

**EDITORIAL**



**Wow, what a weekend!**

Walking in downtown Orange City the other day, a couple of stray thoughts intruded, and from them comes a couple of comments.

Wouldn't it be fun to have a post-festival street and sidewalk washing?

In the absence of a good spring rain after our annual bash, there were plenty of remnants on the sidewalks and Central Avenue.

That, it seemed to me, begged for one more pass by the energetic volunteers that make the festival so much fun.

I can see it now. A conglomeration of enthusiastic residents, armed with every kind of implement available, working their way from one end of Central Avenue downtown, having a good time making the street and sidewalks sparkle one more time.

Is there a good way to get a halfway close estimate of how many people attended the festival?

I know, it's a lot of work to come up with a count, to pin jelly to a tree, given the free-for-all fun the festival affords. And, goodness knows, it's fun to debate over coffee how many folks showed up for the celebration and roll out the old saying, "Just count the legs and divide by two."

Any ideas out there?

While I'm on the subject, here's a hearty thank-you to all who make this annual festival so much fun for town residents and people who make the trip to taste Orange City's heritage and hospitality.

The car show (count the tires and divide by four?) and carnival were stupendous on Wednesday. Thursday was a bit smoky (thank you, faraway forest fires) but that didn't see to faze overly much. Friday was cold, but it's easier to find a sweater or coat rather than braving rain, which didn't show this year. Saturday was an absolutely gorgeous day. And, on Sunday, the faith community provided an exclamation mark.

I heard it more than once from the visitors I encountered. They were amazed at the level of coordination they witnessed and the friendliness of city residents. Kudos to the festival steering committee and the huge number (how many are there, anyway?) of volunteers who made the 2023 Tulip Festival the success it was.

— Doug Calsbeek  
Co-Editor

**Immigrants add to our community**

Dear Editor,

Three things came together in an interesting way the weekend of May 13. Friday, as I watched the Iowa Press on PBS, Gov. Kim Reynolds was asked how she was responding to the conviction of Donald Trump for abuse and character defamation. Her answer was something like, "We need to stop the immigrant influx at the border." She passionately claimed that much of the Fentanyl being smuggled across the border is ending up in Iowa and hurting our citizens. With one brush, Gov. Reynolds painted our immigrant population as scary drug smugglers.

Saturday morning, Rep. Randy Feenstra hosted Gov. Reynolds and Florida Gov. Ron De Santis at his Feenstra Family Picnic in Sioux Center.

According to Sioux City television news coverage that evening, the "loudest applause" that morning had been for De Santis who said "we need to build that wall."

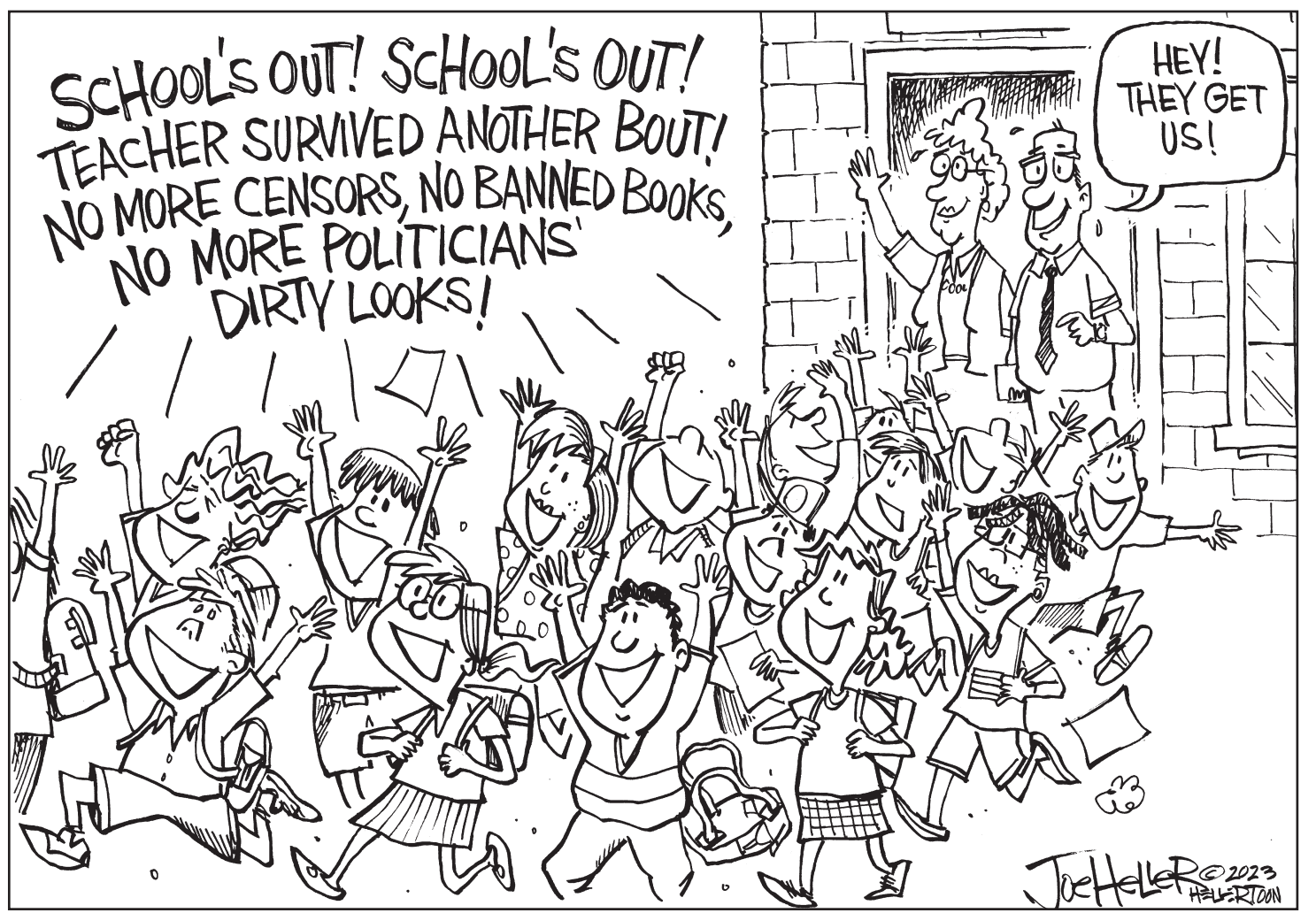
Saturday morning, at the same time as the Feenstra event, our church hosted a swap meet for the church neighborhood. Church members brought all kinds of good used stuff, (furniture, bikes, toys, household items, snow shovels, vegetable plants) and invited the church neighbors to take what they could use for free. Many of our neighbors are immigrants and many families from the Guatemalan church were there. With smiles and obvious gratitude, they took what they needed, things they had not been able to carry as they made, often walking the 4,000 mile trip to cross our southern border and make their home here.

Call me naive, but they looked like good people to me. Two sets of golf clubs, a weightlifting bench and women's purses and jewelry were about the only things left over. Oh yes, and several suitcases. Many of us hope they have traveled far enough.

Jeri Schelhaas  
Sioux Center

**American Legion Auxiliary News**

ORANGE CITY — The American Legion Auxiliary Unit #329 Orange City post will meet Monday, June 5 at the Pizza Ranch in Orange City at 6:00 p.m. Program will be the installation of officers and deciding support for veterans.



**RAMBLINGS** Creative Aging: The Great Unretirement

By CAROL VAN KLOMPENBURG

"You are never too old to set a new goal or dream a new dream."  
—C.S. Lewis

During the pandemic, eight million people lost or left their jobs. The percentage of retirement-age people in the work force dropped. But, thanks to a waning pandemic, a thriving job market, and a soaring cost of living (8.7 percent in 2022), retirees are returning to work in what some call "The Great Unretirement."

The percentage of retirement-age people now in the workforce has almost reached the pre-pandemic levels. Twenty percent of them are currently working. In one survey, 68 percent of those who retired during the pandemic said they were considering returning to work.

Twenty-seven percent of retirees returning to employment say they are doing so for financial reasons. Some feel the pinch of inflation. Others realize that their retirements are underfunded. They have not saved enough to last through an extended retirement period.

Some retirees choose jobs in grocery stores, bookstores, or movie theaters, which offer them discounts on merchandise, and so they save on expenses.

Not everyone returns to work for financial reasons, however. Sixty percent of those returning to employment say they are looking for something to do. Endless recreational time looked good from a distance, but some retirees find themselves bored with too much time on their hands. Some want a way to feel useful. Others like the idea of doing something and getting paid for it.

Although people rarely think of physical health as a reason to return to work or continue working, there is evidence of its physical benefits. A job in which you are physically active can contribute to fitness and weight loss. Working is more beneficial

to health than watching TV all day every day. One study reveals people who work one year beyond age 65 have an 11 percent lower risk of death than those who retire at 65.

Employment can provide needed social interaction that can lift your spirits and build a support system. And there is evidence that having an active social life contributes to healthy aging.

A job also reduces cognitive decline, helping us to stay mentally sharp. It provides an opportunity to both mentor and be mentored. A study of nearly half a million people in France revealed that for each additional year of work, the risk of dementia was reduced by 3.2 percent.

People who return to a job are also contributing to the greater good through their work, and it helps boost both the economy and Social Security. Forty-two percent of retirees say having a purpose is crucial to them. Often they choose to work for nonprofits, in the educational system, or as coaches.

Some retirees turn a lifelong hobby or personal activity into a part-time income. Others leverage their previous job skills in new jobs or become consultants in their area of expertise.

In a robust job market, employers value mature staff members, who tend to be skilled at problem solving, as well as dependable and loyal. The options of part-time employment and working from home have both expanded. Some people who are unretiring appreciate avoiding the hassle and cost of commuting to jobs. For others the social benefit of in-person work outweighs the cost.

If you retired before reaching your full retirement age, however, returning to employment may reduce your Social Security income. It may also put you in a higher tax bracket. Consult a financial adviser about the financial impact of returning to work if you have not yet reached full retirement age.

Unretiring is not for everyone, but some older adults find it adds to their lives financially, personally, and socially.

**TWO REUNIONS, 50 YEARS IN THE MAKING**

SIoux CENTER — Two reunions 50 years in the making happened last week in Sioux Center.

Kathy (Hutt) Van Der Heide, Dordt University Class of 1973, got to participate in her Golden Reunion on May 18 as well as reunite with her host mom, 98-year-old Margaret Feekes of Sioux Center.

Fifty years ago, Kathy left her hometown of Goshen, N.Y. and traveled over a thousand miles to study elementary education at Dordt College. She only went back to New York at Christmas, which meant she had to rely on those in the Sioux Center community for support, like the Feekes family.

"Mrs. Feekes would regularly have me over for Sunday dinner, and their family would let me bring some friends along," she recalls. "I didn't have a car while I was here, so they'd help me run errands. They became my second set of parents while I was at Dordt."

Years have passed since Kathy graduated from Dordt. She got married and moved to Dorr, Mich., where she eventually began work in accounting and raised three sons. But she never forgot about the kindness that the Feekes family showed her during her four years at Dordt.

On her drive from Dorr to Dordt to attend the 50th class reunion, she thought about Margaret Feekes and the impact the family had had on her life. She wondered, could Mrs. Feekes still be alive?

After making a few phone calls, Kathy was able to reconnect with the Feekes family and set up a time to get together during her visit to Sioux Center. She was able to reunite with 98-year-old Margaret Feekes, which was a special blessing.

"We hugged and kissed; it was just sweet," says Kathy. "To think that after 50 years, I could come back and visit with her. She's still

as sharp as a tack and has a great sense of humor."

"It was really wonderful to see Kathy again," says Margaret Feekes. "We had a lot to reminisce about. Over the years, we were able to make long trips to see one another, but it had been about 14 years since I'd seen her last."

"I was sure I wouldn't see her this side of heaven again," adds Kathy. "But this just goes to show that friendships are really important no matter what part of life you're living. God brings people in and out of your life. I've been so blessed by other people, like the Feekes family. I want to be a blessing to others, too. Margaret kept saying, 'I can't believe you came to see me.' I asked her, 'Why wouldn't I? You've been such a blessing in my life.' It was very special to reconnect with her, after 50 years."



**GET YOUR SIOUX COUNTY CAPITAL-DEMOCRAT TODAY!**

Scan the codes to the right with your phone to pay online. Or tear out this form and send it in with your check!

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

\$29 Senior Citizen One-year subscription in Sioux, Plymouth, O'Brien and Lyon Counties

\$30 One-year subscription in Sioux, Plymouth, O'Brien and Lyon Counties.

\$36 One-year regular or senior citizen subscription elsewhere in the United States

**SEND CHECKS TO:** Pluim Publishing, 113 Central Ave. SE., Orange City, IA 51041  
Or call in and talk to Amy with credit card information. Ph. 737-4266

**CONTRIBUTE TO OUR PAPER!**

We are looking for submissions to "My Turn," the column that is intended to give you, the reader, a chance to have your say.

Please do your best to keep your submissions to a length appropriate to the space provided, for example, two pages, double spaced or 600 words.

You may e-mail them to pluimpub@gmail.com with "My Turn" in the subject line or send them to or drop them off at Pluim Publishing, 113 Central Ave. S.E., Orange City, IA 51041-1738.

We reserve the right to not publish if we find material inappropriate. We also reserve the right to edit.

**SIOUX COUNTY CAPITAL-DEMOCRAT**

(USPS 497-300) is published weekly by Pluim Publishing Inc., 113 Central Ave. SE, Orange City, IA 51041.  
Phone: (712) 737-4266 • Fax: (712) 737-3896 • E-mail: pluimpub@gmail.com  
Periodical postage paid at Orange City, IA.

**Postmaster:** Send address changes to The Sioux County Capital-Democrat - 113 Central Ave. SE, Orange City, IA 51041

**Publisher:** Dale Pluim **Editors:** Doug Calsbeek & Sarah Weber  
**Layout/Design/Photo and Ad Development:** Kaitlyn Morley & Devyn Driesen

The Democrat was entered as periodical matter under an act of Congress March 2, 1879. Periodical postage paid at Orange City. Since 1882 it has been the principal newspaper in Sioux County. The Capital has a 100-year history of serving local readers.