



## Mayans predicted end of the world begins in Clintonville

By T.D. Cooper April 1, 2012

Once the booming seemed to cease in Clintonville and news emerged that a March 20 1.5-magnitude earthquake was responsible for the quivering and loud noises taking place in the central Wisconsin town, residents seemed to begin to settle back into their routines.

That is, until this week, when the booms returned, and when UW-Madison scholar unearthed some interesting news that is having ripple effects far beyond tiny Clintonville, a town of about 4,500 that is 40 miles west of Green Bay.

"It turns out that Clintonville is the epicenter for the end of the world predicted by the Mayan calendar to take place on Dec. 21, 2012," says history professor Dr. Timothy D. Cooper, Ph.D.

"The Mayans predicted that the beginning of the end would start in the 'northern lands,' in the 'village of the four wheels.'"

For years, scholars have tried to make sense of the meanings of these phrases, "northern land" and "village of the four wheels."

But Cooper notes that Clintonville is a center for the manufacture of fire trucks and home to the Four Wheel Drive Auto Company. The Clintonville High School team is called the "Truckers."

Cooper says there is more evidence, too.

"The Mayans said the end of the world would begin with the thunder from below," he notes, adding that many Clintonville residents have described the booming sounds they've experienced using the same phrase.

Cooper also points out that Clintonville's zip code is 54929.

"When you add up the numbers, you get 29," he says. "The Mayans were convinced that 29 was an unlucky number."

Most telling of all, perhaps, says Cooper, is that many Clintonville residents have experienced feelings of foreboding and depression in recent weeks and more than a few have felt compelled to begin to build underground backyard bunkers, though they've been hard-pressed to explain why.

"We've been selling concrete at an incredible rate," says Tom T. Humb, manager of the Home Improvement Center in Clintonville.

"Folks have been renting Bobcats, digging up their yards and building these bunkers that are completely outfitted. I have no idea why and it seems like they don't know, either."

Other unusual phenomena have been noticed, as well. For example, business at the usually booming downtown Clintonville Taco Bell has plummeting since the loud noises began a couple weeks ago.

"We're connected to a Dunkin' Donuts and folks are eating those like they're going out of style," says Mike Jones, 16, who attends Clintonville High and works part time at the Taco Bell.

"But we're lucky if we sell two Doritos tacos a day in here lately. I don't know what it is. It's like the end of the Taco Bell world as we know it. But my brother works at Pizza Hut across the street and he said sales of Chicken Pizza are through the roof."

One potential upside to the apocalypse starting in Clintonville is an uptick in tourism. Chichen Itza travel agency, 2012 Tours, has added the Wisconsin town to its list of tours. Visitors will now be able to fly direct from Cancun to Austin Straubel International Airport in Green Bay, and then take a bus to "witness the devastation, first-hand."

"From only \$2,499 you will be able to see a pre-Columbian pyramid *and* the results of a small earthquake near the Clintonville Kwik-Trip," says Juan Carlos Merida, the company's founder. "This is quite a bargain, but book fast, because it'll all be over in about eight months."