

Ackley World Journal

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A TRIP TO REMEMBER

Honor Flight participants share their stories

BECKY SCHIPPER
EDITOR

Three Ackley men were privileged to take part in an Honor Flight to Washington, D.C. on June 6. All three - Jim Wessels (Army), Joe Wessels (Navy), and Dwight Humke (Air Force), earned the right, serving their country during the Vietnam War. The men applied for seats on the trip through the Sullivan Hartogh Davis Cedar Valley Honor Flight and flew out of the Waterloo Regional Airport.

The day began early, with the trio arriving at the airport at 5:15 a.m. in preparation for the 6:30 a.m. flight. Upon landing at Reagan International Airport, the group was met by hundreds of people, waving flags, wanting to shake their hands, and lining the veterans' way from security all the way to the waiting tour buses.

Many of those individuals are volunteers who meet multiple flights and welcome the veterans to D.C. and to the memorials the vets would see during their very full day.

"All the people and the kids who greeted us was impressive," began Joe. "Each one had a kind word as we went by. Even the janitors at the airport stopped to say 'hello', clap

for us or shake our hand." First stop for the men was the World War II memorial where the men were met by a retired general who originally hailed from Iowa. Joe noted that the man has been greeting tourists to the memorial for over 30 years.

"From there it was solid kids to the memorial - they were thanking us for our service. They were from California, Virginia, just everywhere. And all there for a reason. I don't know why, but there they were. The people just really impressed me."

The hour-long visit to the memorial was filled with information about different design features.

While each man felt kindred to the Vietnam Memorial, none failed to mention the 4,000 gold stars, marking the price paid for freedom during WW II.

"I was amazed with the stars," began Joe. "Each one represented 100 lives lost during the war." Over 405,000 Americans lost their lives in the war. Pillars representing each state and surrounding the memorial also made a huge impact.

The Vietnam Me-



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Three local men were part of this group of veterans who were able to visit Washington, D.C. and the many memorials there during a June 6 Honor Flight. Joe Wessels, Jim Wessels and Dwight Humke were among the group which took off from the Waterloo Airport.

PHOTO SUBMITTED

One of the group's favorite photos taken on the trip was this one, showing their reflection in the Vietnam Memorial.



Dwight noted, as did Joe and Jim, that the towering spires (reaching 270 high) are one of the most impressive memorials visited during their trip.

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Bob Burkle and James Barhite will keep Mid Iowa Auto Parts running daily, while owner Mike Fistler (far right) keeps his focus on M & G Tire. Fistler purchased the business recently and hopes to have an open house in early August when an inventory changeover is complete.

PARTS OF THE Community

BECKY SCHIPPER/ACKLEY WORLD JOURNAL

Fistler invests through purchase of parts store

BECKY SCHIPPER
EDITOR

Being a lifetime resident of Ackley, Mike Fistler is doing his best to make sure the community keeps established businesses rather than losing them. Fistler recently took ownership of the local parts store previously owned by

Trent and Scott Mennenga. The process of the purchase became official with the opening under his ownership on May 1.

The business has gone through several owners over its history in the community but has stood the test of time with over 40 years of continued operation. "The timing (for purchase) was right, and of course the business goes hand-in-hand with M & G Tire," Fistler said. Along with the parts store, which has been renamed to Mid Iowa Auto Parts, Fistler

owns of M&G Tire Service and is part-owner of Grumpy's Bar.

Mid Iowa Auto Parts is undergoing an inventory change which will transform what's on the shelves in the location. "My goal is to carry what local residents and repair shops need," Fistler said. To that end, he is working with NAPA which can analyze what vehicles are on the road in the area and update stock to include parts for those vehicles.

While there are many changes on the horizon, Fistler

has retained Bob Burkle, who fills the role of delivery driver along with responsibility for many other duties.

Filling in management roles at the store are James Barhite and Fistler's girlfriend, April Neubauer.

Barhite says he's worked on cars his entire life, moving into a shop setting six years ago and starting in a role at M & G Tire two years ago. He accepted the new position, moving from repairs to the counter after two neck surgeries took him out of

the repair side of the business. Neubauer, fills the role of business manager ensuring the office duties get taken care of. She is employed full-time in Iowa Falls for England Contracting as an office manager.

As Fistler moves forward, he hopes the community will show their support and patronize the business for their parts and auto supplies. He notes that he is doing everything possible

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Early deadlines

Due to the July 4 holiday, the Ackley World Journal will have early deadlines for our July 5 issue. The deadline for advertising and news is 10 a.m. on Thursday, June 29. Please have your items in by this time for publication. ●



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Jackie Dohlman (right), Franklin County Extension and Outreach Youth Coordinator, and Laela Ragsdale (middle), upcoming Franklin County Extension and Outreach Youth Coordinator, accept the NEW Cooperative Foundation's contribution to decrease the cost of 4-H dues from NEW Cooperative Communications Intern Riley Hiscocks (left).

NEW Cooperative Foundation donates to local 4-H clubs

The NEW Cooperative Foundation has continued a commitment to support local 4-H youth, donating funds to 22 county extension and outreach offices which support nearly 3,500 individual 4-H members.

The contribution from the Foundation will pay half of each 4-H member's dues in NEW Cooperative's trade territory counties, which includes Franklin County.

NEW Cooperative,

Inc. is a farmer-owned grain, agronomy, energy and feed cooperative headquartered in Fort Dodge.

The NEW Cooperative Foundation is the charitable giving entity of NEW Cooperative, Inc. and is committed to investing in organizations that are dedicated to youth and education, human services, and civic purposes that further enhance the quality of life in member communities. ●



PHOTO SUBMITTED

The trio of Ackley veterans took part in this "class" photo at the Air Force Memorial in D.C. The day allowed them to visit many of the memorials including the Lincoln Memorial where they took in views of the Reflecting Pool, the Vietnam Memorial, as well as passing by many federal buildings.

HONOR FLIGHT > CONT'D

For Jim, a photo of the three men's reflection on the Vietnam Memorial, is one of his favorite photos taken during the trip.

"We didn't have a name to search for on the wall, but watched as others looked for, and found a name, thanks to help from the guides at the site," Jim said.

Both brothers – Joe and Jim – noted that the trip will long remain in their memory. And while they were able to take it together, the flight had both of them missing their other brother, Jack, who was also a veteran of the U.S. Navy. Jack passed in August of 2022. His brothers would have en-

joyed nothing more than having him with them on the Honor Flight.

At each memorial, the men collected post marks, part of the memories the Honor Flight created for the veterans taking the trip.

It wasn't only the memorials that the men enjoyed, throughout their journey, they were able to be driven down Pennsylvania Avenue past the White House, and also got glimpses of the FBI Building, the Department of Justice, the Federal Reserve, the Smithsonian and countless more.

At the end of a very long and very memorable day, the trio climbed aboard their flight home. As is tradition, veterans

are provided with 'mail call' on the return flight, receiving letters from family members.

"We each got an envelope of letters from people we knew," said Dwight. The letters from family members had each man reflecting on his service, the love of his family and the respect which included a simple 'Welcome home!' that some had not experienced upon their return all those years ago. The packets also included cards created by children and those from service organizations in the Waterloo area.

Still, the trip was not over. Upon landing back home at the Waterloo airport, the flight was met by their families and

friends, along with hundreds of individuals who wanted only to welcome a veteran home.

"I've never seen so many people ... I've never been thanked for my service so many times. It was all very moving," Joe said.

All three highly recommend local veterans to take the trip if they are eligible.

"Just go! You will not regret it," added Dwight. "It's a lot of walking, but you don't get tired, you're so busy taking it all in."

The Honor Flight Network is a national non-profit which celebrates American's veterans by inviting them to share in a day of honor at the nation's memorials. ●

PARTS > CONT'D

to keep prices comparable to those which can be ordered online and reminds

customers and potential customers that if the store doesn't carry what they need, they'll get it in for you.

Fistler said that the business will begin venturing out to serve some shops outside of Ackley in addition to those within

the area. The store is located at 505 Sherman Ave. The phone number remains the same – 641-847-3511. ●

Vandals turn selves in

BECKY SCHIPPER
EDITOR

Two teens have turned themselves in after being chased by an Ackley resident following damage done to a vehicle in the community. Damages included spray painting the vehicle and leaving messages to minors who lived in the home, as well as placing screws in and behind the tires of the vehicle.

Chief Gerry Frick says a male resident chased the teens down and provided them with the option to turn themselves in at approximately 3 a.m. on June 20. According to Frick, the teens were in possession of backpacks filled with dark clothing and burglary tools. During the search, Frick discovered eight street signs in their possession.

Charges are pending on the pair with Frick noting that the charges



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Ackley residents have been waking up to various kinds of vandalism in recent weeks. Two teens turned themselves in last week after being chased down by another resident following an incident last Tuesday.

could include Criminal Mischief, Curfew Violation, Possession of Burglary Tools, and Possession of Stolen Goods.

A rash of vandalism across Ackley over the past month has kept res-

idents carefully watching security cameras and keeping a close eye on their properties. The outbreak of vandalism has included graffiti painted on buildings, sidewalks, along with damage to oth-

er personal property. Frick states that it should not be assumed that the pair are responsible for other damages across the community and that both should be considered innocent until proven guilty. ●

Ackley World Journal

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Happy 90TH BIRTHDAY

Patricia Ibeling of Ackley will be celebrating her 90th birthday on Saturday, July 8th, 2023, from 2-4pm with an open house. Come and wish her a happy birthday in person at Washington Reformed Church, 28182 Birch Ave. rural Ackley. No gifts please. Your presence is my present. All are welcome.

Hey, hey, hey this lady is turning EIGHTY!

Sharon Harken is celebrating her 80th birthday on June 30. Her family is honoring her with a card shower and an open house on Saturday, July 1st at the American Legion in Ackley from 5pm-7pm. Cards may be sent to her at: 416 Mitchell St. Apt. 2, Ackley, Iowa 50601



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Summer fun

The Ackley Municipal Pool has been busy with the extremely hot weather which has been occurring. Among the many visitors whose only goal was to cool off during last week's heatwave were Kami Willems, Giselle Flores, Ellie Bear and Carli Lyon. The girls took advantage of a short period where fewer visitors were in the water and spent time trying to all get on a float at the same.

Register now for Summer Reading Program

The Ackley Public Library will host their Summer Reading Program on July 5, 12, 19, and 26 beginning at 10 a.m. each day. The theme this year is "Find Your Voice". Pre-register for the program by visiting <https://www.ackley.lib.ia.us/>.

Supervisors receive road and bridge work updates

ELAINE LORING
ELORING@IAFALLS.COM

The Hardin County Board of Supervisors heard from Hardin County Engineer Taylor Roll about county road and bridge work during their regular weekly meeting Monday. Roll said there are a few areas on D15, located to the west of Iowa Falls, that are going to be patched. "That (road is) currently falling apart," Roll said. "It's being used as a detour for the Alden Bridge. And the City of Iowa Falls has closed River Road again, so it's being hit on that. And there's

utility work being done." Due to the amount of stress on that road, Roll anticipates there are areas that will need to be patched. "Right now, we're kind of Band-Aiding it," he said, noting he was aware that it was a problem. "We'll get there when we can." He said his department is also waiting on a subcontractor to do the concrete work on the Alden Bridge. Being a historical bridge, Roll said a special rail that matches the former rail needed to be ordered, and they are waiting for that to come in.

Supervisor BJ Hoffman commended Roll and the team who are mowing ditches in the county. "Your new roadside mower does a fantastic job," Hoffman said. "He pays extra attention to detail." Hardin County Emergency Management Coordinator Thomas Craighton also addressed the Supervisors, noting that a special meeting was going to be held with the Hardin County Emergency Management Board about a new assistant he is hiring. During that meeting, which was Tuesday, Craighton said

that six applications had been received, and of those, four people were interviewed. The Hardin County Emergency Management Board made a recommendation for the position and unanimously chose McKenzie Burton for the role. "Can you refresh the reason ... the purpose of the assistant?" asked Hardin County Supervisor Chair Lance Granzow. "I get asked that a lot." Craighton said he was hiring this office assistant to work on new plans as well as updating old plans. "We're short on a couple

of things, and after going to a Hazmat conference, we are short in that area, too. That will be a new project coming up." Craighton also noted a five-year hazardous mitigation plan is being formed with county representatives to focus on areas such as flooding, tornadoes, derechos, etc. **In other business the Supervisors:** ■ Re-appointed Bonnie Wiederkehr to the Veteran's Affairs Board for another three-year term.

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TAYLOR NOHRENBURG/ACKLEY WORLD JOURNAL

Active shooter training

Area law enforcement including those from the Ackley Police Department, Iowa Falls Police Department, Hampton Police Department, Hardin County Sheriff, Grundy County Sheriff and the Iowa State Patrol took part in an active shooter training held June 19 at the Iowa Falls-Alden High School. Officers received both classroom and situational training during the session. While the Times Citizen was allowed in to take a photo of officers in the classroom session, law enforcement representatives declined the opportunity to comment on the training.

What's happening at the Steamboat Rock Public Library

MELISSA JOHNSON
LIBRARY DIRECTOR

Library Hours:

Tuesday: 1 to 6 p.m.

Wednesday: 2 to 5 p.m.

Thursday - Friday: 12 to 4 p.m.

Saturday: 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Summer reading got off to a great start with the Blank Park Zoo bringing two live animals - a blue tongue python and a ferret - along with different examples and pictures of animals they have at the zoo. There were a few cringes when the snake came out of the cooler but it was kept in a plastic enclosure so there was no chance of her getting loose! Next week will be Lazer Tag on Wednesday at 4 p.m. with pizza afterwards, and the Insect Zoo on Thursday at 2 p.m. Lazer Tag is for those age 13 and over and limited to eight kids, so call the library to get on the list. Greenbelt Bank & Trust brought us a

wonderful selection of books for the summer reading program and many of them are Caldecott winners. Please stop in to check out these children and young adult books.

Please don't forget the library has free Wi-Fi with no password required and it is on 24/7. We also have seven adult patron computers and five small devices for the kids to use. Our printer is WiFi connected and we can fax, scan, send by email or save to a thumb drive. Please bring your own drive if you want to save items that way.

Book club will be on July 13 starting at 2 p.m. There are always great treats that everyone brings so don't feel that you have to bring something. We do not read the same book so the different book reviews are fun to listen to. If the weather is still nice, we will be out on the back patio under the pergola. ●

A-G Class of 1962

The A-G Class of '62 will meet Saturday, July 8 at the Ackley Pizza

Ranch.

The group will meet at noon. ●

Rain dance

I've done my best to make it rain. Watered the garden and washed the car, even planned outdoor activities, anything I could think of to assist - except dancing. Alas. Over the weekend, prayers were answered and Austinville gained two inches of wonderful rain!

Prior to that, I spent time each night keeping the flowerpots and the garden watered. And I am thankful they are small enough that I could do that.

The weather is making it difficult for local wildlife - birds and squirrels are the first to come to mind. It was hard to watch them struggle in their search for water. They need to keep hydrated too. Call me silly, but I placed a low-profile bowl of water next to the big pine tree in Victory Park. Hopefully the downtown critters will find it.

At home, I have five bird baths and wish I'd have taken a photo of a recent visit from a robin. He/she spent a good ten minutes taking a nice long bath and then rested on the edge of it as if to claim the station as his/her own. And yes, I hadn't filled it for a couple days, so I suspect it was thoroughly enjoyed!

The 'chippy' is also finding the clay saucers under my plants as a good place to grab a drink.

I finally got my fountain up and running. It's another favorite of the small wrens and sparrows. They'll fly in, motivated by the sound of it, and grab a drink or a quick bath. Sometimes when I'm sitting in my chair next to



BECKY SCHIPPER/ACKLEY WORLD JOURNAL

Simple clay pots and a small fountain pump are all I used to create the fountain that sits on my deck. It's filled with stones that I've collected on trips, walks, and those picked up by the grand-kids.



it, they are surprised and quickly fly away. But often, they'll move to the railing and watch to see if I intend to harm them. They are slowly learning to trust.

Have you ever heard the saying 'dirty bird'? Well, they are! And the fountain takes frequent cleaning to keep it running as a result.

Last week brought some special guests to the flower gardens - all of the 35 chrysalises eclosed and I sent the monarchs on

the next journey of their life. Since I found the first group, I've only found a dozen or so more. Keep your eyes open for them and do what you can to assist.

I have loads of daisies in my flower beds. Their blooms are quickly coming to an end so it's time to go out and cut them back. Doing so provides me with seeds that I can spread across the property. Another bonus from cutting them back is that they'll bloom again later in the summer.

Can you believe that the days are once again getting shorter? The longest day of the year took place last Wednesday with the summer solstice. How can that be? Time sure flies as one gets older!

Until next week, I'll be in the garden - watering it, probably. Or perhaps mowing. The grass IS growing again! ●

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Franklin Foxes 4-H participate in Wildlife Habitat Competition

The Franklin Foxes took first place in the State Wildlife Habitat Education Program senior team division and will represent Iowa 4-H in the National WHEP Competition July 30 - Aug. 2. Team members are Eva Dohlman, Natalie Dohlman and Parker Haller from Franklin County. In the individual Wildlife Challenge Senior Division, Eva Dohlman placed first, Parker Haller placed second, and Natalie Dohlman placed third.

Franklin Foxes took first place in the WHEP Senior Team Competition. The Franklin County senior youth were among 17 youth from six teams who participated in the State WHEP Competition on May 20 at the Jester Park Nature Center in Polk County. Each 4-H member tested their wildlife knowledge in a friendly competition, working in teams of three to four. This year's competition focused on tallgrass prairie and urban and wetland ecoregions.

The youth participating in the competition learned about water quality and aquatic ecosystems through a pond study at Jester Park and used nets to see what types of animals they could find in and around the pond. On the hike to the pond, the group had a rare look at a cluster of showy orchids, a scarlet tanager and a variety of other wildlife species.

After a year on the WHEP team youth are familiar with ecosystems, native wildlife species, wildlife management practices (such as



PHOTOS SUBMITTED

First place Senior team members (left to right) are Allison Brundy, Natalie Dohlman, Parker Haller, Eva Dohlman and Adam Janke.



First place Junior team members (left to right) are Allison Brundy, Elliott Zoller, Barrett Bretz, Matthew Dohlman and Adam Janke.



Fifth place Junior team members (left to right) are Allison Brundy, Emma Zoller, Henry Crawford, Morgan Stock, Adam Janke.

prescribed fire or grazing management) and working with landowners.

For the individual Wildlife Challenge Junior Division, Barrett Bretz from Franklin County placed first.

The 2023 National WHEP Competition will be held at the Iowa Lakeside Lab on Lake Okoboji in Iowa. Iowa 4-H Youth Development and Jester Park Nature Center sponsored the event. ●

Maintaining your yard in summer

BY RICHARD JAURON AND GREG WALLACE

Summer marks the season when your lawn can look its best – if you know how to maintain it properly. Here are some tips from Iowa State University Extension and Outreach on how to keep your lawn looking sharp during the year's hottest months, with help from ISU Extension horticulturists.

What is the correct mowing height for a lawn in summer?

Kentucky bluegrass and other cool-season grasses thrive in the cool weather of spring and fall. Hot, dry conditions in summer are stressful for cool-season grasses. Kentucky bluegrass lawns should be mowed at a height of 3 to 3.5 inches during the summer months. Bluegrass lawns should be mowed at a height of 2.5 to 3 inches in spring and fall. The additional leaf area during summer shades and cools the crowns of the turfgrass plants. The higher mowing height also provides more food-producing foliage and promotes deeper root growth.

When mowing the lawn, never remove more than 1/3 of the total leaf area at any one time. Removing more than 1/3 of the leaf area severely injures the turfgrass plants and reduces their ability to withstand additional environmental stresses.

When should I apply a preventive type insecticide to control white grubs in the lawn?

White grub populations and damage to lawns vary greatly from year to year and place to place, even varying from spot to spot within the same lawn due to variations in beetle numbers, weather, turfgrass vigor, soil conditions and other factors.

There are basically three approaches to grub management in the home lawn. One approach is to apply a preventive insecticide to the lawn on an annual basis. The second approach is to wait and see and apply a curative insecticide only when damage symptoms or signs of a grub infestation appear. The final approach is to do nothing (in regards to insecticides) and repair damaged lawn areas when grub damage occurs.

In Iowa, the recommended time

to apply a preventive insecticide for white grubs is June and July. Preventive insecticides available to home gardeners include chlorantraniliprole (Scotts Grub-Ex) and imidacloprid (Merit, Bayer Advanced Season-Long Grub Control). Following its application, the insecticide must be watered into the soil with at least one-half inch of water (either from rain or irrigation).

Should I fertilize the lawn in summer?

Do not fertilize Kentucky bluegrass and other cool-season grasses during the summer months (June, July, and August). The best times to fertilize cool-season grasses in Iowa are spring, mid-September and late October/early November. When fertilizing the lawn, do not apply more than 1 pound of actual nitrogen per 1,000 square feet in one application.

Is it necessary to water an established lawn during hot, dry weather?

Gardeners have two basic options when confronted with hot, dry weather. One option is to do nothing and allow the grass to go dormant. The alternative is to water the turfgrass during dry weather to maintain a green, actively growing lawn.

Cool-season grasses, such as Kentucky bluegrass, can survive long periods of dry weather. In dry weather, the shoots of the turfgrass plants stop growing and the plants go dormant. Dormancy is a natural survival mechanism for turfgrass. While the leaves have turned brown and died, the turfgrass roots and crowns remain alive. Generally, Kentucky bluegrass can remain dormant for four to six weeks without suffering significant damage.

If you decide to water the lawn, apply 1 to 1.5 inches of water per week in a single application or possibly two applications three or four days apart. Avoid frequent, light applications of water which promote shallow rooting and lush growth. Lush, shallow-rooted turfgrass is less drought tolerant. It is also more susceptible to pest problems. To determine the amount of water applied by a sprinkler, place two or three rain gauges within the spray pattern. ●

Homegrown Iowa

GRATITUDE FOR Iowa's Bravest Heroes

The My Veteran Hero program was launched in June of 2022 to let veterans across Iowa know their service has not been forgotten. Unique Iowa veteran swag was created for our heroes to proudly wear in recognition for their service to our country. The swag included a collection of crewneck sweatshirts, t-shirts and full-zip hoodies. These special packages were either hand delivered to a group meeting or shipped individually to a veteran.

Veterans were first nominated by employees and contractors of Iowa Select Farms and then the program opened to groups and individual nominations across the state. We were also able to incorporate the My Veteran Hero program into our annual Veterans Day recognition. On Friday, November 11, the Deb and Jeff Hansen Foundation made deliveries to the Clarke County Veterans Affairs, Iowa Falls Friendship Club, Fort Dodge VFW, Ames Veterans Program and Hubbard Middle School Veterans Day Program.

The Deb and Jeff Hansen Foundation and Iowa Select Farms strongly believe in showing gratitude and providing support to those who served our country. We are forever indebted to every service member and, as Americans, are grateful for the freedoms we enjoy because of their sacrifice. In 2022, a total of 760 veterans were recognized through the My Veteran Hero program.



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Pets Unleashed at St. John's UCC

St. John's United Church of Christ of Ackley will host 'Pets Unleashed' Vacation Bible School from July 9 through July 11. Sessions will be held from 5:30 to 8 p.m. each day. Students aged four years of age to those en-

tering sixth grade this fall are welcome to attend.

Registration is due by June 30. Registration forms can be found online and turned in at the St. John's United Church of Christ. ●

Food Pantry

Anyone in need of assistance from the Ackley food pantry may call 641-373-4660, 641-373-2263, 515-689-1432, or 641-847-1963.

The Ackley food pantry's only requirement is that those using the service have an Ackley address and/or have children in the AGWSR School district.

Cualquier persona que necesite ayuda de la despensa de alimentos de Ackley puede llamar al 641-373-4660, 641-373-2263, 515-689-1432, o 641-847-1963.

El único requisito de la despensa de alimentos de Ackley es que quienes usan el servicio tengan una dirección de Ackley y / o tengan hijos en el distrito escolar de AGWSR. ●



SANDY SCALLON/ACKLEY WORLD JOURNAL

Butterfly garden

There are many beautiful flower gardens around the Ackley area, but none as pretty as the butterfly garden at Prairie Bridges Park. Esther Heffelmeyer, an Ackley American Legion Auxiliary member, takes tremendous pride in seeing that the butterfly garden is always looking its best year after year and attracts many butterflies. She receives funds from the Auxiliary for plants to be put in the garden. Just drive around Ackley and look at all the pretty flower gardens, but be sure to stop out back at Prairie Bridges to see the butterfly garden and memorial.

Janssen has joined PSB

Peoples Savings Bank has hired Brent Janssen as a Credit Analyst at its Wellsburg branch. Janssen graduated from the University of Northern Iowa with degrees in Finance and Real Estate in 2020. He looks forward to bringing his commitment to honesty and integrity with the people he serves to his new role.

of our area and school districts and is invested in making our communities, schools, and bank a better place for the customers and shareholders that we serve," said President and CEO Eric Olson.



Janssen

Janssen is from Ackley, and lives on the family farm with his twin brother. He is an avid Cyclone fan. His hobbies include family and friends, ice fishing, golfing, biking and boating. ●

Saving grocery bags for a good cause

Sandy Scallon, member of the Ackley American Legion Auxiliary and District 3 President of the Iowa American Legion Auxiliary is collecting plastic grocery bags which will be used to construct benches. Benches will be placed at Girls State competition at Drake University, at the airport Holiday Inn in Des Moines, at the Iowa Veterans Home

in Marshalltown, as well as the Christian Center in Newton where Junior Camp is held.

Bags of all colors (except red) can be dropped off at the Ackley American Legion building (639 Main St.) or at 614 Butler Street.

To reach Sandy to make a donation, contact her at 515-689-6282. This week is the final week for collection. ●

DEVOTIONAL

The Voice of God, Part 2

PASTOR LYNN ARENDS
STEAMBOAT ROCK FIRST PRESBYTERIAN AND
EAST FRIESLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

How many different ways are available to us to hear the voice of someone we love when we aren't able to be right there with them?

In the old days, our choices were pretty limited. We had the telephone, of course; maybe a tape recording of some sort and for a while anyway, nearly everybody had a CB radio. Got your ears on?

Today, with our advanced technology, we have a myriad of ways to actually hear someone's voice (and see them as well) and even ways to keep that loved one's voice recorded for posterity.

In this column last week, we talked about hearing the "real" voice of God and how we needed to be born again Christians to really hear the voice of God.

If we are that born again Christian and we're pretty sure we can hear God's voice, how then can we hear the voice of God? In other words, how does God speak to us so we can hear His voice?

Here's five good ways I believe we can hear God speaking to us.

1. Through His written Word – the Bible

This is the main and the most effective way God speaks to us. The Bible isn't just a bunch of words on a page, or a book of stories, or a guide to good living, the words of the Bible have power! Hebrews 4:12 says, "The Word of God is alive and powerful."

2. Through the Holy Spirit
We hear God's voice through the Holy Spirit that lives in us. The Holy Spirit knows the deep things of God and shares these things with us. Hebrews 3:7 says, "That is why the Holy Spirit says, 'Today when you hear his voice,' The Spirit helps us to understand the Scriptures as well as opening things up and making us aware of God's presence around us every day.

3. Through outside sources
This can be through something that happens to us, through people in our lives, or through anything like nature, a book, artwork or music.

4. Through special revelation
Special revelations are things like visions and dreams. The Bible tells us in many places of God-given dreams, like the ones to Jacob

in Genesis 28, to Joseph in Genesis 37, and to Joseph, Jesus' earthly father, in Matthew 1. As for visions, nearly the entire book of Revelation was written from a vision given to John. God can speak to us in special ways both when we're awake and when we're asleep.

5. Through prayer
I like to think of prayer as a conversation with God. It can include giving thanks, requests, asking questions, or petitions. But in addition to talking with God, it needs to also include a time of hearing from Him. Psalm 5:3, "In the morning, Lord, you hear my voice; in the morning I lay my requests before you and wait expectantly". Often, we give our requests to God and then rush off to the next thing on our list. But conversation includes waiting expectantly, giving God time to respond, hoping for His answer, listening for His voice.

Even though God speaks to us in a lot of different ways, the goal is the same – for His children to hear His voice. The thing is, we have to be listening for His voice. I believe it's a real desire of God to be able to communicate with us, His children. Why? Because He loves us that much.

May God bless you this week and always. ●

CHURCH DIRECTORY

Ackley

Ackley United Methodist Church
Pastor: David Wagner
P: 641-847-3251
Sunday - 10 a.m. Worship, 11a.m. Fellowship
Cornerstone Presbyterian Church (PCA)
P: 641-847-3188
Sunday- 9:30 a.m. Worship; 10:45 a.m. Fellowship and coffee; 11 a.m. Sunday School for all ages
East Friesland Presbyterian Church
Pastor: Lynn Arends
P: 641-847-2896
Sunday- 9 a.m. Worship
First Presbyterian Church (PCUSA)
Pastor: Diane Martin
P: 641-847-2027
Sunday- 9 a.m. service Live Streaming; 10 a.m. Fellowship
Harvest Baptist Church
Pastor: David Buhman
P: 641-847-1921
Wednesday- 7 p.m. Service
Sunday- 9 a.m. Sunday School; 10 a.m. Worship.
Our Saviour's Lutheran Church (NALC)
Pastor David Craig
P: 641-847-2776
Sunday - 9:30 a.m. worship with fellowship to follow
St. John's United Church of Christ
P: 641-847-2685
Sunday - 9 a.m. services
Livestreaming of services can be found at www.facebook.com/StJohnsAckley.
St. Mary's Catholic Church
Father Kevin Earleywine
P: 641-847-2329
Sunday - 8 a.m.
Video recordings of Mass will be available at www.franklinhardincatholic.org.
Monday - 8:30 a.m., Wednesday - 8:30 a.m.
Second Monday - 9:30 Grand JIVante
Washington Reformed Church
Pastor Kevin Pulliam
P: 641-847-2817
www.wrcackley.org
Sunday- 9 a.m. Sunday School. 10 a.m. Sunday service. Service will be livestreamed

on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/WashingtonReformedChurch/>
Aplington
Aplington Baptist Church
P: 319-347-2311
www.aplingtonbaptistchurch.org
Sunday- 9:15 a.m. Worship Service, 10:30 a.m. Sunday School, and 6 p.m. Student Connection.
Wednesday- 3:30 p.m. Early Herd, 6 p.m. Herd, and 6:20 p.m. AWANA
Thursday- 6 p.m. Bible quizzing
Saturday- Evening Worship Service 6 p.m.
Aplington Evangelical Presbyterian Church (EPC)
Pastor: Doug Hull
P: 319-347-5569
church@aeclife.org, www.aeclife.org
Sunday- 9 a.m. Prayer, 9:15 a.m. Morning Worship; 10:30 a.m. Fellowship, and 10:45 a.m. Sunday School.
Wednesday- 6:30 a.m. Early morning bible study
First Reformed Church
Pastor: Brent Vandenberg
P: 319-347-2444

Sunday- 9:30 a.m. Worship
Bethel Reformed Church
Pastor: Scott Summers
P: 319-347-6219
Sunday- 9 a.m. Worship; 10:05 a.m. Fellowship; 10:05 a.m. Bethel Kids
Austinville
Austinville Christian Reformed Church
P: 319-347-2986
Pastor: Stewart deJong
Sunday - 9:30 a.m. Worship; 10:45 a.m. Coffee and Fellowship; 11 a.m. Sunday School all ages; 8 p.m. 180 meets at Stu-Co Center
Wednesday- 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. Early Herd; 6 to 8 p.m. Grades 7 and 8 Herd; 6:15 to 7:45 p.m. AWANA
Video of Sunday services are available online www.austinvilleccr.com
Colfax/Holland Churches
Colfax Center Church of Rural Holland
Pastor: Luke Wolfe
P: 319-824-5231
Sunday- 9:30 a.m. Worship, 10:30 a.m. coffee fellowship, 11 a.m.

Sunday school for all ages, 6 p.m. prayer meeting
Wednesday- 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. youth group and children ministries
Eldora
Free Grace United
Pastors: Bill Pitts and Joel Theisen
Worship Sundays at 10 a.m. 32203 230th Street (at Pine Lake Camps)
Geneva
Geneva United Methodist Church
Pastor: Brent Hamilton
Alternate Pastor: Delores Mooty
P: 641-430-6872
Sunday- 9:15 a.m. Sunday School, 10:30 a.m. Worship
St. Peter's United Church of Christ
P: 641-456-8749
stpetersiaucc@gmail.com
Sunday, 9:30 a.m. Worship/ Worship leader: Jill Pliner,

10:30 a.m. Fellowship
Steamboat Rock
Steamboat Rock Baptist Church
107 2nd St., Steamboat Rock
641-868-2458. Harrison Lippert, pastor. Sunday Service times 8:30 a.m. Traditional Service, 9:30 a.m. Pathway classes (Sunday School) for all ages, 10:30 a.m. Contemporary Service and Children's Church. Online Worship (live-stream) will be available for all services at www.steamboatrockbaptist.org. You can also check us out on Facebook at Steamboat Rock Baptist Church
Steamboat Rock First Presbyterian Church
Pastor: Lynn Arends
P: 641-868-2292
Sunday 10:30 a.m. Worship

Wellsburg
First Christian Reformed Church
Pastor: Steven J. Mulder
P: 641-847-4305
Sunday- 9 a.m. Worship Service
St. John's Lutheran Church
Pastor: Bruce Zimmerman
P: 641-869-3838
Sunday- 9 a.m. Worship, 9:45 a.m. Bible class
St. Paul's Lutheran Church
Pastor: Vicar Lisa Robison
P: 641-869-3992
9:15 a.m. Worship, 8 a.m. Sunday School
United Reformed Church
Pastor: Joel Worries
P: 641-869-3633
Sunday- 9:00 a.m. Worship; 3:30 or 7 p.m. afternoon worship
Wellsburg Reformed Church
P: 641-869-3316
Sunday- 9:00 a.m. Worship Service in the Park
Randy Aalderks

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Legal Notices

Table with columns for company names and amounts under 'ACCESS SYSTEMS LEASING'.

REGULAR MEETING June 14, 2023

ACKLEY CITY COUNCIL met in regular session June 14, 2023 in the Ackley Council Chambers with Mayor Michael Nuss presiding.

Roger Kregel, from Dumont Telephone, presented the Council with the route the fiber optic project would run in town.

Abbas moved, Crawford seconded to approve the AVAS budget amendment due to pursuing the merger details.

Abbas moved, Flores seconded to pass Resolution 23-22 Authorizing Mayor signing Acceptance of Award for FFY2022 CWSRF Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) General Supplemental Grant.

approve payment to Affordable Tree Service in the amount of \$5,200. for tree removal services.

Abbas moved, Scallion seconded to approve payment to Office of Auditor of State in the amount of \$7,421.21.

Abbas moved, Scallion seconded to approve payment to Dorsey and Whitney in the amount of \$13,000.

lieve that personnel was here to assist them all hours of the day. Crawford moved, Flores seconded to approve selling the sellable products with a bidding process.

Abbas moved, Scallion seconded to approve pay estimate #1 in the amount of \$78,208.75 to Woodruff Construction for Equalization Basin Project.

Abbas moved, Flores seconded to approve payment to Carrio Aquatic Resources in the amount of \$4,291.42 for pool chemicals.

Table with columns for company names and amounts under 'BOOKS/SHIPPING'.

Table with columns for company names and amounts under 'OFFICE OF AUDITOR OF STATE'.

Table with columns for company names and amounts under 'WATER EXCISE TAX'.

Table with columns for company names and amounts under 'EMERGENCY FUND'.

SPECIAL MEETING June 21, 2023

ACKLEY CITY COUNCIL met in special session June 21, 2023 at 7:00 pm in the Ackley Council Chambers with Mayor Michael Nuss.

Discussion on Well #2. Tom Engelsen from Northway Well and Pump Co. presented Council with some options on the well and its productivity.

Robert I. Warner Estate Auction FRIDAY, JULY 21, 2023 at 10:00 AM. Auction to be held at the Warner farm located at 19072 KK Avenue, Iowa Falls, Iowa.

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Briefs

BB Brackets released

The AGWSR Cougars will travel to Maxwell for a July 1 Class 1A First Round District game against Collins-Maxwell. The winner will face either Baxter or Madrid on July 5 at a site to be determined. Both games are slated for 7 p.m.

The District Final will be played on July 8, with the Substate 2 Championship on July 11 at a site to be determined. The eight Substate champions will play in the State Tournament July 17-21 in Carroll.

All host sites will utilize digital sales through the IHSAA Tickets page. Cost of all district games is \$6 and \$8 for Substate finals.

SB matchups set

The AGWSR Cougars will host Janesville in a Class 1A Regional first round game on June 30. The winner moves on to the quarterfinal against Clarksville in Clarksville on July 5. Both games are slated for 7 p.m.

The semifinals are scheduled in Clarksville on July 7 and will include either Don Bosco, Dunkerton, BCLUW or North Tama - also at 7 p.m.

The bottom half of the Region Six bracket includes North Butler, Nashua-Plainfield, Mason City Newman, Saint Ansgar, Rockford and Riceville.

The Regional title game title game will be July 10 at 7 p.m. at the site of the highest remaining ranked team. The June 22 IGHSAA Rankings listed Clarksville at seven and Newman at 13.

All-State tracksters named

The AGWSR girls placed a pair of relays on the Class 1A Iowa Association of Track Coaches All-State Team. The 4x400 (Piper Smith, Karis Lippert, Elise Olson, Brynn Smith) finished second (4:03.52) at the state meet, as did the Cougars' 4x800 relay (9:48.60) consisting of P. Smith, Tori Metzgar, B. Smith and Lippert.

AGWSR Girls Head Coach Eric Olson was one of the At-Large selections for Class 1A Coach of the Year, which was awarded to Jaime Knoche and Jessica Steines - both co-head coaches of Calamus Wheatland.

A pair of Iowa Falls-Alden track and field student-athletes were also listed.

Senior sprinter Jazz Dagal was named to the Girls All-State team in the Class 2A 100 meter dash, after finishing second (12.52) during May's State Track and Field Championships. Dagal also closed her high school career with a sixth place effort (26.03) in the 200 meters.

Cadet junior Jaden Damiano earned a spot on the Class 2A 110 hurdle all-state list following his state championship win (14.20) last month. Damiano was also named to the Elite All-State 110 meter hurdle team after recording the second fastest time in all classes at the state meet. He also earned a spot on the 400 meter hurdle all-state squad after finishing second in 55.51. ●

Tigers stymie Cougars

AGWSR drops 6-3 loop tilt to SH

BY COREY MEINTS
CMEINTS@IAFALLS.COM

AGWSR head coach Dave Showalter said, after his Cougars (3-13, 2-8) fell to South Hardin Thursday night in Ackley, that the Tigers (9-18, 2-10) are better than their record.

The visitors certainly showed that they were - for one game, anyway, as the Cougars could not take advantage of SH's odd day and lost 6-3.

At 11 a.m., the Tigers played and lost a make-up game with East Marshall in Eldora. Just before 7 p.m., they took the field in Ackley. Whatever they did with what little time they had before getting on the bus, worked.

The Tigers pounced early, scoring four in the first. Ryan Walters started the barrage with a one-out walk. He ended up on third as Josh Lozano wound up on second with a fielder's choice error. A single by Drury plated a run. Another fielder's choice, this by McKale McGonigal, scored the second. Drury and McGonigal then scored on an error off the bat of Jake Teske.

Drury got out of a bit of a jam in the bottom of the verse, thanks to the first of three inning-ending (four total) double plays. SH added two insurance runs in the fourth on four singles.

AGWSR finally got to Drury in the bottom of the inning. Bradley Roder led it off with a walk, then moved to second on a Ryley Bohner single and scored on an Easton Kerns base rap. The Cougar stranded a runner after Colin Willems reached on a fielder's choice when the Tigers turned an unconventional double play. A sharp Ryne Pickering liner was snagged by Drury who turned and threw out Bohner out at third.

The hosts then sent five batters to the plate and had the bases loaded in the seventh before Huntley pulled Drury. Reliever Josh Lozano promptly hit Bohner with a pitch to score a run. An error scored another before third baseman Walters made a spectacular grab and throw to gun down Willems for the final out.

For Showalter, the loss was another rough one to take. But he gives the credit to the Tigers.

"They've had a lot of close games with high quality competition," Showalter said. "That was a heck of a play at



COREY MEINTS/ACKLEY WORLD JOURNAL

Landon Benning fields a dribbler back to him on the mound before turning to throw to first. While he got the out, the Cougars fell to South Hardin in Ackley late last week.

South Hardin 6, AGWSR 3

June 22 at Ackley
S. Hardin: 4 0 0 2 0 0 0 - 6 7 4
AGWSR: 0 0 0 1 0 0 2 - 3 3 2

WP: Jaxson Drury (S) 6.2IP 3H 3R 2ER 8BB 5K; Josh Lozano .1IP 0H 0R 0ER 0BB 0K

LP: Bo Gerbracht (S) 3.2IP 7H 6R 4ER 1BB 3K; Landon Benning 3.1IP 0H 0R 0ER 0BB 3K

Hitting: (AGWSR) Ryley Bohner 1-2 RBI; Easton Kerns 1-4 RBI; Bradley Roder 1-4 R (SH) Ryan Walters 1-3 R RBI; McKale McGonigal 1-3 R RBI; Peyton Welch 1-3 R

the end. I told the kids that sometimes the ball bounces your way and sometimes they don't. Tonight, they didn't. But we knew what we were doing with the ball tonight and we did it with purpose. I like that. It just didn't work out for us."

Showalter said he will need to see more of that

now that the end of the season is in sight. AGWSR has a doubleheader with East Marshall then conference crossover contests with Sumner-Fredricksburg and Aplington-Parkersburg before opening the postseason. He feels their bracket is doable, with top-ranked Mason City Newman the

odds-on favorite. AGWSR's first round and potential second round are winnable if, Showalter said, his team finally puts together that elusive full game. Having played a schedule of predominantly Class 2A competition, he is hoping the run in 1A produces better results.

"There isn't a night off with our schedule, but I said to the guys that we're going back down to 1A ball," Showalter said. "It's a very competitive bracket, but I told the kids that that Saturday morning, everybody is 0-0. We're trending in a direction that makes me feel good. It hasn't resulted in wins, obviously, which sucks." ●

Royalty rules in Ackley

AGWSR bows 12-4 to NICL-West queens

BY MARISSA VANWINGEN
MVANWINGEN@IAFALLS.COM

Before the season started, the South Hardin Tigers were the odds-on favorite to win the North Iowa Cedar League-West. Heading into Thursday's tilt in Ackley, they had already secured that crown.

Both the Tigers (23-6, 8-1) and host AGWSR Cougars (7-16, 3-5) were looking to build momentum with the post-season just over a week away. SH certainly did in a 12-4 win to secure the three-game season series sweep, while the Cougars built some late.

The visitors scratched two runs across in the first on an error, walk and then a two RBI mishap off the bat of Ellie Anderson.

The Tigers added to their lead in the third. SH (23-6, 8-1) opened with hits by Alyssa Kix and Charlee Rosonke. A single by Hailey Rosonke plated one and a two RBI knock by E. Anderson scored two more. Grace Eller had her first of three hits but was left stranded at second.

The Cougars (7-16, 3-5) ended H. Rosonke's no-hitter in the bottom of the frame on an Avery Lafrenz hit but courtesy runner Catelynn Koop was caught stealing and AGWSR went three-up, three-down.

The Tigers added two more in the fourth. E. Anderson and G. Eller both had RBI singles to score Taya Hollingsworth and courtesy runner Madi Stille. The lead swelled to 8-0 in the fifth. Lucy Anderson smoked a double and Hollingsworth was walked for the second time. L. Anderson went to



MARISSA VANWINGEN/ACKLEY WORLD JOURNAL

Elise Olson and the AGWSR Cougars were out at home last Thursday as the ranked South Hardin Tigers took a 12-4 North Iowa Cedar League-West win. The Tigers already had the conference title on lock.

South Hardin 12, AGWSR 4

June 22 at Ackley
S. Hardin: 2 0 3 2 1 2 2 - 12 13 3
AGWSR: 0 0 0 0 0 1 3 - 4 4 4

WP: Hailey Rosonke 7IP 4H 4R 1ER 4K

LP: Sidney Schafer (L) 7IP 13H 12R 6ER 4BB 4K

Hitting: (AGWSR) Avery Lafrenz 2-3, Tori Metzgar 1-3 1RBI (SH) Ellie Anderson 3-4 5RBI, Grace Eller 3-5 3RBI

third on a passed ball and stole home.

Two more runs were plated by SH in the sixth on hits from H. Rosonke and E. Anderson, an Alli Sheldahl knock and an Ayda Eller sacrifice fly scored two.

Trailing 10-0 and needing something to

keep the game going, the Cougars finally got on the board in the sixth. Lafrenz's double eventually scored on a sacrifice fly to center by Cali Buseman.

The Tigers plated two in the seventh on hits by Hollingsworth and Kix. E. Anderson was intentionally walked to juice

the bags and G. Eller hit a two-run single. E. Anderson got caught in a pickle between second and third for the third out.

Down by 11 with three outs, AGWSR very well could have just let the game be over, but they started to make contact and put the ball in play in the final frame. Two errors and a single by Elise Olson loaded the bases. One run scored on a passed ball and another on a flyout to short. A single by Tori Metzgar scored the third run but that's where it ended. ●

Cougars get closer in loss

D-NH holds on for 4-3 win

BY COREY MEINTS
CMEINTS@IAFALLS.COM

Even though it was a fifth-straight loss for the AGWSR Cougars (3-12) at home Wednesday night, head coach Dave Showalter was happy. Or at least relieved a bit.

Despite falling 4-3 to the Dike-New Hartford Wolverines (14-7), Showalter saw what he's been wanting to see - both of-

fense and defense coming together.

"This gives us a great opportunity to see what we can be, especially against top quality competition," Showalter said. "This had to be one of our more complete games this season. It's not what you want in the win-loss column, but it gives us the idea of what we can do when we play a relative-



Dike-New Hartford 4, AGWSR 3

June 21 at Ackley
D-NH: 0 0 2 0 0 0 2 - 4 9 1
AGWSR: 2 0 0 0 1 0 0 - 3 9 2

LP: Ryne Pickering 1.1IP 2H 2R 1ER 3BB 0K; Tristen Dennis (S) 5IP 7H 2R 2ER 3BB 3K; Ryley Bohner .2IP 0H 0R 0ER 0BB 1K

Hitting: Kaden Abbas 2-3 R; Bradley Roder 2-4; Bo Gerbracht 1-3 2B R; Ryley Bohner 1-4 R 2RBI

ly clean, near-complete game."

AGWSR opened a 2-0 lead in the home first. The Cougars loaded the bases with a single by Bradley Roder and walks to Kaden Abbas and Bo Gerbracht. While Roder was forced at home on a Landon Ben-

ning fielder's choice, both runs scored on a Ryley Bohner fielder's choice a batter later.

The visiting Wolverines tied it in the third on three singles and a walk. The lead went back to the hosts in the fifth with Bohner lacing a one-out single

and scoring three batters later on a base knock by Lane Rose.

But when D-NH scored two in the seventh on two singles and an error, and AGWSR stranded Colin Willems, those runs were the difference. Still, Showalter felt this was the performance his team needed.

"We avoided the long innings, or pitchers did a nice job for us, and we made plays in the field," Showalter said. "And our bats were going well, too. We still left some runners on, but put ourselves in a position." ●

Schedule

BASEBALL
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 28
 Parkersburg/5 p.m.
 AGWSR vs. Aplington-Parkersburg
SATURDAY, JULY 1
 Maxwell/7 p.m.
 AGWSR vs. Collins-Maxwell
 Class 1A District Quarterfinals
WEDNESDAY, JULY 5
 TBD/7 p.m.
 TBD vs. TBD
 Class 1A District Semifinals
SATURDAY, JULY 8
 TBD/7 p.m.
 TBD vs. TBD
 Class 1A District Finals
TUESDAY, JULY 11
 TBD/7 p.m.
 TBD vs. TBD
 Class 1A Substate Finals
JULY 17-21
 Carroll/TBD
 Class 1A State Championships

SOFTBALL
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 28
 Parkersburg/5 p.m.
 AGWSR vs. Aplington-Parkersburg
FRIDAY, JUNE 30
 Ackley/7 p.m.
 AGWSR vs. Janesville
 Class 1A Regional First Round
WEDNESDAY, JULY 5
 Clarksville/7 p.m.
 TBD vs. Clarksville
 Class 1A Regional Quarterfinal
FRIDAY, JULY 7
 Clarksville/7 p.m.
 TBD vs. TBD
 Class 1A Regional Semifinal
MONDAY, JULY 10
 TBD/7 p.m.
 TBD vs. TBD
 Class 1A Regional Final
JULY 17-21
 Fort Dodge/TBD
 Class 1A State Championships

For updated schedules, go to www.northiowacedarleague.org



COREY MEINTS/ACKLEY WORLD JOURNAL

Tessa Sperfslage scored twice in the first game for the AGWSR Cougars, including this run, early. The Cougars beat Grundy Center in both games in Ackley last week.

Sweep ends skid

AGWSR takes two from GC

BY COREY MEINTS
 CMEINTS@IAFALLS.COM

The AGWSR Cougars (7-14, 3-4) and Grundy Center Spartans (4-18, 1-7) were both in dire need of a win entering their doubleheader in Ackley on Monday. The hosts came in with a six-game losing streak, the visitors with a 10-game slide.

GC had dibs on ending their streak first, holding a 6-5 lead midway through the sixth inning. Then AGWSR erupted and the Spartans fell apart. An eight-run frame lifted the hosts to a 13-8 game one win. In a different kind of drama,

NICL-WEST SOFTBALL

June 19 at Ackley
GAME ONE
 G. Center: 2 2 0 2 0 0 2 - 8 9 6
 AGWSR: 0 2 0 2 1 8 x - 13 7 6
WP: Sidney Schafer 7IP 9H 8R 4ER 1BB 2K
LP: Allison Koch 1IP 3H 8RAER 4BB 0K; Lucy Lebo (S) 4.1IP 3H 5R 3ER 7BB 3K; Ava Olson .2IP 0H 0R 0ER 2BB 1K
Hitting: (AGWSR) Elise Olson 2-3 2B R RBI; Tori Metzgar 1-1 2B R RBI; Tessa Sperfslage 1-4 2B 2R (GC) Carlie Willis 2-4 R 3RBI; Maddy Hendershot 2-4 2B; Koch 2-4 2B RBI

GAME TWO
 G. Center: 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 - 0 8 1
 AGWSR: 0 2 0 0 0 0 x - 2 5 1
WP: Sidney Schafer 7IP 8H 0R 0ER 0BB 2K
LP: Maddy Hendershot 6IP 5H 2R 2ER 5BB 7K
Hitting: (AGWSR) Elise Olson 2-3; Ava Olson 1-1 R; Schafer 1-2; Trevyn Smith 1-4 (GC) Carlie Willis 3-4 2B; Hendershot 3-4; Lauren Zajac 2-3

the Cougars scored two early and made it hold up in a 2-0 nightcap

win. The sweep gave AGWSR the three-game season series edge after falling 4-1 in Grundy Center earlier this season.

"It's hard to explain how badly we needed the wins," AGWSR head coach Brock Holmgaard said. "We had a tough week last week with six games in four days. Two of those games were against a rated 2A team a one against a top-10 1A team. We just really struggle with confidence, and tonight helped with that. We know we can win the close ones, and we can come from behind."

AGWSR batted around the order plus four in the sixth inning of game one. They benefited from three GC errors, scored on three wild pitches, and collected two hits to go along with six walks.

"Before the sixth we just

talked about being patient at the plate and swinging at pitches we could hit," Holmgaard said. "The girls did a great job of fouling off two strike pitches that were close and getting the pitch they could hit or earning walks. We had a ton of long at bats tonight, which is good to see considering we haven't had many of those this year."

The hosts struck first in the nightcap - scoring two runs on a pair of hits and three walks - and made it last.

"Sidney Schafer threw a great game," Holmgaard said. "She gave up a few hits in a couple of innings, but she didn't let it rattle her. She would get a pop-up or ground balls and our defense did a great job getting the lead runner when we needed to. Otherwise, they all stayed composed and made the plays they needed to." ●

Wolverines take big bite

AGWSR falls 12-1 in six

BY COREY MEINTS
 CMEINTS@IAFALLS.COM

AGWSR's modest two-game winning streak - a doubleheader sweep two nights earlier - was snapped by the Dike-New Hartford Wolverines in Ackley Wednesday night.

D-NH (19-6) scored all they would need in the North Iowa Cedar League crossover game with three runs in the top of the first. That led to a 12-1 win in six innings over the Cougars (7-15).

Despite the fourth double-dig-it loss in the last seven games, Holmgaard remains optimistic as the postseason approaches.

"We are doing a lot of good things this year," AGWSR head coach Brock Holmgaard said. "I just need to figure out how to get the girls to string hits together consistently. If we can figure that out, we will be a tough out for anyone this postseason."

The Wolverines started by scoring three runs on three hits and two Cougar errors in the first inning.

AGWSR's early struggles continued in the second as the Wolverines added two more runs with two hits and another error. The Cougars got their run in the third after Tori Metzgar led off with a single, stole second, then scored on a one-out Trevyn Smith ground out.

The Cougars would have just three more base runners the rest of the night. Meanwhile, D-NH added the finishing touches over the next three innings, with three in the fourth and two in both the fifth and sixth.

"They're a good team. they hit the ball well, and they don't make mistakes defensively," said Holmgaard. "I didn't do a great job tonight, making sure the girls were ready to play!" ●



Dike-New Hartford 12, AGWSR 1
June 21 at Ackley
 D-NH: 3 2 0 3 2 2 0 - 12 12 1
 AGWSR: 0 0 1 0 0 0 0 - 1 3 4
LP: Sidney Schafer (S) 4IP 8H 8R 3ER 1BB 3K; Avery Lafrenz 2IP 4H 4R 3ER 3BB 0K
Hitting: Trevyn Smith 1-3 RBI; Schafer 1-3; Tori Metzgar 1-2

Hard tumble at home

AGWSR ended early as GC takes pair

BY COREY MEINTS
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The AGWSR Cougars (3-11, 2-7) could get nothing going on their home diamond in Ackley Tuesday night. They collected just six hits and scored one run in a doubleheader that was pushed back a day due to the lack of umpires. The end result was a pair of losses, 10-0 and 17-1 against the Grundy Center Spartans (13-3, 8-1).

Both games ended in the fifth inning. Both games also started rather inconspicuously with no runs scored in the first inning. AGWSR did get a leadoff hit from starting pitcher Bradley Roder, but he was stranded on second. That was one of just two hits in game one for the hosts.

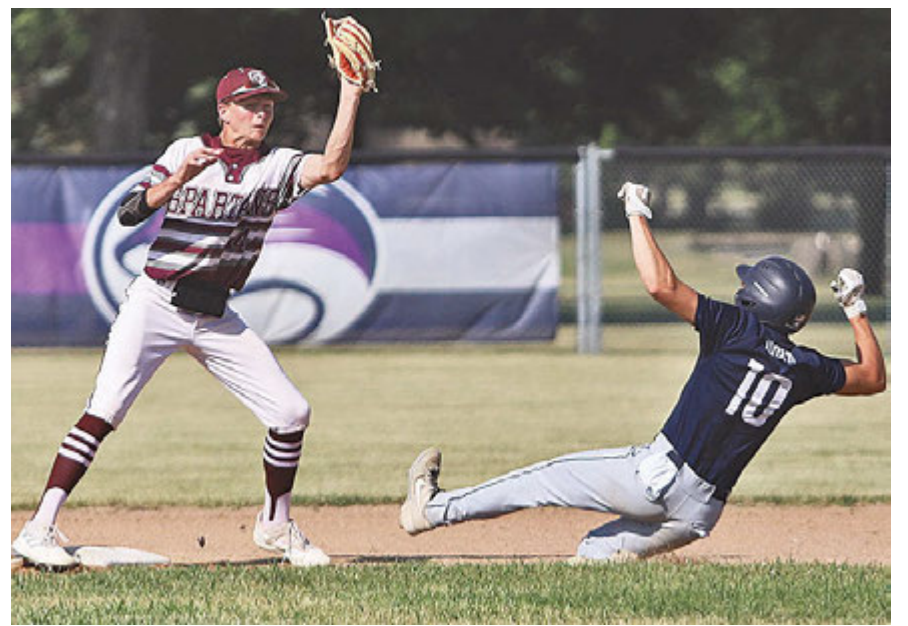
GC broke the ice in the second with three runs, all on two outs. Back-to-back walks kept the inning alive and an error plated one of them. A passed ball scored the other. The error was followed by another walk and a single, which plated the third run.

The Spartans added on in the third, putting four more on the board with three hits and two of AGWSR's six errors. The visitors closed it out with two in the fourth on a hit with two walks and two more miscues, and one in the fifth on two hits and an error with two outs.

The Cougars nearly struck first in the nightcap, but left two runners on after Roder again led off - this time with a single - and Kaden Abbas walked.

GC again opened the scoring in the second, but only with one run - the first of two Tate Jirovsky home runs to left in the game. The Spartans pushed 10 runs across in the third with seven hits and a pair of Cougar errors.

But an 11-0 game became 11-1 as AGWSR scored its first and only run of the night in the bottom of the verse. It came with a two-out walk to



COREY MEINTS/ACKLEY WORLD JOURNAL

Bradly Roder stole this base but the visiting Grundy Center Spartans swiped both ends of a conference doubleheader in Ackley last week.

NICL-WEST BASEBALL

Tuesday at Ackley
GAME ONE
 G. Center: 0 3 4 2 1 - 10 10 0
 AGWSR: 0 0 0 0 0 - 0 2 6
WP: Tate Jirovsky (S) 2.2IP 2H 0R 0ER 0BB 5K; Ryker Thoren 2IP 0H 0R 0ER 0BB 2K; Brayden Davie .1IP 0H 0R 0ER 0BB 1K
LP: LP: Bradly Roder (S) 2.1IP 6H 7R 4ER 3BB 3K; Collin Willems 1.2IP 1H 2R 0ER 1BB 3K; Ryley Bohner .1IP 2H 1R 0ER 0BB 1K
Hitting: (AGWSR) Roder 1-2; Bohner 1-2 (GC) Tanner Laube 3-4 2-2B R RBI; Patrick Brown III 2-3 2B RBI

GAME TWO
 G. Center: 0 1 10 1 5 - 17 11 1
 AGWSR: 0 0 1 0 0 - 1 4 4
WP: Jaren Lauver (S) 3.1IP 4H 1R 1ER 3BB 5K; Tanner Laube 1.2IP 1H 0R 0ER 1BB 1K
LP: Kaden Abbas (S) 2.2IP 3H 8R 3ER 2BB 2K; Landon Benning 1.1IP 3H 4R 1ER 1BB 2K; Bo Gerbracht .2IP 5H 5R 3ER 2BB 0K; Easton Kerns .1IP 0H 0R 0ER 0BB 1K
Hitting: (AGWSR) Gerbracht 1-1 R; Benning 1-2; Bradly Roder 1-3; Ryley Bohner 1-2 (GC) Tate Jirovsky 3-3 2HR 4R 3RBI; Patrick Brown III 2-4 2B 3RBI; Judd Jirovsky 2-4 2B R 2RBI

Bo Gerbracht and singles by Landon Benning and Ryley Bohner.

GC got that run back in the fourth on Jirovsky's second homer. The Spartans ended their night at the plate

with five runs in the fifth on three hits and two more Cougar errors. They then ended AGWSR's night stranding Benning on first after he singled.

AGWSR head Dave Showalter used three pitchers in game one and four in game two. He said that didn't help with the rhythm of the game. But that aside, he said his squad just couldn't get its footing against a very good Spartan team. GC scored 14 runs with two outs over the doubleheader.

"I told our guys, when you have the opportunity to get out of those innings, you have to do it," Showalter said. "Grundy played two clean games and that's what we need to strive to do. The unfortunate thing for us right now, and it starts with me, is we haven't put a full game together yet. When we have a nice game in the field and pitching, we don't get un support. When we get runs, we don't get the other. We have to continue to work towards that and get ready for whoever we draw for the postseason." ●