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Have a seat TCU junior becomes Eagle Scout



Dante Juberian Jordan Meyer

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A Tri-City United junior has reached the highest rank attainable in Boy Scouts.

Carter Sladek, 17, a member of Troop 322, is an Eagle Scout. Since the first Boy Scout earned his Eagle Award over 100 years ago in 1912, the distinction has been earned by more than two million of young people.

Sladek, the son of Chris and Amanda Sladek, used his project to make a difference for the residents who use the sand volleyball pits at Montgomery's Memorial Park.

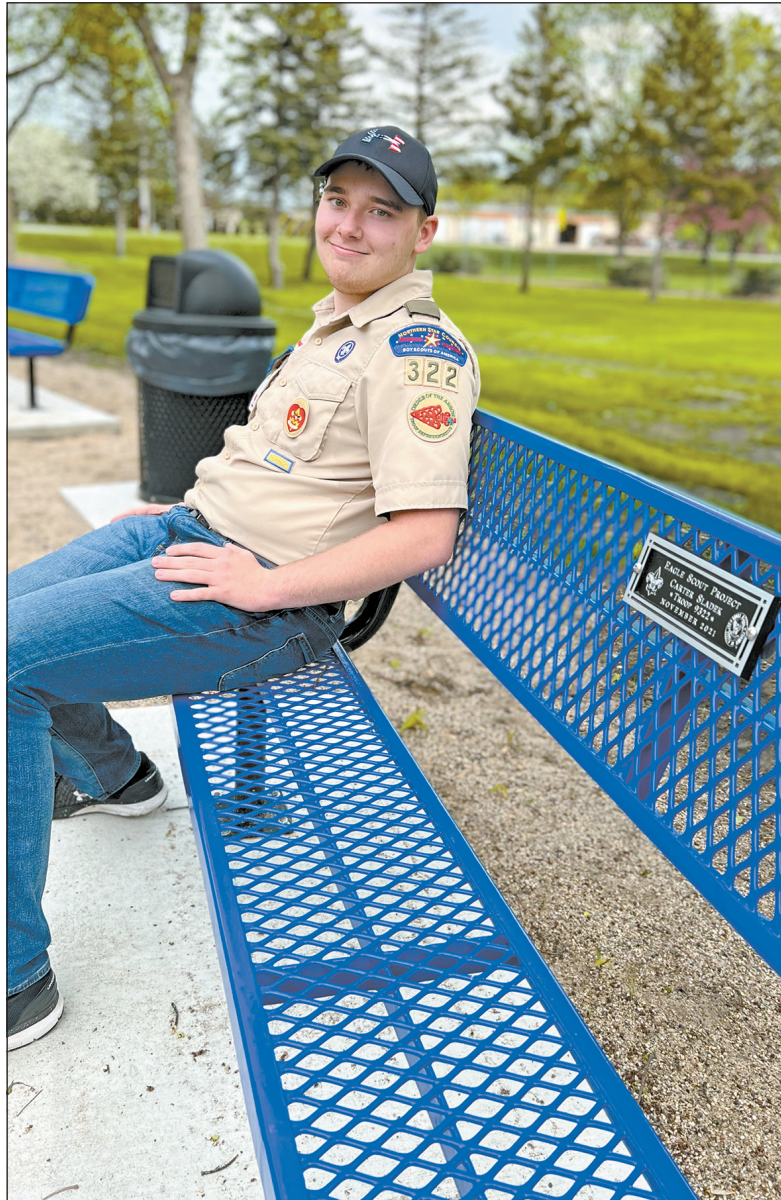
"I thought it would be cool to put up benches because my grandparents always told me there's never enough benches in the world," he said.

Carter's Eagle Scout project included the installation of four concrete pads for metal benches and two pads for waste receptacles.

His original location was not Memorial Park. He wanted to install benches at Montgomery's newest park, North Ridge Recreation Area (1305 Prairie Street NW), but the timing of the development's completion, and his birthday, got in the way.

"They (city officials) said the new park will not be done until after I am 18. But they said, 'We have an idea where you can put in benches, which is Memorial Park, by the volleyball courts,'" Carter said.

The service project took around ten months to complete. He met with Mayor Tom Eisert, presented it twice to the Montgomery Park



Wade Young Photo

Eagle Scout Carter Sladek sits on one of the benches in Memorial Park that were installed as part of his Eagle Scout project.

Advisory Board, and held several Zoom meetings. The benches were already purchased by the city through a grant, but Sladek organized the labor and purchased concrete for the pads.

The project cost \$800, which was paid by the Scout himself, his parents, and grandparents.

According to Carter's dad, Kevin and Robert Hamele, of Hamele Bros Concrete of Kilkenny donated a lot, and poured all of the concrete. "They did a lot, but Carter did a good job. He took this project and made all of the contacts. All we did was haul stuff," he said.

Carter's mom added, "Watching his determination to accomplish this goal has been exciting. This is a good opportunity to see what skills he has and to try other things."

Carter completed the physical work in October 2021. He had his Scout Board of Review on Tuesday, May 10.

The years of work a Boy Scout goes through to become an Eagle Scout, the highest ranking of the Boy Scouts of America, cannot be understated. The honor requires dedication to the Boy Scouts, hard work to complete 21 merit badges, serve in key leadership roles, and complete a significant service project.

"I'm glad I'm here (at the project's end). It's a sigh of relief," Carter said.

According to Northern Star Scouting, only about six percent of all Scouts achieve the rank of Eagle. Since 1999, Troop 322 has produced 15 Eagle Scouts, including Carter.

TCU to send two to State Track Meet

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After the Section 1AA Championship Meet held Saturday, June 4, at Lakeville South High School, TCU High School will send two athletes to the State Track and Field Meet on June 9 to 11, 2022 at St. Michael-Albertville High School.

Jordan Meyer will participate in the 110 M hurdles. He finished in first place at the Section Meet with a time of 15.71.

"Making the State Meet is a special achievement. For Jordan to return for a second year straight is impressive," said Coach Craig Nordling. "Having experienced the environment of the State Meet last year will be an asset to him. Jordan goes into the week with an understanding of what to expect."

Dante Juberian earned his spot at state in the 800-meter run. Juberian placed second in the event with a time of 2:00.97.

"Dante has been working

Track to 6

Sew precise - Retired math teacher's quilts on display at Arts & Heritage Center

Lisa Ingebrand

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After 45 years teaching Math, Sue Westegaard is using her love of precision to create intricate quilts.

Westegaard, who taught Montgomery-Lonsdale students from 1971 until 1996 and went on to finish her career in Hopkins, is now retired. She lives in Shakopee and

enjoys hunting for unique fabrics and piecing them together to create quilts, using her keen mathematician's eye.

"There's satisfaction in getting things to work out," she stated. "In math, you get an answer. With quilting, you get a beautiful, complete design."

A collection of Westegaard's intricate quilts is now on display at the

Arts and Heritage Center of Montgomery, which is located at 206 1st St. North in Montgomery. The exhibit is free to view during the center's regular hours, 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Thursdays and Fridays and 9 a.m. until noon on Saturdays.

Westegaard's desire for exactness is evident in her quilting in the form of crisp edges and careful, measured stitches.

"My mom taught me how to sew, and I did at least one sewing project when I was young for 4H... I think I got a red ribbon for it, an apron, I believe," she stated. "It wasn't until years later that I started quilting."

She created her first quilt while she was in college, using her dad's old leisure suits and her mom's old dresses. "It's nothing exciting. It's all rectangles," stated Westegaard, who continued to dabble with quilting throughout her teaching career, but ultimately enrolled in her first quilting class in the early 2000s.

"It's my hobby," she explained. "I love fabric, and I like that you can pick out all the fabric, but until you put it all together, you don't know what it will look like."

Using her love of geometry, Westegaard has created her own quilting patterns over the years, but finds pleasure in paper piecing, a quilting process often used in complex designs. More than 400 hours of work go into one of her large quilts.

"Sometimes, something will come up in my brain and I'll sketch it out. Sometimes, I end up using the design, sometimes not... Mostly, I'll use patterns," stated Westegaard, who is known among educators and quilting friends as a Math genius.

When asked about the impressive title, she just chuckles.



Lisa Ingebrand Photo

A display of colorful, intricate quilts created by former Montgomery-Lonsdale Math Teacher Sue Westegaard (pictured) is now on display at Montgomery's Arts and Heritage Center.

"Oh, I don't know about that," she said. "I did teach Math for quite some time, so that's probably where it comes from."

Westegaard also wrote text books and has addressed the Council of Teachers of Mathematics—at both the state and national levels.

"I'll admit that geometry has al-

ways been my favorite," she said. A reception for Westegaard will be held at the Arts and Heritage Center on Saturday, June 25 at 10 a.m. All are invited.



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Man dies in head-on collision

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A man from Cottage Grove died in a head-on collision south of Montgomery on Thursday, June 2.

The Minnesota State Patrol said the crash happened at about 9:44 a.m. on Highway 13 at mile marker 58 in Montgomery Township. According to the State Patrol, Joshua Almendinger, 40, was driving his 2010 Dodge Journey northbound on Highway 13 when he collided with a semi-trailer truck traveling southbound.

According to the administrator of the MN Crime Watcher's Facebook page, "Responders said the car was smoking heavily after the crash, and extrication was required."

The report stated Almendinger was not wearing a seatbelt and that alcohol was not a factor in the crash.

The semi was being driven by Kathryn Knutson, 53, of Green Bay, WI. Knutson was wearing her seatbelt and did not sustain any injuries.

The crash shut down the highway until 3:10 p.m. Traffic was detoured to Highway 99, County Road 3 and Highway 21.

Le Sueur Co. Sheriff, Montgomery Police and Fire Departments, and ambulances from Montgomery and Le Center responded.

According to the Minnesota Department of Public Safety, the number of people killed when not wearing a seatbelt rose for a second consecutive year in 2021. Bring Me The News reported that 108 drivers who weren't wearing a seatbelt died on Minnesota roads last year. That's three more than 2020's total of 105, and a 48% increase since 2019 – and the highest number since 2014.

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