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 \$1.25

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SIoux CENTER NEWS

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Saxophones are challenging to work on, according to Jessi Rose, who maintains and fixes woodwind and brass instruments at M & J Musical Instrument Repair. Photo by Eric Sandbulte

Ending those sour notes

Musical instrument repair business takes off

BY ERIC SANDBULTE
 ESANDBULTE@NWESTIOWA.COM

Music doesn't just happen; it takes years of diligent practice and honed skill. It also takes a well-cared-for instrument. While it's up to the musicians to take care of the talent portion, Jessi Rose is lending her skills to help ensure that musical instruments are ready for the next big perfor-

mance. Rose started M & J Musical Instrument Repair in 2019 as a way to quickly fix damaged woodwind or brass instruments, as well as provide routine maintenance, but the small business has grown in the last year. While there are other repair businesses in Sioux City and Sioux Falls, sometimes a local option is needed.

"I just did emergency stuff for schools because Midbell comes

up here every week and picks up things and then brings them back the next week. But that's a whole week. For emergency stuff, I was able to do quick turn-arounds," she said. "I've done a couple things like that. Now that it's summer, no emergencies, but I still have a lot of instruments coming in, and that's been great."

The business is named after her and the family's dog, Molly, a

see **MUSIC** on page A4

A fresh face starts as Subway owner

Sioux Center store is fourth for franchisee

BY RENEE WIELENGA
 RWIELENGA@NWESTIOWA.COM

July marks six months of ownership change for Subway in four communities.

Graham Zomermaand, 26, of Sioux Center took over ownership of the franchise in Sioux Center, Orange City, Rock Valley and Hull on Feb. 1, a position previously held by Kyle Hiemstra of Sioux Center.

"It's been a challenging and exciting time," Zomermaand said.

His background includes some restaurant ownership experience with 1000 Degrees Pizza in Sioux City, which he bought in April 2021. Before that, the 2019 Northwestern College graduate worked as a certified public accountant for Van Bruggen & Vande Vegte, P.C., which has offices in three Sioux County communities.

"I could tell I didn't want to do that the rest of my life," he said. "As I looked ahead at my future and I realized I wanted to switch things up a bit and

see **SUBWAY** on page A5



July marks six months that Graham Zomermaand of Sioux Center has owned four Sioux County Subway locations, including Sioux Center. Photo by Renee Wielenga

Rafa's Famous Fades finds new place to call home

Barber wants it to be a place for everyone

BY ERIC SANDBULTE
 ESANDBULTE@NWESTIOWA.COM

When Rafael Maldonado started his barbershop, Rafa's Famous Fades, March 8, 2020, he did so with the goal of creating a place where everyone would feel welcome. Three years later, he's made good on that, has seen his business grow and has

moved to a new location. "The people here keep it going," Maldonado said.

The 30-year-old made the move from downtown Sioux Center to the former Cost Cutters at 1617 First Ave. SW on March 1. It's a move Maldonado hopes will benefit his business with increased walk-ins and visibility once he gets a new sign for his

see **BARBER** on page A4



Barber Rafael Maldonado works on a fade for Dan Hiserote of Sioux Center. Maldonado has moved his business, Rafa's Famous Fades to a new location in Sioux Center this spring. Photo by Eric Sandbulte



Promise Community Health Center in Sioux Center hopes to break ground in August on a \$5.1 million expansion on the east side of its 33 Fourth St. N. building. Project plans call for constructing a 10,000-square-foot, two-story addition on a gravel portion of property owned by Promise that now serves as staff parking. Photo by Renee Wielenga

City supports Promise expansion effort

\$75,000 total given toward project

BY RENEE WIELENGA
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The Sioux Center City Council approved financially supporting Promise Community Health Center's expansion project.

At its July 10 meeting, the council unanimously supported giving \$25,000 each year for three years totaling \$75,000.

Promise, a federally qualified health center in Sioux Center, hopes to break ground in August on a \$5.1 million expansion on the

east side of its existing structure at 33 Fourth St. N, said Promise COO Amy McAlpine, who was present at the meeting.

She noted the number from an old estimate was shared during the June monthly Chamber of Commerce meeting and, in turn,

reported incorrectly in the June 21 newspaper story about the expansion.

"Mechanical and engineering costs have really risen that much since we had our first estimate so that's the reason for the increase in

see **BUILD** on page A3

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News

From trash to treasure, crafty lady uses cans for art

Klarenbeek becomes 'Tin Lady' hobbyist

BY RENEE WIELENGA
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Walking around Janice Klarenbeek's garage is a bit like a hardware store of sorts.

Some drawers are filled with various screws and bolts. Reels of wire and chain hang off the wall. Shelves are lined with boxes of items to sift through, including cleaned out soup, coffee and sardine cans, pop tabs, beer bottle caps, funnels and other odds and ends.

Her favorite tools are also nearby, from the drill press to tin snips and a rainbow of spray paint cans.

Her time in this space throughout the past year has turned her into the 'Tin Lady' as she's produced more than 30 tin men; about a half dozen or so remain on display in her garage. One each has been given to her nine children, 19 grandchildren, some to her grandchildren's friends and still a few more to in-laws.

"Where some people might see junk, I see something fun," said Klarenbeek of Sioux Center. "I love crafting and making something new out of something old."

Perhaps that's just what drew her to the crafting hobby last summer when a cousin from Missouri came to visit and gave her a tin man.

"She had made one and given it to me," Klarenbeek said. "I thought that could be fun. I make a lot of crafts, I like to be crafty and use some power tools."

She Googled tin men to get ideas.

"I found they could really look like something neat but what I didn't find was how to make them exactly," she said. "That took some finagling to get figured out. I also like to make them happy. So many online have scary or sad faces. Each one I make I try to make look happy."

Within her kitchen is a book containing a picture of each of the tin men Klarenbeek has made and the name of who received it.

"I tried to make each one based on their request," she



"Tin Lady" Janice Klarenbeek of Sioux Center has upcycled various materials to create more than 30 tin men after a cousin gave her one such creation during a visit last summer. Photos by Renee Wielenga

said, noting some have parts of the arms and legs switched out with pop cans and are spray painted to match such as the Coca-Cola man, Dr Pepper man and one representing the Major Melon flavor of Mt. Dew. Several also use themed beer cans as their inspiration.

Cocomelon, Peppa Pig, strawberry Fanta and a snowman are other themes she's completed.

One of her favorite creations is a patriotic themed one representing Midwest Honor Flight for family members who have been a part of that as well as the "Baker man" with the Casey's Bakery logo on it, which was inspired by bakery owner and her boss Ron De Groot of Sioux Center.

"We have so many cans at the bakery, especially after a chili bash — the bakery is where I started getting a lot of the big cans for my projects," she said.

Klarenbeek enjoys going to thrift stores such as 2nd Chance Depot in Sioux Cen-

ter and Bargain Alley in Hull to find "just the right" item that could become a hat or skirt. Bomgaars and rummage sales are also excellent sources for materials, she

said. She knows about four people who enjoy sardines also so when she's in need of such cans for the feet, she'll buy some tins and share the inter-

ior goods just so she can have the cans.

"My husband, he's got some junk drawers of odds and ends I like to look through, too," Klarenbeek said. "I like

looking for all different kinds of things to use for the eyes, ears and noses."

Old doorknobs and spoons, buttons, beer bottle caps and bolts have been just a few items she's used for those features.

Klarenbeek hasn't kept track of the amount of time it takes to make a tin man.

"I've collected a variety of things this past year so that's helped to start the base but I like to take my time to pick out all the right pieces for each man," she said. "Then I have to find the spray paint and it can take time to tape and spray each part and let it dry."

"Once everything is ready it can take maybe just two hours to put it all together. That's the fun part — I like working with my hands, using tools and seeing it all come together."

Klarenbeek and her husband have lived in town for about six years. Before that, they lived on an acreage for about 30 years.

"My dad was a farmer," she said. "I helped out on the yard and have done a lot of the decorating in my own garage. It's just fun."

"That's why I like decorating and enjoy making tin men. It's been fun to give them to my family."



"Tin Lady" Janice Klarenbeek has worked on a variety of themes to create her tin men decorations. Her Midwest Honor Flight tin man is among her favorites that she has completed.

Promise fundraising goal set at \$1 million from local supports

BUILD

Continued from page A1

cost," McAlpine said. Because of that, Promise has set its fundraising goal at \$1 million from local supports, which the city's donation will go into.

The remainder of the cost is being covered by two grants and two USDA loans, one with low interest and another with zero-percent interest.

Building plans call for constructing a 10,000-square-foot, two-story addition, each story of which is 5,000

square feet, on a gravel portion of property owned by Promise that currently serves as staff parking.

The first floor of the addition will have five rooms for mental health, which currently has two. There will also be two rooms for vision services.

The second floor would have a large conference room and administrative offices.

Construction, once it begins, is slated to be a nine-month process that will begin with the expansion. Once that's complete, the portion

of the existing Promise structure that currently has administrative offices will be remodeled to be patient care spaces for the medical clinic.

To help meet a variety of needs federally qualified health centers have an integrated care model, offering a variety of services in one location, McAlpine said. Services at Promise include medical, dental, vision, women's health, population health such as health coaching, mental and behavioral health and pharmaceutical services.

Promise had 23,012 visits in 2022 serving 6,704 patients compared to a decade ago in which it had 8,293 visits in 2013, serving 2,420 patients.

Of the patients seen in 2022, 52 percent were Hispanic/Latino and 40 percent were white, nonHispanic.

Promise, which opened in 2008, serves patients as far east as Estherville, north as Larchwood and south as Sioux City. The second largest service area following Sioux Center is Le Mars.

"At 15 years old, we're relatively new for a health center, but we're really excited to be marking this milestone with an expansion project," McAlpine said.

Councilwoman Jenn Vermeer asked about future plans beyond this expansion, noting CEO Emily Tuschen shared at last month's chamber meeting that the addition, though adding jobs, makes this current site full and that opening up a satellite location in another community was mentioned.

McAlpine shared with the council that Promise is in the process of adding mental health services at Sioux Center High School for the 2023-24 school year.

"In our world that's like adding another site," she said. "We want to give that our focus and make sure we have our footing before we move on to another site."

Promise has about 80 employees, a number that will grow as additional staff will be needed once the expansion is complete.

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Five Warriors named all-league

Schmalbeck and Walhof finish impressive careers

BY CHARLIE HILDEBRAND
CHILDEBRAND@NWESTIOWA.COM

Sioux Center fell short of earning a second consecutive trip to the state softball tournament, ending its streak of five consecutive seasons of any girls sport reaching state dating back to the spring of 2022, but showed plenty of growth throughout the year despite a lineup of mostly new starters.

“When I think of the team overall, the one word that does come to mind is improvement,” said Warriors’ coach Kari Schmalbeck.

Coach Schmalbeck said her team leaned on the leadership of two seniors throughout the season, pitcher Tatum Schmalbeck — one of her two daughters — and center fielder Makenna Walhof.

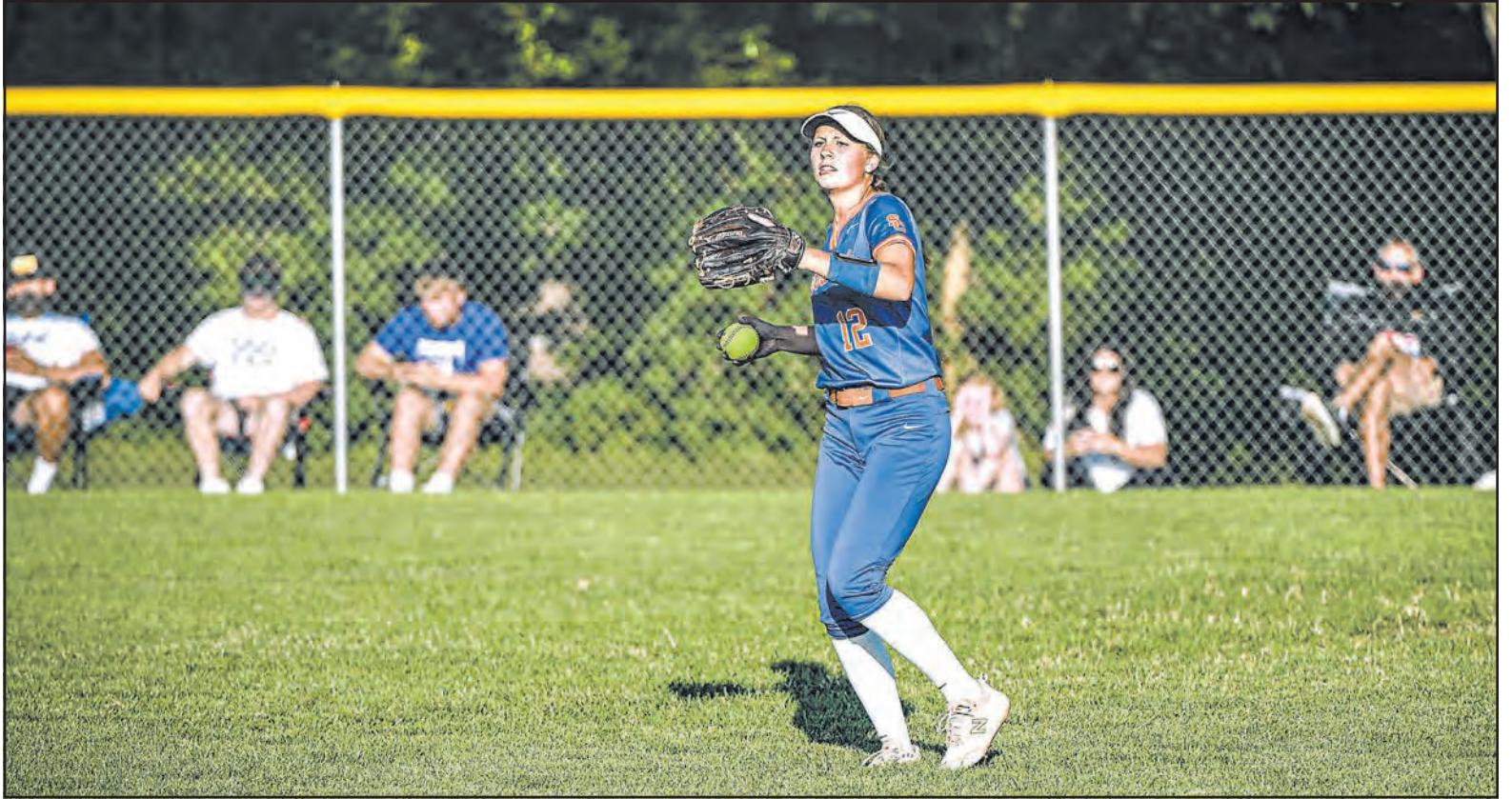
“Under our great senior leadership, I feel like those younger players grew a ton from the beginning to the end, both in softball skills and physical abilities, but also getting them to believe,” the coach said. “In sports, a lot of it is mental. Having Tatum and Makenna be in those pressure positions, it paid dividends in some of those bigger games and tight games.”

The Warriors tied for third in the Siouxland Conference with an 11-5 record. They finished 18-10 overall after falling to 10th-ranked West Lyon in the Class 3A regional semi-finals.

Pitcher Tatum Schmalbeck was an all-conference first-team selection by the league coaches. Offensively, she batted .542 with an on-base percentage of .620 and a slugging percentage of .940. Tatum finished with eight doubles, two triples, seven home runs, 36 RBIs, 14 walks and 45 runs. She led the conference in batting average, home runs, RBIs, runs, on-base percentage and slugging percentage. Among all Class 3A teams, she ranked fifth in on-base percentage, sixth in batting average, eighth in runs and 10th in slugging percentage.

“She obviously led our team offensively. I think that was probably the biggest difference between last year’s Tatum and this year’s Tatum, the strength that she brought to our team offensively,” coach Schmalbeck said. “She was very consistent overall all season and very disciplined at the plate. I think she started batting in our third spot but very quickly moved her to the leadoff spot to get her as many at-bats as possible during a game.”

In the circle, Tatum Schmalbeck went 16-8 over 130 1/3 innings



Sioux Center senior Makenna Walhof sets her feet for a throw to the infield after catching a ball for an out in the first round of the Class 3A Region 1 tournament against MOC-Floyd Valley on July 6 in Orange City, a 12-5 win for the Warriors. Walhof was a first-team selection on the all-league list by the Siouxland Conference coaches after batting .434 with six doubles, three triples and 24 RBIs. Photos by Dan Wolfswinkel

with an earned run average of 2.15 and allowed 1.04 walks and hits per inning pitched. She struck out 144 batters compared to walking 39 and allowed opponents to hit just .192 against her. Defensively, she had just one error all season for a fielding percentage of .988. She led the conference in wins, pitching starts and defensive assists while ranking second in innings pitched, strikeouts and WHIP. She tied with sophomore teammate Carli Siebrandt for the fewest errors in the league.

“She was very consistent. She would keep us in most ballgames,” coach Schmalbeck said. “The way she could lead by example in the circle in trying to pitch and help lead to keep the infield calm. I felt like that’s something not many people could do. She took on a lot and handles it with maturity.”

Walhof was the other all-league first-team pick for the Warriors. She batted .434 with an on-base percentage of .489 and a slugging percentage of .578. She finished with six doubles, three triples, 24 RBIs and 21 runs. She struck out just six times all season, the fewest among the starters on the team, and ranked second in the conference in triples.

“She did a great job leading the outfielders this year moving from right field to center field. She covered a lot of ground. She was a hard worker out there defensively,” coach Schmalbeck said. “Offensively, she

was one of our leaders at the plate. She batted in the three or four spot all season. She almost always put the ball in play. She rarely struck out. She always made contact.”

Sophomore shortstop Maci Schmalbeck, the younger daughter of coach Schmalbeck, was a second-team selection in the Siouxland. She batted .307 with an on-base percentage of .381. She had two doubles, two triples, 13 RBIs and 18 runs.

“She knows the game really well, and that played to her advantage,” coach Schmalbeck said. “Last year, she was just the flex player and didn’t have a spot in the lineup with her bat. This year, she batted fifth most of the season. It was nice to see her really improve as the season went on. The last few games, she was hitting the ball better than she had all year.”

Second baseman Adison Brantzen, an eighth-grader, was an all-league second-team choice. She batted .403 with an on-base percentage of .476 and a slugging percentage of .597. She had six doubles, four triples, 15 RBIs, 10 walks and 28 runs. She led the conference in triples.

“I knew she could be beneficial somewhere, it was just finding out where,” coach Schmalbeck said. “Coming in as an eighth-grader can be overwhelming. We have a mentor program and Tatum was her mentor. Tatum took her under her wing and kept her calm. Adison grew so much from the beginning to the end of the season. She was a work in progress, but because of her athleticism, she’s moldable and able to do whatever we ask her.”

Sophomore first baseman Margo Schuiteman was an honorable mention selection by the conference coaches. She batted .272 with an on-base percentage of .322 and a slugging percentage of .420. Schuiteman notched two doubles, two triples, two home runs, 26 RBIs and 19 runs.

“She’s a great first baseman with her height. She caught some high line drives and made some good scoops. She grew into the position very well over the season,” coach Schmalbeck said. “Offensively, she was similar to Maci. She improved a ton from beginning to end. She has the ability to hit with power, as we found out with that grand slam against MOC. She can execute small ball too, depending on what’s needed at the plate.”

Sioux Center loses three players to graduation, Jordan DeWeerd, Tatum Schmalbeck and Walhof.

SIouxLAND CONFERENCE

TEAM	CONF.	OVERALL
West Lyon	15-1	27-4
BHRV	12-4	21-13
MOC-Floyd Valley	11-5	19-10
Sioux Center	11-5	18-10
Sibley-Ocheyedan	8-8	11-11
Sheldon	6-10	8-15
Central Lyon	4-12	5-16
Okoboji	4-12	5-18
George-Little Rock	1-15	1-20

FIRST TEAM

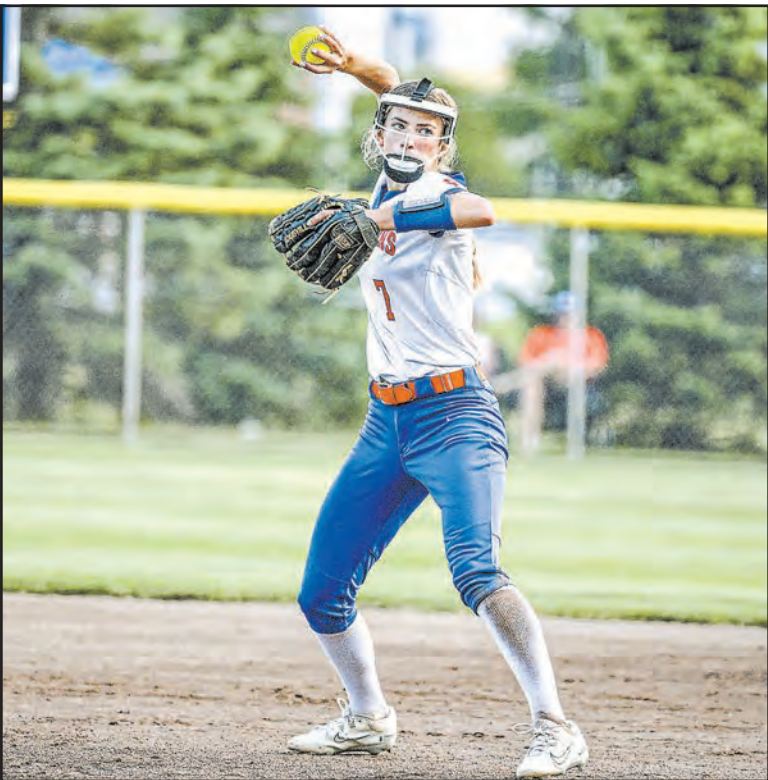
Randi Childress	senior	West Lyon
Maddie Johnson	senior	West Lyon
Madi De Jong	senior	West Lyon
Evy Knoblock	junior	West Lyon
Jersey Hawf	sophomore	West Lyon
Jenny Luevano	senior	BHRV
Avery Noble	senior	BHRV
Kavri Van Kekerix	sophomore	BHRV
Keilani Mae	senior	BHRV
Carolyn Meines	senior	MOC-FV
Aubrey DeShaw	sophomore	MOC-FV
Tatum Schmalbeck	senior	Sioux Center
Makenna Walhof	senior	Sioux Center
Tori Elgersma	junior	Sheldon
Alayna Wingate	senior	Sibley-O

SECOND TEAM

Raya Van Beek	junior	BHRV
Rylee Bomgaars	sophomore	BHRV
Tierney Huss	junior	MOC-FV
Lili Fleming	junior	MOC-FV
Maci Schmalbeck	sophomore	Sioux Center
Adison Brantzen	eighth grade	Sioux Center
Reese Strouth	senior	Sheldon
Keytin Elser	senior	Sibley-O
Emma Wittrock	senior	Okoboji
Riley Weiler	junior	Central Lyon

HONORABLE MENTION

Gianna Klarenbeek	senior	West Lyon
Rashaylee Soodsma	senior	BHRV
Kady Hoekstra	senior	MOC-FV
Margo Schuiteman	sophomore	Sioux Center
Grace Saylor	freshman	Sibley-O
Kourtney Dekker	senior	Sheldon
Korryn Christensen	senior	Central Lyon
Amy Martin	senior	Okoboji
Samantha Fugitt	senior	G-LR



Adison Brantzen, an eighth-grader for Sioux Center, makes a throw to first on June 15 in Sioux Center. Brantzen was a second-team all-conference pick by the league coaches and led the league with four triples.

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