



# West Concord Messenger™

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NOVEMBER, 2021

Volume 5 • Issue 10

## Announcements

• West Concord Community Christmas, December 4. (see ad on page 14)

### West Concord City Hall Welcomes New Accountant

Michelle Lee is the new West Concord City Accountant. Lee has over twenty-five years experience in the accounting field. She is a resident of West Concord, formerly from Anoka County. Michelle says she chose to make West Concord her home after meeting so many wonderful people here. She is engaged and has two children and four grandchildren.



Michelle Lee

In her spare time she enjoys hiking, canoeing, boating, fishing, camping, bowling, visiting museums, learning about history and attending plays and concerts.

## Thank You

We want to Thank You for your continued support of the West Concord Messenger, especially this past year!

In an era of online everything, your monthly newspaper, continues with an unwavering goal to bring hometown news to you.

(continued on page 22)

# Highway 14 is Finally Finished!

By Megan Ziegler

It's safe to say that everyone reading this article has been impacted by Highway 14. We traveled on the old, well-worn road. We certainly have stories about white-knuckle driving during the harsh Minnesota winters. We know people who've had accidents and close-calls on 14.

We remember folks first talking about the project decades ago. We recall feelings of hope when they added the 4-lane section over by Owatonna.

When it came time for this latest stretch, we perhaps even took part in reaching out to our legislative leaders and listened in on the planning meetings. And we definitely were all impacted by the construction process over the course of the past two years. Now that the end of the process has come and the new road is safe, smooth, and impressive, we celebrate the future possibilities it holds. Yes, those possibilities may be as simply satisfying as the ease of a daily commute.

(continued on page 10)



Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

## Bowling with the Bennerottes



By Megan Ziegler

It's a small-business snapshot in this mini article highlighting Wescon Lanes in West Concord, MN. Bowling alley management has been the family business when it comes to this hometown gem. What a wonderful way to support the "go local" movement through food and fun close to home.

(continued on page 11)

## Relocating for New Job at Triton

By

Kenya Narveson

Sometimes the perfect job isn't down the street, but rather hundreds or even thousands of miles — or perhaps an ocean away. When considering relocating for a job; there are a few factors to consider. Such as the impact on your loved ones, the loss of your existing network, and asking yourself will this new place feel like home?



Jacob Johnson

(continued on page 8)

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## Communities of Goodness



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

“Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.” (Romans 12:21, NRSV Bible)

My grandmother had the hard times of the Depression etched deeply on her whole approach to life, and she turned this into the ability to make and mend just about anything. When our jeans wore through at the knees from work on the dairy farm, for instance, she would cut the backs of the legs off one pair and sew them tightly on the front of another pair. Voila! Good as new.

I thought of my grandmother as I read Michael Curry’s book, *Love Is the Way: Holding onto Hope in Troubling Times*, with a group at our church. Curry’s grandmother was also known for “making do and making new.” She was just two generations down from the days of enslavement, and what she could do with collard greens, rice, garden vegetables, and a few odds and ends of pork, seasoned with West African herbs and spices, made our mouths water just to read about it.

Curry, the Presiding Bishop of The Episcopal Church, writes, “My ancestors took a little and made a lot. They took what was left over and made sure no one was left out.” Whether they faced Jim Crow laws and lynching in the South, or redlining and racism in the North, Curry’s people took an ugly old reality

and created new possibilities for themselves. Their recipe for making do, he writes, included drawing on a long wisdom tradition, using imagination to rise above circumstances, and bringing God into absolutely everything.

Curry’s book is consistent with another good book, *Romans*, written by the Apostle Paul. In chapter 12—arguably the height of Paul’s theological witness—he gives us just 21 short verses, dense with direction on how to live a new life true to Christ. He urges his audience to live not according to the world’s ways but according to “the will of God,” which he calls “good.” And the chapter ends with “Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.”

Take an ugly old reality—the presence of

evil—and create a new possibility.

In our times, we don’t have to look far to recognize the presence of evil—contempt for the law, greed and inequity, looseness with the truth, abuse of the planet, disregard for the full dignity of every human being... I’m sure you can add to the list.

But we dare not make that list without also making a list of all the communities of goodness. Everywhere around our county and our world, there are folks working together in churches, families, civic organizations, schools, sports clubs, service agencies and other social groups on behalf of the common good. They’re working to relieve stress on parents, help seniors be strong, teach and encourage children, clean up the environment, care for physical and mental health, make

sure no one is left out, and so on. My church is in the process of awarding grants from the proceeds of Berne Wood-Fired Pizza, and we see many of the ways that goodness is, right now and right here, overcoming evil.

Yes, these are hard times. But like my Grandma Larson faithfully patching jeans, and Curry’s grandmother faithfully cooking greens, we too can be witnesses to a new possibility. We, too, can join God in a long-term labor to face down evil while bringing in the Kingdom.

Curry describes God as the loving benevolence behind creation, whose judgment supersedes all else. This God is what gives us compassion and courage and stamina, as well as the abiding hope and conviction that goodness will prevail.



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**NOTICE**

The Concord  
Cemetery Association  
will be having it’s  
annual meeting on  
Tuesday, January 11, 2022  
at 6:30pm  
at the  
Concord Church of Christ  
55087 200th Ave.  
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**Faith Community Church**

305 State Street, West Concord • 527-2245  
Pastor David Breederland  
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Sunday worship video is posted on Facebook:  
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Sundays 9:30a.m. Worship in building and live  
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at church and via Zoom  
Call church for more information on ministries and events.

**United Methodist**

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**Church of Christ**

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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

### Family Connections

**Scripture Reading — Ruth 4:18-22**  
**Perez was the father of Hezron . . . Obed the father of Jesse, and Jesse the father of David. — Ruth 4:18-22**

The first mention of David in the Bible comes in the book of Ruth. David’s story was part of God’s much bigger story. Through the lives of David and many others, God was shaping and molding a people for himself. God called men and women into a relationship of grace, responsibility, and adventure.

The story of Ruth included disappointment, death, and discouragement. But as God worked in the lives of Ruth and Boaz, encouragement, joy, and hope began to shine through. Ruth and Boaz became ancestors of David.

Family connections anchored David’s life, making his family story an important part of his identity. As Eugene Peterson noted, “The genealogy shows that the story of Ruth and Boaz wasn’t simply a small love story into which they had accidentally fallen; rather it was a sprawling love story of epic proportions. For through the union of Ruth and Boaz came David” (Conversations).

Genealogies show us, in part, how God works in the world. Jesse told his children the stories of Perez, Hezron, Ram . . . Ruth and Boaz, and Obed as reminders of God’s faithfulness throughout the generations. And the thread of those stories went farther back to a couple named Abraham and Sarah, whom God had called into a relationship with himself (Genesis 12). This was part of the inheritance David had even before he was born.

**Prayer**  
*Lord and God, thank you for your faithfulness and for calling me into a relationship with you as part of your story of life for us all. Amen.*

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## Rolland "Rollie" Brown

Rolland "Rollie" Brown, 81, of Lake City, passed away at his home in Lake City on Thursday, October 28, 2021 surrounded by his family. Rollie was born on September 19, 1940, to Russell and Selma (Stensrud) Brown in Kasson, MN.



After graduation from West Concord High School, Rollie served 4 years in the Marine Corps and then 18 years in the National Guard. He worked on the family farm for a few years before Rollie married Mary Lou Buck on August 5, 1967, in Zumbro Falls. They lived and worked in Lake City. Rollie

worked at Federal Mogul for 36 years and retired in 2001. He moved to Claremont in September 2006. Rollie sat on the City Council in Claremont from 2010-2014. He returned to Lake City in 2014 and worked part-time at the grocery store. Rollie was a bowler and served as the State Bowling Director for many years. He was very involved with his grandchildren and their activities, sports, plays, etc. Rollie loved camping and watching his nephew race stockcars.

Rollie is survived by his children, Dana (Tom) Quade of MO, Allen (Andrea) of Jacksonville, IL, Danny (Heather) of Lake City, Gary (Laura) of Hudson, WI, and Lisa (Nathan) Anderson of Lake City; 23 grandchildren; many great-grandchildren; brother, Russell (Linda) of New Ulm, MN; two sisters, Pat (Jim) Worple of Alma, IA and Lois Alden of Charles City, IA.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Mary Lou; son, Keith Brown; his parents; his brothers, Ricky and Sam; special friend, Dorothy Jones; granddaughter, Tiffany Brown; and brother-in-law, Darwin Alden.

Funeral service were at 11 a.m. on Thursday, November 4, 2021, at Bethany Lutheran Church in Lake City. Reverend Steven Frenz officiated. Visitation was from 4 until 7 p.m. on Wednesday, November 3, 2021 at the Mahn Family Funeral Home, Anderson-Peterson Chapel and one hour prior to the service at the church on Thursday. Burial was at St. John's Lutheran Cemetery in Lake City with full military honors. Pallbearers were Terry Worple, John Alden, Kevin Huffman, Larry Friedhoff, Rick Brown, and Troy

Brown. Honorary pallbearers were Neil Eckhart and Nathaniel Jasso. Online condolences can be sent to [www.mahnfamilyfuneral-home.com](http://www.mahnfamilyfuneral-home.com).

## Dennis Marlin Quimby

Dennis Marlin Quimby, 68 of Owatonna, died on October 21, 2021, after a courageous three-year battle with MDS (Myelodysplastic syndrome).



He was born to Maxine (Tvedt) and Rolland Quimby on January 6, 1953. Dennis was the youngest of three boys, growing up on the family farm in rural West Concord. He loved his brothers and often talked about the many shenanigans they pulled off as kids. As the son of a dairy farmer, he learned the value of hard work from a young age and carried that work ethic with him his entire life. He often reminisced about milking cows, helping in the fields, and driving tractor as a kid. The family farm was always a special place for him as it has been in his family for over 100 years.

Dennis graduated from West Concord High School in 1971. After graduation, he studied to be a machinist through the Tool and Die program at the Faribault Vocational and Technical Institute. Before moving to Owatonna, Dennis would find his love, Joyce Rademaker; they married on June 15th, 1974. Dennis began working for the Owatonna Tool Company as a machinist, he was employed with OTC/SPX for over 30 years. During his time at OTC, he forged numerous friendships and many great memories of which he enjoyed sharing. Unfortunately, foot issues led to his retirement as a machinist, but Dennis wasn't one to sit at home. He started working part-time at the Brooks, a retirement community, where he did maintenance work. Fixing things and tinkering on

projects always brought him enjoyment, making his job at the Brooks a great fit, until MDS forced him to retire again.

Dennis and Joyce built their home in Owatonna in 1978, they moved in when it was simply a basement and floor; they worked evenings and weekends to help finish the house that would later become their home for over 40 years. This was a great source of pride for Dennis, raising his family in the home they had built. Dennis also enjoyed wood working, gardening, as well as tinkering and repairing broken appliances and tools. Dennis kept a very nice yard and garden; he could often be found putting around the backyard on his Wheel Horse tractor doing some sort of project.

When he wasn't working on some project, he enjoyed going to the races, chatting with friends and spending quality time with his family. Later in life, this consisted of spending time with his Grandkids, playing cards, games, fishing, and playing badminton in the backyard. Though his fight with MDS left him unable to do a lot of the things he loved to do, Jonah and Jacob could always put a smile on his face, as they loved the time spent with their grandpa.

Dennis is survived by his wife of 47 years Joyce of Owatonna, daughter Joy (Jesse) Mickels of Moorhead, son David of Duluth, grandsons Jonah and Jacob Mickels, brother Roger (Judy) Quimby of West Concord, sister-in-law's, a brother-in-law, as well as numerous nephews, nieces, & cousins. Dennis was preceded in death by his parents Maxine and Rolland, son Jacob, and brother Lowell. Blessed be Dennis' memory.

A visitation for family and friends was held from 4 to 6 p.m. on Thursday, October 28, at the Brick - Meger Funeral Home (1603 Austin Road Owatonna, MN.) A Knights of Columbus Rosary was recited at 6:00 pm Thursday at the funeral home. Mass of Christian Burial was 1:00 am Friday, October 29, 2021, at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Owatonna. A visitation started at 10:00 am prior to the funeral mass.

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West Concord Messenger



## That's the Latest Col Jon Phillips



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.*

Hall of Fame radio newsman Paul Harvey would often interject into his newscast things that were what he called 'Partly Personal'. Well here's my partly personal. To Mike, hand the Messenger over to Patti so she can read this column first. I'm HER cousin, not yours. You'll get your turn.

Now then, my longtime farm broadcasting colleague Col Jon Phillips retired at the age of 80 at the end of October, 2021. I first met the Col when I left KDHL radio in Faribault to work in Sioux City, Iowa at KMNS. Col was the farm markets reporter for the station and together we were a team for the next 31 years with various stations and networks. Prior to his doing daily market reports on the radio, he was a livestock auctioneer, hence the title Colonel Jon. The practice of calling auctioneers Colonel dates back to Civil War days. However I never heard his wife Mary call him Colonel. It's always Jon. I don't think she wanted to give him that much respect.

Col grew up near Wausau, Nebraska, population 720. He was an excellent athlete in his youth especially in baseball and boxing. He could have been a professional in either sport. In fact, he had an old scout for the New York Yankees that befriended him in his teenage years. His life seemed to be trending to play baseball at the University of South Dakota with hopes of signing at some point with the Yankees. But his throwing arm got injured in his freshman year in college and that dream ended.

His fighting career never materialized either even though he kept in close contact with those in boxing circles but his fighting career was mostly in bar fights and brawls. The stories from those days are to say the least fascinating. He won most of them and the ones he didn't win were a draw. He was friends with fellow Nebraskan Ron Stander, who fought Smokin' Joe Frazier for the world heavyweight title in Omaha back in 1972.

But it was the livestock industry that was Col's forte. He and I would broadcast from some of the World Livestock Auctioneer Championships that would be held at various Livestock Auction Markets around the

country. Two in particular I remember were held in Dunlap, Iowa and Fort Pierre, SD. Col Jon himself could have and would have been among the list of champions but the contests did not start until he was done being a livestock auctioneer. At one time, Col Jon was the auctioneer at the three largest livestock markets in the world; Yankton, SD, Norfolk, NE and Sioux City. After auctioneering for many years, Col went on to become a commodities broker.

One of the many stories he has told me over the years included him being in Chicago for meetings and it happened to be 1985. He attended the Bears game the night Refrigerator Perry scored a touchdown as a 335 pound fullback. Col tells of getting invited up to the ABC broadcast booth to meet Dandy Don Meredith and Howard Cosell. Howard thought these guys coming in there were some kind of bigshots from the Chicago Mercantile Exchange but no, it was just Col Jon from Wausau, Nebraska. It was when Col asked Cosell for his autograph that Cosell realized that this putz was a nobody, at least as far as he was concerned and tore into him with an expletive filled tirade that included the word get and out. Needless to say, he did not get the autograph but he did get out.

At KMNS in Sioux City, Col Jon and I developed the 'Farmshow on the Road' program where we would go out and about the area broadcasting from various locations. They became like town events when we would go to places like Moorhead, Iowa or Newcastle, Nebraska or Hull, Iowa, which is home to the original Pizza Ranch. We would broadcast from elevators, restaurants, county fairs, casinos, saloons, you name it and we broadcast from there. In Merrill, Iowa one morning we were going to set up in a building that was a restaurant during the day and bar at night. Well there was one leftover drunk from the night before and Col arrived before I did and this drunken lady woke up and started chasing Col all over the bar until the owner finally got her out the door.

In Ponca, Nebraska, just down the road from Newcastle, we broadcast from the bowling alley which was run by the Lamprecht family. Wayne Lamprecht worked at the Sioux City Stockyards but also ran the bowling alley/restaurant. Wayne made the best prime rib anywhere. He had a secret recipe and no one was allowed in to the kitchen when he was preparing it. For my 40th birthday, he invited my wife and me out for a prime rib dinner. That was the best and biggest prime rib I ever saw. That 24 ounce side of beef was done to perfection. Wayne's mother was the pie baker and she was a grand champion at that. It was a family run operation at the time with as many as 11 family members working there during an average week.

Speaking of pies, we had a big celebration for our 100th Farmshow on the Road. We held it at the fairgrounds in South Sioux City, Nebraska. For the event, we had a pie baking contest where listeners would bring in their favorite pie. We had three judges and I was not one of them. I was disqualified because word got back that at the Monona



Emery Kleven and Col Jon Phillips have been broadcast partners since 1990. Col's retirement on Oct 29th, 2021 ended the broadcasting but not the friendship



Pies seemed to be a big part of the 'Farmshow on the Road' with Col Jon and Emery. Pictured here was one of the greatest pie bakers in the world, Mrs Lamprecht from Ponca, Nebraska

County fair I was a judge for the county fair queen contest and I had a 15 way tie for first place. I'm pretty sure I would have done that with the pies too.

Col Jon and I attended Husker Harvest Days several times. It's Nebraska's version of Farmfest held in mid-September. We get to the motel in Grand Island at about 9 o'clock at night so we can get out to the show bright and early. We get in the room and it was about 95 degrees in there. We put the air-conditioning on full blast and fell asleep. I wake up early and exclaim to Col; HEY, it's like a meat locker in here, I can see my breath.

Col had cattle buyers and sellers who

would give him market information. He did not want to disclose who told him the information so he would give them code names on the air. I'm going to miss hearing about the exploits of the Road Runner, Iowa Fats, Taco Tuesday and the One-Armed Bandit among many others. As he prefaced giving the futures markets out of Chicago, he would explain that the Chicago Mercantile Exchange was run by professionals and financed but us amateurs. And if you've ever traded futures, you can probably relate to that. I've only touched the surface of my time spent with Col Jon but I'll tell you it was a wild and worthwhile trip. I have lots of memories and a great friend for life. Enjoy retirement Colonel.



## Museum Musings

### West Concord Study Club Celebrates 100+ Years

By Colleen Sathrum Hayne

On October 17th, nineteen Study Club members gathered for a Centennial Brunch in the Flame Room at the West Concord Historical Society. Members walked down memory lane as they had the opportunity to look at nearly 100 years of program booklets and scrapbooks. They also participated in a choral reading of some of the highlights of the history of the Club. Clinette Wolf composed a poem especially for the occasion, and as she read it to the group, brought back many fond memories with her words.

In the years between 1870 and the 1920's the formation of Women's Clubs swept the country. They were the major means by which American women could use their talents to shape the world that was beyond their homes. Women wanted to make use of their intellect, training, and creativity in new and fulfilling ways. Via Women's clubs, women were able to study literature, art, history and government, as well as take on Civic causes. By 1910 there were 800,000 members in Women's Clubs in America and that number continued to rise until the mid-20's. Claremont and Kasson formed Friday Study Clubs, Dodge Center had the Fortnightly Club, Kenyon's women attended the Round Table Club, Pine Island's group was called the Progress Club, and Mantorville and West Concord each had Study Clubs. Out in the country groups like NIS (Neighborhood Improvement Society), Eagle Valley Club, the South Star Club and various county extension clubs were formed.

The beginning of West Concord's Study Club appears to have been when this notice was placed in the January 11, 1917 West Concord Enterprise. "All ladies interested in the organization of a study club are requested to meet at the home of Miss Woods to plan for such an organization, Monday afternoon, Feb. 19th at 4:00."

The next mention of Study Club was in the February 22, 1917 Enterprise.

"Monday afternoon a number of ladies met and organized a study club. As so few traveling libraries are available at this season of the year, it was voted that for the remainder of the present school year the study should be upon Current Events and State and National Civic Government. A very pleasant and profitable time is anticipated by the ladies in this study together. It is hoped that others will join them. Will any who wish to do so kindly phone Miss Woods as soon as possible? The next meeting will be with Mrs. Garding, Friday afternoon, March 2nd at 4:00."

In June the newly formed Study Club was put in charge of West Concord's Red Cross efforts for World War 1. We know that the next year Spanish Influenza raged in West Concord and the world. Study Club was put on the back burner until 1921. We can only surmise that the war and the pandemic made it too difficult to continue. When Study Club began again in 1921 it used the program that had been planned for 1918 but never put into action. Since 1921 Study Club has met continuously.

The promotion, growth, and care of the West Concord Public Library has been a civic mission of Study Club since the beginning. On November 28, 1921, Study Club met with the Women's Christian Temperance Union to establish a public library in West Concord. They also decided to jointly sponsor a Girl Scout Troop with the Women's Auxiliary. Both ventures were supported through the years, along with many others.

The early days of Study Club were almost academic undertakings. Members would present papers on programmed topics and a club critic would offer suggestions to make presentations better. Members who were tardy or didn't have their topics prepared were required to pay fines. Refreshments weren't served at first, probably as a way to show that Study Club was a serious educational, self-betterment group—not a social outing. Eventually club critics were voted away and hospitality was enjoyed with light lunches after the meetings.

One night a year Study Club hosted an Open Meeting and invited husbands and guests for a fun evening. In the 30's a banquet and dancing at the Hotel Concord were the evening's activities. Around the same time, Study Club started sponsoring tap dance lessons at the school and volunteered to be on hand on Saturdays to supervise. Filling boxes of candy and nuts for children at the Community Christmas tree event, not to mention planning the program, were annual events.

Programs through the years ranged from impressionism in art to violence on TV. In the 40's study club members sent layettes to Norway where things were so hard for the local people because of the German Occupation during the second World War. Songbooks were purchased and a Study Club chorus was formed. Music was an integral part of many meetings.

Study Club has changed as society has changed. It meets only once a month now, instead of twice, and usually at public places, only occasionally at members' homes. Meetings still help members learn and grow as they plan their presentations. Some of the topics in the 21st century have included Women in the Civil War, Women World Leaders, China in the Global Economy, Alzheimer's Disease, and even Barbie turns 40. Members have thought about the planet when they've answered roll call questions like this one: What new thing have you done, or would you like to do, to live green? Study Club has endured for 100 years and is still going strong. Congratulations to West Concord's Study Club!

*Study Club invites you all to its December 6th program at 7:00 p.m.*

*Cindy Breederland will play a program of Christmas Carols on West Concord's Methodist Church organ. It will be beautiful!*

*Cookies and coffee will be served after the program.*



**Study Club Gathered for its Centennial Celebration**

(Left to right) Row 1: Kathy Wilmes, Pat Hanson, Louise Severud, Pat Bringgold. Row 2: Paula Finne, Joan Paulson, Linda Vrieze, Karen Peterson. Row 3: Margaret Gillard, Darleen Gillard, Colleen Hayne, Nancy Schollmeier. Row 4: Clinette Wolf, Sue Brual, Joanne Wright, Vickie Froehlich. Row 5: Lynn Haltvick, Mary Gillard. Not pictured: Linda Lulf



October 1959 Study Club presents a skit: "The Saga of Little Nell" Pictured are: Ardis Koehler, Constance Fenne, June Doyle, and Emily Horen (one member is unidentified)



## Cobra Communications



**Craig Schlichting**  
Superintendent

COBRA COMMUNICATIONS – Craig Schlichting – Superintendent

Our new mobile phone app has been downloaded 457 times to date. My goal is to have it downloaded 1,000 times by the end of the school year. I really like the new mobile app. It is a free download for your mobile phone. For Apple phones it can be found in the App Store and on Google Play for Android phones. Just search for Triton Public Schools on either format and you will find our new app to download. The reason that I am so excited about our school having our own app is the ease and ability to communicate with those that are interested in what is going on in our district. One of my favorite features of the app is the Live Feed notification. When you choose to receive these notifications, you will be notified on your phone when we post a live feed update. This live feed update is also immediately displayed on our webpage. The app and the webpage are linked so you can find

information in either location. One of the features that works with our app is the ability to post to multiple locations with one message as it links all of our social media sites. We can send one message to Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and the Live Feed all at the same time. This is really efficient and allows us to communicate in multiple ways very quickly.

Our new callings system, app and website are all connected with the same company. This saves us money by using one service, and links all of these tools together to feature a better end product for our Triton Families. Since we first started using the calling system, we have had to make a couple of adjustments. I have appreciated the feedback in trying to improve your experience with the new system. One thing that I heard was the fact that the original message showed that it was coming from an Alabama phone number on caller ID. We were able to work with the company and get that adjusted so the caller ID now shows that the phone call is coming from Triton Public Schools. With the new system there are times when we will use the robo calling voice feature. This comes in handy when I need to send a message in multiple languages at the same time. It is called TTS or Text To Speech. I know that this was a new experience for some hearing a strange voice, and the fact that it also showed up from Alabama certainly made for some confusion. Please call and let us know if you want to be added to our calling system and we can add you to our list. We also now have the ability to email our community members, if you would like to be added to that list, please email me and ask to be added to the list.

I have heard that there can be a slight delay

before the message begins when you answer the phone, I am checking to see if we can get that wait time shortened. We also have the ability to send text messages. You can opt out of that feature if you do not want to be billed for text messages, but if you have downloaded our app, you will also get the live feed messages when they are sent. I am really excited to be able to have all of these tools to share the great things that are happening at Triton.

Please let your relatives and friends know about our app. It is a great way to access the link to all of the streaming activities. When you open the app, click on “menu” in the bottom right and then click on “athletics” and it will take you to the home activities home page with a streaming link. We have continued to stream a number of our home events since we have heard how much peo-

ple have appreciated the ability to watch these live events. If you happen to miss a game, they are all recorded and you can watch them later when you have time.

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](mailto: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!

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## Triton FFA's Annual Food Shelf Event



Triton FFA did their annual food shelf event purchasing \$1200 worth of groceries at Sunshine Foods to stock the Dodge County Food Shelf. The group took \$1000 from the corn and soy-bean to purchase needed items such as canned protein, vegetables and various pre mixed noodle dishes. Sunshine Foods contributed another \$100 towards the project and a family gave an additional \$100 to help purchase groceries. The 21 members purchased 1006 pounds of food.

## TRITON CLASS OF 2022

### SENIOR SPOTLIGHT



Noah Thomas is a senior at Triton this year. His parents are Ray and Annalee Thomas.

In school he is active in football, basketball, track & field and trap.

His hobbies are hunting, fishing, snowmobiling, hanging out with friends and family.

His favorite movies - Rambo and all the Rocky movies.

After graduation his plans are for a 2-year college or enter the workforce.



**NOAH THOMAS**

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## Triton FFA Judging at UW River Falls

By Reporter Stella Streich

Friday, October 15th Triton FFA left for UW River Falls at 5:55 am for our annual Judging competition. With great pride I would like to announce Triton Dairy Judging placed second and will be competing at state! Cadence Spearman placed 6th. Gigi Polikowsky placed 10th Other members on the team are

Emma Klejeski, Stella Streich and Elyssa Robinson. Our Horse judging team placed 17th overall. Members of the team included Avril Arlth, Callie Chilson, Caleb Chilson and Gabby Geers. Livestock Judging placed 18th overall. Members of the team John Moenning, Morgan Styd, Kiya Avery, August Johnson, and Jacob Kasper.

It was such an amazing opportunity to learn and compete in our animal judging skills. We are so thankful for our advisors: Robert Ickler and Ashley Crowson who helped us learn and grow as a chapter. The day was filled with absolute excitement as we were even able to stop at Ellsworth Cheese Factory on National Cheese Curd Day!



Livestock team evaluating a group of beef cattle



Left to right: Dairy Team: Cadence Spearman, Gigi Polikowsky, Stella Streich, Emma Klejeski and Elyssa Robinson



Horse team left to right: Callie Chilson, Gabby Geers, Avril Arlth and Caleb Chilson



Left to right: Jenna Kenworthy, Tristan Nelson, Isaiah Selthun and John Moenning



## Relocating for New Job at Triton

(continued from page 1)

Jacob Johnson had to make the difficult and yet exciting decision to relocate to Dodge Center and accept the Business Education teaching position at Triton High School.

Previously, Jacob worked at Inspiration Point Christian Camp in Fergus Falls, Minnesota. Jacob enjoyed his work at Inspiration

Point Christian Camp for eight summers and as a full time staff member for two years. His role at the camp included: curriculum planning, writing Bible lessons, creating schedules, coming up with songs, and games. He also worked with 1st grade -12th grade students. And was also responsible for training staff on policies and procedures. Then Covid suddenly interrupted him and the entire world. He was faced with finding the next perfect job in the next perfect location in Minnesota.

Feeling a little doubtful about finding a new job, Jacob went to a popular teaching job website. The first job he applied to was Triton's Business Education teaching position. He accepted an interview and came to Dodge

Center. He toured the school and the community. Jacob described his experience of the tour. "It felt like home. People were driving golf carts down Main Street. The school size and the tight knit community aspect is what I had been looking for. Reminds me of my hometown." Jacob was born and raised in South Dakota on a little tiny country farm. He went to NorthWestern College, which is a private college located in a small town in Iowa. He realized rural settings were a perfect fit for him.

Jacob is excited to be a part of Triton

School District and the Dodge Center community. The move has been an easy transition and stress free for Jacob because he chose the right school district in the right location. His students have served as a wealth of information to help him navigate his new town. He feels supported by the administration and other teachers. Jacob has worked hard to prepare for his courses and business experiences. He will have an immediate positive impact on the Triton school system and the community.

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## Triton Welcomes New Special Education Teacher

By Kenya Narveson

Alayna Johnson always knew she wanted to be a teacher. She is a recent graduate of Minnesota State University, in Mankato. She successfully completed her student teaching at John Adams Middle School in Rochester. As a young girl, she always knew she would become a teacher. And once she started high school, she started narrowing her choices of what she wanted to teach. Alayna realized that she loved helping her little brother with homework. And she also discovered the amount of compassion and understanding

that a teacher needs to have in order to work with a child with disabilities. Helping her disabled younger brother with homework set her on a teaching career path.

Though being a special education teacher is not for everyone, it can absolutely be a rewarding and informative experience. Working in this field will require just about every teaching strategy you know: patience, cooperation, teamwork, communication, organization, and more patience. All of the students require patience, but some need a little more than others. Giving extra time for homework or a differentiated assessment could alleviate some of that challenge. Alayna completely understands that parents send their most precious possessions to school; hoping she, as the teacher, will be humble, supportive, and empathetic while helping them learn.

Special education proves that everyone has something that piques their interest, whether it's sports or painting or music. If you can discover what that special something is, you gain an incredibly helpful tool for teaching

methods. Alayna's student teaching experience in special education and the experience of helping her younger brother has prepared her for the wide range of disabilities that she will have

to teach. Alayna creates effective individualized lesson plans to help make a lasting impact on the lives of her students. Her largest class size is six students and her smallest class size is one student. The small class size and increased time working with students allows her to build strong relationships with her students and their families.

Alayna comes highly recommended from the staff at John Adams Middle School and also from her professors at Mankato State University. Alayna is an advocate and passionate about helping students with disabilities thrive. She continues to assist her brother with his adult program in Rochester. Although she grew up in Rochester, she couldn't be happier in choosing Triton School District to start her new career path as a Special Education Teacher.



Alayna Johnson

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## CHRISTMAS IN KENYON - DECEMBER 4, 2021

<p>Letters to Santa Drop at Kenyon Post Office <i>Sponsored by Ramirez Trucking</i></p>	<p>Santa from 1 to 3 p.m. at SIFT <i>Sponsored by SIFT</i> First 24 kids get free Play Pack</p>	<p>Music at The Muni <i>Sponsored by The Muni</i></p>	<p>In store drawing <i>Sponsored by All Seasons Thrift Store</i></p>	<p>Fashion Show <i>Sponsored by All Seasons Thrift Store</i></p>
<p>Cookie Pre-orders LAST DAY! <i>Sponsored by the Gunderson House</i> See FB page for order info</p>	<p>KW Choir students will be caroling around town <i>Sponsored by KW Choir</i></p>	<p>Donate gifts cards or cash for kids at KW schools Drop donation at City Hall <i>Sponsored by Held Bus Service</i></p>	<p>Storytelling from 10 am to noon <i>Sponsored by the Kenyon Public Library</i></p>	<p>Vendor Fair at All Seasons Community Center 9 am to 3 pm, Dec 3 and 4 <i>Sponsored by All Seasons Community Center</i></p>
<p>Lighting Contest! Light up your house and win a prize! Get the signup form on the CIK FB page to enter the contest!</p>	<p>Annual tree lighting ceremony at Veteran's Park - 5 pm. Speaker: TBD <i>Sponsored by City of Kenyon</i></p>	<p>Scavenger Hunt! Download form from the CIK FB page and submit to CIK to be entered into drawing for prize!</p>	<p>KW Art Students Shop Window Painting <i>Sponsored by D&amp;S Banner Sign and Print</i></p>	<p>Photo frames! Take your photo in front of a frame and post on CIK FB page and be entered into drawing for a prize!</p>

Drawing Prizes donated by: Kenyon Market, Kenyon Ace Hardware, Security State Bank of Kenyon, Kenyon Veterinary Clinic, Franklin Peterson Law, Maring Auction, Milo Peterson Ford and Lyle Wendroth/State Farm Insurance

**Christmas in Kenyon is co-sponsored by the Kenyon Commercial Club and the City of Kenyon. We thank the following Commercial Club business members for their support in making this annual event a success!**

Security State Bank of Kenyon ~ All Seasons Community Services ~ Kenyon Veterinary Clinic ~ D&S Banner Sign and Print ~ Tatge Jewelry ~ SIFT ~ Kenyon Market ~ Lyle Wendroth/State Farm ~ Highway 60 Motor Sales ~ Kenyon Senior Living ~ Metal Transformations/Meyersbuilt ~ Write On ~ Expertise Lawnmowing Maintenance and Snowplowing ~ Emerson's Fine Furniture ~ Frank Peterson Law Office ~ Kenyon Ace Hardware ~ Foldcraft ~ Security Insurance Agency ~ Kenyon Leader ~ Zumbrota News Record ~ KDHL ~ Kenyon VFW Post 141 ~ Ramirez Trucking ~ Speedway ~ Milo Peterson Ford - Generations Ranch Rescue Sanctuary ~ Maring Auction - The Messenger

\*\*\*All events subject to change without notice



## Finally Finished!

(continued from page 1)

But there are also the larger-scale impacts of well-connected communities and increased commerce.

It was quite the impressive scene when politicians, skilled trade workers, press representatives and community members came together to celebrate the opening of the new Highway 14. The event was held on Tuesday, November 9th, 2021, beginning at 10am, accompanied by gorgeous fall weather of partly cloudy skies and mid-40s temperatures.

The west-bound lane of the new highway near the County Road 3 exit into Claremont was filled with event seating, souvenirs, hot beverages for attendees, and people mingling in excited anticipation as crowd members trickled in.

The hour-long program of speakers consisted of ten state and local politicians and group representatives who played an important role in bringing this project to fruition. Mike Dougherty, the Director of Public Engagement and Communications for District 6 of MN Dot opened the event saying it's a "great celebration. The crowd is indicative of that!" He led the group in a "moment of silence for folks who lost their lives on 14." Following the moment of silence, Triton High School band members played the National Anthem, directed by Triton band teacher Elijah Gray.

Then began the line-up of ten speakers, each talking for approximately five minutes. Claremont Mayor Tasha Dahl welcomed the crowd saying, "This project feels like ours as it has been in our back yard for two years." She also said, "What a transformation to make this land into a four-lane highway!" and referenced how fortunate citizens are to have a



Elaine Hodgman showing her souvenirs of a Highway 14 cookie and a commemorative piece of equipment

safer exit to where they live. Mayor Dahl hopes "that this road will lead to continued growth."

Next Governor Tim Walz spoke giving a "huge thank you to the legislative leaders who made this possible." He continued, "roads are what bind us together. This state-of-the-art road will serve this area for the next 50 years." Walz continued that the new highway "fuels growth in an area that is an incredible place to live, connecting all the way from Mankato to Rochester." He wrapped up by encouraging folks to "stop in to Claremont and spend your money!"

The next 8 speakers were the Commissioner of Transportation Margaret Anderson Kelliher, Senator Amy Klobuchar, Congressman Jim Hagedorn, MN State Senator John Jasinski, MN State Representative John Petersburg, President of the Highway 14 Partnership Kevin Raney, a representative from the building and construction trades, and a representative from the office of Senator Tina Smith. These speakers thanked legislative



At least the highway is done. Next they can work on the spelling.

leaders, both past and present, the skilled workers who built the new highway, and the many other community members and businesses who had a role in seeing this project come to fruition.

The overall themes of increased safety and commerce were consistent messages throughout the day's speeches. Both are great reasons to celebrate the completed work of the newest 12.5 miles of roadway between Owatonna and Dodge Center. Senator Klobuchar had reminded the crowd that over the past 10 years on this stretch alone, there had been 139 crashes, 6 serious injuries, and 4 fatalities. Everyone can agree that having a safer road for people and goods to traverse is indeed something to celebrate.

The event wrapped up with a ribbon-cutting ceremony and popping a bottle of champagne. Shortly thereafter, the first cars starting moving past in the east-bound lane at 11am. It was a great day and a wonderful ceremony to commemorate the road being finally finished!



Governor Tim Walz with Triton band students and their Director Elijah Gray



Kevin Raney, Senator Senjem, Gov. Walz, Rep. Jasinski and Mayor Dahl popping the cork on a bottle of champagne to celebrate

## Thanksgiving Greetings

From all of us to all of you, best wishes for a bright and beautiful Thanksgiving!



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By Jim Miller

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Dear Savvy Senior,

**When my dad died, we thought he had a life insurance policy, but we have no idea how to track it down. Any suggestions?**

**--Searching Son**

Dear Searching,

Lost or forgotten life insurance policies are very common in the U.S. According to a study by Consumer Reports, 1 out of every 600 people is the beneficiary of an unclaimed life insurance policy with an average benefit of \$2,000. It could be like finding out you have a secret savings account.

While unfortunately, there isn't a national database for tracking down these policies, there are a number of strategies and a few new resources that can help your search. Here are several to get you started.

**Search his records:** Check your dad's financial records or areas where he kept his important papers for a policy, records of premium payments, or bills from an insurer. Also contact his employer or former employer benefits administrator, insurance agents, financial planner, accountant, attorney or other adviser and ask if they know about a life insurance policy. Also check safe-deposit boxes, monitor the mail for premium invoices or whole-life dividend notices, and review old income-tax returns, looking for interest income from, and interest expenses paid, to life insurance companies.

**Get help:** The National Association of Insurance Commissioners offers a policy locator service (see NAIC.org and click on "Consumer" then on "Life Insurance Policy Locator") that lets you run a nationwide search for insurance policies or annuities in the names of people who have died. There are also six state insurance departments (Illinois, Louisiana, Michigan, New York, North Carolina and Oregon) that have free policy locator service programs that can help you search. To find direct access to these state resources visit the American Council of Life Insurers website at ACLI.com – click on "Missing Policy Tips."

**Contact the insurer:** If you suspect that a particular insurer underwrote the policy, contact that carrier's claim office and ask. The more information you have, like your dad's date of birth and death, Social Security number and address, the easier it will be to track down. Contact information for some big insurers include: Prudential 800-778-2255; MetLife Metlife.com/policyfinder; AIG 800-888-2452; Nationwide 800-848-6331; John Hancock JohnHancock.com – click on "Lost or unclaimed policy form" at the bottom of the page under "Quick Links."

**Search unclaimed property:** If your dad died more than a few years ago, benefits may have already been turned over to the unclaimed property office of the state where the policy was purchased. Go to MissingMoney.com, a website of the National Association of Unclaimed Property Administrators, to search records from 39 states, Puerto Rico and the District of Columbia. Or, to find links to each state's unclaimed-property division use Unclaimed.orgs.

If your dad's name or a potential benefactor's name produces a hit, you'll need to prove your claim. Required documentation, which can vary by state, is detailed in claim forms, and a death certificate might be necessary.

**Search fee-based services:** There are several businesses that offer policy locator services for a fee. The MIB Group, for example, which is a data-sharing service for life and health insurance companies, offers a policy locator service at MIB.com for \$75. But it only tracks applications for individual policies made since 1996.

You can also get assistance at Policy Inspector (PolicyInspector.com) for \$99, and L-LIFE (LostLifeIns.com) for \$108.50, who will do the searching for you.

## Bowling with the Bennerottes

(continued from page 1)

Tricia and Jason Bennerotte purchased the bowling alley from Tricia's father-in-law, Rich Bennerotte approximately eight years ago. She explains, "I helped Rich manage it for a long time and decided we should buy it."

As with many small businesses, remodeling has been done slowly over the years. Tricia enjoys the updates as they're able to do them and exclaims, "I love change!"

Beyond the sportsmanship and socializing of bowling, Wescon Lanes offers a wide variety of food. Tricia explained the menu as, "We have a full food menu from burgers to chicken to our homemade pizza that we are really known for. I try to add to items every year. This year I added hot pork and meatloaf dinner which comes with homemade mashed potatoes. I also added macaroni and cheese pizza."

Wescon Lanes is open during the fall through spring, taking the summers off. Their schedule runs from September through early May, and they're open every day of the week except Tuesdays. Hours are from 5pm-10pm. When asked about the time commitment as a

manager, Tricia said, "I am at the alley every day so look forward to the summer for a break, but always look forward to opening again in September."

Tricia is always encouraging new bowlers to come and have fun, and to consider joining a league. There are three leagues, men's, women's and mixed. At present, there are five men's teams, four women's teams, and nine mixed teams. Men's league is on Monday, Women's league is on Wednesday, and mixed league is on Sunday.

Wescon Lanes has been an important part of the Bennerotte family legacy, one that continues on through Jason and Tricia's children, Michaela and Jordan who are also active in the bowling community. Tricia explains that both of the children "have been a great help to us!"

The community gives a big thanks to the Bennerotte family for providing hometown food and entertainment options as one of the last area bowling alleys. Tricia wrapped up by stating, "I love my job! We meet some awesome people and have made some really good friends!"

Please considering supporting this local business if you haven't been to Wescon Lanes recently, and take advantage of great food and quality entertainment options close to home as you try your hand at bowling with the Bennerottes! Be sure to check out the Wescon Lanes Facebook page for the latest information.



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## West Concord City Council Minutes October 21, 2021

**PRESENT:** Mayor Jeffrey McCool, Council members: 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, Public Works Superintendent Keith Clammer, and Interim City Clerk Sandy Borders

### ADDITION / DELETIONS FROM THE AGENDA:

Interim Administrator Slater-Schulte removed the following items from the agenda:

Item E. Request Installation of WiFi to Front Street Building

Item F. Estimate for Cleaning of the Water Tower

Item G. Update on Liquor Store HVAC system

### Consent Agenda

• Approval of Minutes of September 16, 2021 Council Meeting

Approval of Minutes of September 23, 2021 Reconvene of September 16, 2021 Council Meeting

- Approval of Payment of Claims
- Review of Financial Reports
- Motion to Accept Resignation of Library Assistant Donna-Marie Klapperich effective October 21, 2021

Motion: Motion to approve the Consent Agenda.

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

### PUBLIC COMMENT:

No one was present

### CITY BUSINESS:

#### Resolution 2021-18 Awarding the Sale of G.O. WATER Revenue and Refunding Bonds, Series 2021A

Todd Hagen from Ehlers was present to present to the Council the results of the Bond Sale. The Bond sale was conducted, and there were four bids. The low bid was received from Northview Bank, Finlayson, MN in the amount of 1.2000%. The high bid was in the amount of 5.245%. After the receiving of the bids the bond issuance was reduced by \$4,000. The closing date on the issuance is scheduled for November 17, 2021. The proceeds of the bond will be used for the purchase of water meters and readers, and for the refunding of G.O. Refunding Bonds, Series 2012A, that currently has an outstanding balance of \$350,000 which was able to be called upon for redemption on or after February 1, 2021.

Approval of the 5th and Final Pay Request and Project Closeout Letter of the West Concord 2020 Utility Improvement Project.

Joe Palen from Stantec was available via phone for questions regarding this project. The project has been completed and the final payment of \$10,974.25 is payable to Wencel Construction Company.

Motion: Motion to approve the 5th and Final Payment to Wencel Construction for the West Concord 2020 Utility Improvement Project in the amount of \$10,974.25.

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

#### Vendor Registration for Energy assistance Program (EAP) Water Assistance Program

The city is requesting to become a vendor for the Energy Assistance / Water Assistance Program. By becoming a vendor the city would be allowed to receive payments from the program on behalf of water/sewer customers affected by COVID 19.

Motion: Motion to authorize staff to complete the Vendor Registration for Energy Assistance Program (EAP) Water Assistance Program.

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

#### Resolution 2021-19: Setting Public Hearing on Continuation of the Operation of the Municipal Liquor Store in the City of West Concord, Minnesota

The Public Hearing is needed because the Municipal Liquor Store having losses in any two years during the past three-year period. The Public Hearing has been scheduled for December 16, 2021 at 6:30 P.M. at West Concord City Hall.

Motion: Motion to set the Public Hearing regarding the Municipal Liquor Store for December 16, 2021 at 6:30 P.M.

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

#### Approval of Job Description of City Clerk-Treasurer

The Council was presented with the job duties for the position of Part-Time City Clerk Treasurer.

Motion: Motion to approve the Job Description of the Part-time City Clerk/Treasurer.

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

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

Nays: none

#### Resolution 2021-21 Hiring of Part-time City Clerk – Treasurer

The Personnel Committee reviewed applications and conducted interviews for the position. The Personnel Committee recommended the hiring of Donna-Marie Klapperich for the position of Part-time City Clerk Treasurer for 24 hours per week at a rate of \$20.00 per hour. This would include paid holiday, if the holiday was on a normally scheduled workday.

Motion: Motion to approve the hiring of Donna-Marie Klapperich as part-time City Clerk – Treasurer

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

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

Nays: none

#### Resolution 2021-22 Hiring of Full-time Accounting Clerk

The Personnel Committee reviewed applications and conducted interviews for the position. The Personnel Committee recommended the hiring of Michelle Lee for the position of full-time accounting clerk. The position would include 40 hours per week at \$20.00 per hour, PTO and paid holidays per the City Personnel Policy, and paid Health Insurance.

Motion: Motion to approve the hiring of Michelle Lee as full-time Accounting Clerk with the benefits as outlined.

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

#### Resolution 2021-23- Hiring of Part-time, On-Call Maintenance personnel

The Personnel Committee conducted interviews and recommended the hiring of two part-time, on-call maintenance personnel at a pay rate of \$15.00 per hour as needed. No benefits were included in the position.

Motion: Motion to approve the hiring of David Granger and Dennis Drhrmann as part-time, on-call maintenance works at a rate of \$15.00 per hour

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

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

Nays: none

#### Resolution 2021-24 Hiring of Part-time Bartender for Municipal Liquor Store

Personnel Committee conducted interview and recommended hiring Trevor Tomlinson as part-time bartender for the Municipal Liquor Store with some supervision.

Motion: Motion to approve the hiring of Trevor Tomlinson as part-time bartender for the Municipal Liquor Store.

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

#### Closing of Main Street for the Trunk or Treat event

Beth Hodgman was present to request the closing of Main Street from Highway 56 east to the elevator from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on October 30th. The street would have cars parked on it with treats, also included in the activities are hay rides, games, and bouncy house for Halloween.

Motion: Motion to approve the closing of Main Street on October 30th for the Halloween events.

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

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

Nays: none

#### Claremont Proposal for Pull-Tabs at the Municipal Liquor Store

Representatives from the Claremont Chamber of Commerce were present to ask about having their pull-tabs available at the Municipal Bar. Currently the West Concord Historical Society have the chartable gaming at the bar. Claremont spoke about the finances they receive from the other gaming locations. They mentioned that they would guarantee the Historical Society would receive enough funding to cover their utilities for the Historical Society building. There was discussion and no action was taken.

#### Request from Triton Cobras for two family season passes to the Municipal Pool

The Triton Cobras are requesting two family season passes to the West Concord Municipal Pool. They would like to give the passes away at the 2022 Prom. The Council discussed that this would be good exposure for the pool.

Motion: Motion to approve giving two family season passes to the West Concord Municipal Pool.

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

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

Nays: none

#### Resolution 2021-25: Hiring Of Myra Johnson As Part-time Police Officer

The Personnel Committee interviewed applicants for the part-time Police Officer position and recommended hiring of Myra Johnson at a pay rate of \$16.00. The City will need to activate her license.

Motion: Motion to approve the hiring of Myra Johnson as part-time Police Officer at a pay rate of \$16.00 per hour.

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

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

Nays: none

#### Resolution 2021-26: Hiring of Ted Sherwood As Part-time Police Officer

The Personnel Committee interviewed applicants for the part-time Police Officer position and recommended hiring of Ted Sherwood at a pay rate of \$16.00. The City will need to activate his license.

Motion: Motion to approve the hiring of Ted Sherwood as part-time Police Officer at a pay rate of \$16.00 per hour.

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

(continued on page 13)





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

Nays: none

### Fire Relief Association

The City of West Concord has received Minnesota State Aid to be disbursed to the Fire Relief Association. The City received \$22,256.09 in State Aid.

Motion: Motion to send a check to the West Concord Fire Relief Association in the amount of \$22,256.09.

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

### DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

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

presented Department reports.

Interim Administrator Slater-Schulte informed the Council on the following:

The city had an overall increase in the insurance premium for 2022 in the amount of \$63.00 dollars.

The city received a letter from the Minnesota State Demographic Center stating the new population as of April 1, 2020, was 861.

The city received a letter from CMS (the building inspector office) that there will be a rate increase for 2022. They also had mentioned that the city might consider having an ordinance regarding fencing around a pool.

Police Chief Boerner reported that they had done the background checks on the new employees.

Librarian Nancy Schollmeier reported that there had been a lending library donated to the library. It will be installed so people can use it to pick up books and return books. It was also reported that there will be people from Triton School coming to the city to do community service on October 29th. They will be helping at city hall, people in the community, and at the parks.

Keith Clammers from Public Works reported that the brush site will close if it snows.

Beth Hodgman from the Municipal Liquor store reported that there will be an audit of the liquor store. It was also reported that there will be live music at the Municipal on the night before Thanksgiving, wine tasting on December 4th, and music during Christmas in West Concord event.

Next Council meeting is scheduled for November 18, 2021, at City Hall.

City offices will be closed on November 11th for Veterans Day, and on November 25th and 26th for the Thanksgiving Holiday. Adjournment:

Motion: Motion to Adjourn.

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

Ayes: Mayor McCool, Council member Pe-

terson, Council member Burse, Council member Schollmeier, and Council member Ripley

Nays: None

### RESOLUTION 2021-19

RESOLUTION SETTING PUBLIC HEARING ON CONTINUATION OF THE OPERATION OF THE MUNICIPAL LIQUOR STORE IN THE CITY OF WEST CONCORD, MN

WHEREAS, the City of West Concord municipal liquor store has shown a net loss prior to interfund transfer for at least two of the past three consecutive years.

WHEREAS, pursuant to Minnesota Statutes 340A.602, the City Council must hold a public hearing on the question of whether the City shall continue to operate a municipal liquor store.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the city will hold a public hearing on December 16th, 2021 at 6:30 p.m., at 180 Main St., West Concord, MN 55985, to consider the question of whether the City should continue to operate a municipal liquor store.

Adopted by the City Council of the City of West Concord, Dodge County, this 18th day of November. 2021.

Jeffrey E. McCool, Mayor

Sandra Borders, Interim City Clerk

**HELP WANTED**  
 The City of West Concord is taking application for a City Administrator, Librarian Director and anyone interested in working part time for the library. Bartenders are also needed. Apply at City Hall.



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Remember to watch our Facebook page for updates and events. 

## West Concord Public Library



A new community Lending Library has recently been installed on First Street in front of the Historical Society. Our thanks go to Muriel and Dan French for donating the library and to Rita Gilbert for the beautiful art work on the exterior. Thank you to Keith Clammer for installing the Lending Library.

Be sure to stop by to meet and welcome our new library assistant, Sheryl Prebl. Sheryl is working in the library Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Thank you to the Triton students who came to the library and City Hall on Friday, October 29th, for their Community Service Day. Many tasks were completed by the enthusiastic group of students. We appreciate all that they did.

Come to the library on December 4th to celebrate Christmas in West Concord. The library will be open from 9:00 am until noon with Children's Christmas crafts to assemble.

The library will be closed Thursday, November 25th and Friday, November 26th for the Thanksgiving holiday.



# West Concord Community Christmas Celebration Saturday, December 4

- 7 - 11 a.m. Wescon Lanes –Breakfast Specials**
- 7 - 4 p.m. Fire Department – “Toys for Tots” Collection at Centennial Park**
- 8 - 11 a.m. Methodist Church--Fresh Homemade Doughnuts, Baked Goods & Candy Sale**
- 8 - 2 p.m. Casey’s – Free Coffee, Register for Door Prizes**
- 9 - 12 Noon “Coffee with the Council” at City Hall**
- 9 - 12 Noon Lion’s Club fundraiser at City Hall (Boxes of Cards for sale)**
- 9 - 12 Noon Santa Claus, Coloring Contest, Sharing Tree -- Heritage Bank (Each child will receive a book provided by the Lions Club)**
- 9 - 12 Noon Public Library--Craft Activities for Children**
- 9 - 12 Noon “Cookies with the Cops” by WC Police Dept. at City Hall**
- 9 - 2:30 p.m. West Concord Historical Society Craft Fair ---- Lunch available**
- 9 - 2:30 p.m. Silent Auction—American Legion – Bidding ends at 2:30 p.m.**
- 10 - 12 noon Open House with Coffee & Cookies at Boe Auto Center**
- 11 - 2 p.m. “Cookies with the Cows” at the Barn – east end of Main Street**
- 11 - 1 p.m. Soup Lunch at American Legion by the Auxiliary**
- 11 - 1 p.m. Liquor Store--Bloody Marys**
- 11 - 3 p.m. Wescon Lanes--Lunch Specials & Free Bowling**
- 3 - 5 p.m. Liquor Store--Wine Tasting**
- 5:00 p.m. Program at Centennial Park (Main St and Hwy 56)  
Christmas Drawings – Centennial Park –(Must be Present to Win)**
- 5:30 - 7 p.m. Free Supper— By EDA at American Legion  
(Menu: BBQs, potato salad, chips, Brownie, Beverage)**
- 6:00–10 p.m. Liquor Store—Special Promotions! Music!**



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## Endurance Wins The Day



By Harvey Mackay

I stumbled across a quote recently by psychologist Angela Duckworth that really caught my eye. She said "Enthusiasm is common. Endurance is rare."

I've written a number of columns about the importance of enthusiasm, and I don't believe it is common or easy. Getting enthusiastic about something and staying enthusiastic are not always the same.

Endurance, on the other hand, requires enthusiasm first and staying power after. It's often extremely difficult to soldier on when an idea or project is faced with obstacles and resistance. But if it's worth doing, endurance is the key.

That's why I strongly believe in the motto "Those who endure, conquer."

Zig Ziglar, a master motivator and one of the most enthusiastic people I have known, told the story of a woman in his organization that was the top salesperson – out of 1,200 people! When she broke all the sales records, Zig asked her how she did it. She replied, "God didn't make me with an off-switch."

Dale Carnegie, one of the most successful inspirational writers of all time, said: "Flaming enthusiasm, backed up by horse sense and persistence, is the quality that most frequently makes for success."

The world is full of examples of people who endured. Michelangelo endured seven years lying on his back on a scaffold to paint the Sistine Chapel. NASA experienced 20 failures in its first 28 attempts to send rockets into space.

Sarah Jessica Parker was born in a poor coal-mining town in Ohio, the fourth of eight children. Her stepfather was often out of work

so he danced and sang to help support the family. At age 11, she was cast in a Broadway play with her brother. Many years later she landed one of the lead characters in the TV blockbuster "Sex and the City." She's still thriving today.

Another star of a TV smash hit is Jerry Seinfeld who was booed off a comedy-club-stage after only three minutes. That rejection didn't deter him, as he kept perfecting his stand-up act at clubs all over New York until he landed a role in the 1980s sitcom "Benson" and then his own self-titled sit-com and rocked him to fame.

Rapper Jay-Z couldn't get a record deal and sold his first CD out of his car. He ended up founding his own record label, Roc-A-Fella Records, and is regarded as one of the most influential hip-hop artists in history.

Howard Schultz of Starbucks fame knows the power of endurance firsthand. He contacted more than 200 investors looking for his first original loan in acquiring the firm. After a year of rejections, he was able to secure the \$400,000 needed from a doctor and two other individual investors. Today, Starbucks is one of the most recognizable brands with more than 32,000 stores in 83 countries and nearly 350,000 employees.

Surfer Bethany Hamilton was only 13 years old when a shark bit off her left arm. Less than a month later she was back on a surfboard and is one of the top women surfers in the world, winning several competitions.

Motivational speakers Jack Canfield and Mark Victor Hansen pitched the original "Chicken Soup for the Soul" book to more than 130 publishers before they found a small publisher in Florida who said yes. Their endurance was rewarded, as nearly 300 "Chicken Soup for the Soul" books have now been published and more than 500 million copies sold worldwide.

Religious leader Gautama Buddha advised, "Don't pray for lighter burdens, but for stronger backs."

Philosopher Jean Jacques Rousseau said, "Endurance and to be able to endure is the first lesson a child should learn because it's the one they will most need to know."

Heard enough? In all walks of life, endurance is often the difference between success and regret. Stick-to-itiveness is never a sticking point for determined people.

I love the story of the high school basketball coach who was attempting to motivate



his players to endure through a difficult season. Halfway through the season he stood before his team and said, "Did Michael Jordan ever quit?"

The team responded, "No!" He yelled, "What about Tom Brady. Did he ever give up?"

"No!" the team responded. "Did Wayne Gretzky ever quit?" Again, the team yelled "No!" "Did Elmer McAllister ever quit?" There was a long silence. Finally, one

player was bold enough to ask, "Who's Elmer McAllister? We've never heard of him."

The coach snapped back, "Of course you never heard of him. He quit!"

Mackay's Moral: Getting the job started is simple compared to getting the job done.

*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."*

## Happy Thanksgiving

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## Building a Foundation for Southern Minnesota's Future



**Tim Penny**  
So. MN Initiative Foundation

For me, autumn always signals a natural time to slow down and contemplate the past year as we bundle up and move indoors. At Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation (SMIF), we use this time each year to reflect on the partnerships that have resulted in a brighter future for southern Minnesota. We do this by celebrating a handful of these partnerships in our annual Impact Report.

In the first story, Beth Fynbo shares her entrepreneurial journey as the founder and CEO

of Busy Baby in Oronoco. When she became a parent, she had an idea for a placemat that suctions to surfaces and allows caregivers to connect babies' toys to a tether system so they can no longer be dropped and thrown. As she turned this idea into a successful business, SMIF supported her through three loans. She has also participated in SMIF's CEO Peer Network to connect with other entrepreneurs who helped her pivot during the pandemic. Since she first reached out to SMIF three years ago, Beth has grown to a seven-figure business and even made an appearance on ABC's Shark Tank.

Another entrepreneur, Angel Uribe, shares her story about starting Stages of Change Center, a business which empowers individuals to rethink their relationship with alcohol or drugs. Her business, based in Eagle Lake, began in 2011 with no financing or support. In 2016, she joined SMIF's Prosperity Initiative program which provides business coaching to entrepreneurs who identify as Black, Indigenous or People of Color (BIPOC). This program helped her to develop business competencies and strategies that are still helping her navigate her business with greater confidence today. During the pandemic, she has remained engaged with SMIF through a Prosperity Initiative Peer Network and by participating in business trainings. Angel is currently a SMIF Board of Trustee member.

In the Early Childhood space, we spoke with Jenny Carrier who is the community education director at Kasson-Mantorville Public Schools. As one of SMIF's 25 Early Childhood Initiatives, which are collaborative that address important needs for chil-

dren and families in their communities, they have a long history with SMIF. One month prior to the first shut down brought on by the pandemic, they received a Child Care Expansion Grant from SMIF, which filled a critical need of providing onsite child care for ages six to 12 years. During the past year they received two more SMIF grants to support improvements in their building and expansions in their programming, resulting in 12 new jobs.

Finally, the leaders of one of SMIF's 30 Community Foundations shared their story. Mick McGuire, president of Montgomery Community Foundation (MCF) wanted to start a Community Foundation for people to give back to their hometown. Since beginning in 2018, they have supported many local projects, including the restoration of a mural and an historic log cabin. Liz Krocak, vice president of MCF, shares about MCF's COVID-19 response efforts, which included grants to the food shelf and to the Montgomery Economic Development Authority. SMIF provided matching grants for these efforts, in addition to a Small Town Grant which they used to distribute "Monty Bucks" to people in need to spend at local businesses.

The voices that are highlighted in this year's impact report capture the ongoing growth, community togetherness and innovative spirit of our region that is always



A \$2,000 grant from Montgomery Community Foundation to Tri-City United Elementary School allowed the school to purchase ukuleles, an instrument that is more conducive to COVID restrictions than recorders.

there, regardless of what is happening in the world. While SMIF played a significant role in helping individuals and communities throughout the pandemic, one detail that shines through each of these stories is that SMIF was there for these folks long before it began, building a foundation of support and trust over many years.

I invite you to read the stories from our 2021 Impact Report by visiting [smifoundation.org/impactreport](http://smifoundation.org/impactreport). It is through partnerships like the ones highlighted in this report that we can make an impact on southern Minnesota's future.

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

# Holly Thyme Craft Show

Saturdays: November 27 & December 4, 11  
Sundays: November 28 & December 5, 12  
Hours: 10:00a.m. to 5:00p.m.

*Take a drive in the country and shop in our log cabin filled with crafts and antiques!*

COVID 19 Plan: People should follow the 6 foot Social Distancing Guidelines.  
We prefer people wear a face mask while inside buildings.  
\* If you prefer to set up a private time to shop in our cabin, please call.

**Potpourri Mill Log Cabin**  
Lori and Darwin Amy  
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Email: [cabincrew@frontiernet.net](mailto:cabincrew@frontiernet.net)  
or call 507-649-1009

**DIRECTIONS FROM KENYON:** Go north on Hwy. 56 for 7 miles, then turn west on County 49 Blvd. Go 1/2 mile. Our cabin is right before Vang Lutheran Church.

**FROM NORTHFIELD:** Go east on Hwy. 246 to Dennison, continue east out of Dennison 3 miles, take a right on Hwy. 56 south for 2 long miles. Take a right heading west on Cty. 49 Blvd., go 1/2 mile. Our cabin is right before Vang Lutheran Church.

# Take a Short Drive to Delicious

**MONDAY & TUESDAY CLOSED**  
**Current Kitchen Hours:**  
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Saturday 11:00am-9:30pm; Sunday 9:00am-3:00pm  
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## Anhydrous Safety Should be Top Concern This Fall

*The MDA offers safety tips for those maintaining equipment and applying and transporting NH3*

Many farmers and applicators will soon apply anhydrous ammonia (NH3) after harvest. Even with a rush against time and the weather, safety should never be compromised. Recent accidents involving anhydrous ammonia have proven how dangerous and deadly the chemical can be when not handled properly.

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) is providing the following tips to farmers and applicators so they can safely apply anhydrous ammonia.

Always wear appropriate goggles and gloves. Never wear contact lenses.

Be sure to have a clean, adequate emergency water supply of at least 5 gallons.

Exercise caution when making connections and disconnections as if lines contain anhydrous ammonia.

Stand upwind when connecting, disconnecting, bleeding lines, or transferring NH3.

Also, close, bleed, disconnect, and secure valves and transfer lines when taking breaks or disconnecting lines, and be sure to handle hose end valves by the valve body.

Position equipment away and downwind from homes, people, and livestock.

Safety is also key to those maintaining anhydrous ammonia equipment. Never assume NH3 lines are empty, always wear proper protective equipment, and have access to safety water.

When towing a nurse tank down the road, drive sensibly. Do not go any faster than 30 miles per hour, display a slow-moving vehicle (SVM) emblem visible from the rear, and be sure the tank is secured to the tractor or truck with two separate, independent chains that supplement the hitch pin/clip.

If an accident or spill occurs, immediately call 911 and then the Minnesota Duty Officer at 1-800-422-0798 or 651-649-5451.

You can find more safety, storage, and transportation information on the MDA's website at [www.mda.state.mn.us/nh3](http://www.mda.state.mn.us/nh3).

As a reminder, fall application of anhydrous ammonia should happen after average soil temperatures reach 50 degrees F or cooler to help prevent nitrogen loss, protects water quality, and ensures more nitrogen will be available for next season's crop.

View the MDA's interactive map to find the current 6-inch soil temperature and the past

week's history.

Under the MDA's Groundwater Protection Rule, fall nitrogen fertilizer application is

prohibited in vulnerable areas of Minnesota due to environmental concerns or risks. View a map of the vulnerable regions of the state.

## MN Department of Agriculture Receives Federal Funding to Address Farm Stress and Mental Health

### \$500,000 USDA grant will involve multiple organizations

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) is awarding the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) and 11 project partners \$500,000 to advance work in farm stress and rural mental health in Minnesota.

The MDA's "Bend, Don't Break" initiative will build upon existing efforts to connect farmers and rural Minnesotans with resources to help reduce stress, anxiety, and crisis situations, such as the drought that is affecting many Minnesota farms and ranches. It will support, improve, and promote services, such as mental health counseling, farm advocates, marriage retreats, and a 24/7 Farm & Rural Helpline, and will expand a radio show and podcast series that profiles farmers who have navigated difficult situations.

"We know from working with farmers that suicide, farm transition and succession, legal problems, family relationships, and youth stress are crucial issues where we can all make a difference," Minnesota Agriculture Commissioner Thom Petersen said. "We're thankful that the USDA can help us expand our efforts."

The initiative will also enhance the skills and responsiveness of professionals who work with farm families in stress through workshops, trainings, and other resources.

The MDA will partner with 11 organizations, including several that serve Indigenous or emerging/underserved farmers. Partners include:

American Indian Community Housing Organization, Big River Farms, Farmers' Legal Action Group, Latino Economic Development Center, Leech Lake Tribal College, Minnesota Dairy Initiative, Minnesota Department of Health, Red River Farm Network, South Central College, University of Minnesota Extension, Urban Farm & Garden Alliance.

View the full list of USDA NIFA Farm and Ranch Stress Assistant Network grant recipients.

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## Grant Money Available to Minnesota Livestock Owners for Prevention of Wolf Attacks

New money is available to Minnesota livestock producers to help prevent wolf attacks. A total of \$60,000 will be awarded by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) through the Wolf-Livestock Conflict Prevention Grants. Applications are due January 24, 2022.

The grants provide reimbursement for costs of approved practices to prevent wolf-livestock conflicts. Eligible expenses for the grant program will include any or all of the following items:

- Purchase of guard animals
- Veterinary costs for guard animals
- Installation of wolf-barriers which may include pens, fladry, and fencing
- Installation of wolf-detering lights and alarms
- Calving or lambing shelters

Other measures demonstrated to effectively reduce wolf-livestock conflicts

Eligible producers must live within Minnesota's wolf range, as designated by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, or on property determined by the Commissioner of Agriculture to be affected by wolf-livestock conflicts. Any animal species produced for profit and documented to have been killed by wolves in Minnesota in the past is eligible. This includes bison, cattle, chicken, deer, donkey, duck, geese, goat, horse, llama, mule, sheep, swine, and turkey.

The funding also requires an 80:20 matching cost-share, meaning 80% of eligible project costs will be reimbursed by the grant and the remaining 20% will be paid for by the grantee.

The grant application must be emailed or postmarked by 5 p.m. on January 24, 2022. Work for this grant must be done and expenses reported by August 31, 2022. The application and more information can be found at [www.mda.state.mn.us/wolfgrants](http://www.mda.state.mn.us/wolfgrants).

This is the fifth round of funding through the Wolf-Livestock Conflict Prevention Grants. The first two rounds were funded by the Minnesota Legislature in 2017. This round and the other rounds have been funded by grants from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.



## Sustainable Agriculture Grant Funding Available Apply by December 9, 2021

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) anticipates awarding up to \$250,000 to demonstrate and publicize the energy efficiency, environmental benefit, or profitability of sustainable agricultural techniques or systems, from production through marketing.

The Agricultural Growth, Research, and Innovation (AGRI) Program's Sustainable Agriculture Demonstration Grant program will accept applications through 4 p.m. on Thursday, December 9, 2021.

Applicants may request up to \$50,000 per project. The first \$25,000 does not need to be matched by the applicants. For requests between \$25,000 and \$50,000, applicants must provide a dollar-for-dollar match on the amount above \$25,000.

Funding will be awarded in 2022. Projects must last two to three years and grantees must be willing to share what they learn with others.

Projects are published annually in the MDA's Greenbook, which provides a summary of each project along with results, management tips, locations of previous projects,

and other resources.

Past grants have funded a wide range of projects, such as exploring farm diversification; cover crops and crop rotation; conservation tillage; input reduction strategies; and alternative energies such as wind, methane, and biomass.

Minnesota farmers, educational institutions, individuals at educational institutions, and nonprofit organizations are eligible to apply. Applicants must be Minnesota residents, and projects must take place on Minnesota farms.

Proposals are required to be submitted through our online application system.

Funding for this program is made available through the AGRI Program, which administers grants to farmers, agribusinesses, schools, and more throughout the state of Minnesota. The AGRI Program exists to advance Minnesota's agricultural and renewable energy sectors.

For more information, visit the AGRI Sustainable Agriculture Demonstration Grant webpage.



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## Fruits Dogs Can and Can't Eat

It's not uncommon to want to spoil your dog by sharing table scraps or your favorite people food snack instead of a dog treat. After all, if it is safe for you to eat, it must be OK for your dog to eat, right? Not necessarily. While many people foods are perfectly safe for dogs, some are very unhealthy and downright dangerous, so it's critical to learn which fruits and vegetables dogs can eat. Dogs digest foods differently than humans do, and eating the wrong foods can lead dogs to long-term health problems and, in extreme cases, even death. As omnivores, dogs have no real need for fruits or vegetables as part of their diet, but an occasional fruit or veggie as a treat is OK. Fresh dog foods also pre-portion fresh veggies into meals. Read on to find out which fruits and vegetables are OK for sharing in moderation and which should be avoided.

Apples are an excellent source of vitamins A and C, as well as fiber for your dog. They are low in protein and fat, making them the perfect snack for senior dogs. Just be sure to remove the seeds and core first. Try them frozen for an icy warm weather snack. You can also find it as an ingredient in apple-flavored dog treats.

While avocado may be a healthy snack for dog owners, it should not be given to dogs at all. The pit, skin, and leaves of avocados contain persin, a toxin that often causes vomiting and diarrhea in dogs. The fleshy inside of the fruit doesn't have as much persin as the rest of the plant, but it is still too much for dogs to handle. In moderation, bananas are a great low-calorie treat for dogs. They're high in potassium, vitamins, biotin, fiber, and copper. They are low in cholesterol and sodium, but because of their high sugar content, bananas should be given as a treat, not part of your dog's main diet.

Blueberries are a superfood rich in antioxidants, which prevent cell damage in humans and canines alike. They're packed with fiber and phytochemicals as well. Teaching your dog to catch treats in the air? Try blueberries as an alternative to store-bought treats.

Cantaloupe is packed with nutrients, low in calories, and a great source of water and fiber. It is, however, high in sugar, so should be shared in moderation, especially for dogs who are overweight or have diabetes.

With the exception of the fleshy part around the seed, cherry plants contain cyanide and are toxic to dogs. Cyanide disrupts cellular oxygen transport, which means that your dog's blood cells can't get enough oxygen. If your dog eats cherries, be on the lookout for dilated pupils, difficulty breathing, and red gums, as these may be signs of cyanide poisoning.

Both cranberries and dried cranberries are safe to feed to dogs in small quantities. Whether your dog will like this tart treat is another question. Either way, moderation is important when feeding cranberries to dogs, as with any treat, as too many cranberries can lead to an upset stomach.

Cucumbers are especially good for overweight dogs, as they hold little to no carbohydrates, fats, or oils and they can even boost energy levels. They're loaded with vitamins K, C, and B1, as well as potassium, copper, magnesium, and biotin.

Grapes and raisins (dried grapes) have proved to be very toxic for dogs no matter the dog's breed, sex, or age. In fact, grapes are so toxic that they can lead to acute sudden kidney failure. Always be mindful of this dangerous fruit for dogs.

The Mango is a sweet summer treat is packed with four different vitamins: A, B6, C, and E. They also have potassium and both beta-carotene and alpha-carotene. Just remember, as with most fruits, remove the hard pit first, as it contains small amounts of cyanide and can become a choking hazard. Mango is high in sugar, so use it as an occasional treat.

Oranges are fine for dogs to eat, according to veterinarians, but they may not be fans of any strong-smelling citrus. Oranges are an excellent source of vitamin C, potassium, and fiber, and in small quantities, the juicy flesh of an orange can be a tasty treat for your dog. Vets do recommend tossing the peel and only offering your dog the flesh of the orange, minus any seeds. Orange peel is rough on their digestive systems, and the oils may make your dog literally turn up their sensitive nose.

Small amounts of cut-up fresh or frozen peaches are a great source of fiber and vitamin A, and can even help fight infections, but just like cherries, the pit contains cyanide. As long as you completely cut around the pit first, fresh peaches can be a great summer treat. Skip canned peaches, as they usually contain high amounts of sugary syrups.

Pears are a great snack because they're high in copper, vitamins C and K, and fiber. It's been suggested that eating the fruit can reduce the risk of having a stroke by 50 percent. Just be sure to cut pears into bite-size chunks and remove the pit and seeds first, as the seeds contain traces of cyanide. Skip canned pears with sugary syrups.

A few chunks of pineapple is a great sweet treat for dogs, as long as the prickly outside peel and crown are removed first. The tropical fruit is full of vitamins, minerals, and fiber. It also contains bromelain, an enzyme that makes it easier for dogs to absorb proteins.

Raspberries are fine in moderation. They contain antioxidants that are great for dogs. They're low in sugar and calories, but high in fiber, manganese, and vitamin C. Raspberries are especially good for senior dogs because they have anti-inflammatory properties, which can help aging joints. However, they do contain small amounts of xylitol, so limit your dog to less than a cup of raspberries at a time.

Strawberries are full of fiber and vitamin C. Along with that, they also contain an enzyme that can help whiten your dog's teeth as he or she eats them. They contain sugar, so be sure to give them in moderation.

While the ripened fruit of the tomato plant is generally considered safe for dogs, the green parts of the plant contain a toxic substance called solanine. While a dog would need to eat a large amount of the tomato plant to make him or her sick, it's better to skip tomatoes all together just to be safe.

It's important to remove the rind and seeds first, as they can cause intestinal blockage, but watermelon flesh is otherwise safe for dogs. It's full of vitamin A, B-6, and C, as well as potassium. Watermelon is 92 percent water, so it's a great way to help keep your dog hydrated on hot summer days. (You can even find watermelon-flavored dog treats these days.)



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## Winter Weather Awareness Week: Don't Get Left Out in the Cold

By Minnesota Department of Public Safety

It seems our pleasant fall has come to an end as Minnesota officially welcomed the first real wave of winter weather. It's tempting to forget about winter's cold bite, isn't it? But we know what's coming ... even if our first snowfall and colder temperatures came a little later this year.

The fact is, winter weather can freeze out a lot of our plans if we aren't adequately prepared. From holiday travel, to participating in seasonal sports, Winter Hazard Awareness Week reminds us of important safety tips to get us through the coming months.

For example, if you're one of the many Minnesotans who doesn't bat an eye at driving in winter weather, take a moment to congratulate yourself—then complete your Winter Safety Checklist. It starts with winterizing



your vehicle to minimize your chances of breaking down when it's cold and snowy out. Travel throughout Minnesota can be sig-

nificantly impacted any time there is snow and wind, so it's important to be ready. Do you have a winter survival kit in your car? Creating a kit won't take much time and could make all the difference for you and your family. Always look at weather predictions before you leave. If your phone doesn't

have a built-in weather app, here's a list of weather alerts or emergency preparedness and warning apps you can sign up for.

Before you even leave your driveway, make sure to check road conditions. If authorities have issued no-travel advisories, then delay your drive. Next, be sure to tell someone where you're going and notify them when you arrive safely. If you don't report when you're supposed to, you'll be easier to find on the way. And if you have to wait for help in your car, make sure you know what to do—and what not to.

Your phone becomes indispensable during winter outings (but please don't surf or text on it while driving). Do you know what information to give a 911 operator if you're in an unfamiliar area? Snowplows will soon be a common sight on Minnesota roads, and it's critically important to stay safe around them. Among other things, it's important to stay back at least five car lengths to allow for a snowplow's slow speed and the additional stopping distance needed for wet or icy conditions.

You may be sad to say goodbye to fall, but remember that winter is more enjoyable when you're safe and sound.



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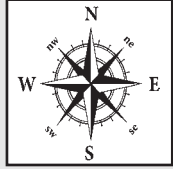
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## Changes in Latitudes, Changes in Attitudes One for the Old Times



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.*

Coming back to Minnesota this spring we had made the decision to sell the house that my grandparents had lived in. As a rental it was becoming more of a problem to us. That meant a renovation, so we started working. Then things began to change. After stripping it down and cleaning it up, we noticed the charm hidden underneath. The house was built out of fir. Not pine. Fir gets harder as it ages. You have to drill

eighty-year old fir floor joists. It will bend a nail right over. This was a home to my grand-parents. Two of the nicest people you would ever meet. I knew my grandmother for over forty-years, but my grandfather died the year I was born. My memories of my grandfather Otis, came from some of my neighbors.

Lester Derby was one of my neighbors who lived in the valley next to us when I was growing up. Lester and Lillian were great friends of our family. I remember Lester telling me about my grandfather about forty-years ago. Lester and his wife had moved onto their farm and had three children. Their house had a porch on the front where Lillian did the laundry. One day Otis was visiting Lester and asked how Lillian would do the laundry when the winter came and it would be too cold outside. Lester commented that he would like to enclose the porch, but farming in the 1950's did not look like the money would be available. The next day, Otis stopped down and handed Lester \$500. He said, "fix the porch for your family, pay me back when you are able."

My neighbor Jim Buehler told me about my grandfather Otis. Otis had arthritis quite bad and got around on crutches in his last years. Jim had watched my grandfather cultivating corn and the grass would plug up

the cultivator shovels. Most people would get frustrated and raise the cultivator and pop the clutch to bounce the sod balls of the shovels. But not my grandfather. Jim said he watched him raise the front mounted cultivator, back up and then dismount from the tractor and slowly make his way around the front and push the dirt and grass off the shovels with one crutch. Calmly and patiently, each time with the demeanor of a man who was un-

flappable.

As I stripped the house down to the sub-floor and bare studs, I realized that I was looking at a house no one had seen since my grandfather built it, over eighty years ago. The memory of a simple farmer who lived the righteous way seemed worthy to preserve. My wife and I decided we would move into it and keep it for our summer home.

## A Minnesotan: Thanksgiving



By RosaLin Alcoser

Thanksgiving 1999 was my family's first Thanksgiving in Minnesota, which is also the first time I can remember seeing snow. However, it is the Thanksgiving of 2019 that sticks in my mind this year.

Thanksgiving 2019 was my first year back in Minnesota from Missouri. Don't get me wrong I loved Thanksgiving in Missouri, spending it with my older sister and getting Chinese food out so that we did not have to cook a large meal for two. Which made 2019 the first more traditional Thanksgiving I had had in a couple of years.

My family has the tradition of getting up watching the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade every year and making a big meal. The thing that stands out to me the most about that's year's Thanksgiving is cooking that meal.

The reason that cooking this meal stands out to me is because my mother's oven would not stay shut on it's own. Meaning that it was my job that day to keep the oven door shut; so I sat with my back against the oven door to hold it shut for a better part of the day so that the Thanksgiving meal could bake.

## Thank You

(continued from page 1)

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Without this support, we would not be here. We hope you continue to see value in the Messenger. While there are plenty of social media sources and on line sites out there, most don't deliver the hometown news and message like we try to do here.

Every year, many newspapers have consolidated or gone out of business. We have watched this happen many times in recent years in small rural communities, and especially this past year during the covid situation.

With our small staff of 2.5, we understand this challenge first hand here at the Messenger, which is why we publish the Messenger in its monthly format.

Our goal with the Messenger is to help insure our home towns, still have a community voice of its own, direct mailing to all residents in the zip code. This format allows the community to maintain a local monthly paper, and better connect local residents, businesses and the community. We also understand the need for more timely informa-



tion within the month, so we look forward to expanding our digital and online offerings in the coming months, while still maintaining our dedication to our hometowns!

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Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.

- THEME: BASKETBALL
- ACROSS
1. Repeating word on South Pacific map
  5. Bro's sibling
  8. Dashboard abbr.
  11. Fusses
  12. \*Basketball slam
  13. Go "Boo!"
  15. Boisterous play
  16. Upper hand
  17. Part of mortise joint
  18. \*Unopposed attempt to score (2 words)
  20. "The Famous Five" children's writer Blyton
  21. \*Basketball player Bojan Bogdanovic or Drazen Petrovic
  22. "Mares eat \_\_\_\_" or "does eat \_\_\_\_," sing.
  23. One who covers in silver, e.g.
  26. Figure
  30. Be ill
  31. Part of "panther"
  34. Capital of Latvia
  35. Like helium
  37. Quilting party
  38. Analyze
  39. Dehydrated
  40. Litter of piglets
  42. Down Under bird
  43. a.k.a. aardvark
  45. Provincial governor in ancient Persia
  47. Argo propeller
  48. Subway in Paris
  50. Conclusion starter
  52. \*Made basket (2 words)
  56. Not a soul
  57. Like animal near extinction
  58. Greek sandwich
  59. Bandages
  60. Arabian bigwig
  61. Answer to "Shall we?"
  62. Bar offering
  63. \*It sends a basketball game to overtime
  64. Highland tongue
- DOWN
1. Vomit
  2. Sensory input
  3. It wasn't built in a day
  4. Characteristic to consider
  5. Traditional scarf/headdress
  6. Brick of precious metal
  7. Place at an angle
  8. Indian princess
  9. Circus trainer's poker
  10. '80s band "\_\_\_\_ At Work"
  12. Remove antlers
  13. Titanic propeller
  14. \*Shaquille O'Neal and Wilt Chamberlain, e.g.
  19. Halloween option
  22. Not their
  23. 1/100th of a rupee
  24. Wrinkle-prone natural fabric
  25. Warning
  26. \_\_\_\_-do-well
  27. Part of a stair
  28. Old World lizard
  29. \*Fast-break \_\_\_\_
  32. Skier's aid
  33. Part of H.M.S.
  36. \*Reward after missed shot
  38. \*Larry O'Brien NBA Championship Trophy, e.g.
  40. Away's partner
  41. Stable worker
  44. Relieves
  46. On/off type of switch
  48. \*\_\_\_\_ Hurricanes
  49. Creepy
  50. Work very hard
  51. Use a whetstone
  52. Worry without necessity
  53. Deed hearing
  54. A in A&E Network
  55. \*The Phoenix Suns did it in the 2021 NBA Finals
  56. \*Professional basketball league

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