



The

TRIPOLI LEADER



To Build a Better World . . .

. . . Start in Your Own Community

Weekly Newspaper Established in 1894
204 South Main Street, P.O. Box 39
TRIPOLI, IOWA 50676-0039

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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2022

The Leader Listing

Thursday, Dec. 8:
4:15 p.m., JH boys basketball vs. Nashua-Plainfield, here.
4:15 p.m., JH wrestling meet at Decorah.
6:30 p.m., Tripoli Elementary winter concert in middle school gym.
6:30/7:45 p.m., JV/varsity girls basketball at Riceville.

Friday, Dec. 9:
4:00 p.m., Varsity bowling vs. Columbus Catholic, here.
5:00 p.m., Varsity girls wrestling tournament at Riverside High School.
5:00/7:45 p.m., JV/varsity boys basketball vs. Don Bosco, here.
6:30 p.m., Varsity girls basketball vs. Don Bosco, here.

Saturday, Dec. 10:
10:00 a.m., Varsity boys wrestling at Riverside High School.
3:15/4:30 p.m., Varsity girls and boys basketball at Baxter.

Monday, Dec. 12:
6:30 p.m., Tripoli Middle/High School winter concert in middle school gym.

Tuesday, Dec. 13:
10:30 a.m., VFW Brandenburg-Krueger Auxiliary meeting.
4:00/6:30 p.m., JV/varsity girls basketball at Clarksville.
4:15/5:15 p.m., JH girls and boys basketball vs. Waterloo Christian, here.
4:15 p.m., JH wrestling meet at New Hampton.
5:00/7:45 p.m., JV/varsity boys basketball at Clarksville.

6:00 p.m., Tripoli Public Library meeting.

Thursday, Dec. 15:
4:00 p.m., Varsity bowling match vs. Isaac Newton Christian Academy at Panther Lanes.

Friday, Dec. 16:
4:00/6:30 p.m., JV/varsity girls basketball vs. Waterloo Christian, here.
4:00 p.m., Varsity bowling vs. S-F at Thunder Lanes, Sumner.
4:15/5:15 p.m., JH girls and boys basketball vs. Riceville, here.
5:00/7:45 p.m., JV/varsity boys basketball vs. Waterloo Christian, here.
6:00 p.m., Varsity wrestling tournament at Iowa-Falls-Alden.

Saturday, Dec. 17:
10:00 a.m., Varsity boys wrestling tournament at Northwood-Kensett.

Monday, Dec. 19:
4:00/6:30 p.m., JV/varsity girls basketball at S-F, Sumner.
4:15 p.m., JH girls basketball vs. Wapsie Valley, here.

Schedules subject to change.

GOT NEWS?

An engagement, wedding, anniversary, birth announcement, birthday, local news or a photo can be sent by e-mail to: sftnewspapers@gmail.com or mailed to P.O. Box 208, Sumner, IA 50674.

Deadline for news items and ads is noon on Monday.

Fostering Freedom: One family's volunteering impacts the lives of those in need

Editor's note: The Christmas season is one of hope, happiness and love, and the true joy of the season is the love shared with family and friends. This Christmas season, the Tripoli Leader is focusing on highlighting the impact of community members and those around Tripoli who make a difference in lives in a variety of ways. This week's focus is on the Vogt family and their passion for helping others through volunteering with the Retrieving Freedom program. The family fosters dogs who are a part of the program, which helps train service animals to help veterans and children with autism. Check out next week's issue for the second installment of the series.

Walking into the home of Michelle and Craig Vogt in Tripoli, you're met with one, and sometimes two, four-legged friends greeting you with lots of enthusiasm and affection. Not only are these dogs kind and well-mannered, they're part of a special program with Retrieving Freedom to foster and breed dogs who will help veterans and children with autism.

Volunteering with Retrieving Freedom is a family affair for the Vogts, whose son Carew and girlfriend partner Paige Bergmann have been involved with the non-profit organization for just as long fostering dogs on the weekend. Both families currently have a dog in their home who is part of the breeder program, which they house and care for but is owned by Retrieving Freedom and enters the breeding cycle about twice per year.

Bergmann explained a friend of hers worked at Retrieving Freedom, which is how they found out about the volunteer opportunity about two years ago. "Our first dog was Noble and we had him for about a week and half. I was really nervous. I took him to work with me and watched every move," Bergmann stated. "We had a couple that first year. We bring them home on Friday and take them back on Sunday. It wasn't every weekend but maybe once a month or so. Sometimes we'd take a dog for a week at a time and we would take them over to Carew's parents' house, which is how they got familiarized with the program."

The first time they had Piper, which is their current dog who they've had for a year, she came to Bergmann's brother's prom and stayed with them for about a week.

"Piper was getting bored at the facility and they knew she was going to enter the breeding program. She came back to stay with us later and we had her for a week as basically a pet, but then she came to live with us and we've had her a little over a year now," Bergmann commented.

Piper and her sister Rose, who lives with the Vogts, are part of a program Retrieving Freedom created to establish more control of a dog's behavioral genetics to great matches as service animals. Both are black labs and are second-generation breeding dogs with the program. Their brother RJ is also part of Retrieving Freedom as a service dog.

"At the time Carew and I had just bought a house and we had talked about getting a dog, but hadn't committed to it yet. School was starting and we'd both be busy, but we took her in. We ended up taking her to the Iowa State Fair and she did great down there. I definitely didn't want a shedding dog. When they asked us to take Piper, we broke down

and did it. Now I can't imagine life without her. She's definitely our dog now," Bergmann added.

For Michelle Vogt, she and her husband Craig saw how much Carew and Paige enjoyed being a part of the fostering program and decided to become involved. At the time they had an older dog who was getting on in years and wouldn't be around much longer, so they began looking into different options.

"We decided to go through the training for it. It wasn't much, just three hours on a Saturday morning and then you meet with dogs and train for a few hours with them. Our first dog was Rose and she was in training at the time to be matched with a veteran or a child and we loved her," Vogt stated. "We then had to put our dog down and we thought fostering dogs on the weekend would be enough, but it wasn't."

They began the process of adopting a dog after fostering several with Retrieving Freedom when they were given the opportunity to foster Rose, who had been moved into the breeding program and needed to be homed. Vogt commented they loved her so much they took her in immediately, and now she's a part of the household.

"Piper and Rose spend a lot of time together. We will watch Piper if they have to go somewhere and the dogs have a great time together. We love having them here and knowing the difference they're making in the program," Vogt added.

Both Piper and Rose have had one litter of puppies and have been rehomed for training. The foster parents have the option to have the puppies at home

with them for the first eight to 10 weeks after they are born or they can choose to have their dog stay at a Retrieving Freedom location so the puppies are cared for outside of their home.

Vogt chose for Rose to have her puppies in a facility in Evansdale where she would have 10 puppies. They were able to visit often during the two months Rose was away from home, and although it was hard to be separated from the dog for that long, she stated it's what was best for everyone as they wouldn't have been able to care for 10 puppies.

Bergmann chose to have the puppies in her home and she commented it was the best experience. She and Carew, along with her brother and a friend, share a home and there was always someone there to lend a hand if they needed anything. She explained the Retrieving Freedom program director Sara Wilke visited every few days to check on the puppies and they also spoke with others on the puppies health and progress.

"We didn't want to give Piper up so that's why we went straight into whelping. It was definitely hard giving them up because I loved them so much. I loved the chaos and I loved how cute they were. Piper was such a good mom too," Bergmann added. Vogt commented, "There was no way we could have done that. We need our sleep."

Once the puppies reach about six or eight weeks old, they are moved into separate foster homes for basic puppy training. Their training will advance after about 10 months into

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Siblings Piper, Rose and RJ are all a part of the Retrieving Freedom program. Piper and Rose live with foster parents Carew Vogt and Paige Bergmann and Craig and Michelle Vogt, respectively, while RJ was matched as a service dog with someone in need. (Photo submitted)

'A Night at the Movies' Fine Arts Boosters' variety show practice begins Jan. 8

The annual Tripoli Fine Arts Boosters variety show is set for Friday and Saturday, March 17-18, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. in the Tripoli Middle School gymnasium.

The theme this year is "A Night at the Movies," which will provide some of the greatest songs from favorite movies for the audience to enjoy. Organizers hope the songs take everyone back in time and bring back some great memories.

If anyone would like to join the cast of the variety show, practice begins Sunday, Jan. 8, 2023, at 1:00 p.m. in the Tripoli High School music room. Anyone who likes to sing, dance, tell jokes or just have a great time hamming it up on stage is welcome to join the cast.

For questions about this year's production, call Roger Goudschaal at (319) 882-4735 or (319) 415-4735.



Santa Claus makes a stop in Tripoli

With Christmas only a few weeks away, Santa Claus made his annual visit to Tripoli to visit children and hear everything they hope to receive for the upcoming holiday. He was escorted to town by the Tripoli Fire Department, and town hall was full of activity as children and their families came to tell the jolly ol' elf what was on their Christmas lists and enjoy many delicious treats. Check out the annual Tripoli Leader Christmas issue Dec. 21 for more pictures from Santa's visit to Tripoli. Gavin (left) and Macy (right) are all smiles as they visit Santa Claus at Tripoli Town Hall Sunday, Dec. 4. (Continued on page 7)

Chief's Corner: updates from the fire department

by Kyle Kirchoff, Tripoli and Frederika fire chief

Did you know Ben Franklin founded the first volunteer fire department in the United States Dec. 7, 1736? The Union Fire Company was founded in Philadelphia, Penn. In 1730 a fire started on a ship and spread to the wharf where all the warehouses burned, including three neighboring houses. This incident would lead Franklin to advocate for a community service to help extinguish fires and protect the property of the citizens.

The Union Fire Company, also known as the "Bucket Brigade" was first formed by 26 volunteers. Each member brought six buckets to carry water and two linen bags to rescue property. The initial success of the "Bucket Brigade" and soon they had enough people to form additional brigades. Fire companies started forming and the positive results were immediate. In a time when fires consumed entire blocks of buildings the city of Philadelphia had not lost more than one or two houses at a time.

Fire engines, ladders and other equipment were first financed by fines paid by the members for absences at monthly meetings. The current Philadelphia Fire Department can trace

its roots to Ben Franklin's "Bucket Brigade."

Flash forward to December 2022, Tripoli Fire Department seeks to provide similar service to you, our community. While most of those details have adapted over the course of the last 286 years, the essence of the problem Ben Franklin sought to solve remains the same, to protect life, preserve property, and serve the community.

Earlier this year, on June 4, Tripoli Fire Department celebrated 125 years of service to our community. During that celebration, we set out to accomplish goals for our department. Some of those goals included upgrading our firefighting equipment and training, but also those goals included being more present in our community, helping educate our community and instilling pride in your fire department. The intent of this article is to give you a behind the scenes look at what is going on in your fire department.

Starting out in January 2022, we set a goal to celebrate the 125th anniversary of Tripoli Fire Department with an event that would draw our community to our station. We invested in our fire station and repainted the outside of the building, repainted the

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Tripoli firefighters take a picture children when they visited Tripoli Elementary during Fire Prevention Week. (Photo submitted)



Hey Kids!
Letters to Santa

Send Your Letters to Santa Claus by Friday, Dec. 9

Put in our drop box (204 S. Main St.) or send to North Pole c/o Tripoli Leader PO Box 208 Sumner, IA 50674