

# Balaton Press Tribune

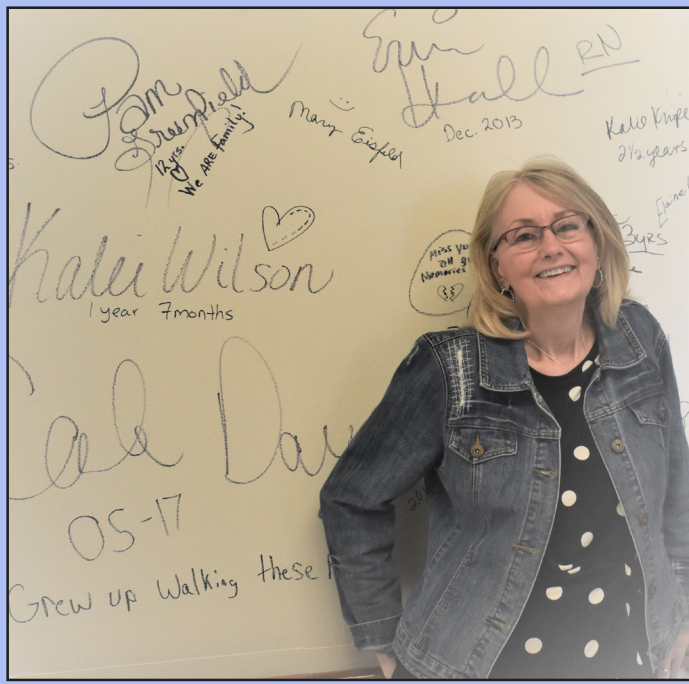
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## Rallying around Elizabeth

Family, friends and former coworkers are joining together to help lift up Liz Davis, a lifetime caregiver who is in need of a double lung transplant in the near future.



Elizabeth Davis is pictured by the Wall of Memories at the Colonial Manor of Balaton, where she worked as an LPN for 17 years. Former coworkers and others are joining together in support of Davis, who needs a double lung transplant. File photo by Jenny Kirk

By Jenny Kirk

Friends and former coworkers say that Elizabeth Davis has always been a person they could count on to be there for them and for the residents of the Colonial Manor of Balaton before it closed nearly two years ago. Now it's their turn to be there

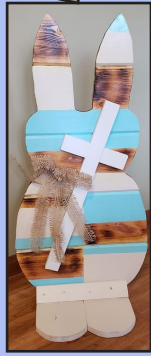
for Davis as she awaits a double lung transplant in the near future.

"It's very sad," Ruth Lehnhoff said. "You live your whole life and work your tail off, and now you're supposed to be enjoying life only to have this happen."

Davis worked as a licensed practical nurse at the nursing



Former coworker and fundraising coordinator Ruth Lehnhoff has made and sold several crafts items and cookies to go toward medical expenses for Liz Davis, pictured below.



home in Balaton for 15 years.

"Liz was a sweetheart," Nancy Iversen said. "She was really nice, and the residents absolutely loved her. There were never any complaints about her at all. She worked her butt off and got everything done. She was a gem."

Along with Ruth Gerentz, Lehnhoff is leading a fundraising effort to help Davis with medical expenses. Both are former coworkers, having worked at Colonial Manor for 36 and 35 years, respectively.

"I have a lot of people willing to volunteer," Lehnhoff said. "Most are nursing home staff who knew Liz. But there are others, too. She gave 110% to those residents. Liz had to quit working (a different job) shortly after COVID hit. She couldn't wear a mask as her lungs were getting worse and she was at such a high risk. And by all means, she wasn't ready to retire for many more years."

Two fundraising dates have been set, the first of which is Saturday, March 27, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Balaton

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Tracy-Milroy-Balaton standout athlete Tony Nelson announced his verbal commitment to play football for the Minnesota Gophers. Nelson (54) is pictured (above) in the Panther's opening game of the football season in 2020 and (below) in a basketball game on Saturday. Photos by Jenny Kirk

## Nelson is U of M Bound

By Jenny Kirk

If you aren't already a Minnesota Gopher fan, Tracy-Milroy-Balaton big man Tony Nelson is a good reason to start wearing maroon and gold as well as practicing your Row the Boat and Ski-U-Ma chants as Nelson announced on Monday that he has verbally committed to the University of Minnesota.

Though he's a three-sport athlete at Tracy Area High School, the 6-7, 265-pound junior was recruited to play football with the Golden Gophers.



**Nelson**  
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## Conservation officers wear a lot of different hats

By Jenny Kirk

Minnesota Conservation Officers can be found patrolling the land at any time of the day and night. And while their primary focus is to protect public safety and the state's natural resources, they typically end up doing a wide variety of jobs.

"Our main job is game and fish enforcement — basically hunting and fishing — but in the last 25 years or more, with the popularity of snowmobiles and ATVs, we've also shifted toward the enforcement of recreational vehicles as well," Matt Loftness said. "That's the

primary day-to-day focus is not so much stopping cars and that type of stuff," Derek Daniels said. "It's primarily focused on fish and game and recreational vehicles. But I've helped at a lot of medicals, crash scenes and fires. We back up deputies when they have a call for more manpower. We're kind of like that extra man that shows up."

Conservation officers have also been recruited to assist with the civil unrest going on in the Minneapolis area in response to the death of George Floyd last May.

"We've gone with the State Patrol as part of a mobile field

fairly low key during the jury selection but anticipates rising tensions as the trial plays out. Chauvin is accused of causing the death of Floyd by placing his knee on Floyd's neck while restraining him for nearly 9 minutes.

"I hope it's just people exercising their First Amendment right and there's no rioting,"

through."

While Loftness covers all of Lyon County and central Yellow Medicine County, Daniels, who lives in rural Balaton, patrols Lincoln County and the northern half of Pipestone County.

"We have about 160 field officers around the state that have different stations that we

span most of the year.

"Game and fish enforcement is our biggest job," Daniels said. "With all the hunting seasons and the fishing, it's pretty much year-round. Lake Hendricks is a border lake, so the walleye and nortner season never closes. Except for trappers and snow geese hunters, there's not much else going on



Local conservation officer Matt Loftness was out checking snowmobile activity and trails a few weeks ago near Garvin Corner. Loftness is out of the Marshall office and his area of coverage includes all of Lyon County and part of Yellow Medicine County.

thing that's changed the most in my 17 years as a conservation officer. Along with recreational users, almost every farmer has one now."

As licensed peace officers, COs enforce laws and regulations under the jurisdiction of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

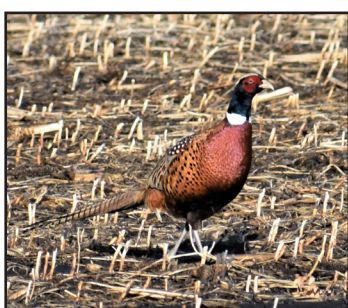
"We have all the legal authority of any city police officer or deputy sheriff, except our

force," Loftness said. "We were trained on (the mobile field force) specifically for the pipeline going through northern Minnesota. Then when the civil unrest happened in the metro, we've been helping out with that. We also anticipate assisting with the trial (of Derek Chauvin). That's something I would've never thought would happen in my career."

Daniels believes it will be



Local conservation officer Derek Daniels is pictured responding to a fire call last month in Lynd Township. While fish and game, along with recreational vehicles are their main focus, conservation officers fulfill a lot of different duties.



Above: A rooster pheasant was out in a field recently south of Balaton. At Right: A doe and her yearling are pictured taking a peaceful stroll this winter in the rural Balaton area. Photos by Jenny Kirk

Daniels said. "They can march all they want, as long as they're not breaking any laws, that's good in my book. I hope everyone will be peaceful, but I think once we get closer to the actual verdict, we'll probably see some emotions coming



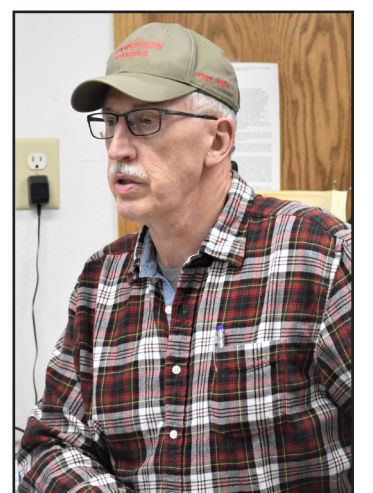
work out of," Loftness said. "My station is Marshall. Derek is out of Lake Benton. That's not saying I don't go help him or he doesn't help me. We help each other sometimes."

For the most part, there are hunting and fishing seasons that

right now, though. The ice isn't quite safe enough to fish a lot of the lakes. You get a couple 60-degree days, that'll happen."

Daniels said the most common violation he's come across

**Conservation**  
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Chuck Anderson was among those who engaged in conversation with city council members at the March meeting on Monday in Balaton. Photo by Jenny Kirk

## Warrior Park development tops discussions at city council meeting

By Jenny Kirk

Chuck Anderson approached the Balaton City Council regarding the ongoing improvement to parks throughout the community during the March meeting on Monday.

Anderson, who was joined via Zoom by Brad Knudson and Tom Rasmussen, all of whom are graduates of Balaton High School, asked for the council's support to go forward with a multi-year fundraising effort to continue the development of Legion/Lions Park, Knudson-Bosley Memorial Park, Eastbay Park and now Warrior Park.

"We've got ideas, but we don't want to get out in front of the city in case the city has plans with respect to the parks," Anderson said. "And we'd like to do a great deal of this development of Warrior Park to commemorate coach and teacher Ron Borchert. So, we're thinking of calling this the Ron Borchert Challenge."

**Warrior**  
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