones are over 10 years old. There also needs to be some money in the budget for supplies for the AED machines.

Council wages were discussed that the Council get an annual stipend and that they get \$30 per extra meeting. Council is paid quarterly.

Adjournment: 8:32 P.m.

Motion: Motion to Adjourn.

Motion was made by Mayor McCool, seconded by Council member Peterson

Ayes: Mayor McCool, Council member Peterson, Council member Burse, Council

member Schollmeier, and Council member Ripley

Nays: None

Attest:

City of West Concord Budget Meeting September 8, 2021

PRESENT: Mayor Jeffrey McCool, Councilmembers: Council member Karen Peterson, Council member Jeffrey Burse, Council member Sam Schollmeier, Council member Collin Ripley

ALSO PRESENT: Interim Administrator Shirley Slater-Schulte, Librarian Nancy Schollmeier, Fire Chief Chad Finne, Interim City Clerk Sandra Borders

LIBRARY:

Librarian Nancy Schollmeier was present to present the 2022 budget. City Administrator Slater-Schulte listed the 2022 proposed expenditures for the Library.

There is \$46,000 listed for the part-time wages. Ms. Schollmeier said that in October 2022 2 of the computers in the library will need to be replaced. These computers are replaced through SELCO. The library has a total budget of \$71,459.

FIRE AND AMBULANCE:

Fire Chief Finne presented the budget. The items in the expenditures were listed. The fire and ambulance service have a budget of \$93,166. Professional services

include the use of Expert Billing for the billing of the ambulance runs. The training budget is for the EMT and First Responder classes. The department is looking at the purchase of a grass rig. They would like to roll the money that is in the 2021 budget over to 2022 for the grass rig. A future fire hall was mentioned to be built in 2026. There is a Fire Protection contract with other cities in the amount of \$39,825. The ambulance brings in about \$60,000 in revenues. There is \$12,000 in the budget for turn-out gear.

The City has received Covid money will be used to purchase part of the Jaws-of-Life for the department. The Fire Relief Association also contributed money for the purchase.

The Council looked at an old Capital Improvement Plan for vehicle purchases in the future. Ehlers will do an updated spread sheet regarding the future equipment needs.

Adjournment: 8:00 P.m.

Motion: Motion to Adjourn.

Motion was made by Mayor McCool, seconded by Council member Schollmeier

Ayes: Mayor McCool, Council member Peterson, Council member Burse, Council member Schollmeier, and Council member Ripley

Nays: None

Attest:

West Concord Public Library

We were very fortunate to have Police Chief Shannon Boerner as a guest reader for story time August 17th. He read books about police officers, and showed us his police officer gear and squad car. Some of the children even sat inside the squad car! Thank you to Chief Boerner for sharing your time and expertise.

On Tuesday, August 31st, we wrapped up our Summer Reading Program with a fun story time, music and movement, and art, followed by pizza. Thank you to Casey's for donating the delicious pizza. It was enjoyed by all who attended.

Our regular outdoor story time had a great start on Tuesday, September 14th. We will continue outdoor story time every Tuesday at 10 am at Lions Park, as long as weather allows. On Tuesday, October 5th, we will have a story time guest reader for Fire Prevention Week. This should be a fun and informative morning, with possible surprises!

We still have some books for sale inside the library for a limited time only. This sale will end September 30th.

Come in to check out our newest books and DVDs for all ages.

Library Hrs: Monday: 1:00 pm until 7:00 pm; Tuesday: 10:00 am until 5:00 pm; Wednesday: 10:00 am until 5:00 pm ; Thursday: 1:00 pm until 7:00 pm Friday: 10:00 am until 5:00 pm; Saturday and Sunday Closed



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West Concord Municipal Liquor Store

Accepting applications for part-time bartender

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That's the Latest Top Ten Lists



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.

During my years in the National Association of Farm Broadcasting (NAFB) I became known as the broadcaster who would do top 5 lists or top 10 lists. Influenced of course by David Letterman but also by an FM disc jockey I worked with in Sioux City, I would put an agricultural twist on the lists. My first top 10 list that I co-wrote with several of my co-workers at KMNS/KSEZ however had nothing to do with agriculture. It came about because one summer day in 1993 there was going to be a big parade in Sioux City of which the radio stations were playing a big part. As the parade started rolling, the mayor's convertible remained mayor-less. Bob Scott, who was the mayor at the time, got delayed getting to the parade. As it became time for the mayor's car to get rolling, it was still empty. But only for a brief time as Chuckles the Clown thought he would sit in the back of the car and pinch-hit for Mayor Scott and wave to the adoring crowd. This lasted for the early part of the parade until the 'real' Mayor stopped the car and canned Chuckles.

The story did not stop there. First off, the Sioux City Journal reported that Mayor Scott was quite upset at Chuckles and the parade organizers. Secretly the organizers thought it made for a better parade but they never told the Mayor that. It became a little bit of a brouhaha but then settled down.

That is until the radio staff I was a part of came up with the Top 10 differences between Mayor Scott and Chuckles the Clown. Unfortunately I do not have a copy of the original list even though I've been searching for several years. I do remember my favorites though. One stated that Chuckles wanted a big red nose on the new water tower being built on the south side of town. One other difference I remember is that Mayor Scott actually has a larger shoe size.

That was the beginning of me taking top 10 lists to new heights (or lows). In going through some of my old radio folders, I saved a number of old lists. My morning co-host was Gary Ellenbolt. We would talk about the odd news items of the day. One day it was the story of North Dakota thinking of changing their name because the word north brought about a cold connotation about the state. With that in mind, we came up with the top 5 name suggestions for North Dakota. #5: Northern South Dakota. #4: The Minnesota Panhandle. #3: Montana - it'll make the sky look even bigger. #2: Fargo, the whole state's as funny as the movie anyway. And the number one suggestion for a new name for North Dakota: Canadian Samoa.

Here was an ag related top 5 list. Top Five Rules for Living on the Farm. #5: Never chip, chop or scrape frozen manure with your mouth open. #4: Never let a farm dog lick you in the face. #3: Never question anyone yelling "Run for it!". #2: Never

assume a frozen manure pile will hold your weight. #1: Never tie yourself to a rope halter or vice versa.


I attended and reported from World Dairy Expo in Madison, Wisconsin several times during my career so of course a top 5 list was written about that. Here are the Top 5 Things you can say at World Dairy Expo (WDX) and not get slapped. #5: Look at the body on that one. #4: Yeah but look at her rear end. #3: Boy is she set firm and high. #2: Look at that fat heifer. And the number one thing you can say at WDX and not get slapped: 'What a cow'.

In my years at KMNS radio in Sioux City, we were a country station. So inevitably one of the top 10 lists was our favorite country songs. Note that these titles were made up I think. #10: Her Teeth Was Stained, But Her Heart Was Pure. #9: Please Bypass This Heart. #8: I Still Miss You Baby, But My Aim is Getting Better. #7: I'm So Miserable Without You; It's like Having You Here. #6: If the Phone Don't Ring, You'll Know Its Me. #5: I Liked You Better before I Knew You So Well. #4: If I Can't Be Number One In Your Life, Then Number Two on You. #3: How Can I Miss You If You Won't Go Away. #2: Mamma Get a Hammer, There's a Fly On Pappa's Head. And the number one Country Song Title: She Got the Ring and I Got the Finger.

The tribal wisdom of the Dakota Indians, passed on from one generation to the next, says that when you discover you are riding

a dead horse, the best strategy is to dismount. However, in today's modern business world, because of heavy investment and governmental oversight, there are other factors to consider. With that in mind, here are the top 10 useful strategies to deal with a dead horse. #10: Threaten the dead horse with termination. #9: Provide additional funding to increase the dead horse's performance. #8: Arrange to visit other sites to see how they ride dead horses. #7: Lower your standards so that the dead horse can be included. #6: Reclassify the dead horse as living-impaired. #5: Hire interns to ride the dead horse. #4: Appoint a task force to study the dead horse. #3: Declare that the dead horse has lower overhead and therefore performs better. #2: Promote the dead horse to a supervisory position. #1: Call the dead horse a consultant, at least the back half of the horse.

One more top 5 list I used on the air. Top 5 actual excuse notes from parents sent to teachers. #5: Please excuse Lisa for being absent, she was sick and I had her shot. #4: Please excuse Jennifer for missing school yesterday. We forgot to get the Sunday paper off the porch and when we found it Monday, we thought it was Sunday. #3: Please excuse Roland from P.E. for a few days. Yesterday he fell out of a tree and misplaced his hip. #2: Please excuse Jimmy for being. It was his father's fault. #1: Please excuse Tommy for being absent yesterday. He had diarrhea and his boots leak.



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Fall Fun Event at Harvest Acres

On October 2nd and 3rd sheep will be grazing on their pastures, llamas will be walking on paths, fiber enthusiasts will be drooling, squeezing and touching all sorts of fiber and fiber arts from 15 vendors from the midwest.

There also will be food trucks (Steve B Barbeque and Don's Crumble Beef) for the people to graze, games and crafts for the children to do and learn about fiber and life on the farm. And you don't want to miss any of it!!!

All this fun will be happening at the Harvest Fiber Festival at the Harvest Hill Acres farm on the outskirts of Dennison. It is a free, fibery (yes that is a word and has nothing to do with your diet) family, fun event. Dean and Diana Treangen are the

owners of this farm and have been in the area for the last four years. There are other events that happen at their farm, but this is a new event that they are hoping for a large fun turnout.

Dean and Diana both lost their management jobs at a large local zoo. Dean had been there for 20 years, Diana 13 years but she not only lost her job, but her zoo career. She has been in the zoo and wildlife field for 40 years. The farm in Dennison was a dream, to have "some sheep in the pasture and yarn in the studio attached to the barn". Loosing her job, the farm animal support took a hit. Her paycheck took care of the animals. So in 2020 as many lives changed, so did theirs. Dean was able to retire. Diana was just out of a job, and to get another zoo job would require them to move and sell the farm. Diana decided to put a lot of energy into the farm, the onsite yarn store (no longer a craft room) and let the animals "earn their food". 80 CVM Romeldale sheep, 2 llamas, some chickens, cats and dogs and one angora rabbit eat a lot!!! The fiber from the sheep, llama and

even the rabbit are used in the products produced for the farm. The Harvest Fiber Festival is a product of the efforts. The farm is in the Sogn Valley area, with many trees on the property. Fall colors are the first order of the event, their will be farms and fiber artists from Iowa, Wisconsin and Minnesota (many from this area) at the fair.

There will be kids crafts and games for the children. The sheep and their llamas (that guard them from predators) will be in 4 different pastures. Diana was hoping the fiber products would be the star of the show, but she thinks otherwise. For the interested there will be 4 very tame llamas available for walks with guides around the farm, \$5.00 will get you a ticket for that fun.

This free event will happen rain or shine Saturday Oct 2 9-5:00 and Sun Oct 3 9-3:00! Bring your masks for inside buildings, your family for fun and food, and maybe bring your mama to meet those Llamas!!!

7477 400th Street Dennison, 713-244-4184 (cell) and check the Harvest Hill Acres Facebook page for daily updates!



In U.S., More Cats Than Dogs Test Positive for Rabies

September 28 is World Rabies Day, a day to raise awareness about rabies virus and promote prevention and control efforts worldwide. But how much do you really know about the disease?

In TV shows and movies, rabies is typically depicted as a frothing-mouth wild animal disease. However, rabies can present itself in many ways and can affect any domestic warm-blooded animal. Dr. Gary Brummet, a small animal primary care veterinarian at the University of Illinois Veterinary Teaching Hospital in Urbana, says that the best way to prevent rabies is to vaccinate pets regularly.

Rabies is a disease that is caused by a virus found throughout the world. It is fatal to mammals, including dogs, cats, and humans.

"Rabies is transmitted through a bite or direct contact with the virus," Dr. Brummet explains. Any other means of transmission is rare. The rabies virus itself is found in the saliva of an infected animal. The virus travels from the location of the bite to the brain via the nerves. After it reaches the brain, the virus will travel to the salivary glands, where it can then be transmitted to others.

"The speed at which an animal becomes infected with rabies after a bite can vary greatly," Dr. Brummet says. "The closer the bite is to the head, the faster the illness will show clinically." This process can take anywhere from two weeks to six months.

In North America, the skunk, fox, raccoon, coyote, and bat are important sources of infection. However, rabies is not only in wildlife, but also in domestic species, including cats and dogs. In 2017, 62 dogs and 276 cats tested positive for rabies in the United States, according to data published in the Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association.

"In Illinois and the United States, bats are the number one species that transmit rabies," Dr. Brummet explains. Bat bites are incredibly small and hard to see. If any contact is made with a bat, it is important to safely contain that bat and visit a veterinarian and human physician as soon as possible. The bat will need to be sent in for rabies testing.

"There are two forms of symptoms that rabies can exhibit. The first is known as the dumb form, and the second is the furious form," Dr. Brummet explains. The dumb form, which is more common in dogs, involves progressive paralysis of the limbs and face and causes difficulty swallowing. The furious form is the typical and more well-known form of rabies. Animals will become aggressive and excitable, making it more likely that they bite another and spread the virus.

"The most common symptom of rabies is abnormal behavior," Dr. Brummet says. An example is a skunk wandering in the daytime, because skunks are normally not out in the daylight at all.

A classic sign of rabies is the appearance of foam or froth in the mouth; the virus causes excessive salivation, which allows it to be transmitted more easily.

Rabies is untreatable and fatal in animals. Therefore, it is necessary to prevent infection in people who have been bitten by means of a series of rabies vaccine and human rabies immune globulin injections: four injections over 14 days.

Whenever there is an animal bite and rabies is suspected, the animal will be kept in isolation and observed.

"State law says that if any veterinary official learns that an animal bit a human being, the bite must be reported. The animal must then be quarantined for 10 days," Dr. Brummet says. During this time, a veterinarian will safely examine the animal for signs of rabies. If, after 10 days, there are no signs of rabies, the animal will be allowed to return to normal life with its family.

"If an animal is bitten by another animal that is suspected to have rabies, there are two paths the protocol can follow, depending on the vaccination status of the animal," Dr. Brummet explains. If the animal has ever been vaccinated, then it is a 45-day quarantine and isolation that can be done at home. If the animal has never been vaccinated, then it is a 6-month quarantine. Animal control will make the decision regarding the best location for the animal to be during the quarantine.

"With the outcome of rabies infection being death, the best way to keep pets healthy is to routinely vaccinate them for rabies," Dr. Brummet says. Vaccines have done a great job to reduce the number of rabies cases in the United States. Human rabies, also fatal, used to be very common before the vaccine was available. Now, there are only 1 to 3 rabies deaths among people in the U.S. each year.

Rabies vaccination has saved both animal and human lives.

"Animals should be kept on leash or in a fenced-in area when outside to avoid an unfortunate encounter with wildlife," Dr. Brummet advises. He also notes that if you spot a wild animal acting abnormally, you should contact animal control right away.

If you have any questions about the rabies virus, contact your local veterinarian.

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Financial Help for Retirees Affected by COVID

Dear Savvy Senior:

Are there any financial assistance programs you can refer me to? The coronavirus pandemic has cost me my part[1]time retirement job and depleted my savings account. --Needy Retiree

Dear Needy:

In addition to the \$1,200 federal coronavirus stimulus check that was distributed in April and May, there are many other financial-assistance programs (both public and private) that can help struggling retirees, as well as give relief to family members who help provide financial support for their loved ones. To find out what types of assistance you may be eligible for, your best option is to visit BenefitsCheckUp.org, a free, confidential Web tool designed for adults 55 and older and their families. It will help you locate federal, state and private benefits programs that can assist with paying for food, medications, utilities, health care, housing and other needs. This site – created by the National Council on Aging – contains more than 2,500 programs across the country.

To identify benefits, you'll first need to fill out an online questionnaire that asks a series of questions like your date of birth, ZIP code, expenses, income, assets, veteran status, the medications you take and a few other factors. It takes about 15 minutes.

Once completed, you'll get a report detailing all the programs and services you may qualify for, along with detailed information on how to apply. Some programs can be applied for online; some have downloadable application forms that you can print and mail in; and some require that you contact the program's administrative office directly (they provide the necessary contact information).

If you don't have Internet access, you can also get help in-person at any of the 84 Benefit Enrollment Centers located throughout the U.S. Call 888-268-6706 or visit NCOA.org/centerforbenefits/beccs to locate a center in your area.

Some centers also offer assistance over the phone.

Types of Benefits

Depending on your income level and where you live, here are some benefits you may be eligible for:

Food assistance: Programs like the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) can help pay for groceries. The average SNAP benefit for 60-and-older households is around \$125 per month.

Other programs that may be available include the Emergency Food Assistance Program, Commodity Supplemental Food Program, and the Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program.

Healthcare: Medicaid and Medicare Savings Programs can help or completely pay for out-of-pocket health care costs. And, there are special Medicaid waiver programs that provide in-home care and assistance too.

Prescription drugs: There are hundreds of programs offered through pharmaceutical companies, government agencies and charitable organizations that help lower or eliminate prescription drug costs, including the federal Low-Income Subsidy known as "Extra Help" that pays premiums, deductibles and prescription copayments for Medicare Part D beneficiaries.

Utility assistance: There's the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), as well as local utility companies and charitable organizations that provide assistance in lowering home heating and cooling costs.

Supplemental Security Income (SSI): Administered by the Social Security Administration, SSI provides monthly payments to very low-income seniors, age 65 and older, as well as to those who are blind and disabled. In 2020, SSI pays up to \$783 per month for a single person and up to \$1,175 for couples.

In addition to these programs, there are numerous other benefits they can help you locate such as HUD housing, home weatherization assistance, tax relief, veteran's benefits, senior transportation, respite care, free legal assistance, job training and employment and debt counseling.



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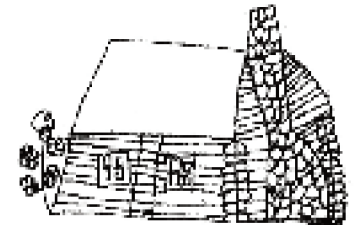
Sundays: October 3, 10, 17, 24, 31

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From Hartfield:

Take Hwy. 246 east to Dennison,
con. turn east 3 miles, take Hwy. 86
S. for 2 miles, go west on Cty 49
Blvd. North to Yang Lutheran Church.

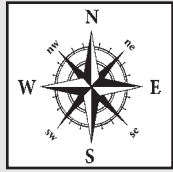
From Kenyon:

Take Hwy 86 N. 7 miles
Go west on Cty 49 Blvd. 1/2 mile,
north to Yang Lutheran Church.



Look Us Up on Facebook Under Popcorn Hill

Changes in Latitudes, Changes in Attitudes Rain in Tennessee



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.

It likes to rain in Tennessee. It is not unusual to get two or three inches overnight. It can be sunny all morning and then a cloud can show up and pour rain and then be back to sunny an hour later. Makes the grass grow real, fast and keeps the lakes full of water.

But last week one community got too much rain. Seventeen inches in half a day. A foot and a half of rain in twelve hours. Waverly Tennessee is about thirty minutes south of us. A real good friend bought a house outside of Waverly shortly after we moved down. He posted pictures of water rushing through his backyard about mid-morning.

Seventeen inches of rain is a lot all by itself, but the town of Waverly is in a valley beside the Trace River. Highway 70 and the railroad track are between the town and the river. The railroad track is on top of a man-



made levee, keeping the river away from the highway and the town.

The emergency crews were preparing for the heavy rainstorm Saturday morning, which had already flooded some homes and businesses in the lowest part of town. But they were not expecting the levee to break. About midmorning the pressure of the raging Trace River blew out the levee in two places and within minutes the problem changed from ankle deep water seeping through doorways to a five-foot tidal wave crashing down the streets, pushing houses off their foundations, collapsing walls of

houses and flushing their contents out the other side, rolling vehicles ahead of it and burying houses and commercial buildings in a muddy tsunami.

Unfortunately, people were unable to get to safety in time and more than twenty lost their lives including children swept out of their parent's arms as they fled the deluge. Hours later the waters subsided and the town was littered with houses, mobile homes, vehicles, tractors, boats and personal possessions jumbled in heaps by the floodwaters.

Small Cities Development Program

Housing Rehab

Eligible Properties

- Suitable for rehabilitation (total rehab cost cannot exceed 75% of the market value)
- Current on property taxes
- Permanent structure

Household Income

- Gross household income must be at or below 80% of the county median income
- All income verified through 3rd parties (aids in determining eligibility for deferred loan)

Financial Assistance

- Deferred loan amount will vary on a case-by-case basis
- Deferred loans are secured with a Repayment Agreement. If the property is sold, title is transferred or is no longer the primary residence of the participant:
 - ~ within the first 6 yrs., the full amount must be repaid to the HRA
 - ~ the amount of repayment is reduced 20% for each year until the end of the 10th year.
 - ~ at the end of the 10th year, the loan is forgiven (becomes a grant)

Eligible Activities

- Deferred loans may be used to:
 - ~ remove health, safety or other deficiencies & to bring the structure into compliance with the rehabilitation standards (roofing, siding, plumbing, water supply, septic systems, or wiring)
 - ~ improve the property by increasing the structure's energy efficiency (insulation or installing storm windows)
 - ~ modify or rehabilitate the unit to make it accessible for a handicap or disabled member of the household (structural, exterior, bathroom, kitchen)

Income Guidelines (2021)			
Family Size	30% AMI	50% AMI	80% AMI
1	\$20,950	\$34,900	\$55,850
2	\$23,950	\$39,900	\$63,800
3	\$26,950	\$44,900	\$71,800
4	\$29,900	\$49,850	\$79,750
5	\$32,300	\$53,850	\$86,150
6	\$35,580	\$57,850	\$92,550
7	\$40,120	\$61,850	\$98,900
8	\$44,660	\$65,850	\$105,300

Financial Assistance			
Income based on AMI	% Property Owner Match	% De-ferred Loan	Max. Deferred Loan Amount
0-30% AMI	0%	100%	\$25,000
31-50% AMI	4%	96%	\$24,000
51-80% AMI	10%	90%	\$22,500



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- Dissenting clique
- Tangerine/grapefruit hybrid
- Type of lemur
- *Popular messenger
- Mosque prayer leader
- Down Under marsupial
- Thanksgiving serving
- *100 days of snapping, e.g.
- Military's inactive force
- Repeated Cuban dance step
- The Kinks' lead singer, a.k.a. godfather of Britpop
- Late December season
- Rough, as in voice
- Chop off
- Stephen King's "The ____"
- "Do ____ others..."
- Strep throat organ
- File a suit
- Sewing pearls on a wedding gown, e.g.
- One with authority
- Army bed
- Space path
- Law school test acronym
- *Unique social media identifier
- Latin dance
- "Place" in French
- Sacred Hindu writings
- Post-mortem bios
- Actress Campbell
- African chieftain
- Recipe amt.
- Nirvana's "Come as You ____"
- Badger's den

DOWN

- Current tense of "had"
- All over again
- Eczema symptom
- Second shot
- Corporate department
- Salpae, sing.
- Type of coffee maker
- Elizabeth McGovern's "Downton Abbey" role
- Inspiring horror
- As opposed to cuts
- Capital of Zambia
- Bruce Wayne's ____ was Batman
- *Message under a post
- Bootlicker
- Da, to a Russian
- *Done to social media past before applying for job?
- Feudal lord
- Haile Selassie's disciple
- Gym exercises
- Comedy Central's "critique"
- Dolby Theatre to Oscars
- Often considered wise
- *Video blog
- Charge carrier
- *Audio series
- Killed, like dragon
- Big bang maker
- Permeate
- I to Greeks, pl.
- Sheet music line, pl.
- Basketry stick
- Clark Kent actor Christopher
- Black, yellow and chocolate dogs
- Parking spot for a boat
- Bone in human forearm
- *Bernie wearing mittens, e.g.
- *Do this before posting?
- Chronic drinker
- It's open to interpretation

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