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The Messenger Recipe Contest



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(see ad on page 17)

Steve Drazkowski to Seek State Senate Seat Vacated by Mike Goggin



Representative
Steve
Drazkowski

State Senator Mike Goggin (R – Red Wing) announced January 27 that he will not be seeking re-election in 2022. Senator Goggin was first elected to the senate in 2016. Goggin issued the following statement: “It has been my honor and privilege to serve Senate District 21 over the past six years. In my time at the senate, I’ve championed legislation that prioritizes our veterans, farmers, small businesses, and everyday folks that will leave a lasting impact on our community, in which I take such pride.

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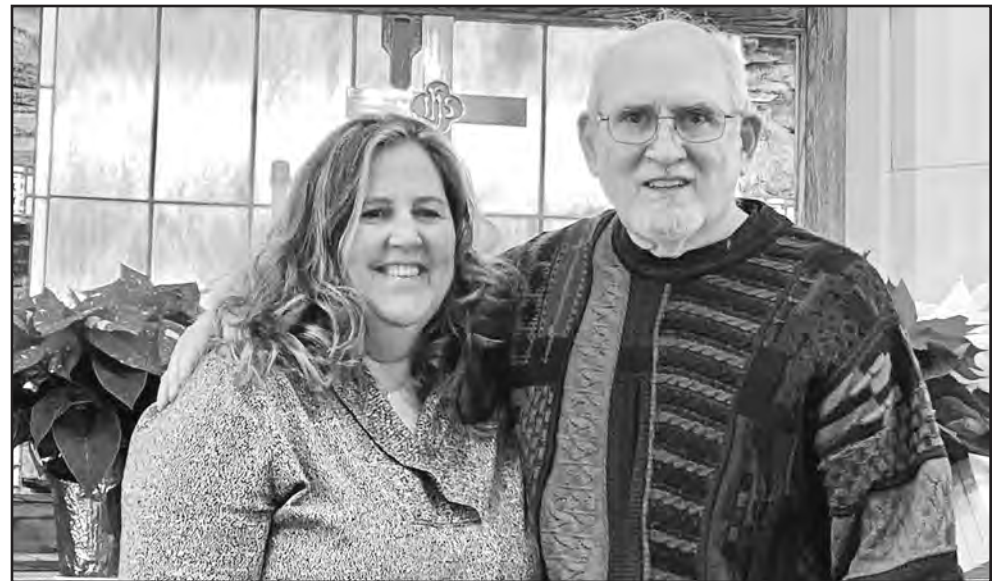
Musician Writes Song for Local Church Sesquicentennial

The Zwingli United Church of Christ in Berne, will be celebrating their one-hundred and fiftieth anniversary this summer. Michelle Spitzack is a vocalist at the church and her brother Marty Haugen was asked to write a song specifically for this occasion.

Marty grew up in Wanamingo, the eldest of five children. His father was a farmer and with his two uncles ran the hatchery their grandfather had started. He credits his mother with fostering his interest in music as he grew up hearing her play piano and sing. He took piano lessons at an early age and also learned to play guitar, violin and trombone. His father took the family on a trip to Europe when he was young, an event that gave him a vision of a larger worldview.

Marty went to college and has a degree in psychology from Luther and a degree in pastoral studies from University of St. Thomas.

(continued on page 4)



Marty Haugen and his sister, Michelle Spitzack



Kiya Avery



Cadence Spearman

Beyond the Cows and Plows

By Megan Ziegler

While conducting an interview for two of the Region 8 Future Farmers of America (FFA) members heading to the state competition, Vice-President of the Triton FFA chapter Cadence Spearman stated very eloquently, “FFA is more than just cows and plows. We are leaders and achievers.” Many of the readers of this paper have strong agricultural ties and are proud of that heritage. We all know of the profound impact agriculture has on our world, and we all know of companies, organizations, and individuals who positively impact the agricultural sector. The FFA is a great example of one such organization. Let’s dive into the experience two students have had with FFA to learn about and strengthen our appreciation for the organization and what its members do.

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Plosive Screens, Gas Chroma Mass Spectrometry, and Christian Terms

By Pastor Chad Christensen
Pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church,
West Concord and
Dodge Center
United Methodist Church

Do you like words? I know that reading novels is a winter pastime for many Minnesotans. Many of you like words and a lot of them! I particularly like words that are specialized terms. A couple of terms that I have learned about lately are “plosive screens” and “gas chroma mass spectrometry.” I learned what a plosive screen was when I made an innocent question to a music store technician asking what I could do to keep the popping sound in my church’s microphones to a minimum. He said in a matter-of-fact way, “Oh, you need a plosive screen” as if he were telling me to use toothpaste to clean my teeth. A plosive screen?? This is a screen that is put over a larger microphone so that words that start with “p”, “t”, and “b” spoken into the mic can be softened and don’t emit the pop that can be heard. Pretty interesting, I did not know what this device was called.

Then a TV crime show indicated another interesting term. Forensic Files on HLN, the crime series, has Peter Thomas, the narrator for the program, emphasizing how contemporary crimes and cold cases are solved using DNA and other new-age forensic capabilities. Thomas does this by describing how scientific means greatly aid in catching criminals, and his oral flair is especially effective in describing certain scientific tools. He described in this episode how a gas chroma mass spectrometer (GCMS) busted open a long overdue unsolved crime. Gas chroma mass spectrometer seems to roll off Thomas’s lips with particular clarity and enthusiasm. It is compelling! HLN definitely tapped the right guy to narrate this program.

[This kind of spectrometer analyses purified compounds and their chemical makeup, useful for examining trace material left behind in crime scenes.]

Well, where is this all taking me? Like plosive screens are to the world of music equipment, and GCMS is to the science of forensics, the Christian faith has its own in-depth terms like eschatology, soteriology, and ecclesiology. You won’t hear me use these words in a Bible study, much less a sermon, but each “trade” has its own useful terms to capture the essence of reality. Eschatology (the end time), soteriology (the study of our salvation through Jesus Christ), and ecclesiology (theology of church life) are real and important and describe what we do and why

we do Christian ministry. Why do I say all of this? Because in our trade... in our church life, words are our primary tools and they have incredible and radical strength in moving our faith, caring for one another, and making our local community a better place to live.

If you haven’t done this in a while, I invite you to read through the entire Bible this year, or be faithful with reading devotionals provided by your church, or join a Bible study where Christian terms can explore the depths of the Christian faith together. These rich opportunities are in front of you. The invitation has been made. There will be words! And, Christ will be closer, and our understanding of him and his mission will be deeper.

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Sunday worship video is posted on Facebook:
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Pastor Peter Moen
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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

Learning Together

Scripture Reading — Luke 24:13-19
As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them. — Luke 24:15

Social media does not provide a healthy setting for Christian debate on controversial issues. It’s too easy for users to sound off with hurtful words over people’s interpretations of Scripture, judging them to be dead wrong or even devil-led.

Imagine such an online debate between people who believed in Christ’s resurrection and those who considered it fake news. Thankfully, the calm, respectful discussion we find on the road to Emmaus invites a genuine discovery of the truth. Where these two gathered, Jesus showed up and was there with them (see Matthew 18:20; 28:20).

God designed that his people would live, learn, and grow together in community. None of us has perfect knowledge of God’s Word, but we gain insight by studying it with others. “As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another” (Proverbs 27:17).

I have participated in many small groups in which we studied the Bible, which is “useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness” (2 Timothy 3:16), and applied it to life situations. As a pastor, I do not have all of the answers, but I have found that when we communally seek to know him better, Jesus joins us and we sense his presence.

As Christ-followers, we can scare people away with our insistence on being right, or we can attract people with our invitation to walk and learn together with Jesus as our guide.

Prayer
Thank you, Lord, for being with us in our life of faith, and for guiding us to search for truth together. Amen.

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Gerald "Jerry" Anthony Waller

Gerald "Jerry" Anthony Waller, 61, of West Concord passed away at his home, on Tuesday afternoon, January 18, 2022, surrounded by his family and friends. He was born November 13, 1960, in Mankato to Jean Lemons. He graduated from Mayo High School in 1979



in Rochester.

In 1992 he married Cheryl Rahman who passed away in 2009. In May of 2016, Jerry married Sue Kruse, but 18 days before they were married, Jerry was diagnosed with Colon Cancer. He fought hard for 5 years before he won his battle and returned home to be with the Lord.

Jerry last job was at Crenlo, in Rochester, from 1987 to 2016, he had to take early retirement because of the Cancer diagnoses.

In September of 1997 Jerry had his first son William "Bill" Waller and in July of 1983 his second son, Zachary "Zack" Waller. In March of 2021 Jerry and Sue adopted Rylie who lived with them since she was a little over 1 years old. She was the positive to all the hard times with cancer.

Jerry enjoyed his duties of Financial Secretary and being in many different organizations.

Jerry is survived by his wife, Sue Waller of West Concord; daughter Rylie Kruse - Waller of West Concord; son, Bill Waller of Rochester, Zach (Theresa) Waller of Rochester, and Travis Kruse of West Concord; several grandchildren; his brothers, Mat (Melissa) Waller of Rochester, Ted (Tammy) Waller of St. Charles, and Dale (Leilani) Waller of Woolwich, ME; many nieces and nephews, a great nephew and a great niece on the way; a step-mom, Mary Rahman of Zumbro Falls; father and mother-in-law, Leon and Shirley Kruse of Fort Atkinson, IA; and many brothers and sister in laws, aunts, uncles, and cousins, and a special son, Mike (Heidi) LaVigne of Plainview. He was preceded in death by his parents Melvin and Jean Waller, grandparents, and his late wife Cheryl Rahman-Waller.

A funeral service was held at 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 25, at Czaplewski Funeral Home in Kasson. Louise Atkins officiated. Burial followed the service at Calvary Catholic Cemetery in Rochester. Friends and family visited from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. on Monday, January 24, at Czaplewski Funeral Home and one hour prior to the service on Tuesday.

Minor (Corky) Buckingham

Corky was a loving father, grandfather, brother, and friend. He died unexpectedly in his home on February 1, 2022 at the age of 76.

He was born in Owatonna, MN to Minor and Jean (Mulvihill) Buckingham.

Corky graduated



from West Concord High School and attended Mankato State.

He worked in a variety of jobs around West Concord and then found his passion in farming while also being a rural mail carrier for over 40 years. In his later years, he was a Real Estate Agent. He was also instrumental in starting the West Concord Public Charter School.

Corky was very active in his community. He helped restore the St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church in Kenyon, MN. He was very passionate about community service and played a vital role in updating and maintaining the West Concord softball field. He was a Cardinal Club member, Concord Township Clerk, and on the Dodge County Zoning and Planning committee.

Corky was always willing to help anyone. He found enjoyment in going up to Leech Lake, walking with friends, morel mushroom hunting, driving around the countryside, and frequenting Sam's Club. His love for music led him to attending many concerts and plays. He loved having a full house and entertaining friends and family. As well as hosting deer camp and making his famous chili.

Corky married Roberta Surprenant on March 19, 1966. They had 5 children. He married Ann Ryan on March 7, 1993 and had two children together along with 4 step-children.

Corky was preceded in death by his parents Jean and Minor Buckingham; and wife Ann Buckingham. He is survived by his 7 children Toni (Rowan) McDonnell, Teri (Jon) Streiff, James (Katrina) Buckingham, Traci (Luke) Payette, Joseph (Megan) Buckingham, Alexandra Buckingham, Matthew Buckingham; and his 4 step-children Natalie (Joe) Gorman, Dustin (Jenna) Gadiant, Jacqueline (Ernie) Loerzel, Dane (Lisa) Gadiant; grandchildren Molly, Rowan, Cassidy, Courtney, Carter, Madeline, Luke, Charis, Shonnie, Aidan, Kirsten, Natalie, Ryan, Jason, Elizabeth, Max, Gavin, Keegan, Cayden, Magdalynn, Liam and Wade; and 4 siblings Tomi Pirrotta, Glenda Dollander, John Buckingham, and Ann Ryan.

Visitation was held at the West Concord Historical Society on Thursday, February 10th from 4PM-8PM. A Celebration of Life was held at the West Concord Historical Society on Friday, February 11th from 1PM-4PM.

Memorials are preferred and will be directed by the family to some of Corky's favorite organizations including: West Concord Cardinal Club, St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church, and the Concord Church of Christ.

Dennis A. French

Dennis A. French, 85, of West Concord went to be with the Lord February 1st, 2022, at St. Mary's Hospital in Rochester.

Dennis Allen French, the son of Allen and Nyla (Martin) French was born on June 13, 1936



near Concord, MN. He grew up in Dodge

County and graduated from West Concord High School. He served in the US Army as a Paratrooper and then returned to Minnesota. On October 31, 1959, he was united in marriage to Margaret Rasmussen. They made their home in West Concord. Dennis worked for IBM as a Chief Boiler Engineer from 1965-1993, then transferred to Fluor 1993-2008, working 43 years. Dennis drove school bus for Triton Public Schools for 6 years, he enjoyed seeing the kids every day, and even getting to drive his grandchildren. Dennis was active in the Concord Cemetery Board as the treasurer for a few years. He also assisted with the boilers at the West Concord Historical Society when needed. Dennis enjoyed giving blood thanks to having the rare blood type that was always needed. Dennis also enjoyed his hobby farm with horses, cattle, goats and many other fun animals. He was giving and loving in many ways. Dennis's biggest passions in life were his Wife, Marge, of 62 years, his 2 Daughters, Denise and Kelly, his 6 Grandchildren, and his 15 Great-Grandchildren. Dennis and Marge enjoyed many foster children over the years, that all became children to them. His Faith in the Lord has always been strong.

Dennis is survived by his wife of 62 years Marge French, West Concord, Daughters, Denise Schwering, Claremont, Kelly(Bill)Mehling, West Concord, Siblings Dan(Muriel) French, Dodge Center, Ronal(Jane)French, Oronoco, Beverly(Jim) Mcgeary(Forest Lake, MN) Grandchildren, Curtis(Kelli) Mickelson, Claremont, Scott(Emily)Mehling, West Concord, Jeremy(Jana) Mickelson, Owatonna, Heather(Caleb) Steiger, Dodge Center, Drew Mehling, West Concord, Bridgett Mickelson, Owatonna, and 15 Great-Grandchildren. Dennis was Preceded in death by Father, Allen French, Mother, Nyla French, Brother, Roy French. Blessed be his memory, may he live on in the lives of all those that knew him.

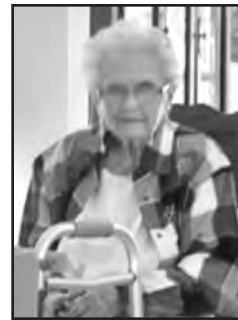
Visitation was from 4:00 PM until 8:00 PM on Friday, February 11, 2022 at Michaelson Funeral Home in West Concord and one hour before the service. Memorial services were held at 11:00 AM on Saturday, February 12th at Michaelson Funeral Home in West Concord. Family friend Kevin Kastler officiated.

Charlotte Annette "Chuck" Lurken

Charlotte Annette "Chuck" Lurken, age 98, of Claremont, MN, passed away on Tuesday, January 25, at her home with family by her side.

Chuck was born on November 18, 1923, in Sentinel Butte, ND, the daughter of the late Hans and Annie (Haugen) Quaale. At

6 months of age, she moved from Sentinel Butte to West Concord, MN, with her parents, and at the age of 5 they moved to a farm in Steele County. She attended country school and was confirmed at Meland Lutheran Church in 1937. She married Fred Lurken on June 28, 1940 at Meland Lutheran Church. In 1942 they farmed in in Rice



County and then moved to West Concord where they farmed for 11 years before buying their farm and moving to Claremont in 1957. She was involved with farming with Fred totally. They both enjoyed milking cows and were together always. She enjoyed cooking and baking and sharing the goods with friends and family, and what a good cook she was. She also enjoyed her garden and flowers and would spend many hours tending to them with her niece Diann. After Fred's passing in 2000, she kept the farm running and put in and took out the crops herself right up until her passing. She will be very missed.

Chuck is survived by her son Gary (Michelle) Lurken whom she raised from the age of 18 months and her favorite pets, Ginger the chihuahua and Lucky the cat; and many nieces and nephews, Jim (Aileen) Quaale, Larry Quaale, Bob Quaale, Judi Petershon, Bonnie (Jim) Jankoviak; Diann (Tony) Ingersoll, Debbie Quaale, Lucky (Regan) Lurken, and Rally (Bonnie) Lurken.

In lieu of flowers memorials may be made to Concord Cemetery or Rice Lake Church.

Funeral service for Chuck was held at 11:00 am on Saturday, January 29, 2022, at Michaelson Funeral Home in Owatonna, MN, with a time for visitation one hour before the service. Interment took place at Concord Cemetery in West Concord, MN.

John Andrew Peterson

John Andrew Peterson, 54, of West Concord, passed away at home on Sunday, January 16, 2022.

He was born March 8, 1967 in Faribault to Robert and Elaine (Chavie) Peterson. John grew up in Kenyon and graduated from Kenyon High School in 1986. After graduat-

ing he worked with his father out in the Dakotas on the pipelines. Then he held various mechanical jobs and was known as the jack of all trades. John loved to attend and participate in truck pulls and mud racing with his kids. He loved to camp which often revolved around his truck events. John loved spending time with his children, grandchildren, and friends.

He is survived by Julie Peterson of Kenyon; children, Stacy (Michael) Peterson of Wanamingo; Spencer Peterson of Kenyon, Mariah Peterson of Seattle, WA; siblings Steve Peterson of Sandstone, Fred (Becky) Peterson of Sandstone, Larry (Bea) Peterson of Sandstone, Joyce (Vinny) Rauk of Nerstrand, Julie (Ray) Greseth of Wanamingo, Cindy Meyer of Kenyon, Eileen (Scott) Gernedson of Wanamingo, Mark Peterson of Sandstone, Scott (Jean) Peterson of Sandstone, Laura (Bryan) Haugen of Kenyon, Peggy (Brandon) Burow of Wanamingo; John is also Survived by his favorite dog George.

He was preceded in death by his parents Robert and Elaine; sisters Annette Engel and Jane Starch.

Celebration of Life was held at the Kenyon VFW on Saturday January 22nd, 2022 at 3PM.



Musician Writes Song for Local Church Sesquicentennial

(continued from page 1)

One of his first jobs was as a musician at a Roman Catholic church parish and he realized that the church music was so bad, that he began writing his own compositions. His goal is to write music for the people you come to church with on Sunday.

When asked what his earliest musical number was, Marty responded that his wife had told him that one should never show the first hundred songs you have written. But a few of the first to become more widely recognized are "Shepherd Me, Oh God" and "All Are Welcome" These are songs that are for all people regardless of what church they attend. He feels his best songs are written when he dedicates the music to a particular group of people.

When he writes a number he meditates on the subject and often takes the words right out of scripture. The lyrics should be a prayer. He composes the verses first and lets the message guide the melody. It is the melody that the people will remember. When the church in Berne asked him to write a song, he first got

to know a little about those who made up the congregation. It is a diverse people of many backgrounds, many whose forefathers came to this country from the old world. Pastor Karen Larson said they were studying the book of Ephesians, a city in Biblical times which was made up of people of many different nationalities. The theme for the church's anniversary year is "Rooted and Grounded in Love," from Ephesians 3:17. Marty meditated on all of Ephesians and the song flowed from there. Marty chose the name for the hymn, "Blessed be God, Who Choose us in Christ".

Just last month he performed the hymn with his sister, Michelle, at a service at the Zwingli United Church of Christ.

Marty has performed concerts across the United States, Europe, Asia, Central America and the Pacific Rim over the last thirty-five years, but what he enjoys the most is hearing the people sing along with the songs.

Marty writes contemporary hymns and liturgical music for the church and has penned over four hundred compositions published worldwide. He has also arranged carols from France, Scotland, West Africa, Germany, Poland Mexico as well as the US. Marty also conducts workshops for church musicians interested in renewing the role of music in worship. Marty has also served as an editor and consultant on many church hymnals. He currently resides in Eagan, Minnesota.

OBITUARIES

Em Yennie

Em Yennie, age 74, of Mazeppa, died peacefully at her home on Thursday, February 10, 2022. Visitation was from 4:00 pm until 7:00 pm on Wednesday, February 16, 2022, at Michaelson Funeral Home in West Concord. A memorial service will follow at 7:00 pm that evening.



Em Lee Yennie, the daughter of John H. and Edith A. (Dawson) Cornwell, was born on October 3, 1947, in Owatonna. She grew up in West Concord and graduated from West Concord High School in 1965. She was united in marriage to Danny Jo Yennie at her parents' home in West Concord. They lived in Dodge Center, Lake City and Mantorville where she farmed. Em also worked off the farm at Energy Economics, Waters Instruments, Celestica and at Images on Metal where she retired. After her husband died, she moved to Mazeppa in 2003. She enjoyed her animals, reading, words search puzzles and doing laundry. She loved her family and spending time with them. She would travel as far as Missouri just to visit relatives. Everyone that knew her loved her so much.

She is survived by her daughter Shelley Lynn Yennie Voeltz of Mazeppa; grandchildren, Brittany (and Eric) Yennie-Richter of Mazeppa, Nicole (and Alex) Drake of Oronoco, Daniel Yennie of Mazeppa, Nicole (and Tylor) Voeltz of Mazeppa, Kelsey Voeltz of Pine Island; great grandchildren Azrael, Trinity, Brooklyn, Brody, Rylan, and Quintin. She is also survived by her sister Joan Nott of West Concord and nephew Kari (and Marge) Cornwell of Indiana. She was preceded in death by her parents, husband Danny Yennie, son David Allen Yennie, brother Ronald Cornwell, great grandson Ezekiel David Drake and nephews Dan and Douglas Nott.

She is survived by her daughter Shelley Lynn Yennie Voeltz of Mazeppa; grandchildren, Brittany (and Eric) Yennie-Richter of Mazeppa, Nicole (and Alex) Drake of Oronoco, Daniel Yennie of Mazeppa, Nicole (and Tylor) Voeltz of Mazeppa, Kelsey Voeltz of Pine Island; great grandchildren Azrael, Trinity, Brooklyn, Brody, Rylan, and Quintin. She is also survived by her sister Joan Nott of West Concord and nephew Kari (and Marge) Cornwell of Indiana. She was preceded in death by her parents, husband Danny Yennie, son David Allen Yennie, brother Ronald Cornwell, great grandson Ezekiel David Drake and nephews Dan and Douglas Nott.

Clifford Wayne Nelson

Clifford Wayne Nelson, age 78 of Faribault and formerly of Maryland died on Thursday, February 10, 2022, at District One Hospital, Faribault.




Private services will be held at the Boldt Funeral Home, Faribault and interment will be at Maple Lawn Cemetery, Faribault with veteran's military rites provided by the Rice County Central Veterans Association.

Clifford Wayne, son of Clifford M. and Thelma M. (Robbins) Nelson was born on March 22, 1943, of Sioux City, IA. He graduated from Ringsted High School and served in the U. S. Navy for 20 years as an airplane mechanic. He married Glenda Lu Johnson in 1963 and she preceded him in death in 2008. Clifford enjoyed classic cars, puzzles and traveling to West Concord for Ginny's Ice Cream.

He is survived by two daughters, Dawn Nelson and Wendy (and Don) Wathen; two grandsons, Cory and Jordon Wathen; his siblings, Donald (and Myra) Nelson, Cheryl Sterling, Cynthia (and Stewart) Schuenke; nieces; nephews; other relatives; and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his wife, Glenda Lu; sister, Sandra (and Donald) Maybon; and one brother in law, James Sterling; his father and mother in law, Ernest and Bonnie Johnson; one sister in law, Dorace (and Vern) Dahms.



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That's the Latest Triton HOF



By Emery Kleven

Emery is now a retired farm broadcaster after starting at KDHL in Faribault in 1987. He's a 1971 graduate of West Concord High School. You can view past columns at his website RoadFarming.com. You can email him at emery@roadfarming.com.

I was honored to give an introduction speech and welcome my good friend Wayne Miller (WCHS class of 1973) to the Triton Athletic Hall of Fame on January 22nd, 2022. Wayne and I have been good friends since our grade school days. We were teammates in high school in basketball and baseball. Football may have been his best sport though in high school. He was an All Wasioja Conference player twice and set numerous records. As I gave the speech that evening, I detailed some of his high school athletic accomplishments as many in the crowd were not familiar with Wayne. At West Concord High School, Wayne broke the season football scoring record with 104 points. He beat the previous record held by two Triton Hall of Famers; Mike Doty and Dave Vrieze, who both held the record at 96 points. Mike was class of 1970 and Dave was class of 1956.

Wayne also broke Dave Vrieze's rushing record for a season with 1211 yards. Dave's record was 857 yards. The career rushing yardage record also belongs to Wayne with 2,673 yards, breaking Roger Vrieze's career yardage mark of 1,628. Wayne also holds West Concord's record for most rushing yards in one game with 238 yards, breaking Mike Doty's record of 216 yards. Total career offensive yards, which is the combination of rushing and passing belongs to Wayne as well as he bested Doty's record which was 2,345 yards. Wayne total offensive yardage is 2,841.

Wayne went to Hamline University and was the starting running back for 3 years at the Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (MIAC) school. As a sidebar, something I didn't know until just a few months ago, Wayne was offered a free agent contract with the NFL's Minnesota Vikings. But he turned down the offer as he figured those bigger, faster, stronger defensive players would only give him a worse beating than he had in the MIAC.

In high school basketball, Wayne had some notable feats. He is third on the list of all time West Concord scorers trailing only two Triton Hall of Famers; Barry Hargens (WCHS

class of 1984) and Dick Raddatz (WCHS class of 1954). Barry had 1242 career points and Raddatz had 1136. Wayne is third on the list at 1084 points. 41 of those points were scored in one game against Dodge Center, which is the single game record for West Concord. That happened in his sophomore year and my senior year. One play I remember in particular was right before halftime I threw the ball in from the other end of the court to Wayne who was near the half court line. He caught the ball and sort of threw up a very long hook shot that went in. That propelled us to a 91-77 win over the Dodgers.

One other note about Wayne's high school basketball career, in Wasioja conference games only, he scored the second most career points with 753. Only Triton Hall of Famer Craig Busch of Claremont had more with 767 conference points. Wayne was also the starting catcher on the high school baseball team from 8th grade to 10th grade. West Concord ended the baseball program after his sophomore season so he went to track and field and set a record in the 440 yard run.

Today, Wayne's best sport is golf. He has had 6 holes in one. Number 7 may come next summer as he spends a lot of time on the golf course. Congratulations Wayne.

Mr. Miller was not the only West Concord grad to be inducted to the Triton HOF this year. Ken Organ (WCHS class of 1988) was a multi-sport athlete but his best sport may have been track. He was fast as he ran the 100, 220 and 440. He went on to Gustavus Adolphus College where he was all-conference in the MIAC for indoor and outdoor track. He once ran at the Drake relays the same year that Olympians Michael Johnson and Danny Harris were competing. Congratulations Ken.

Team inductions this year to the Triton Athletic Hall of Fame included the 1981 and 1982 Claremont Softball teams, and the 2006 State Champion Triton football team. Other individual inductees include Greg Rathbun. Greg was a long time football and baseball coach for Dodge Center. He was also a MSHSL varsity basketball official for 35 years. He is currently in his 17th year as MSHSL baseball umpire. Another inductee this year was Chad Lenz, a 1990 graduate of Claremont HS, an outstanding 3 sport athlete for the Parrots.

Josh Spitzack, Triton Class of 2002, was inducted for his achievements in basketball and baseball. He attended Gustavus Adolphus and was a starting pitcher all 4 years in St Peter.

The final individual inductee was Alex Andrews Shepp, Triton class of 2005. In high school, Alex excelled in basketball, volleyball and track. She was a 1000 point scorer in basketball and had over 1000 kills in volleyball. Alex attended Minnesota State University-Mankato and in her senior year, she finished with All-NCAA central region honors in basketball and academics and the basketball team won the NCAA Division 2 National Championship that year.

Congratulations to all of the newest members of the Triton Athletic Hall of Fame.



Wayne Miller, 1973 West Concord High School graduate, was inducted into the Triton Athletic Hall of Fame on January 22nd at Triton High School.



Two cardinals and one parrot. Left to right, Wayne Miller, Mike Berg and Emery Kleven. Wayne and Emery played for the West Concord Cardinals while Mike Berg, Claremont class of 1969, played for the Parrots and later played football at the University of Northern Iowa. The three were celebrating at the Dodge Country Club after Wayne's induction to the Triton Athletic Hall of Fame in January.

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Craig Schlichting
Superintendent

I realize that another COVID variant could happen, but I believe we are getting to a point where it will not continue to be such a disruption in our schools. In the past month, we have actually had days where we didn't have any students out of the district due to COVID related absences. Not having to worry about the number of students out ill on our dashboard is a welcomed relief. I am looking forward to Spring for more than the weather! I am so excited to be looking toward the light at the end of the tunnel when it comes to COVID. The pandemic has certainly been a point in our history that we will talk about for years to come.

Even though it has been a difficult and challenging time for all of us, I can't help but think and reflect on the positive things that have been going on all along. One of the things that I can't mention enough is the hard work and dedication of our staff at Triton. The staff at Triton continues to be amazing during this pandemic in their efforts to serve our communities. One example of this is their willingness to cover for one another and filling in wherever possible due to the shortage of people available or willing to fill in as subs. We are fortunate to have a couple of people from the community that are in the buildings regularly subbing for us. Even though they are not on our staff, their commitment to helping out has been extraordinary and they rarely miss a day of helping. We are blessed to have so many amazing people that work in our school district. If you get a chance to thank them, that encouragement to let them know that they make a difference would be appreciated. Without these great folks, this pandemic would have been much more difficult than it has been. We have been able to keep our doors open the majority of the time due to their commitment to serve our communities.

Another big positive is the work that we have been able to have completed to upgrade and maintain our facilities. To begin with, our timing on the interest rates turned out to be in our favor. Then our district received an upgraded Moody's rating for our bond which

made it more competitive when it went out for bid and saved the district even more. Our timing of getting bids from contractors also went extremely well. There were a number of other projects that I heard about that lacked competitive bids due to the worker shortage. Being the first in line for a number of the projects that were in need of workers helped us get our project done and on time. Even though things were not perfect, the overall progress of the project was not hindered due to a lack of materials like many other projects around the state. This year we don't have to worry about losing quality educational time when the weather gets warmer. We will have the building fully air conditioned, including the gymnasium. If you have ever sat through a graduation in June, you know how hot and humid the gym can get.

One other item that I am very pleased with is the way we were able to address the technology needs of the district using the additional monies that were allocated from the government. Our district has a device for each and every student to utilize during the learning day. We have also been able to create an additional layer of safety by adding a software that helps us monitor any inappropriate documents or text that is generated by the students on their devices. Part of that software was the addition of the Speak Up Program that allows anyone to report any concerns with school safety. The line is monitored 24/7 by actual people and they contact us any information that we need to address. It is a great system to help keep all of our students safe.

Even though the pandemic has created a number of challenges and difficulties, I am looking forward to continuing all of the great things we have happening in our district. Please reach out to me with any questions that you may have regarding our school district. You can email me at schlich@triton.k12.mn.us or you can call me at 507-418-7530 to reach me at the district office. I would be happy to set up a time to meet with you or your organization. I believe that communication is an important aspect of my job responsibility, and I welcome the opportunity to learn from your perspective. GO COBRAS!

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TRITON CLASS OF 2022



SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

Mackenna Johnson is a senior at Triton. Her parents are Chad and Sarah Johnson and she has one younger sibling, Keanna, who is in sixth grade.

She is on the year book staff and was in the musical Wizard of Oz in 2020.

Mackenna has been active in cheerleading in her junior and senior year, serving as the captain for the 2021 season.

She has been on the dance team since seventh grade and has been the captain since her sophomore year.

Outside of school she enjoys shopping, fishing, doing make-up, hanging out with friends, painting and all kinds of music. Mackenna plans to attend Minnesota State University-Mankato after graduation for a career in dental hygiene. She also plans to try out for the Mankato dance team.



MACKENNA JOHNSON

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Beyond the Cows and Plows

(continued from page 1)

On Friday, January 28, 2022 Triton High School FFA members competed in the FFA Region 8 Winter Leadership Day. Although it was a good day for many teams and participants, senior Kiya Avery and sophomore Cadence Spearman had two of the biggest days. Both Kiya and Cadence, along with other Triton FFA Chapter members, will be heading to the Minnesota FFA State Convention held April 24-26 of this year in the Twin Cities.

Recapping their exciting day on January 28th, Kiya stated, "I placed 1st in the region with discussion meet, 3rd Silver with my Beef Placement Proficiency, was also named Region 8 Star in Agricultural Placement, and had an interview for my state degree which I will be receiving at State Convention in April." As for Cadence, she recalls, "A couple members of our chapter and I went to this year's Region 8 Winter Leadership Day. Our group competed in numerous events, I competed in Employment Skills and got 1st in the Region for that event. I competed with my Proficiency in the Diversified Agricultural Production Placement category and got a silver rating. I will be continuing onto state with both Employment Skills and my Proficiency,

along with my Dairy Evaluation team!"

Senior Kiya Avery has spent her high school career as a member of FFA. She recalls that "growing up I have always lived on a farm where we raise beef cattle. When I was in 8th grade, I started getting more involved and a lot more interested. It was a couple of friends of mine that actually encouraged me to join and that was my freshman year of high school." She credits the multi-faceted approach FFA takes to agriculture as part of the broad interests it encourages. Kiya explains, "FFA to me is a place where people from all aspects of agriculture can come together and just have fun and really embrace what agriculture means to them. It is also a place where people outside of the agricultural world can come and find different opportunities such as speaking events along with other business-based competitions FFA has to offer." The ability to bring people together and foster agricultural discussions and community connections is a strength of FFA.

Sophomore Cadence Spearman's journey with FFA officially began in 8th grade when she joined her school's chapter. Like many other members, agriculture has always been an important part of her life. Cadence explains, "The National FFA Organization is the largest student-led organization in the nation with more than 735,038 members! What FFA is to me is a family of kids working towards strengthening agriculture and educating others on what ag is for us."

I asked them to briefly explain the structure and competition details for any readers who aren't currently involved with FFA. To sum-

marize, the Minnesota FFA Association has 8 regions in total. Triton FFA is a chapter within the 8th region. In general, Kiya explained that they may be "4-5 people per team from every school across the region" competing in each event, but that it can vary. She also said that who makes it to state can vary by which competitions the teams compete in. The judging and rules for each competition are also set up differently, so students learn to adjust to rules such as being split up from your other team members and to curb the talking as needed. Cadence added, "Competitions occur at the local, regional, state and national levels. There are 3 main categories in which you can compete. First is the LDE category. LDE stands for Leadership Development Event. In this event you have different events within it where you develop lifelong leadership skills that you can compete with! Second is the CDE category. CDE stands for Career Development Event. In this event there are different events within which you can grow yourself in different careers in Ag. There are different limits of students that can compete on a team. If there are more kids wanting to be on the team, they will have a chapter contest in order to make a team to continue onto the regional level. Lastly you can create a Proficiency. A Proficiency can either be Entrepreneurship, Placement, or both. An Entrepreneurship Proficiency is where you invested money into your SAE (Supervised Agricultural Experience) and have made money in return. A Placement Proficiency is where you work and keep track of your hours and how much you've made without being invested in your SAE."

Attire for events can range from everyday clothes to the official FFA dress outfits, which Kiya explained as, "your Blue Jacket, white button up shirt, a scarf which is what the ladies wear, and either a black skirt or black dress pants with black dress shoes." Cadence said the following about dress code. "You are expected to be in Official Dress when competing at a Region Leadership Day. When you are just competing any other time that's not on Leadership Day then our teams wear our chapters merch."

Next, we touched on how students choose their events. Kiya explained, "You essentially get to choose what you want to compete in but you have to get a certain placing on the regional level in order to move on to state. For example, for discussion meet you have

to place in the top 2 in order to move onto the state competition." Cadence added, "A normal region competition is at a school during a school day, teams from different schools around the region compete. Judges are either in person or on a Zoom call, there are different judges for different events. They place you on how well you performed and then you're placing determines if you will continue onto state or not. You can go to state individually and as a team."

Both students are looking forward to representing their chapter and community at their upcoming events for the state convention. Kiya had this to about state. "So far at State Convention I will be having another interview for my Star application which will then determine how I do on a state level. I will also be competing in discussion meet with people all over the state of Minnesota. There are 2 rounds that people go through on the State level. I will also be having another interview for my proficiency, and will be walking across stage at Convention to receive my state degree." Cadence said, "This year I am going to state for 3 events, Dairy Evaluation CDE which is judging dairy cattle, Employment Skills LDE which is testing your ability to become hired for a position of your choice. I am also going with my Proficiency! And I will be continuing onto state with both Employment Skills and my Proficiency, along with my Dairy Evaluation team!"

As for awards, they can be given at the Chapter, Regional, and State levels. Cadence explained, "There are many awards you can receive while in FFA. At the chapter level, when you first start out you get your green-hand degree, once you get to 10th grade you get your chapter degree. Finally, once you're a senior you can apply to get your state degree. There are also different medals, plaques, certificates, and ribbons you can receive from succeeding in your CDE's, LDE's, and also your proficiency."

Kiya Avery and Cadence Spearman wrapped up their interviews highlighting her passion for this pro-agricultural organization that has been around for almost 95 years.


Kiya stated, "I always plan to be a part of the FFA alumni once I graduate high school and hope to always be a helping hand for future FFA members." She wants to, "share my wisdom and knowledge with them for years to come." Her commitment to agriculture and her success in FFA go hand in hand. Kiya explained, "I will always be involved in the cattle industry and will always strive to give out the message about how great agriculture is and what it does for this world." Kiya stressed that FFA has taught her to overcome challenges which for her "is very essential for future success."

Cadence summarized her experience and future plans by stating, "FFA brings so many career opportunities along with life-long learning. Friendships that last a lifetime are found within every chapter; members are family." She added, "In the future I would like to continue my active state in FFA, whether it be as a Region, State, or National officer or just a part of my local Alumni. I will always support FFA as a whole."


Congratulations, Kiya and Cadence, and best of luck at the state FFA competition in April! From cows to plows and beyond, we know you'll represent our community well.

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PROUD TO SUPPORT NATIONAL FFA WEEK



This year, FFA members and the organization will celebrate National FFA Week from February 19-26, 2022.

During this week, FFA members organize activities that raise awareness not only about the National FFA Organization, but also the role agriculture plays in students' lives.



TRITON FFA OFFICERS

Front row: President-Kiya Avery, Sentinel-John Moenning, Reporter-Stella Streich.
Back row: Treasurer-Jenna Kenworthy, Vice President-Cadence Spearman,
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Community Child Care Solutions



Tim Penny
So. MN Initiative Foundation

It is no secret that our child care system is strained. Even before the pandemic, rural Minnesota was struggling with a child care shortage. For parents, this has made it challenging to enter or stay in the workforce. For communities, the challenge is attracting and retaining residents if they do not have enough care available in town. Fortunately, at Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation (SMIF) we have seen some real progress through our work addressing this challenge.

One of the ways we have helped develop solutions to the child care shortage is by offering complimentary consulting services. Jeff Andrews, SMIF's early childhood busi-

ness consultant, provides direct support to family providers, owners/operators of child care centers and communities.

SMIF is currently working with multiple communities as they approach ways to support child care locally. One thing that is clear is that there is not a one-size-fits-all answer, which is why SMIF helps communities develop solutions that are unique to them. One example of this is Jeff's work in Northfield. Under his guidance, Three Rivers Community Action and Healthy Community Initiative created a plan to open a new family child care owner initiative at the Northfield Community Resource Center. Using this partnership model, they will be able to provide classroom space and business support to individuals who are looking to start a new career or relocate their current family child care business.

When a major business closed a few years ago in Waseca, community partners came together to reimagine how to use the large, vacant building that was left behind. SMIF has worked alongside partners from the City, Chamber, EDA, County and School District to create a plan for this building which will include a traditional child care center as well as spaces for family care. Additionally, with Jeff's guidance, the partners will also be focused on supporting existing providers in town through trainings and other initiatives.

Supporting existing providers is another critical tool in addressing the child care shortage. Providers are often stretched thin in a very demanding job which can lead to burnout and, ultimately, leaving the industry.

Additionally, the needs of families are changing and evolving due to how the pandemic has impacted people's work lives and personal lives. Providers are finding themselves at a crossroads and realizing that the way they have always done things isn't working any more. Because of this, SMIF offers consultation services that help providers create a more sustainable business model that also aligns with their own personal goals.

One of the most recent success stories in this space is a partnership between SMIF and Families First of Minnesota that has been a joint effort to get more providers into Parent Aware, Minnesota's quality rating program. All 17 participating providers, from across SMIF's 20-county region, have had an opportunity to work directly with Jeff to discuss changing their business models to adapt to the current climate and reimagine their future, all the while providing the same quality care for families and kids.

Finally, the owners and operators of child care centers are a third area where SMIF's consulting services are available. Jeff's approach with centers, whether new or existing, is more in-depth and complex to help owners understand the nuances of the child care center business. Recently, through Jeff's support, a new preschool opened in Caledonia and a new child care center opened in Lake Crystal. The preschool at the Eagle Bluff Environmental Learning Center in Lanesboro has also been expanded. Additionally, a new child care center, Leo Augusta Children's Academy, will be opening soon in Blooming Prairie.



The availability of quality child care undoubtedly plays a critical role in our communities. In 2022 I encourage community partners, providers and center owner/operators to reach out to SMIF for our complimentary consultation services. We are ready to help you reimagine your future.

The best way to start is by filling out a form on our website at smifoundation.org/early-childhood or by contacting Jeff at 507-214-7056 or jeffa@smifoundation.org.

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

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DNR Committee Mtg. Grant January 12, 2022

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

ALSO PRESENT: Interim Administrator Shirley Slater-Schulte, Interim City Clerk Sandra Borders, and Public Works Superintendent Keith Clammer

ABSENT: Council member Jeffrey Burse, Council member Sam Schollmeier

Mayor McCool called the Special Council Meeting regarding the Protect Community Forests by Managing Ash for EBA Grants to order at 6:00 p.m.

Mayor McCool presented the proposed grant for the trees. The grant would allow for the removal, disposal, and replanting of the trees that have been affected by the Ash Borer.

The grant would allow for the planting of 81 trees within the city boulevards, parks, and public property. The city had adopted a three-year maintenance plan for the trees. City staff, volunteers, and civic groups would be involved in the planting and the maintenance of the trees. The grant would be asking for 41 replacement trees and an additional 40 trees to be planted and maintained within the city boulevards and public spaces. Included in the grant application were a budget, maintenance plan, and a listing of the proposed trees to be planted. The requested amount for this project is \$60,023.00, and the city a matching cash amount of \$8,999.00, with an in-kind match of \$13,855.86. The city match would be for planting supplies, (water bags, grow tubes, bark protectors, and compost). The city also included in the application \$3,660.00 for equipment, and \$3,999.00 for staff or consultant time for water and/or inspections.

Keith Clammer has been in contact with Valarie McColannohan, the MN DNR Urban and Forest Coordinator, regarding a DNR

mapping app that the city can use to mark location of the trees.

The city has also been in contact with the University of MN Tree Steward Program and with Tree Trust for their assistance. The city has received letters of support from West Concord Historical Society, and Dodge County Soil and Water Conservation District.

Council member Ripley left at 6:30 pm.

Mayor McCool presented a stock list of trees that would be acceptable for planting in the city. This grant would be a three-year program for the planting, replacement, and maintenance of the trees.

Meeting ended at 9:00 p.m.

By: _____

Mayor Jeffrey McCool

Attest: _____

Sandra Borders, Interim City Clerk

Personnel Committee January 13, 2022

PRESENT: Mayor Jeffrey McCool, Councilmembers: Council member Karen Peterson

ALSO PRESENT: Interim Administrator Shirley Slater-Schulte, Interim City Clerk Sandra Borders

Library Director:

The Personnel Committee reviewed the position for a Library Director. Sheryl Lynn Preble has been training with SELCO, managing the library, meeting with the Library Board, and Friends of Library since the position was vacated in December.

The Personnel Committee is recommending that Sheryl Lynn Preble be appointed as Library Director at a wage of \$20.00 per hour up to 30 hours per week. She would receive Holiday pay if the holiday would fall on a regularly scheduled work day.

Interviews for the Library Assistant: Interviews were conducted with five applicants. The applicants were Lisa Wirth, Nancy Babcock, Laurie Helwig, Sue Carlson, and Re-

nate Camp.

The Personnel Committee are recommending the hiring of Nancy Babcock and Sue Carlson at \$15.00 per hour for a combined total of 13 hours per week.

Cost of Living Adjustment: The committee discussed the cost-of-living. The Personnel Committee recommendation was for a 2.5% increase for the employees.

Bartender Wages: Beth Hodgman was present to discuss the wages for the bartenders at the Municipal Liquor Store. Currently the bartenders' wages are not consistent and range from \$10 - \$12 per hour with some of the newer employees making more per hour than some other employees. Beth was concerned about the ability of the city to retain bartenders because of the dollar current amount being paid. She suggested to increase the wage to \$13 per hour for the part-time employees which would include the cost-of-living increase. This does not include the lead bartender as she is currently at a higher wage.

Recommendation from the Personnel Committee would be to increase the wages for the part-time bartenders to \$13.00 per hour.

Annual Reviews: Interim Administrator Shirley Slater-Schulte informed the Personnel Committee that she had conducted performance reviews on Public Works Superintendent Keith Clammer and on Police Chief Shannon Boerner. Both had successful reviews. Ms. Slater-Schulte is recommending that both employees wages be brought up to \$30 per hour. The money has been allocated in the 2022 budget.

Recommendation from the Personnel Committee is to increase the wages for Keith Clammer and Shannon Boerner to \$30.00 per hour. Chief Boerner is a salaried em-

ployee.

Interviews for City Administrator: The city received two applications for the City Administrator position. The applicants were Anthony Martens and Cory Hinz.

After the interviews were conducted, the Personnel Committee recommended that the two candidates be brought back for a second interview before the whole City Council.

Meeting ended at 9:00 p.m.

By: _____

Mayor Jeffrey McCool

Attest: _____

Sandra Borders, Interim City Clerk

City Council Meeting January 20, 2022

PRESENT: Mayor Jeffrey McCool, Council member Jeffrey Burse, Council member Karen Peterson, Council member Collin Ripley.

ABSENT: Council member Sam Schollmeier.

ALSO PRESENT: Interim City Administrator Shirley Slater-Schulte, Interim Clerk Sandra Borders, City Clerk Donna-Marie Klapperich, Maintenance Supervisor Keith Clammer, Accounting Clerk Michelle Lee, Fire Chief Chad Finne, West Concord Fire Relief President Dave Breederland, Heritage Bank Representative Dan Rabe.

The monthly scheduled council meeting was called to order by Mayor McCool at 7:00 pm.

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA:

- 2022 Pay Equity
- Financial Investment
- Dodge County Business Expo
- League of Minnesota Cities Annual Conference

(continued on page 11)

JOB OPENINGS

City of West Concord, Minnesota is seeking to fill the following positions:

City Clerk / Treasurer

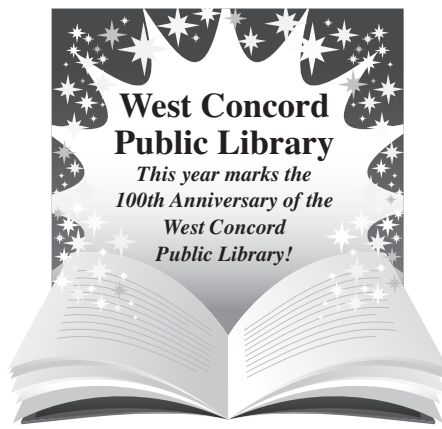
Liquor Store Manager

Please stop in at City Hall or visit our website for an application

180 East Main Street, West Concord, MN 55985

<https://www.westconcordmn.com/>


507-527-2668




West Concord Public Library
This year marks the 100th Anniversary of the West Concord Public Library!

This is Book One (of a series of 3 books) by a local author from Faribault, Joan Crombie. Joan is writing Christian fiction books. This one is on the shelf, Keeping Kyla, and I will soon be adding Book 2, Loving Leah. Book 3 has not yet been released. These are great Christian romance mystery novels. Stop by the library to check it out or request it online. We have a large assortment of books for all readers!

We also have some free N95 masks available and you can buy Rice Lake Honey now at the Library.



Our hours are:
Monday and Thursday 1:00 to 7:00 pm
Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday 10:00 to 5:00 pm





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CONSENT AGENDA:

Approval of City Council Meeting Minutes of December 16, 2021

Approval of Truth in Taxation Hearing Minutes of December 16, 2021

Approval of Municipal Liquor Store Minutes of December 16, 2021

Approval of City Council/Park and Recreation Meeting of December 22, 2021

Approval of City Council/Park and Recreation Meeting of December 29, 2021

Approval of City Council/Park and Recreation Meeting of December 30, 2021

Approval of Special City Council Meeting of January 6, 2022

Approval of City Council Special Meeting Minutes of January 12, 2022

Approval of Minutes for Personnel Committee of January 13, 2022

Approve Payment of Claims

MOTION: Motion was made by Council member Ripley to approve the consent agenda as presented, seconded by Council member Burse.

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

Nays: None

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

CITY BUSINESS:

RESOLUTION 2022-01 STATING ANNUAL DESIGNATIONS

• Designation of City Council Meetings will be held third Thursday of the month at 7:00 pm in the West Concord City Hall.

• The official newspaper of the West Concord City Council shall be the Dodge County Independent.

• The primary depository of the West Concord City funds shall be Heritage State Bank, West Concord, Minnesota.

• Designation of official Investment Advisor and Investment company shall be TD Ameritrade Institutional.

• The City Attorney for legal advising and litigation, prosecutions shall be Scott Riggs of Kennedy & Graven.

• The City Engineer shall be Joe Palen of Stantec Consulting Services, Inc.

• Signatory Authority on behalf of the City of West Concord are Mayor Jeffrey McCool, Interim City Administrator Shirley Slater-Schulte and City Clerk Donna-Marie Klapperich.

• The City Weed Inspector shall be Keith Clammer, Public Works Superintendent.

MOTION: Motion was made by Council member Peterson, to accept Resolution 2022-01 as written, second by Council member Burse.

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

Nays: None

RESOLUTION 2022-02 APPOINTING THE ACTING MAYOR

The City Council of the City of West Concord, Minnesota appoints Karen Peterson, as Acting Mayor for any situation in which the mayor is unable to provide those duties.

MOTION: Motion was made by Council member Burse, to accept Resolution 2022-02 as written, seconded by Council member Ripley.

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

Nays: None

RESOLUTION 2022-03 AUTHORIZING APPROVAL OF PAYMENT OF INCIDENTAL BILLS BY THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR

The West Concord City Council to give the City Administrator be given authorization to pay incidental bills, and that those bills be approved at the next regularly scheduled City Council meeting. These include qualified bills, salaries, wages, benefits, related withholdings, utility bills, postage and claims that are due or would incur interest and penalties and claims authorized by state statutes and various state agencies.

MOTION: Motion to accept Resolution 2022-03 as written was made by Council member Peterson, Seconded by Council member Burse.

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

Nays: None

RESOLUTION 2022-04 ADOPTING OF THE 2022 CITY FEE SCHEDULE FOR THE CITY OF WEST CONCORD, MINNESOTA

MOTION: A motion by Council member Burse, to accept the 2022-04 City of West Concord Fee Schedule as written, seconded by Council member Peterson.

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

Nays: None

RESOLUTION 2022-05 ANNUAL COUNCIL DESIGNATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS FOR 2022

Sidewalks and Street: Schollmeier and Burse

Police: Ripley and McCool

Fire and Ambulance: Ripley and Burse

Sewer and Water: Schollmeier and Burse

Park and Recreation: Peterson, McCool, and Ripley

Personnel: Peterson and McCool

Library: Peterson and Schollmeier

EDA: Peterson and McCool

Liquor Store, Planning & Zoning, Budget, Finance Committee, Building Permit Committee, City Ordinances: All Council Members

MOTION: Motion to accept Resolution 2022-05 Annual Designation and Appointments for 2022 was made by Council member Peterson, seconded by Council member Burse.

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

Nays: None

FIRE RELIEF ASSOCIATION OFFICERS AND TERM OF OFFICE

Interim City Administrator Slater-Schulte requested the council review the 2022 Fire Relief Association Officers and when the terms expire.

President: Dave Breederland expires 12/31/2023

Vice President: Jeremy Chilson expires 12/31/2024

Treasurer: Matt Coy expires 12/31/2022

Secretary: Stacy Newman expires

12/31/2024

Trustee: Rick Braithwaite expires 12/31/2023

Trustee: Dayton Fate expires 12/31/2022

MOTION: Motion was made by Council Member Burse, to accept the 2022 Fire Relief Association Officers as presented, as well as the terms of office, seconded by Council member Ripley.

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

Nays: None

ANNUAL FIRE RELIEF ASSOCIATION STIPEND FOR RETIREMENT

The Fire Relief Association Officers requested an increase in the stipend for retirement from \$1,225 per year to \$1,400 per year effective December 31, 2021, for the Fire Relief Association Members.

MOTION: Motion was made by Council member Burse, seconded by Council member Ripley, to approve an increase in the stipend for retirement for the West Concord Fire Relief Association Members from \$1,225 per year to \$1,400 per year, retroactive to December 31, 2021.

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

Nays: None

FIRE DEPARTMENT SLATE OF OFFICERS

Fire Chief Chad Finne requested that the Council approve the following 2022 Fire Department Officers and their yearly stipend.

Fire Chief - Chad Finne - \$800.00

Assistant Fire Chief - Jacob Froyum - \$800.00

Fire Captain - Matt Coy - \$800.00

Fire Training Officer - Rick Braithwaite - \$800.00

Fire Secretary - Peter Moen - \$400.00

Ambulance Director Rebeka Stoudt - \$2,000.00

Ambulance Training Officer - Stacy Newman - \$2,000.00

MOTION: Motion was made by Council member Ripley, to accept the 2022 Fire Department Officers and the yearly stipend as stated, seconded by Council member Peterson.

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

Nays: None

2022 Library Board Members.

Interim City Administrator Slater-Schulte requested the Council review and approve the 2022 Library Board Members.

President - Pat Dohrman

Vice President - Sharon Dahms

Secretary - Heather Frederick

Kayla Froehlich Burse

Dan Chicos

Colleen Hayne

Sue Carlson

(continued on page 12)

CITY OF WEST CONCORD, DODGE COUNTY, MINNESOTA

The purpose of this report is to provide summary 2022 budget information to interested citizens. The budget is published in accordance with Minnesota Stat.471.6965. This budget is a summary only. Complete budget is available at the West Concord City Hall, 180 Main Street, West Concord.

	2021 Budget	2022 Budget
Revenues:		
• General property tax	\$359,491	\$404,592
• Special Assessments	0	2,000
• Licenses, Permits, and fees	5,500	8,300
• Intergovernmental	336,232	355,640
• Chargers for services	19,000	19,700
• Fines and Forfeits	4,000	2,000
• Interest Earnings	4,000	1,000
• Miscellaneous Revenue	28,000	2,355
• TOTAL REVENUE	\$756,223	\$795,587
EXPENDITURES		
• General Government	\$291,290	\$319,444
• Public Safety	144,033	158,421
• Public Works	153,475	168,291
• Parks and Recreation	167,425	149,431
• Miscellaneous	0	0
• Capital Outlay	0	0
• TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$756,223	\$795,587
REVENUES OVER(UNDER) EXPENDITURES	\$ 0	\$ 0



(continued from page 11)

MOTION: Motion by Council member Ripley, to approve the 2022 Library Board Members as presented, seconded by Council member Peterson.

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

Nays: None

2022 EDA Members.

Interim City Administrator Slater-Schulte requested the Council review and approve the 2022 EDA Members.

President - Dan Rabe

Vice President - Curt Rapp

Members - Jeffrey McCool, Karen Peterson, Steve Boe, Mary Burt.

Secretary - CEDA Representative - Lexi Williams

Mayor McCool and Council member Karen Peterson are council representative appointed annually.

MOTION: Motion was to accept the 2022 EDA members as present was made by Council member Burse, seconded by Council member Ripley.

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

Nays: None

COST OF LIVING INCREASE FOR 2022:

Interim City Administrator and the Personnel committee have recommended a 2.5% Cost of Living Increase to all regular part-time and full-time employees retroactive to January 1, 2022.

MOTION: Motion made by Council member Burse, seconded by Council member Ripley, to approve a 2.5% cost of living for all regular part-time and full-time employees.

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

Nays: None

ANNUAL REVIEW FOR MAINTENANCE SUPERVISOR AND POLICE CHIEF:

Interim City Administrator Slater-Schulte and the Personnel Committee met on January 13, 2022, Slater-Schulte made a recommendation to approve a 2.5% cost of living increase and increase Maintenance Supervisor Keith Clammer's hourly wage to \$30.00, also to include health insurance benefits. This recommendation was based on his performance review.

MOTION: A motion to accept the Personnel Committee and Interim City Administrator Slater-Schulte recommendation to increase Keith Clammer pay to \$30.00 which included a 2.5% cost of living increase, with health insurance provided by the City, was made by Council member Burse, seconded by Council member Ripley.

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

Nays: None

Interim City Administrator Slater-Schulte and the Personnel Committee met on January 13, 2022, based on the annual employee re-

view for Shannon Boerner, West Concord Police Chief, they are recommending a 2.5% cost of living and increase Chief Boerner's yearly salary to \$62,400.00 and including health insurance benefits.

MOTION: A motion made by Council member Peterson, seconded by Council member Burse, to approve the Personnel Committee and Interim City Administrators recommendation to increase Chief Boerner's salary to \$62,400 per year which included the 2.5% cost of living and health insurance.

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

Nays: None

RESOLUTION 2022-06 ENTER INTO AGRICULTURAL LAND LEASE AGREEMENT WITH DAN RABE

Mr. Rabe stated he rented a parcel from Allan Organ the last two years and had seeded it down to alfalfa, last year due to weather the crop was not up to par. He would like to continue renting this parcel on the west side of town. The land is now owned by the City of West Concord. The City Attorney drafted an agreement. Mr. Rabe questioned why the insurance policy required is so high, he currently has an umbrella insurance policy. Mr. Rabe also requested a copy of the agreement for the USDA office.

MOTION: A motion made by Council member Peterson, seconded by Council member Ripley, to accept Resolution 2022-06, to enter into Agriculture Land Lease Agreement with Dan Rabe for cropping year 2022 at a cost of \$900 (\$150 an acre).

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

Nays: None

RESOLUTION 2022-07 DESIGNATING POLLING PLACE

The first meeting of the calendar year, it is required to adopt a resolution stating the Election polling place. It is recommended that the City of West Concord polling place be designated as West Concord City Hall, located at 180 Main Street, West Concord, Minnesota.

MOTION: A motion made by Council member Peterson, seconded by Council member Ripley, to designate the West Concord City Hall located at 180 Main Street, West Concord, Minnesota as the designated polling place for the City of West Concord.

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

Nays: None

RESOLUTION 2022-08 ACCEPTING DONATION FOR THE CITY OF WEST CONCORD PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Associated Finishing donated \$500.00 worth of paint for the Municipal Pool. Maintenance Supervisor Clammer stated the donation of paint would be used for the pool area. Associated Finishing would like a copy of the resolution if donation is accepted for their records.

MOTION: Motion to adopt Resolution

2022-08 as presented and to mail a copy of the Resolution to Associated Finishing for their donation, was made by Council member Ripley, seconded by Council member Burse.

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

Nays: None

RESOLUTION 2022-09 TO HIRE A LIBRARY DIRECTOR

Interim City Administrator Slater-Schulte reported to the Personnel Committee on January 13, 2022, that Sheryl Lynn Preble had been training with SELCO, managing the library, and meeting with the Library Board and Friends of the Library, as well as serving the Public. Ms. Preble has been acting as the Library Director since December 2022. The Personnel Committee has recommended the position for Ms. Preble.

MOTION: Motion was made by Council member Burse, to accept the recommendation of the Personnel Committee to promote Sheryl Lynn Preble to Library Director, beginning January 20, 2022, at a salary of \$20.00 per hour up to 30 hours per week. If a holiday falls on a scheduled workday, holiday pay will be paid, seconded by Council member Ripley.

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

Nays: None

RESOLUTION 2022-10 TO HIRE PART TIME LIBRARY ASSISTANTS

The Personnel Committee and the Interim City Administrator conducted interviews for part-time library assistants, there were 5 applicants. It is their recommendation that the position be offered to 2 candidates, Nancy Babcock and Sue Carlson. They are to share the position of 13 hours per week at a salary of \$15.00 per hour and the schedule would be determined by the Library Director. Mayor McCool stated that this will require a change to the members on the Library Board, they will have to find a replacement for Ms. Carlson, as she cannot be an employee and a Board member.

MOTION: Motion was made by Council member Burse, to accept Resolution 2202-10 as written, and seconded by Council member Ripley.

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

Nays: None

RESOLUTION 2022-11 TO HIRE PART TIME BARTENDERS AND SET STARTING WAGE FOR MUNICIPAL LIQUOR STORE

Hiring of additional bartenders is needed, per Beth Hodgman, who is currently overseeing the Liquor Store operations, she visited with the Personnel Committee as well as the Interim City Administrator. Ms. Hodgman recommended to have a wage difference between the new employees and the present employees. The Personnel Committee interviewed Connor Koball and Becci Nace and recommended for employment.

Karine Kvam was hired December 17, 2021. The Personnel Committee recommends that these three new part-time employees be hired at a starting wage of \$12.75 an hour. The committee recommended that the current established bartenders be given a wage of \$13.00 per hour with exception of the lead bartender, who is recommended to receive a cost of living raise of 2.5%.

MOTION: A motion to accept Resolution 2022-11 as written, made by Council member Burse, seconded by Council Member Peterson. Mayor McCool added, all pending a background check.

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

Nays: None

RESOLUTION 2022-12 APPROVING LOT SPLIT FOR DOLLAR GENERAL

Interim City Administrator Slater-Schulte asked the Council to review the memos from Joe Palen, City Engineer, and Scott Riggs, City Attorney, regarding the lot split for the Dollar General Store and drainage easements.

MOTION: Motion was made by Council member Ripley, seconded by Council member Burse, to accept Resolution 2022-12 as prepared by City Attorney Scott Riggs and City Engineer Joe Palen.

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

Nays: None

SET MEETING DATE AND TIME TO CONDUCT ANOTHER INTERVIEW FOR CITY ADMINISTRATOR POSITION.

The Personnel Committee would like to re-interview the two candidates that recently applied for the City Administrator position. After brief discussion, Slater-Schulte stated a candidate from a prior interview would like to be reconsidered for the position and well as the other two candidates that recently were interviewed. The Council decided that the Interviews will be conducted by the City Council. Date set for Thursday, January 27, 2022 at 6:30 pm at the West Concord City Hall Council Chambers. There will be 3 interviewed each having 30 minutes. This meeting to include investments, and other business as needed.

REPORT FROM INTERIM CITY ADMINISTRATOR - SHIRLEY SLATER-SHULTE

Gambling report for December 2021. The city received a check in the amount of \$625.21 from the West Concord Historical Society.

Slater-Schulte reported that BINGO at the Liquor Store was great! The food truck sold out early but would like to come back. Staff is eager to get started with the meat raffles as well as more BINGO nights.

Slater-Schulte received information on training available for Council Members on the Board of Equalization. Dodge County sent an email regarding the training of another council member before February 2, 2022.

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Currently the City of West Concord only has one current member, which is Mayor McCool, his training certification is good until July 2, 2023. Training is "online" and is suggested that one or more council members sign up for this training. The training is for elected officials only.

After a brief discussion, Council member Burse volunteered to take the training online for the Board of Appeal and Equalization to be completed by February 2, 2022. Council member Peterson stated that she would also take the training.

Slater-Schulte approached the Council with a "City of West Concord 1st Annual Clean-up Day" and possible activities to include all departments. Ideas to include dumpsters available for yard and waste clean-up, Police Department to possible do a prescription drug collection, possible pet clinic, suggesting hours from 9 am to noon. Skjeveland and L and D Recycling, and Dodge County could also be involved. Date for proposed activity is May 14th.

PAY EQUITY REPORT FOR 2022

Pay equity requested a report on current employees. Approval to submit the Pay Equity Report as presented.

MOTION: A motion by Council member Peterson, seconded by Council member Ripley, to submit 2022 Pay Equity Report as presented.

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

Nays: None

REPORT FROM WEST CONCORD INTERIM LIBRARIAN - SHERYL LYNN PREBLE

Preble stated that the Library Board has sug-

gested possibly opening on Saturdays from 10 am to Noon. The Board also discussed the possible skate rentals. Library Board meetings will be the second Tuesday of the month.

Preble stated that SELCO has decided to no longer send out late and fine notices and that will be up to the local libraries to do these mailings.

REPORT FROM WEST CONCORD PUBLIC WORKS SUPERVISOR - KEITH CLAMMER

Clammer stated that he will be setting a date to train staff on "Right to Know" training soon. SDS books are updated. Clammer stated that batting cages are in the works. Clammer has Snowplow training coming up on Friday.

REPORT FROM WEST CONCORD FIRE CHIEF - CHAD FINNE

Chief Finne stated that the fire department has been talking about a grass rig. Finne stated they found one, which is 2 years newer and will fit in the fire hall. The approximate cost would be \$17,000.

There was discussion regarding an update to the fire hall, but Finne stated that if there were any changes the buildings would have to be brought up to current codes and it's not currently feasible. Council member Burse stated that a new fire hall is on a schedule, but right now it might need to be pushed back another year, more discussion in future.

Finne stated with the current storms, they are interested in looking for a new generator. Mayor McCool stated and council agreed that City Hall and possibly the Liquor Store may need generators as well.

Chief Finne brought up Township Fire Contracts, Slater-Schulte stated most of the Fire Contracts have been returned and paid.

Finne recommended that there be an increase for 2022 Fire Contracts from \$75.00 per site to \$100.00 per site and possibly an increase of \$5.00 per year afterwards.

Finne stated the Fire Department has 2 teams going to the Polar Plunge one in Ottertail on February 5th and Rochester, no date mentioned. On February 13th the Fire Department is planning a French Toast Breakfast.

MOTION: A motion made by Council member Ripley, seconded by Council member Burse, to increase Fire Contracts per site from \$75.00 to \$100.00 for 2022 contracts.

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

Nays: None

OTHER BUSINESS:

Mayor McCool stated that the Dodge County Business Expo is March 26th from 8 am to 2 pm, volunteers will be needed. Funds are already paid; they were carried over from last year when the show was cancelled.

MOTION: A motion was made by Council member Peterson, to attend the 2022 Dodge County Business Expo March 26, 2022, seconded by Council member Burse.

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

Nays: None

LEAGUE OF MINNESOTA CITIES ANNUAL CONFERENCE:

McCool informed the Council of the 2022 League of Minnesota Cities Annual Convention. This year he stated that the conference will be held in Duluth, Minnesota, stating the League has great mini sessions. Cost of conference and room will need to be discussed. Mayor McCool asked if anyone is interested, a possible count of four councilmembers at this time was given to Slater-Schulte. This will be tabled at this time.

Mayor McCool stated that the DNR Emerald Ash Borer grant has been applied and submitted.

Mayor McCool stated that the siren needs to get scheduled to be put on its own pole.

Mayor McCool asked that postings be made for the Park and Recreation Committee. The Committee plan to hold meetings on the third Tuesdays of each month at 7 pm, at the Historical Society Building. These will be combined with Lions Club and Cardinal Club.

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION: Motion to adjourn the January 20, 2022, regular West Concord City Council meeting was made by Mayor McCool, seconded by Council member Burse at 8:10 pm.

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

Nays: None

By: _____

Jeffrey McCool, Mayor

Attest: _____

Sandra Borders, Interim City Clerk

Special City Council Meeting January 27, 2022

PRESENT: Mayor Jeffrey McCool, Coun-

cilmembers: Council member Karen Peterson, Council member Collin Ripley, Council member Jeff Burse

ALSO PRESENT: Interim Administrator Shirley Slater-Schulte, Interim City Clerk Sandra Borders

ABSENT: Council member Sam Schollmeier

Mayor McCool called the Special Council Meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Added to the agenda was the Conference sponsored by the League of Minnesota Cities.

Interviews for City Administrator:

Three people had been invited for the interview process for City Administrator.

• Anthony Martens

• Cory Hinz

• Tom Quenzer

Council interviewed the three candidates.

Investments

The city discussed investing some of the money that is in Heritage Bank with TD Ameritrade Institutional. They discussed the interest rates and the length of time the money would be invested at Ameritrade. The Council would like monthly or bi-monthly financial reports.

MOTION: Motion was made by Council Member Ripley, seconded by Council Member Burse to invest \$250,000 with Ameritrade Institutional through Ehlers for 2 (two) years.

Ayes: Mayor McCool, Council members Peterson, Burse, and Ripley

Nays: None

Motion declared passed

The city discussed moving money from the checking account to the savings account with Heritage Bank.

Consensus of the Council was to move one million (\$1,000,000) from the Heritage Bank checking account to the Heritage Bank savings account.

LEAGUE OF MINNESOTA CITIES ANNUAL CONFERENCE:

The Annual LMC conference will be held at Duluth Conference Center June 22nd - 24th. The members of the council would like to attend. Staff will make room reservations for five double rooms at a hotel in Duluth, on the lakeside would be the preference.

INTERVIEWS:

The council discussed the people that were interviewed for the City Administrator position.

MOTION: Motion was made by Council Member Burse, seconded by Council Member Ripley to make an offer to Cory Hinz, and start negotiations. The offer would be for an annual salary of \$69,000 with family health insurance, pending a background check and a review in six months.

Ayes: Mayor McCool, Council members Peterson, Burse, and Ripley

Nays: None

Motion declared passed

Meeting ended at 9:00 p.m.

By: _____

Mayor Jeffrey McCool

Attest: _____

Sandra Borders, Interim City Clerk

IRISH BEEF MEAL

American Legion and Auxiliary March 18

Serving 5:00-8:00PM or until gone
Grab your meal and come over to the Liquor Store, have green beer and enjoy socializing with your neighbors!

Stabby
ST. PATRICK'S day



120 Main Street, West Concord
507-527-2469

LIKE US ON


Remember to watch our Facebook page for updates and events.

BINGO

Next BINGO night
Tuesday, March 8th
at 7:00PM!



Don't Be Afraid to be Courageous



By Harvey Mackay

In his Pulitzer Prize-winning book, "Profiles of Courage," U.S. President John F. Kennedy, wrote eloquently about courage:

"Courage, the universal virtue, is comprehended by us all. For without belittling the courage with which men have died, we should not forget those acts of courage with which men have lived.

"The courage of life is often a less dramatic spectacle than the courage of a final moment; but it is no less a magnificent mixture of triumph and tragedy."

Courage is regarded as one of the major human virtues. Courage is bravery, valor, standing up to danger, guts and nerves all rolled into one. It's easy to be ordinary. Courage is what sets people apart from the crowd.

Those stories of heroism are inspiring, but few of us will ever find ourselves in the kind of extraordinary situations that are the stuff of legend.

Consider the words of American poet Maya Angelou: "Courage is the most important of all the virtues because without courage, you can't practice any other virtue consistently."

The good news is that courage is available to everyone. There are plenty of ways to be courageous in our lives. Doing something for the first time is often a demonstration of courage. Is there someone you know who is being picked on where you can defend that person?

Maybe it's just standing up for yourself or speaking up. How about asking for a raise or a promotion at work or leaving a job you don't like and becoming an entrepreneur?

Maybe it's simply having the courage to take responsibility for your actions – or having the courage to be who you are and to be authentic.

It takes courage to persevere in difficulties when we are tempted to give up. I have never met a successful person who hasn't had to overcome a little or a lot of adversity. Trying times are no time to quit trying.

One of the greatest challenges in life is doing what people say you can't. When things seem most bleak, you must have the courage to carry on to success.

The line between failure and success is so fine that we scarcely know when we pass it; so fine that we are often on the line and do not know it. How many people have given up too soon?

More than 5,200 senior managers were asked by Santa Clara University and the Tom Peters Group/Learning Systems to describe the characteristics they most admire in a leader. The top 10 characteristics, as reported in "Management Review" magazine were: honest, competent, forward-looking, inspiring, intelligent, fair-minded, broad-minded, courageous, straightforward and imaginative.

Anyone who has started a business or managed an organization understands the courage required to make decisions and take risks. Taking the easy way out is not an option.

In business, prospects may seem darkest when actually they are about to turn. A little more perseverance, a little more effort, and what seemed a hopeless failure may turn into a glorious success.

But it also takes courage to know when to admit failure and move on to more productive ideas. Walking away from an investment of time and money is a decision many businesses have had to make. That's not cowardice, it's courage borne out of wisdom.

Working up the courage to learn how to say that two-letter word – No – can be daunting at first. Do not feel guilty when you need to say no respectfully.

Some people feel like they have to say yes to almost anything they are asked to do. Others just want everyone to like them. They're afraid if they say no they might cause the person making the request to reject them.

I'm offering a challenge for the New Year: Be the courageous person that you know you can be. I think you'll discover that demonstrating courage in small acts will enable you to trust your instincts when more difficult situations arise. Make courage an everyday thing, not something reserved for special occasions.

An unlikely hero was being hailed for standing up to an attacker twice his size and asked how he could be so brave.

"I was too scared to run," he said, "and too dumb to think of anything else."

But his friends said, "No, you didn't have time to think. Courage is a natural instinct if you have it."

Mackay's Moral: If a thing is worth having, it's worth fighting for.

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."



By Jim Miller

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Dear Savvy Senior,

Can you give me a brief rundown of Medicare's enrollment choices along with when and how to sign-up?

--Approaching 65

Dear Approaching,

The rules and timetables for Medicare enrollment can be confusing to many new retirees, so it's smart to plan ahead. Here's a simplified rundown of what to know.

First a quick review. Remember that original Medicare has two parts: Part A, which provides hospital coverage and is free for most people, and Part B which covers doctor's visits and other medical services, and costs \$170.10 per month for most enrollees in 2021.

When to Enroll

Everyone is eligible for Medicare at age 65, even if your full Social Security retirement age is 66 or later.

You can enroll any time during the "initial enrollment period," which is a seven-month period that includes the three months before, the month of, and the three months after your 65th birthday. It's best to enroll three months before your birth month to ensure your coverage starts when you turn 65.

If you happen to miss the seven-month sign-up window for Medicare Part B, you'll have to wait until the next "general enrollment period" which runs from Jan. 1 to March 31 with benefits beginning the following July 1. You'll also incur a 10 percent penalty for each year you wait beyond your initial enrollment period, which will be tacked on to your monthly Part B premium. You can sign up for premium-free Part A, at any time with no penalty.

Working Exceptions

Special rules apply if you're eligible for Medicare and still on the job. If you have health insurance coverage through your employer or your spouse's employer, and the company has 20 or more employees, you have a "special enrollment period" in which you can sign up. This means that you can delay enrolling in Medicare Part B and are not subject to the 10 percent late-enrollment penalty as long as you sign up within eight months of losing that coverage.

Drug Coverage

Be aware that original Medicare does not cover prescription medications, so if you don't have credible drug coverage from an employer or union, you'll need to buy a Part D drug plan from a private insurance company (see Medicare.gov/plan-compare) during your initial enrollment if you want coverage. If you don't, you'll incur a premium penalty - 1 percent of the average national premium (\$33 in 2022) for every month you don't have coverage - if you enroll later.

Supplemental Coverage

If you choose original Medicare, it's also a good idea to get a Medigap (Medicare supplemental) policy within six months after enrolling in Part B to help pay for things that aren't covered by Medicare like copayments, coinsurance and deductibles. See Medicare.gov/medigap-supplemental-insurance-plans to shop and compare policies.

All-In-One Plans

Instead of getting original Medicare, plus a Part D drug plan and a Medigap policy, you could sign up for a Medicare Advantage plan instead (see Medicare.gov/plan-compare) that covers everything in one plan. Nearly half of all new Medicare enrollees are signing up for Advantage plans.

These plans, which are also sold by insurance companies, are generally available through HMOs and PPOs and often have cheaper premiums, but their deductibles and co-pays are usually higher. Many of these plans also provide coverage for extra services not offered by original Medicare like dental, hearing and vision coverage along with gym/fitness memberships, and most plans include prescription drug coverage too.

How to Enroll

If you're already receiving your Social Security benefits before 65, you will automatically be enrolled in Part A and Part B, and you'll receive your Medicare card about three months before your 65th birthday. It will include instructions to return it if you have work coverage that qualifies you for late enrollment.

If you're not receiving Social Security, you'll need to enroll either online at SSA.gov/medicare or over the phone at 800-772-1213.

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Museum Musings



110 Years Ago: 1912

Ice Harvesting, Incubators, and Explosions

By Colleen Sathrum Hayne

Back in 1912, harvest wasn't over in the fall. Winter was the time to harvest ice to keep for next summer's use. Farmers needed ice to keep their milk cool so it wouldn't spoil in transport to market in the heat of the summer months. In February in Eagle Valley Jake Gochbauer and W. Labbitt were busy filling their ice houses. A gentleman, to whom the Enterprise referred only as Mr. Mason, cut the ice for them in 24 inch thick chunks. Just imagine the process of cutting and breaking off the blocks of ice on frigid winter days. A tool called a breaker bar was almost a necessity for breaking each block of ice away. Open water was used to float the blocks to a ramp and then they could be loaded to take home to the farmer's ice house. Ice blocks would be insulated with hay, straw, and sawdust and stay frozen to do their job of cooling in the summer. The United States was a pioneer in exporting ice. By 1890 the U.S. had exported 25 million tons of ice to such far away places as Calcutta, India.

Sometimes the ice harvesting process had its problems. The Enterprise reported that Walter Bennerotte got a "free bath" when he was loading ice at the "pond" in Eagle Valley. He stepped on new ice and it went down with him. Mr. Bennerotte remarked that "he liked to swim but would prefer to have the weather a shade warmer."

The previously mentioned ice harvester, Mr. Mason, had an unfortunate incident in his winter life. His bay horse had been hitched up to bring some drift wood to his house when the horse reared up and fell over backward, and died of a heart attack. The Enterprise remarked on Mr. Mason's hard luck, as the bay was his only horse.

In Berne, Donald Martig was thinking about chickens. He purchased an Ironclad incubator, made in Racine, WI, that was touted to do the work of 10 mother hens. Mrs. C.F. Merrick, who with her Ironclad Incubator won the National Hatching Contest of 1912, had this to say about it: "I placed 148 eggs in my Ironclad incubator and hatched out 148 big strong chicks. My success has been perfect. I have examined quite a few incubators and I like none so well as the Ironclad."

A couple of incidents had explosions front and center in the minds of West Concord residents. Mrs. W.T. Schmidt's gasoline powered flat iron exploded as she was using it. (we have a few of these irons for you to see at the Museum)

The burning fluid "scattered in all directions", singeing Mrs. Schmidt's hair and slightly burning her face and hands. The Enterprise reported that it was lucky the episode wasn't worse and the Schmidt's were fortunate that their home didn't burn.

After explosions took place in two acetylene gas plants in Southern Minnesota, West Concord residents were nervous and thinking about shutting down their own gas plant until spring and then building a new gas house outside the city limits. Acetylene gas lighting was being used because the flame from the burning gas was so bright and was relatively inexpensive. The downside, which had become very evident, was that acetylene was a very unstable gas and high pressures or high temperatures could lead to explosions. Some citizens were saying it was time to go with electric lighting, even though the city couldn't afford it at the present time. "Why not use private capital or a stock company to accomplish electric lighting in West Concord?" was the solution the Enterprise offered.

In school news, the Berne children took a sleigh ride all the way to Kasson on a Tuesday night, for the purpose of participating in the county spelling contest. Think of the devoted parents who made that sleigh ride happen on a cold winter's night. The West Concord Associated School Districts met to plan the annual Agricultural Short Course that was held during one week each year in the winter. Prizes would be given for the "best of show" corn and grain, as well as Domestic Science and Industrial Arts projects. At the new brick school in town, the Women's Relief Corps presented pristine flags to the classrooms of grades 1 - 6. After the presentation of the flags the children and the WRC all sang patriotic songs together.

Post Office hours were posted and made it obvious just how important the mail was to everyone: Monday - Saturday: open 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Sunday: open 10:30 a.m. to 12 Noon

Holidays: open 8 a.m. to 12 Noon and 6:30 - 8 p.m.

Then, as now, a good sense of humor helped everyone get through the long winter. I'll leave you with this quote from the Enterprise: "Scientific forecasting has progressed to a point where the weather bureau is able to predict a cold wave almost as soon as it arrives." Sound familiar? Happy winter!

BOOTY FOR BURGLARS

You can't read a newspaper without noticing where some body has been robbed of a large amount of money. It may have been taken from under the carpet, from bureau drawers or under the floor, but the money is gone and no trace left.

Too often such robbery is accompanied by bloodshed and murder. The victim is killed to avoid exposure or tortured to disclose the hidden wealth.

The man who carries large amounts of Cash, or hides it around his premises, places a premium on crime, and should not grumble if he is robbed.

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Funds Available to Update Livestock Operations

Apply by April 5, 2022, for the AGRI Livestock Investment Grant

Minnesota livestock farmers and ranchers seeking to improve their livestock operation are encouraged to apply for an additional round of the Agricultural Growth, Research and Innovation (AGRI) Livestock Investment Grant program. The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) anticipates awarding up to \$443,000 using a competitive review process in this round.

The AGRI Program's Livestock Investment Grants encourage long-term industry development in Minnesota's \$7 billion livestock industry through investment in facilities, infrastructure, and equipment. Funding for

the grants comes through the AGRI Program to advance Minnesota's agricultural and renewable energy industries.

Applicants may apply for up to 10% of the first \$250,000 of an eligible investment. Grant awards can range in size from \$400 to \$25,000. Each livestock operation is eligible to receive a lifetime maximum of \$50,000 from this grant program. To be eligible for reimbursement by this grant, you must be invoiced and pay for all project materials and services after January 1, 2022.

Project examples include buildings or facilities for the production of livestock or livestock products, development of pasture for use by livestock, including but not limited to lanes, watering systems, and fences, and equipment for livestock housing, confinement, feeding, and waste management.

We must receive your proposal no later than 4 p.m. on Tuesday April 5, 2022, for it to be considered. We encourage you to use our on-line application.

More information about the grant can be found on the AGRI Livestock Investment Grant website.

MDA Offers Mini-Grant for Produce Growers

Growers may be eligible for reimbursement of water testing, packaging, and more

Minnesota produce farmers may be eligible for reimbursement of expenses that improve on-farm food safety systems, including water testing for generic E. coli and other on-farm food safety improvements, via a mini-grant program from the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA).

The Produce Safety Mini-Grant will distribute a total of approximately \$18,400, with awardees receiving up to \$800 per farm. No matching funds are required.

To be eligible, applicants must be a Minnesota produce farmer that sells one or more of the following crops: leafy greens, apples, berries, cucumbers, green beans, melons, microgreens, mushrooms, onions, peppers, sprouts, summer squash/zucchini, and tomatoes.

Growers may be reimbursed for past expenses that occurred between September 30, 2020 – March 12, 2022, and future expenses taking place between March 13 – August 31, 2022.

Examples of eligible expenses include:

- Supplies to build or purchase a portable handwashing station

- Harvest totes

- Water testing for generic coli

- Consultation fees for developing an on-farm food safety plan

Additional information and the application are available on the MDA website at www.mda.state.mn.us/minigrant. Applications will be accepted through March 12, 2022, at 11:59 p.m. CST.

Brushing is Best for Pet Dental Health

Every February, the veterinary community celebrates National Pet Dental Health Month. It's a chance to call attention to the link between your pet's oral health and its overall health.

Did you know that gum disease is the most common health problem in cats and dogs and it is completely preventable?

Dr. Suma Rao, a veterinarian working in the dentistry service at the University of Illinois Veterinary Teaching Hospital in Urbana, offers her insights.

Keeping bad breath at bay, although a plus, is not the most important reason for attending to your pet's dental health. In pets as in people, the mouth can harbor harmful bacteria that can affect other parts of the body.

"Gingivitis can lead to systemic inflammation that can affect other organs in the body," says Dr. Rao.

She also notes that problems in the mouth can be painful for your pet.

"Swollen and red gums indicate inflammation of the gums, also known as gingivitis. Calculus, the hardened form of plaque, shows that there is inflammation as well," she says. "With proper preventive care, your pet's mouth won't hurt and your pet will be happier."

The best way to help prevent dental disease of any type in dogs and cats is for their teeth to be brushed every day.

"The consensus is that brushing teeth every day is the most beneficial," says Dr. Rao. "Brushing every other day can help too. Anything less than every other day is not going to prevent buildup of plaque."

So how do you go about daily tooth brushing for your pet? Since it can be hard to get pets used to brushing, Dr. Rao recommends that you start when they are young.

"When you get a new puppy, it is best to start brushing their teeth early, so they get accustomed to it," she says. "First, let the puppy lick the toothpaste from your fingers. Then, introduce a finger brush with paste. Finally, graduate to a small children's toothbrush."

This strategy could also be used with young kittens.

It's very important to use toothpaste marketed specifically for animals. Toothpaste not formulated for animals can contain chemicals that are harmful to pets, such as xylitol or fluoride.

Consult your local veterinarian to learn about recommended dental products for pets. The Veterinary Oral Health Council maintains a list of approved products for pets.

So what if your dog or cat doesn't cooperate with your daily toothbrushing plan? Dr. Rao offers other dental health options that can slow down the buildup of bacteria in your pet's mouth. "Besides brushing teeth, owners can use pet dental care products such as oral rinse, water additive, dental diet, teeth sealant, and dental chews to help keep the mouth healthy," she says. She recommends using a combination of these dental care products designed for animal use.

For dogs, feeding a diet of hard kibble has been shown to help control calculus buildup. "The kibble is abrasive, so it removes plaque on the teeth before it hardens into calculus," says Dr. Rao. "Prescription dental diets, such as Purina DH and Hill's t/d, have been proven to prevent plaque buildup."

However, if you have a pet that does not chew its food, then that mechanical action of the food against the teeth won't take place, so it won't be effective in reducing plaque.

Even with the best daily dental routines, your pet will periodically need a dental exam and cleaning by your local veterinarian. During this process, your pet will be put under general anesthesia so the doctor can perform a thorough oral exam to check for problems and remove any calculus buildup that is present.

"When you bring your pet to the dentistry service at the Veterinary Teaching Hospital, we first perform bloodwork to determine if the pet is healthy enough to undergo general anesthesia," explains Dr. Rao.

"Then, we place a catheter to give intravenous fluids during the procedure. We perform full-mouth dental radiographs, just like your own dentist does. We carefully check for pockets of infection in the gums, fractured teeth, tumors, and loose teeth.

"If extractions are needed, we give your pet a local anesthetic block to prevent pain before performing the extraction and send your pet home with pain medicine."


Your pet's dental health is just as important as other preventive health strategies to help your pet live a long healthy life!

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Recipe Contest

Show your friends and neighbors as well as all the readers your culinary expertise!

Just send us your recipe with the ingredient list and preparation instructions and we will draw 2 recipes each month to run in the Messenger with your name as the submitter.

**E-mail your recipe to
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If we use your recipe and print it, you will receive a free certificate. Be sure to include your name and address so we can mail you a gift card if your entry is the winner.

The original Minnesota Tater Tot Hot Dish

We'll walk you through how to make this classic tater tot casserole recipe. There are lots of variations on the hotdish, but this easy recipe is a good place to start. You'll need:

- 3/4 to 1 pound ground beef
- 1 small onion, chopped
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 1 package (16 ounces) frozen tater tots
- 1 package (16 ounces) frozen mixed vegetables
- 1 can (10-3/4 ounces) condensed cream of mushroom soup, undiluted
- 2/3 cup 2% milk
- 1 cup shredded cheese

To start, break out your favorite large skillet—cast iron works great here! Heat it over medium heat, then add the ground beef and onion. Season with salt and pepper and cook until the meat is cooked through. Drain any excess grease.

Transfer the ground beef and onion mixture to a greased, two-quart baking dish. Top with the frozen tater tots.

In mixing bowl, whisk together the milk and condensed soup and then pour it over the potatoes. Top with shredded cheese—use whatever cheese you like best.

All that's left is to pop this hotdish into a 350°F oven and bake uncovered for 30 to 40 minutes, or until heated through.

Serve this up with a quick side salad and some homemade rolls and you've got dinner! If you really want a full Midwestern experience, try these dessert recipes right from the heartland. They're just the way to finish off this hearty meal dontcha know!



Steve Drazkowski to Seek State Senate Seat Vacated by Mike Goggin

(continued from page 1)

I have met many of you and made great friends throughout my time as your senator. "I am looking forward to spending more time with family, especially my new grandchild and traveling with my wife, Pam. There is still more to be done, and I will be working hard throughout the next year to ensure every person has the chance to grow, prosper, and succeed here in Minnesota."

On January 27 Representative Steve Drazkowski announced he is seeking the Republican endorsement for the senate seat being vacated by Senator Mike Goggin of Red Wing. "I am humbled by the overwhelming support from constituents, having received two-thirds of votes in House District 21B last election. Many citizens throughout our senate district have encouraged me to take this important step," said

Drazkowski. Drazkowski said, "Senator Goggin has done a superb job representing the people of our senate district. He and I have developed a strong friendship and worked very closely in both legislative and campaign work over the past five years. I wish him the best on his next adventure." Looking to the campaign ahead, Drazkowski will try to draw a clear contrast with Minnesota Democrats.

He said, "The anti-freedom policies of Tim Walz and Joe Biden have seized our civil liberties, burned our cities, disrespected the police and the rule of law, and severely threatened the economic well-being of our families. Our campaign will promote a people-centered agenda that restores freedom, honors the rule of law, and strengthens families and citizens – instead of growing government." Elected to the Minnesota House of Representatives in 2007, Drazkowski has won eight consecutive elections to the Minnesota House and one state senate primary election. He has served as chair of the House Property Tax Committee for four years and is the leader of the New House Republican Caucus. Prior to that he served as an assistant minority leader in the House Republican Caucus. Representative Drazkowski can be contacted at steve@draz.com or (651) 564-0638. His campaign website is draz.com.

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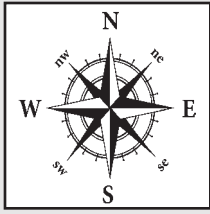


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Changes in Latitudes, Changes in Attitudes River Boats



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.

One thing that always fascinates me are the barges moving up and down the Cumberland River near where we live in Tennessee. They seem huge, especially when you pass them on the river in small runabout.

They call them pusher boats or tow boats and they are about fifty feet long with a 4,000 horsepower diesel engine powering them. The towboats on the Cumberland River are limited to a tow of 15 barges lashed three wide and five long because of the locks at the dams and the channel of the river. On the Mississippi River, south of St. Louis the tows can be three times that size with a pusher boat with an 11,000 horsepower diesel engine.

Each barge is 195 feet long and 35 feet wide. It can carry 1,500 tons, which is 15 times the capacity of a rail car and sixty times the capacity of a semi-trailer. They carry 20% of the nation's coal and that is the standard load that goes up the Cumberland River to the power plant at Cumberland City. This



payload can take up to half a mile to stop, so boats on the river are supposed to give the barges a wide berth. The barges have a draft of 9 feet when fully loaded but the hull is designed so they don't create a large wake. With the number of small fishing and pleasure crafts on the river this is an important feature.

Crews on the towboats work thirty day shifts with a month off in between. There are six to eight guys living on the towboat and one of them is a full time cook to keep the crew fed. They like the schedule because it allows them a free month to hunt and fish.

The towboats have the most modern navi-

gational systems to keep them on course and a large screen GPS that shows where the boat will be 90 seconds ahead. There are many turns in the river and the captain has to keep that long barge in the center of the channel. Another challenge is looking out for stalled fishing or leisure crafts in front of the barge.

In the event of a boat dead in the water ahead of them, the crew will sprint to the front of the barge to try and push the helpless boat aside. The tow boat uses all the power it has to push the loaded barges up river, but coming back with a tow of empty barges it hardly works at all.

A Minnesotan: Ice Fishing



By RosaLin Alcoser

Minnesota is the land of 10,000 lakes and as Minnesotans we spend a good chunk of our lives at the lake. We spend the late spring and summer out on the lake as well as the fall and the winter out on the lake. Basically Minnesotans spend our free time on the lake.

While the summer months have boating and playing on the lake all the seasons have one lake actively in common. Fishing. No matter what there seems to be some point in every season when Minnesotan's fish weather that be from the shore, a boat, or by walking out into the middle of the frozen lake drilling a hole in

the ice and fishing through that.

Now my Southern family is not from up here, but I did spend most of my childhood in Minnesota and well now... I'm still in Minnesota. So, I have been ice fishing, once as a child and was so annoying that I never got taken again.

Which I was fine with at the time and am still fine with now. While my older sister enjoyed ice fishing when we were kids I did not mostly because I didn't care for the cold, fishing or walking out onto the frozen lake.

You might be asking exactly how seven-year-old RosaLin got herself banned, by Grandpa, from ice fishing for life. Well as I have already mentioned it was for being annoying but it was how I was annoying that got me banned.

At the time I was very into Lilo and Stitch on Disney and as a result at the time I knew a couple of Elvis songs. Which I sang down the fishing hole the one time I was taken ice fishing. I must say the fish of the mid-2000's were not big Elvis fans and we did not catch much that day- the guy on the other side of the lake who never caught anything did, but we didn't nor did others around us.

I honestly think that's a good enough reason to never take me again and I'm ok with that.

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 9. Stark daughter on "Game of Thrones"
 13. Branch of economics
 14. All talk, no action type of service
 15. Relating to symmetry, in geometry
 16. Base-8 numeral system
 17. "_____ the land of the free..."
 18. Lots and lots
 19. *Actor Ryan of "Blue Valentine"
 21. *Desdemona's suspicious husband
 23. Big fuss
 24. Nose-in-the-air type
 25. Uber alternative
 28. One on a pedestal
 30. Moderately wide
 35. Eye layer
 37. Twelfth month of Jewish year
 39. Cheese-covered chip
 40. Popped relief?
 41. *"Love, _____" movie
 43. Splints site
 44. Muhammad's teachings
 46. Orchestra instrument
 47. Past of heave
 48. Avoids work, in British slang
 50. Give off
 52. Dose of sunshine
 53. Back seat
 55. Hair-raising product
 57. *_____ valentine, an opposite of love note
 61. English author perhaps best known for "The Canterbury Tales"
 65. Like Mary-Kate and Ashley
 66. Pooh's "wise" friend
 68. Bring to an end
 69. Potassium nitrate
 70. Farm sound
 71. Arm bones
 72. Back talk
 73. Uniting conjunction
 74. Imposter
- DOWN
1. Smoke plus fog
 2. Comes in hard or soft shell
 3. Parts of a play
 4. _____-la
 5. Plural of solidus
 6. Heidi's shoe
 7. *Sweetie follower
 8. Cook's cover
 9. Wheel holder
 10. Cambodian money
 11. Two-masted vessel
 12. "The Sun _____ Rises"
 15. Trash can for fireplace (2 words)
 20. Source of lymphocytes, pl.
 22. Pull along
 24. Dormant state
 25. *Famous archer
 26. Dispatch boat
 27. "_____ and whistles"
 29. Hodgepodge
 31. Mr. and Mrs. Incredible's son
 32. Blood of the gods, Greek mythology
 33. Seven days postmortem
 34. *Hive-related endearment
 36. Unfortunately, exclamation
 38. Rumpelstiltskin machine
 42. Stallion's cry
 45. Business combination
 49. Old Man's turf, according to Hemingway
 51. Darjeeling server
 54. Smell, usually pleasant
 56. Calms
 57. Ford Transit and such
 58. Pelvic parts
 59. Lice eggs
 60. Augments
 61. Oaf
 62. Scoop holder
 63. Biblical twin
 64. Donna or Lou
 67. Got a blue ribbon

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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.



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