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DUX CENTER NE Vol. 131 ~ No. 29 Wednesday, July 19, 2023 www.nwestiowa.com 712-722-0511 A Growing Newspaper for a Growing Community



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 there are other repair businesses 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-

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 in Sioux City and Sioux Falls, sometimes a local option is needed.

mance.

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 turnarounds," 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

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

"I just did emergency stuff for schools because Midbell comes

see MUSIC on page A4



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 RWIELENGA@NWESTIOWA.COM

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

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

At its July 10 meeting, 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, see **BUILD** on page A3

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

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 see **BARBER** on page A4

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



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



News

From trash to treasure, crafty lady uses cans for art

Klarenbeek becomes 'Tin Lady' hobbyist

BY RENEE WIELENGA RWIELENGA@NWESTIOWA.COM

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 chil-dren, 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.



"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.

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 "I tried to make each one thrift stores such at 2nd

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

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 interior 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

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-squarefoot, 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 ninemonth 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, McApline 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.

McApline 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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News

More barbers added to lineup after Rafa's Fades moves



Barber Rafael Maldonado works on a fade for Dan Hiserote of Sioux Center. Maldonado is making his business, Rafa's Famous Fades, a place for everyone to feel welcome. Photo by Eric Sandbulte

BARBER

Continued from page A1 storefront.

While appointments booked through Booksy.com are appreciated, he warmly welcomes walk-ins during business hours, 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Monday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday.

"I want to be everyone's barber," Maldonado said, with men and women of all ages welcome to his business

As his business' name implies, the licensed master barber specializes in fades. He's able to incorporate different designs into the fades as well, but his work extends beyond haircuts and includes shaving, hot towels and facial masks.

At his new location, Maldonado has room for more barbers. He also plans to curate a modern barber-

AT A GLANCE:

Business: Rafa's Famous Fades

Owner: Rafael Maldonado Address: 1617 First Ave. SW, Sioux Center Hours: 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Monday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday Phone: 712-441-4377 Online: On Facebook; use rafasfamousfades.booksy. com for appointments

shop vibe, a bit of a man cave where people can relax and spend time before and after getting haircuts.

"I want to get more barbers in here. That way, when people walk in, there's always a barber available," Maldonado said. "I want to get apparel, some merchandise in here, too, with clothes, hats. I just want the barbershop vibe, a barbershop where everyone can feel welcome. I want it to be a successful growing barbershop, a diverse barbershop."

Part of that barbershop vibe he's chasing is the casual setting and providing ways to spend time there visiting. To that end, he has a PlayStation 4 hooked up to a TV and a pool table he got from a friend in a trade for haircuts.

One of his new barbers is 19-yearold Luis Ramirez, who started at Rafa's in December. An apprentice is also starting at Rafa's, which is a new thing for Maldonado.

"He's been interested in cutting hair for a long time and I finally had this opportunity," Maldonado said.

Maldonado is proud of what he's accomplished since starting in Sioux Center. The business has grown, he's found a loyal set of customers who continue to patronize his business and he's gotten to know more about them and their families.

"I've met a lot of people," he said, "and I'm recognizing faces and last names all over. I know who's related to who now. I'm learning everyone's families."

M & J focuses on brass and woodwind upkeep, repairs

MUSIC

Continued from page A1 friendly golden retriever and a constant companion for Rose. Molly even has a bed at the ready underneath Rose's workbench so she can closely supervise the work.

Her work takes place at home in the basement, where a room has been converted into a workshop that's quickly filled up with instruments in need of her attention. A workbench and several different stations built to handle different tasks round out the space.

Rose is working to have a website for her business complete soon: www.mjmusicalinstrumentrepair. com. Once it's done, people will be able to set up times to drop off and pick up their instruments.

Although it started out as an



AT A GLANCE:

Business: M & J Musical Instrument Repair **Owner:** Jessi Rose Address: 1274 First Ave. SE, Sioux Center Phone: 240-593-2679 Online: www.mjmusicalinstrumentrepair.com

stuck inside the horn. That overtime that can rot the horn from the inside out. Really, brass instruments should be taken apart and cleaned every year," Rose said.

Working with brass instruments can take some physical strength given how large and heavy some of them are. It can also take some muscle when working on dents.

informal way to help others, she began to use the money she would make to buy more tools to increase the kinds of repairs she could do. She already owned some tools from her earlier days working at other musical instrument repair shops, but those businesses usually provided quite a few of the tools needed.

Rose has about 20 years of experience in instrument repair. After her time in the Marines, it was time to figure out what to do next. Her father suggested that she find someone to take her on as an instrument repair apprentice. She took the advice to heart and in 2002 began a job with Washington Music Center in Washington, D.C., where she stayed for more than a decade.

"It's one of the largest family-owned music stores in the U.S.," Rose said.

After marrying Onsby in 2015, the family moved to Columbus,

Jessi Rose polishes parts of a disassembled trumpet during maintenance work. She works on woodwind and brass instruments for her business, M & J Musical Instrument Repair. Photo by Eric Sandbulte

OH, so he could continue his education at Ohio State University. During that time, she found work as a repair technician at Buckeye Brass and Winds.

She enjoys the work, comparing it to a logic puzzle that puts her problem-solving skills to the test.

"I have a very mechanical mind. It's easier for me to see how things go together, like this lever pushes this lever which makes that wheel

turn. That's the way my mind works and it's easy for me to see that," she said. "It's really satisfying when you can take something that was beat up and ugly and make it beautiful again. It's also really satisfying when you have something that won't make a sound and make it play. It's really satisfying."

And even if repairing broken parts or replacing missing pieces isn't necessary, much like a car, general maintenance is needed to get the best performance out of an instrument. If a hole pad isn't in good shape or isn't properly aligned, air can leak out causing a fuzzy sound. Corks used to keep some instruments together can dry out or become damaged.

"With brass, you're using a good amount of force to push air through the instrument. A lot of food particles and spit gets down inside and

"I worked all day long Saturday on a French horn dent and when I woke up Sunday, oh, I could feel that. My hands were swollen. It's physical for the brass stuff," she said. Even cleaning a tuba, when it's full of water, it's very heavy. To get the water out, you have to turn it and turn it."

Clarinets and flutes are still her favorite instruments to work on thanks to her time at Washington Music Center.

"They rented at least 1,000 flutes a year and almost 2,000 clarinets a year that all came in for service," she said. "They worked us like dogs, from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. all summer long to service all those. Some pads need to be changed, some corks need to be changed. But because of that huge volume, I got to be very quick at flutes and clarinets."

For the Record

WEATHER REPORT

Date	High	Low	Prec.
7-10	89	57	0
7-11	74	55	0
7-12	78	58	1.98
7-13	87	66	0
7-14	82	59	0
7-15	81	57	0
7-16	78	53	0

WIC CLINICS FOR **SIOUX CENTER**

Mid-Sioux Opportunity WIC Clinics are held in person. Call 1-800-859-2025 to make an appointment.

The 2023 clinic dates are: July 18, Aug. 15, Sept. 19, Oct. 17, Nov. 21, Dec. 12.

SHIIP INFO

Senior Health Insurance Information Program

care? Call SHIIP at 712-722-8309.

DRIVER'S LICENSE

The Sioux County driver's license office is open 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Tuesday, Thursday and Friday at Centre Mall in Sioux Center. Questions? Call 712-722-2923. More services are provided at www. iowadot.gov.

OVERNIGHT PARKING

No parking is allowed 2 a.m.- $\overline{6}$ a.m. year round in Sioux Center.

COURT REPORT

Judgments filed in small claims

Sarah J. VanVoorst and Questions about Medi- Jason E. VanVoorst, Sioux

Center, defendants, in favor of Accounts Management, Inc., plaintiff, in the amount of \$401.15, plus interest and court costs.

Troy A. VandenHul, Sioux Center, defendant, in favor of Accounts Management, Inc., plaintiff, in the amount of \$409.46, plus interest and court costs.

Information was filed in **District Court:**

Carmelo C. Bravo Perez, Sioux Center, driving while license denied or revoked.

Isaiah J. Evans, Sioux Center, operating a vehicle while intoxicated — first offense, possession of a controlled substance — marijuana.

Magistrate Court:

Landon M. J. Rozeboom, Sioux Center, failure to provide proof of financial liability.

Marleny Perez Cash, Sioux Center, no valid driver's license.

Juan Cercas Granillo, Sioux Center, failure to provide proof of financial liability.

Peggy J. Mouw, Sioux Center, turning at intersection violation.

Averi O. Heie, Sioux Center, unsafe backing on highway.

Elinda Chavez, Sioux Center, failure to obey traffic control device.

Michael J. Wichers, Sioux Center, operation without registration card or plate.

Alexis Y. Lopez Lopez, Sioux Center, no valid driver's license.

Darwin J. Clough, Sioux Center, seat belt.

Octavio E. Ramos Morales, Sioux Center, speeding, no valid driver's license, failure to use child restraint device.

Sioux Center, open container, no valid driver's license.

Brennon K. Lyman, Sioux Center, violation of conditions of restricted license, dark window or windshield. Jace M. VanVoorst, Sioux Center, careless driving.

Alvaro A. Lopez Lopez, Sioux Center, driving while license denied, suspended or canceled.

Quique O. Reynos Diaz, Sioux Center, driving while license denied, suspended or canceled.

POLICE ARRESTS

The Sioux Center Police Department made the following recent arrests:

Carmelo Bravo Perez, 22, Sioux Center, was arrested Monday, July 10, and charged with driving while revoked.

Juna Carlos Topete Santos M. Martin Martin, Camacho, 35, Orange City, was arrested Monday, July 10, and charged with driving while barred.

 Leoncio Lopez Lopez, 29, Saint James, MN, was arrested Saturday, July 15, and charged with public intoxication.

IOWA STATE PATROL

The Iowa State Patrol's Office made the following recent arrests:

Bryan Alejandro, 22, San Benito, TX, was arrested Tuesday, July 11, and charged with two out-of-county warrants.

An arrest is an accusation, and the defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.

A5

News

Sheriff talks mental health resources

Chamber luncheon highlights concerns **BY ERIC SANDBULTE** ESANDBULTE@NWESTIOWA.COM

Members of the Sioux County Sheriff's Office described during the monthly Sioux Center Chamber of Commerce luncheon the challenge officers in addressing rising mental health issues in the county.

Sheriff Jamie Van Voorst along with school resource officer Jessica Dorhout and lieutenants Caleb Haverdink and Justin DeBruin attended the July 12 meeting at the Sioux Center Public Library and talked about their agency's efforts to better address mental health problems in Sioux County.

"Through the years, mental health has been something law enforcement has been called to deal with and fix," Van Voorst said.

Improved training and a greater effort by local, county and state governments to provide mental health resources will be crucial to better provide for people experiencing mental health problems.

when he began in 1993 to today is difficult because how things were reported back then was different. From his findings though, he figures they used to go on 10-12 mental health related calls in a year back then. Now, it's in the hundreds.

"It's getting to be something that's a part of law enforcement. So, how do we respond to it? How do we do better?" Van Voorst said.

Van Voorst found support from the Sioux County Board of Supervisors to build up its own resources by allowing for the hire of a second school resource officer and to start a mental health unit with a specially trained mental health deputy and therapy

'We saw the need for our school resource officer, Waylon Pollema, who was getting bogged down with requests. That's a good problem. We had to tell schools we just couldn't provide what they need ideally. It came down to let's get another person in the schools," Van Voorst said. He asked that people thank

Comparing things from county supervisors for their support of mental health resources in the county and to encourage state legislators to make it a higher priority as well.

Youth mental health

Dorhout is serving as the second school resource officer. In addition to security services, school resource officers are increasingly focusing on acting as a resource for youths facing mental health issues.

We're seeing mental health become an issue at younger ages. It can start very young. They're already seeing it in ages 6 and up. When I talk about mental health, I'm talking about the anxiety we're seeing in kids, and that can come across as behavioral issues as well. Anxiety, depression, you're seeing that in younger ages now, too," Dorhout said.

The COVID-19 pandemic left a lasting impact on children's mental health, meaning much more attention and resources will need to be focused on addressing youth mental health needs.

Beyond the pandemic, Dorhout said mental health problems in children can come from a variety of sources, such as diet, changing family structures, social media or a traumatic situation.

'Waylon and I will be splitting up the schools this fall and trying to help schools in whatever ways we can. I have training in trauma, so I deal with a lot of kids who've been through traumatic experiences," she said.

The arrival of a therapy dog in August will aid her in that work.

"The dog would come with me to all of my school buildings. My hope is that it would be an icebreaker for the kids, that I'm not just somebody with a badge and a gun. They come and pet my dog," Dorhout said. "You can look at any number of studies on the therapeutic benefits of a therapy dog in post-traumatic events or when somebody's trying to recall details of a post-traumatic event."

The mental health deputy position could become the first contact point for the sheriff's office when calls come in about suspected mental health issues.

We wanted to hire a deputy who could be a deputy first - you need to go into the homes and make sure they're safe but after that, assess the mental needs," Van Voorst said.

He was able to find someone who fit the bill, Zach McKee of Hawarden. Although he has no previous law enforcement experience, he did have a double major in criminal justice and psychology. He's set to receive formal training at the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy this winter.

As Haverdink reminded the audience, most deputies and police officers don't have that kind of background or training, making them a poor fit for addressing problems caused by mental health issues.

Drugs' impact

Drugs are especially a complicating factor in all this. In some cases, mental health problems can drive a person into drug problems or a person's drug problems can cause or worsen mental health problems.

Of course, it's not always the case, Haverdink said, but it is something frequently seen in law enforcement.

He recalled one case where he pulled a driver over who had been using meth.

"About two weeks later, he called me and says he hears me talking to him on the radio. I started to look into this guy a bit more and found



Sioux County sheriff Jamie Van Voorst at the July 12 Sioux Center Chamber of Commerce luncheon speaks about his office's efforts to better meet county mental health needs.

somebody in our office that went to high school with him. This person has had a severe mental illness for a long time, even back in high school," Haverdink said. "The way he's now trying to cope with it is by using meth or other drugs. I ended up meeting with this guy and he talked about the planets up in the sky, that there are drones flying around and talking about going into different universes and things like that.

"That's one of the issues we deal with. We might be going to a drug call but there's also a mental health crisis going on or a mental health call, but now there's also drugs. We get to deal with both sides of that."

Law enforcement isn't a replacement for mental health resources, but it is up to the officers to try to make sure these people and everyone around them are safe. Services such as Seasons Center for Behavioral Health are working to fill that gap, Haverdink said.

"If they're not to that level where they're a serious threat but they still need some help, there was a long time where we didn't have anything to fill in that gap. We were stuck because they needed help and wanted help but we didn't have anything we could do," Haverdink said. "That's where the Seasons Center crisis team was able to come and

provide a resource on scene at any time and provide the follow-up resources as well."

Iowa has a long way to go to improving how it addresses mental health.

A 2017 report by the Treatment Advocacy Center ranked Iowa last among the states for its shortage of psychiatric beds available, with only 1.2 beds per 100,000 adults. The national average is about 12 beds per 100,000.

That lack of beds continues to strain law enforcement resources, as DeBruin attested

"A lot of them, we have to go all the way across the state of Iowa to transport them. You have to go to Dubuque or somewhere else on the other side of the state, a 10-hour trip right there. Just trying to find the manpower to do that when we're already short-handed as it is," DeBruin said. "That's why it's a good thing we're getting a mental health deputy to help combat some of these issues that we're facing."

This need to address mental health issues in the county will require law enforcement agencies in Sioux County to work together.

"We want to work with them and help," Van Voorst said. "We don't want to come in and take anything away, but if they could benefit from this, we're all for it. It's a county resource."

Subway franchisee welcomes Sioux Center business

SUBWAY

a franchise with longtime Sioux



Drugs are often a complicating factor for mental health,

according to Caleb Haverdink. The lieutenant has seen

firsthand how drug problems and mental health problems

play off each other. Photos by Eric Sandbulte

Continued from page A1 started looking at businesses for sale because I had this entrepreneur itch."

Starting business ownership with 1000 Degrees Pizza was a step in that direction.

"It wasn't easy by any means because they don't have the strongest support system as a franchise," he said.

The company has 14 locations throughout the U.S.

"I learned a lot through all the stuff we went through in that ownership," Zomermaand said.

Then Hiemstra reached out to Zomermaand in May 2022 regarding taking on ownership of Subway.

'I hadn't seriously thought of moving to another franchise at that point so that message came about of the blue honestly, but over the course of the year we talked about the opportunity and came to a decision late fall," Zomermaand said, noting that led to him going through the Subway franchise approval process in December 2022 and then three weeks of training in January in Ames before the Feb. 1 closing date on his company ownership.

He's excited to have ownership in

County roots.

"When I looked at Subway I saw a strong brand," Zomermaand said. "I'm pretty sure everyone has tried it or at least knows about it. That's way different from 1000 Degrees Pizza where almost nobody knows about it. The franchise is also in the middle of a big refresh, rebuilding the brand, which is exciting to see. And then looking at the financial side, it all made sense that this would be a good fit for myself and my family as my wife and I are from Sioux Center, have family in the area and want to raise our own family here.

"Sioux Center and other Sioux County towns are growing, too, which supports the business and possible growth in the future."

Owning Subway came with the opportunity to drive about 20 minutes in any direction to one of his stores rather than having to be in Sioux City or Sioux Falls, SD.

A goal since taking over has been to be at each location weekly or more and build relationships with store managers and staff.

"I'm just a new person coming in so building that trust between everyone has been my biggest challenge," Zomermaand said. "Getting



Graham Zomermaand of Sioux Center will rotate his time at his four Sioux County Subway locations. Photo by Renee Wielenga

to know staff and having them know what I care about and stand for and how that translates to everyone takes time, but I want to invest in people first because I believe if you take care of people, they're going to take care of the customers and you as an owner and maintain that high customer satisfaction and high quality product."

Because many area communities already have a Subway, Zomermaand said growth in the future would mean taking on ownership of other Subway locations as owners

look to move on or retire. Zomermaand credits his wife as his biggest support through this transition.

'My wife has been an amazing support when we were approached with this idea and now that we're owners," Zomermaand said. "She knows I have this side of me that's looking to grow and do the next thing. We made the decision together by praying about it and feeling it was the right path."

Zomermaand's wife, Mariah, owns the women's clothing store Three: Twelve Boutique in the Cen-

AT A GLANCE

Business: Subway in Sioux Center, Rock Valley, Orange City and Hull Owner: Graham Zomermaand, 26, of Sioux Center Address: 2950 S. Main Ave., Sioux Center Hours: 8:30 a.m.-9:30 p.m. daily Online: Subway.com

tre Mall downtown Sioux Center, which opened in 2017.

"I pushed her to be an entrepreneur," he said. "She had always had this dream of owning a boutique and says she probably would not have done anything with it, but there was an opportunity and I encouraged her to take it and she loves it now so I've always had this entrepreneur side of me that I think I get from my dad and now get to live that out."

The couple have two children, 3-year-old daughter Leni and 3-month-old son Metler. Zomermaand enjoys golf and spending time with his family boating and traveling.

Master Gardener training offered

The application window has opened for this year's Master Gardener training in the fall through Iowa State University Extension and Outreach. Applicants have through Aug. 18, to apply for the fall session which begins Sept. 5. Iowans choose a county to complete the 10-week training through, participate in online learning modules and attend at least four in-person training sessions organized by the county office. Trainees then com-

plete a 40-hour internship. For more information contact: Lyon County, Carly Herum, 712-472-2576 or cherum@iastate.edu; O'Brien, Kate Stewart, 712-957-5045 or kstewart@ iastate.edu; Osceola, Sandy Lamfers, 712-754-3648 or slamfers@iastate.edu; Sioux, Donna Mills, 712-737-4230 or donnam@iastate.edu. Visit www.extension.iastate. edu/mastergardener/ become-master-gardener to apply.

Early stage support

for Alzheimer's

Alzheimer's Association will host an early stage support group 11 a.m.-noon the third Thursday of the month, at Sioux Center Health. Support groups are a safe place for people living with dementia and their care partners to: develop a support system; exchange practical information on challenges and solutions; talk through issues and ways of coping; share feelings, needs and concerns; and learn about community resources.

For more information contact Anna Britton at 712-

722-8378 or anna.britton@ siouxcenterhealth.org.

July 20 blood drive slated at Centre Mall

LifeServe Blood Center of Sioux City will hold a blood drive 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Thursday, July 20, at Centre Mall in Sioux Center. Appointments are required by visiting lifeservebloodcenter.org or calling 1-800-287-4903.

Domino Free Build at library July 20

Library will host Domino Free Build at 1 p.m. Thursday, July 20. Domino Free Play will be a supervised opportunity for kids going into second through eighth grades to work with a team to build structures with dominoes. Visit www.siouxcenterlibrary.org for more information.

Webinar on dairy producer margins

The I-29 Moo University 2023 Dairy Webinar Series continues noon-1 p.m. The Sioux Center Public Thursday, July 20, with a

focus on dairy producer margins. The free program features Dr. Gonzalo Ferreira, associate professor in the School of Animal Sciences at Virginia Tech. He will discuss producer margins and how they compare to the 2015-2018 time period. He will also talk about other commodity prices that affect margins in addition to milk pric-

Attendees must register at least one hour before the webinar at go.iastate.edu/ X1XRNI. For more information, contact Fred M. Hall at 712-737-4230.

Briefly

Obituaries

Harv Punt

Harvard "Harv" Allen Punt, 69, of Hull, died July 14, 2023, from injuries sus-

tained while d o i n g what he loved, "helping others." А funeral service



10:30 a.m. Thursday, July 20, at Middleburg Free Grace Reformed Church, with Pastor Mark J. Schwarz officiating. Burial will follow in the Capel Township Cemetery of Middleburg. A visitation will be 3-7 p.m. today (Wednesday, July 19) with family present 5-7 p.m. at the church. Arrangements are under the direction of Memorial Funeral Home in Sioux Center.

Harvard Allen Punt was born Nov. 23, 1953, in El Paso, TX, to Ralph and Arlene (Rozeboom) Punt. As his father Ralph was in the Army, he grew up in Missouri, South Carolina and Georgia until moving to rural Sioux Center in 1955. He later graduated from Sioux Center High School and then attended an automotive and diesel technical college in Kansas City. Harv tragically lost his dad in 1966 in a tractor accident and had to serve in his dad's absence as the oldest of eight children. Harv's mother, Arlene, along with the eight children continued to run the family farm instilling a work ethic that many have never experienced, out of necessity. That work ethic along with the strong Christian faith shaped Harv into the generous person he was.

On June 3, 1978, Harv was united in marriage to Loretta "Lori" Van Der Wilt after meeting her while they were working as camp counselors at Inspiration Hills Camp and

Nov. 23, 1953-July 14, 2023 Retreat Center, near Inwood, IA. To this union two children were born, Heidi and Nathan. Harv

was involved with the Siouxland Energy Cooperative and Com-tech Ingredient Systems. Harv and Lori owned and operated Country Wrench, H & L Enterprises and then Livestock Equipment and Manufacturing (LEM). After 36 years of marriage Lori passed away from complications of cancer.

Harv met LaRae Burkman (Sweeney) on Christian Mingle and a short time later they married on July 25, 2015. LaRae brought four adult sons into the family circle and thus many large family gatherings ensued. Something Harv and LaRae enjoyed immensely.

Harv was a member of the Middleburg Free Grace Reformed Church of Middleburg, where he served as a Deacon, an Elder and helped with many church projects. He was also very passionate about Mission Work. Harv had a sincere servant's heart and traveled around the country helping others in need. Every Friday morning for 30 years he attended a men's Bible Study resulting in greater love for his Lord and others as well as lifelong friendships.

Harv was very dedicated to his Livestock Equipment and Manufacturing business, designing, manufacturing and selling safe and efficient cattle working equipment. Harv was a craftsman and loved a challenge and helping design facilities for his customers. Many times, he would hear the term "Harvafied" when he delivered a workable solution to an otherwise impossible situation. Keeping the operator and the animal safe was his driving force and he was very proud of patenting the "True Neck Extender" for cattle

chutes. Late summer was always busy with farm shows and county fairs as an outreach to the cattlemen and cattlewomen. Harv operated LEM alongside Heidi and Dan Oolman, his daughter and sonin-law, until the time of his death.

Harv's favorite hobbies were helping others, collecting farm toys and old International Harvester Tractors and Implements. Red was his color. Harv enjoyed watching tractor pulls, keeping an eye out in the spring for the first spot of corn in the rows and the first tasseling of corn in the summer. He no longer farmed land, yet he kept a watchful eye on everything around him.

In the past year Harv and LaRae opened their home to help raise their two granddaughters: Everley and Kinsley. Harv enjoyed being a father figure to them and helping them grow in their faith. His prayers were pivotal in helping the girls learn to pray to Jesus.

Harv is survived by his wife, LaRae Punt; children: Heidi (Dan) Oolman, Nathan (Kristi) Punt, Brian Rand, Jordan Rand, James (Anna) Burkman and Jeremiah Burkman; nine grandchildren: Haylee, Paul, Jocelynn, Audrey, Claire, Isaac, Timothy, Everley and Kinsley. Seven siblings: Roger (Nancy) Punt, Wanda (Alex) Peat, Bernard "Bernie" (Pamela) Punt, Ed (Cheryl) Punt, Jane Case, Mary (Don) Morfitt and Carol (Vince) Yusten; nieces, nephews, and other extended family.

He was preceded in death by his first wife, Loretta Punt; father, Ralph Punt; mother, Arlene (Punt) Bidwell; stepfather, Forrest Bidwell, and nephew, Jason Gernandt.

> MEMORIAL Funeral Home

Roger Broek Feb. 1, 1950–July 12, 2023

welcomed their first daugh-

ter, Jill. They later moved to

Ireton, Iowa where they

added their son, Mike and

second daughter, Dani. Rog

was a handyman by trade

Roger W. Broek, 73, of Sioux Center, formerly of Ireton, died Wednesday, July 12,



in Sioux Center, with Pas-

tor Bob Pollema officiating.

Burial with military rites

was at Pleasant Hill Ceme-

tery in Ireton. The Porter

Funeral Home in Rock Val-

ley is assisting the family.

Condolences may be sent

to www.porterfuneral-

Roger Broek was born Feb. 1, 1950, in Le Mars,

Iowa to David and Cornelia

(Vande Garde) Broek. This

was a special day for the

Broek's as he arrived on his

dad's birthday and his par-

He grew up in the

Inwood, Iowa area and

attended Inwood Christian

School and Western Chris-

tian High School, graduat-

ing in 1968. Rog drove bus

while attending Western

Christian and joked about

finding creative ways to

accidentally be late for school. Following gradua-

tion, Rog enlisted in the

185th Air Force and gradu-

ated as a fuel systems

On July 7, 1969, Rog

married his high school

sweetheart, Linda Hoeks-

tra, at Doon Christian

Reformed Church in

Doon, Iowa. Rog and

Linda made their first

home in Doon where they

mechanic.

ent's anniversary.

homes.com.

and worked his first construction job with Vollink Construction. He worked for Sioux County, prior to beginning R & R Construction in Ireton. Rog and Linda later purchased the local hometown grocery store and served the community as Rog's Clover Farm. Rog and Linda kept the entire family busy in their local business, putting their children to work to keep them busy with the possible intent to keep them out of mischief. After selling the grocery store in 1996, Rog held various positions in the area. Rog and Linda moved to Sioux Center, Iowa in 2016, where they currently resided.

More importantly than Rog's work history is the legacy he left by turning his struggles into a passion for helping those around him with hurts, habits and hangups. Rog was instrumental in starting Celebrate Recovery at the Maurice Reformed Church. His humbleness, belief in God, and grace, offered many folks the support to overcome life hurdles. Rog was a faithful servant with a desire for helping others. Rog fiercely loved His Lord and Savior, his wife Linda of 54 years, and his kids and grandkids.

A few of Rog's favorite things included eating ice cream and circus peanuts, cheering on the Royals, handing out candy to the neighborhood littles, and watching his grandkids' sporting events.

Those left to cherish his memory are his wife Linda; daughters, Jill Vander Windt (Mike) and Dani Gradert (Gerad); and son, Mike Broek (Angie); grandkids, Josh Vander Windt, Cainen Vander Windt (Jess), Kennedy Foley (Alex), Jackson Vander Windt, Cade Broek (Jordyn), Carter Broek, Hannah Broek, Cohen Broek, Alex Gradert, Mitchell Gradert and Clayton Gradert; great-grandkids, Elijah Vander Windt, Harrison Foley and baby boy Vander Windt set to arrive December; brother, Darwin Broek (Evanette); sisters-in-law, Marlene Broek and Lorna Koedam (Gary); and brothers-inlaw, Larry Hoekstra (Terry) and Lee Hoekstra (Joann).

Those who he will see again in Heaven are his parents, David and Cornelia Broek; parents-in-law, Harold and Bertha Hoekstra; brother, Jay Broek; and great-grandson, Bennett Vander Windt.

In lieu of flowers, the family prefers memorials be directed to Celebrate Recovery (https://www. celebraterecovery.com/ resources/12-steps), or Be Not Afraid (https://benotafraid.net/), a nonprofit organization that supports families of infants with a life-limiting diagnosis. Or you can simply honor Rog by helping those who may be struggling.



Cynthia Kaskey Jan. 12, 1926—July 14, 2023

Cynthia "Cyndy" Kaskey, 97, of Aurelia, formerly of Sioux Center, died July 14, 2023, in



showed and more than once said, "If you can't say anything nice, don't say anything at all," "If everyone else jumped off a cliff, would you too?" and "Be thankful for this food; chil-

dren in China are starving." After 25 happy years of marriage, Delaine died in 1975 and Cynthia married Gene Kaskey June 22, 1984. She said June 22 was a good day for her once and it proved to be a good day again. Gene and Cynthia were married until his death

and Europe. Cynthia was active in church her whole life. She was part of mission quilting, ladies aid, funeral lunch coordinating, teaching Vacation Bible School, choir and Sunset Knoll Auxiliary. But most of all, she had an unwavering trust in God through good times and bad. Cynthia is survived by daughters: Linda Romero of Brooklyn, IA, and her children, Eva, Amanda and Edward; Donna (Craig) Hoadley of Sheldon, IA, and their children, Kristin, Will, Wade, Erik and Evan; Merri (Brad) Johnson of Auburn, NE, and their children, Guy and Sadie; Sheree (Louie) Hausmann of Cherokee, IA, and their children, Hallie and Abby; Rhonda (Doug) Camarigg of Sioux City, IA, and their children, Stacey and Jarod; son, John (Jill) Kolb of Ames, IA, and their children, Delaney, Madelein and Ian; stepdaughters, JoAnn (Bill) Dye of Snowflake, AZ, and Kay (Marty) Brown of Omaha, NE, and stepson Dale (Cheryl) Kaskey of Aurelia, IA. She is also survived by 34 great-grandchildren; and two sisters-in-law, Helen Vermeer and Ellen Vermeer. Cynthia was preceded in death by her parents; husbands, Delaine and Gene; and siblings, Edna Van Roekel, Aldene Van Roekel, Hester Black, Mildred Schutt, Irwin Vermeer, Loyd Vermeer, Elnor Niffenegger, Wally Vermeer, Ruth Bonnema and Wayne Vermeer. Memorial contributions may be made to Orphan Grain Train or Cherokee Regional Hospice.

Michael Van Essen

May 18, 1969—July 3, 2023 Michael Wayne Van Essen, day, July 3, 2023. A celebra- July 14, at Memorial Funeral

A6

Anniversary





Angie and Jerry, 1973

Angie and Jerry, current

Jerry and Angie Reisma of Sioux Center celebrate 50th anniversary

and friends to a 50th Anni-

They want to invite family versary Celebration to help Golf Club, 2-6 p.m., Saturthem celebrate at The Ridge day, July 22.

Briefly

Students urged to join app challenge

U.S. Rep. Randy Feenstra (R-Iowa) invites middle and high school students across the 4th Congressional District to participate in the 2023 Congressional App Challenge.

The annual competition allows students to compete with peers by creating and exhibiting their software application for the platform of their choice.

Students may compete as individuals or in teams of up to four.

Register online by Nov. 1 at www.congressionalappchallenge.us/students/student-registration/.

The winning app will be announced in December.

For more information, con-

tor, Emily Schwickerath, at emily.schwickerath@mail. house.gov or call 202-225-4426.

Webinar on corn silage pile July 25

Iowa State University Extension and Outreach Dairy Forage Series will continue with a webinar 6-8:30 p.m. Tuesday, July 25, with a focus on managing critical elements in building the pile and cutting the silage.

A presentation by Dr. Nelson Lobos will focus on the elements to build a pile that is compacted to eliminate air and reduce spoilage. Dr. Luis Ferraretto's program will focus on understanding and improving starch and fiber utilization by dairy cows,

tact Feenstra's district direc- corn silage and high-moisture corn quality and digestibility. Attendees must register at least one hour before the webinar at go.iastate.edu/ LWZH0F.

> For more information, contact Fred M. Hall at 712-737-4230.

Sioux Center Arts picnic on July 27

The Sioux Center Arts Picnic will be held 6-9 p.m. Thursday, July 27, at Ĉhildren's Park in Sioux Center. There will be live jazz concert, food trucks, swing dancing, face painting and a kids' market.

Come enjoy your park, your community, good food and great live music. The Prairie Wind Jazz Band will begin playing at 7 p.m.



ia, with Pastor Bruce Lesemann officiating. Burial was at Ida Grove Cemetery in rural Ida Grove. Arrangements are under the direction of the Redig Funeral

Cynthia Vermeer was born Jan. 12, 1926, the seventh of 11 children born to Evert and Alida (Borgman) Vermeer. Affectionately referred to as Cynny by her family, she was baptized in the Reformed Church. Raised in Sioux Center, Iowa, Cynthia taught country school briefly after graduating from high school in 1943. She then attended Central College in Pella and later Buena Vista College in Storm Lake, earning a Bachelor of Arts degree in education.

After college, Cynthia taught in Ida Grove, meeting and then marrying Delaine Kolb on June 22, 1949. They farmed near Holstein before moving to a farm north of Aurelia and raising six children. Quite a feat! Cynthia returned to teaching at Aurelia Elementary when her youngest started school. Teaching beyond the classroom, Cynthia hosted two foreign exchange students, George from Kenya and Pily from Chile. She also taught the patience her mother

in 2004. Cynthia loved spending time with her family and was always ready to hold a baby. She was an avid reader and instilled a love of reading in all her children. She read to them about Mr. Nobody, who was responsible for lots of naughty doings and he soon took up residence with the family, being blamed for oh so many problems in their house, too.

Cynthia's hobbies included piano playing, sewing, golf, flower gardening, cheering on the Cyclones and Hawkeyes, bingo and playing cards. She wasn't afraid to play for money and was happy to take everyone's dimes, family included.

One of Cynthia's favorite foods was pizza. She loved having family bring Casey's supreme, proclaiming, "Now that's real pizza," and she seldom turned down a cup of good black coffee. Another love was the color yellow, with more than one kitchen painted the color of sunshine and she loved traveling. Family vacations left many good memories, and later travels included trips to Alaska, South America

Names in the News

Sioux Center students graduating from South Dakota State University in Brookings, SD, were Marissa Driesen, bachelor of science, summa cum laude; was named to the spring dean's

and Oscar Muro, bachelor of science.

Keziah Tea of Sioux Center

list at Georgia State University in Atlanta for achieving a 3.5 or higher grade-point average.

Lutheran Church in Aurel-

Home in Aurelia.

Opinion

Rising Arrows stays on target

Thumbs-up for the opportunity Sioux Center children have through this summer's partnership between Rising Arrows Day Camp and Sioux Center

School District.

Thanks to this cooperation, 70 children from preschool up to the third grade have been able to continue their education, enjoy fun activities and learn Bible lessons on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays until Aug. 4 at Kinsey Elementary School in Sioux Center.

As Kinsey principal Troy Lentell explained it, the school district partnered with Rising Arrows with the hopes of creating a longer learning window for children. As part of this partnership, Kinsey dropped its summer school programming.

The school district brought its resources to bear in the partnership, providing space at Kinsey for the program to use, buses to use and more. Meanwhile, Rising Arrows was able to continue its message of sharing the love of Christ.

Rising Arrows founder Sam Mosher of Sioux Center said those resources have made a significant difference for the summer camp, allowing it to expand its activities, meals and time frame.

Now able to offer breakfasts, snacks and lunches for its children, Rising Arrows has its Bible lessons and math and reading curriculum planned for Mondays and Wednesdays. Fridays are set aside for larger activities and trips in the community, such as touring the Sioux Center Fire Department's downtown station and taking a trip to Siouxnami Waterpark in town.

Rising Arrows has doubled in size compared to last year, going from 35 children to 70. Accompanying the growing numbers of children participating in the summer camp has been an increase in the number of adults to be in the classroom with the children.

"Last year, we had seven paid staff with an extra handful of volunteers who came in every day. This year we have 20 paid staff with four or five with another handful of volunteers who come in. It's jumped quite a bit," Mosher said.

Lentell gave thanks for the support shown to Rising Arrows

"I cannot thank the community enough for their support of the program," Lentell said. "We had many individuals and businesses that have supported the program financially as well as through their prayers. It truly takes a village to do things like this at this level and the village of Sioux Center has really shown that it is willing to do its part."

Thumbs-up for the work of Kinsey Elementary School third-grade teacher Sam Callahan, who is putting his talents with numbers and spreadsheets to use for the Sioux Center School District.

The 26-year-old Kinsey Elementary School thirdgrade teacher will begin as the Sioux Center School

Conversations need kindness and respect

here are many words that, with the change of one or two letters, have different emotional responses. Few are as short as want and wait.

As a child you remember how your mom said wait when you wanted something. As you grew older the reality of these words became personal. You wanted to go to school, had to wait until you were old enough. You got older and wanted to be done with school and had to wait for graduation day. You got engaged and couldn't wait for the wedding. You wanted children but had to wait. You got old, had all you ever wanted, but had to wait.

The impact of these words is the emotion each invokes and actions that might result. When held in balance the individual flourishes. When want is carried to extremes, the individual takes whatever is another's, even life. When wait is carried to the extreme, the individual loses all hope, purpose and meaning to life and sometimes, takes it.

Two shorter words give focus. The focus of "me" is the individual. The focus of "we" is the group. Within any relationship the two foci are obvious. When both foci have equal weight, the individual and group flourishes.

Growing older from a time in your life when you were dependent on those who cared for you to a time when you found you have a mind of your own, you were informed there was "we."



Your mom reminded you that even though they were your toys, you should share them.

Later you used the term "our family," "our class." There was always an element of "mine."

For some, the "me" focus has become so strong that as older persons, they want, own, deserve and do not share.

The family flourishes if all members have the "we" mentality. If a member insists on "my" rights, the family has problems. The relationship is disrupted and broken. Divorce, domestic violence, addiction and unfaithfulness are all circumstances when me takes precedence over "we."

The "me" focus is also prevalent in churches, communities and nations. When a member or group attempts to change the purpose or rules of the group for individual reasons, multiple problems arise. The result is division and polarization. The original purpose may still be held by both groups, but different rules and roles become the reason for dividing. Examples of this would be the formation of political parties in this country and the contention within church denominations.

When individual rights take precedence over responsibility and accountability, institutions fail. The result is language that those who have, want more and those in need or have no voice, must wait. That is the status of the unborn, homeless and immigrants. We use labels to dehumanize the group with whom we disagree rather than taking the time to discuss the issue.

Guidance for the maintenance of any institution can be found in the Declaration of Independence of the United States of America. We the people of the United States of America to form a more perfect union agree to what follows.

Guidance for the individual can be found in the first question and answer of the Heidelberg Catechism. That first phrase, "I am not my own ..." clearly stating that "me" is not the source of your identity.

Language can unite and divide. Consider how often the us and them divides participants in a conversation even around the coffee table. Usually with no reference to the issue under discussion.

Conversations with kindness and respect are the way to resolution and reconciliation.

Willis Alberda of Sioux Center is a former Sioux Center City Council member and retired Dordt University mathematics professor.

Take time to unplug, recharge this summer

▼or the past eight years, our family ✓ has spent the bulk of summer in the Northwoods of Wisconsin. We're on 5 acres of forest between two small towns, one that has about 400 people and the other that has a bustling population of 800. When a car drives past our place we jokingly act appalled because it happens so seldom. "Remote" is a great word to describe life in our patch of the woods.

This year, in conjunction with our trip north, I decided to take a monthlong hiatus from social media. In part because I wanted to have a little more privacy than usual, but also because we really do come up here to "unplug."

A month isn't that long to fast from something — and to be honest, I had to hop on Facebook for work, so my hiatus was cut short for the sake of productivity. But I've decided my relationship with social media could be summed up by borrowing the words of American country singer/songwriter, Cody Jinks, "I'm somewhere between I love you and I'm leaving." Don't get me wrong. I love social media for the purpose of connecting with people — especially those I already know — but as an enterprise, clearly, it has evolved beyond that. It has become an obsession for many of us and its addictive qualities are no secret. Indeed, this is what the tech companies hoped for. And you don't have to look far to see how social media is changing American culture. Recently, while my daughter and I swam at a nearby marina pool, a young dad was also supervising his children in the water. While we splashed around, the dad sat in a corner of the pool deck, chin to his chest, smartphone in hand. Every once in a while, he'd look up and blurt out some generic parental advice.



"Be careful!" He'd say to their grinning faces, bobbing above the water thanks to life jackets. Soon after that, a group of teen girls came out to the pool. My daughter and I backed up because it looked like they were going to jump in. We should have known better, though. One of them had her phone on a selfie stick. They weren't going to jump in until they captured themselves perfectly on camera — smiling, sunlit, about to launch. My daughter and I stopped waiting for them to jump and decided to keep playing our swimming games instead.

social media affects self-esteem, but I'll just fess up that it does. Since I began my June social media fast, I haven't evaluated myself up against fashion styles, trendy hairdos or waistline expectations. Mostly because I'm not paying attention to those things! Plus, I am currently living in the woods. My wardrobe is dictated by weather and what goes well with the scent of DEET.

Attentiveness. I've noticed this mostly with reading. It is amazing how quickly you can finish a book when you don't have your phone right beside you. Sitting still, focusing my attention on one thing, is hard for me. Distracting myself with what is happening on Facebook only compounds this difficulty. Also, when I'm not too distracted, I can reckon with my opinion or perspective on things. For instance, I just finished a book and when I was done, I realized I didn't love it. I learned something. The writing was good, but my attention to what I was reading allowed me also to assess it honestly; maybe more honestly than I have in the past.

District data specialist, a new part-time role he will fill alongside his normal teaching duties for the 2023-24 school year. That role puts in him charge of presenting numbers in a more visual format to benefit teachers and families.

"Nobody became a teacher because they want to look at charts and graphs all day. It's part of your job that makes you more effective in the classroom, but it's not what people love doing. Ask any educator why they became a teacher or what the best part of their job is, and they say the best part of their day is being with kids or making a breakthrough with a student, helping them understand something for the first time," Callahan said. "Looking at charts and graphs isn't the best part of anybody's job. Not even me, and I love doing it. Best part of my job, hands down, is when I can use the information I learned to help a student quicker and help them grow. That's what it all comes back to, student growth."

This role began during his first year as a teacher, starting at Kinsey during the 2019-20 school year. With 19 students to look after, he wasn't impressed with the spreadsheets from their standardized tests. It wasn't the results he was dissatisfied with but rather how the information was presented.

For his own sake, he wanted to find a better way to format it, so he began to do so. He turned to online resources such as Google Looker Studio to make a better document he could use. Other Kinsey teachers soon took notice, and he shared his methods.

The reason people have an aversion to spreadsheets is because numbers are more abstract than charts and graphs. Incorporating visual aids to present information makes it more easily understood.

"In my experience, the same people who say they hate data, they love data when it's given to them in a digestible format. When they see it in charts and graphs that they can interact with and is quick and easy to understand, then all of a sudden, they love it. But it takes putting it into the right format for them to love it," he said.

Finding success in this, he also reorganized the school's report card and gradebook system, which are also spreadsheet-based. Similarly, he had noticed that the information could be presented in a visual way.

"When it's a hard-to-read report, people end up not looking at it for very long. It ends up in the pile or the garbage can," he said. "I thought we're wasting a lot of time and paper sending home report cards for nobody to read. So, let's change the format."

I know I am picking on these vacationers, and it isn't entirely fair. Being tethered to our phones sometimes has to do with work demands and young people are, no doubt, preyed upon by social media outlets. I myself am guilty. I am notorious for halting a conversation so I can take a picture of a dragonfly on a rock or to snap a selfie with my giant, overpriced coffee shop salad. (I mean, doesn't that just sound like an Instagram account?) I have to consciously decide to not live within social media's prescribed reality. I, too, have to choose to set down my phone and actually live.

But when I do, I appreciate the life I find myself living. Here are some observations.

Self-Esteem. Maybe it is weird for a middle-aged woman to admit that

Enjoying life. When I'm able to unplug, I take delight in slowing down, doing things like listening to the wind through the trees. I'm no saint, but when not glued to my phone, I'm a better listener, attending to the narratives of those right here in my immediate life. And this right here is a richer one; the life worth living.

Kendra Thompson of Sioux Center is the Northwest Iowa Symphony Orchestra operations manager as well as a poet, a blogger at crylaughsnort.wordpress. com, a wife and a mother of two.

Opinion Page Lesson

What's an editorial?

An editorial is the newspaper's view on an issue. In developing editorials, employees of the newspaper consider what, in their collective view, is best for the community. Editorials are solely meant to suggest a course of action or foster discussion about

important issues.

What's a letter to the editor? A letter to the editor is a reader's view on an issue, submitted to the newspaper for publication. Submit a letter online by going to www.nwestiowa.com/submit and fill out the "Letter to the Editor" form under the News

section. If you have questions, call 712-722-0741 or e-mail editor@siouxcenternews.com.

■ What's a column?

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The First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States of America

SIOUX CENTER NEWS

In Its 131st Year

CIRCULATION: The Sioux Center News is an official legal newspaper for the city of Sioux Center, Sioux County and the Sioux Center School District.

SUBSCRIPTIONS: All copies are sent through the U.S. Postal Service at the rate of \$39 for one year, in advance, in O'Brien, Osceola, Sioux, Lyon, Clay,

Dickinson and Plymouth counties and \$49 per year everywhere else.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to P.O. Box 160, Sheldon, IA 51201 or e-mail circ@iowainformation.com

OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 67 Third St. NE, Sioux Center, IA 51250 PERIODICAL POSTAGE: The Sioux Center News is entered the periodicals postage paid at Sioux Center, IA 51250. USPS 497-220

CONTACT US: Mail: 67 Third St. NE. Sioux Center, IA 51250: Phone: 712-722-0741: E-mail: editor@ siouxcenternews.com



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News

City council sets public hearing date for land sale

Proposed zoning could add home lots

BY RENEE WIELENGA RWIELENGA@NWESTIOWA.COM

The Sioux Center City Council will be considering selling land to aid the development of more residential lots.

At its July 10 meeting the council set 4 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 1, for a public hearing regarding the sale of approximately 7.36 acres of cityowned property to Sioux Center Land Development. The council also set that time 20 new lots. At the next reguand date for a public hearing regarding a change in zoning for the same property to allow residential construction.

"The development will be to provide lots and housing that meets the growing demand for affordable new housing in our community," said Sioux Center assistant city manager Dennis Dokter.

The second phase of this development will be located north of the existing Country View North and will provide

lar meeting the council will also consider accepting the plat for those lots.

If approved, construction of the project is planned for the fall of 2023.

MidAmerican agreement

Also part of the July 10 meeting, the council authorized city staff to finalize and execute the MidAmerican Facilities Construction Agreement. City utilities manager Murray Hulstein said MidAmerican Energy is looking to construct a substation at the corner of 20th Street Northeast and 13th Avenue Northeast in the near future. As part of this construction, MidAmerican is asking that the city of Sioux Center update its relay settings in its north substation by Pella Corp.

The council packet highlighted four key points of the agreement, including:

Sioux Center will hire an engineer and contractor to make the needed improve-

ments

MidAmerican will pay Sioux Center for the cost to complete the improvements.

Improvements are anticipated to be complete by May 1, 2024. There are no penalties if they do not meet this date

The estimate, developed by DGR, for the improvements is \$137,000.

Other matters

In other matters July 10, the council:

Approved Tom Draayer

and Clayton Schollerman for permanent employment status with appropriate commensurate pay increase. Draayer was hired in the Natural Gas Department in January and has completed his evaluation period and is doing well, according to the council packet. Schollerman was hired in the city's Maintenance Department in January and has completed his review period, and "has been a great addition to the maintenance team," also according to the council packet.

Dordt pushes forward on summer construction projects

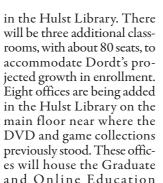
More classroom and parking space needed

To secure additional classroom space, housing and parking options, Dordt University in Sioux Center has taken on some renovation and construction projects this summer.

First, Dordt is expanding housing options by building a new set of upperclassmen apartment buildings, which are scheduled to be in use this fall.

The apartments, known as "The Squares" or "Every Square Inch Apartments," are located south of Southview Apartments, consist of four new buildings and will house a total of 96 students. There are four three-bedroom two-story suites in each building, with a kitchen and two bathrooms in each unit. They will accommodate six students each.

Second, Dordt is putting up office spaces and walls to open up more classroom space in the Science and Technology Center as well as and Online Education



Dordt University continues construction work to complete a new set of upperclassmen apartment buildings in time for the fall semester. These apartments, known as "The Squares" will house 96 students. Photo submitted

Office, which was previously located in a former classroom space in the Science and Technology Center, as well as the Global Education Office and the Kielstra Center for Research and Grants. The DVDs and game collections will be relocated within the library.

"Students will still have access to the open lounge

space for studying and meeting purposes," Josh Dorhout, director of facilities and services, said. "We'll still have the high-top tables, shorter tables and other seating arrangements available for them to use in that space."

In the Kuyper Honors Program space, which is also located in the Hulst Library, bookcases to house special

collections and a seating bench are being added.

"The honors program space is used differently than a traditional classroom," Dorhout said. "The room opposite of the honors program is being remodeled into a classroom space, so to cut down on noise and distraction for those in the classroom, we're adding a wall."

Third, Dordt has added about 100 more parking spots on campus. There are now additional student parking spaces east of Covenant Hall, a women's dorm on the east side of campus, as well as event parking south of Kuyper Apartments, an upperclassmen apartment complex on the south side of campus.

Fourth, there are several smaller projects that are taking place, including splitting larger shared Advancement Office workspaces into smaller individual offices and replacing the flooring. Last summer, Dordt added more dorm space into the lower level of Covenant Hall to provide space for 16 additional students.

They constructed a massive window well as part of this remodel; this summer, the facilities team is wrapping up the project by adding an artificial turf area, patio, and landscaping to the window wells to provide a nice outdoor seating area for students to utilize.

In the fall of 2022, Dordt's overall enrollment was 1,858 students — the largest enrollment in Dordt's history, which included a record total degree-seeking undergraduate enrollment of 1,460. Renovations and construction projects such as the ones taking place this summer are important as Dordt continues to grow. It's also important to be stewardly of Dordt's resources throughout the process, Dorhout said.

'With the updates, we're trying to be careful and consider what makes sense for Dordt's future," he said. "It's exciting to be part of these projects. Slow, steady growth is the best kind of growth."

Law & Order

Hull man killed in The checks, which totaled \$19,852.68, were made to accident at business appear to be from a Sioux A 69-year-old Hull man Center business and signed was killed in an accident at a by the owner.

The arrest of Edward Elias Michael stemmed from a report of him stumbling and falling multiple times on the sidewalk along Highway 75

75 South from 13th Street Southwest. He stated he saw Morales Ramos not stopping for her red light so he stopped his vehicle in the intersection.

Sioux Center Police Department for failure to obey stop sign and yield right of way.

Sioux Falls, SD, man

with the Iowa Sex Offender Registry regulations, according to the Sioux County Sheriff's Office. Upon further investigation, along with additional reports received by the Sioux Center Police Department, it was determined that DeJong-Pedersen provided false information and additionally violated terms of the Iowa Sex Offender Registry.

business near Hull on Friday morning, July 14.

According to the Sioux County Sheriff's Office, Harvard "Harv" Allen Punt was working on a load of cattle gates that were on the flatbed of a pickup at Livestock Equipment & Manufacturing, 3099 320th St., which is the northwest corner of the south intersection of highways 75 and 18, two miles west of Hull.

Punt climbed on the bed to secure the load when the gates fell from the vehicle, crushing him underneath

Punt died as a result of the injuries.

The sheriff's office was assisted by the Sioux Center Police Department, Hull Fire Department and Sioux County medical examiner.

Funeral service will be 10:30 a.m. Thursday, July 20, at Middleburg Free Grace Reformed Church in Middleburg.

Burial will be Capel Township Cemetery in Middleburg. Visitation will be 3-7 p.m. today (Wednesday, July 19) with family present 5-7 p.m. at the church.

Arrangements are under the direction of Memorial Funeral Home in Sioux Center.

Man jailed, cashed fraudulent checks

A 32-year-old Sioux Falls, SD, man was arrested Saturday, July 8, on a Sioux County warrant for first-degree theft, first-degree fraudulent practice and four counts of forg-

ery. The arrest of Donald Emile Joseph Chase III stemmed from entering four American State Bank branches and cashing four fraudulent checks on Nov. 18, according to the Sioux Center Police Department.

A warrant for his arrest was issued Nov. 22.

Sioux Center man jailed for OWI, weed

A 19-year-old Sioux Center resident was arrested about 10:05 p.m. Saturday, July 8, on charges of first-offense operating while under the influence, first-offense possession of a controlled substance — marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia.

The arrest of Isaiah John Evans stemmed from his westbound 2005 Honda Accord colliding with an eastbound 2017 Chevrolet Malibu driven by 19-year-old Tyler Lee Roseberry of Sioux Center on 400th Street near Sunrise Trail in Sioux Center, according to the Sioux County Sheriff's Office.

Evans had bloodshot/ watery eyes, impaired balance and the odor of an alcoholic beverage and failed field sobriety tests.

He had a THC vaping device containing THC oil in the driver's side door, according to the incident report.

Evans was transported to Orange City Area Health System.

Roseberry and 18-year-old Miles Irwin Schuiteman of Sioux Center, a passenger in the Roseberry vehicle, complained of possible injuries but were not transported for health care.

The two vehicles were totaled, and a culvert belonging to the city of Sioux Center received an estimated \$250 damage.

Sioux Falls man jailed, public intox

A 33-year-old Sioux Falls, SD, man was arrested about 11:05 p.m. Saturday, July 8, in Sioux Center on a charge of public intoxication.

in Sioux Center, according to the Sioux County Sheriff's Office.

The caller was concerned for Michael's safety due to his proximity to the highway.

An officer located Michael near the intersection of Seventh Street Northeast and First Avenue Northeast.

Michael had bloodshot/ watery eyes and the odor of an alcoholic beverage, according to the incident report.

Man jailed for OWI in Sioux Center

A 31-year-old Hull man was arrested about 5:45 p.m. Sunday, July 9, in Sioux Čenter on charges of first-offense operating while under the influence and no valid driver's license.

The arrest of Rony Zadic Gonzalez-Galindo stemmed from the stop of a 2004 Chevrolet Colorado at the intersection of First Avenue Northwest and Second Street Northwest in Sioux Center, according to the Sioux County Sheriff's Office.

He had bloodshot/watery eyes, slurred speech and the odor of an alcoholic beverage and failed field sobriety tests, according to the incident report.

Driver knocks out portable traffic light

A 35-year-old woman was cited following a crash about 6:30 a.m. Tuesday, July 11, at the intersection of Highway 75 South and 13th Street Southwest in Sioux Center.

Margarita Morales Ramos, driving a 2009 GMC Acadia, was traveling southbound on Highway 75 South and had a red light. The witness vehicle advised he had a green light and was making a left turn northbound onto Highway

At the last second Morales Ramos veered off to the left to avoid striking the witness vehicle and crashed into a 2021 OMJC utility trailer. This is a portable traffic light trailer that was parked on the southeast corner of the intersection. There is video of the

Morales Ramos complained of possible injuries but was not transported for health care.

accident.

Damage to the OMJC trailer was estimated at \$75,000. The GMC sustained about \$20,000 in damage. Sioux Center Dental lawn damage was about \$250.

Morales Ramos was cited by the Sioux Center Police Department for failure to obey traffic control device and no valid driver's license.

Driver cited after two-car collision

No injuries reported after a two-vehicle collision about 8:05 a.m. Tuesday, July 11, at the intersection of East First Street and 13th Avenue Southeast in Sioux Center.

Klay Mychal Byker, 26, Sioux Center, driving a 2012 Chevrolet Malibu, was eastbound on East First Street and came to a stop at the stop sign of East First Street and 13th Avenue Southeast. Scott Bentley Van Essen, 49, Sioux Center, driving a 2015 Chevrolet Impala, was northbound on 13th Avenue Southeast and turning left to travel westbound on East First Street.

Byker proceeded from the stop sign too soon and the front made contact with the left side of Van Essen's vehicle.

The Malibu sustained about \$1,000 in damage. The Impala sustained about \$4,000 in damage.

cited after collision

A 21-year-old Sioux Falls, SD, driver was cited following a two-vehicle collision about 5:40 p.m. Tuesday, July 11, at the intersection of Fourth Avenue Southeast and East First Street in Sioux Center.

Andrew Jeremy Van Nieuwenhuyzen, driving a 2014 Volkswagen Passat, was traveling westbound on East First Street and stopped at the stop sign at the intersection of Fourth Avenue Southeast and East First Street. Van Nieuwenhuyzen pulled out into oncoming traffic where he struck a 2012 Chrysler 200, driven by Sylvia Yolanda Lopez Niz, 20, Sioux Center, who was traveling south on Fourth Avenue Southeast near East First Street.

No injuries were reported.

The Volkswagen sustained about \$1,500 in damage. The Chrysler sustained about \$1,200 in damage.

Van Nieuwenhuyzen was cited by the Sioux Center Police Department for failure to yield upon a left turn.

Sex offender jailed for registry violation

A 22-year-old Sioux Center man was arrested about 4:55

p.m. Friday, July 14, and charged with second offense Iowa ingfalse

information for the Iowa Sex Offender Registry.

The arrest of Brady DeJong-Pedersen stemmed from a sex offender registry compliance check on Byker was cited by the DeJong-Pedersen's status

Hit and run crash occurred Friday

A hit and run occurred about 2:45 p.m. Friday, July 14, on Second Street Northeast in Sioux Center.

An unknown vehicle struck the rear of a 2001 Mitsubishi Eclipse that was legally parked on the south side of the road in a parking spot and fled the scene according to the Sioux Center Police Department.

No injuries were reported. The Mitsubishi sustained about \$1,400 in damage.

Teen cited for theft of \$50 at Hardee's

An 18-year-old Hawarden resident was arrested Friday, July 14, on a Sioux County warrant for fifth-degree theft.

The arrest of Elizabeth Hovanec stemmed from an incident about 6:20 p.m. Friday, June 16, at Hardee's in Sioux Center, according to the Sioux Center Police Department.

Hovanec can be observed on video surveillance removing three \$1 bills from her bra and placing two of them in the till. She then removed a \$50 bill and wrapped it with a \$1 bill before replacing them in her bra.

A warrant for her arrest was issued July 11.

She pleaded guilty July 14 in Sioux County District Court in Rock Rapids and was ordered to pay a \$105 fine, a \$15.75 surcharge and \$60 in court-related costs along with \$51 restitution.



Sex Offender Registry Violation and provid-Pedersen

SIOUX CENTER NEWS SPORTS

Wednesday, July 19, 2023

www.nwestiowa.com

Five Warriors named all-league

Schmalbeck and Walhof finish impressive careers BY CHARLIE HILDEBRAND CHILDEBRAND@NWESTIOWACOM

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.

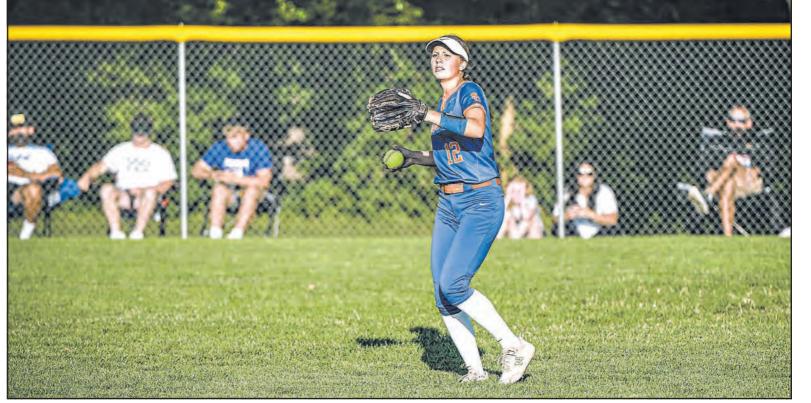
Coach Schmalbeck said her team leaned on the leadership of two seniors throughout the season, pitcher Tatum Schmalbeck — one of her two daughters — and center fielder Makenna Walhof.

"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 semifinals.

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."



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."

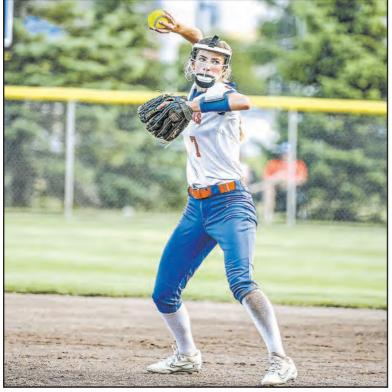
Second baseman Adison Brantsen, an eighth-grader, was an allleague second-team choice. She batted .403 with an on-base percentage of .476 and a slugging percentage of .597. She had six doubles, four triples, 15 RBIs, 10 walks and 28 runs. She led the conference in triples. "I knew she could be beneficial 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

A12

TEAM	CONF.	OVERALL
West Lyon		27-4
BHRV		21-13
MOC-Floyd Valley		19-10
Sioux Center		
Sibley-Ocheyedan		11-11
Sheldon	6-10	8-15
Central Lyon		5-16
Okoboji	4-12	5-18
George-Little Rock		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 Maae	senior	BHRV
Carolyn Meines	senior	MOC-FV
Aubrey DeShaw	sophomore	MOC-FV
Tatum Schmalbeck	senior	Sioux Center
Makanna Walhof	senior	Sioux Center
	junior	
Tori Elgersma	junior senior	Sheldon
Tori Elgersma Alayna Wingate	junior senior SECOND TEAM	Sheldon Sibley-O
Tori Elgersma Alayna Wingate Raya Van Beek	junior senior SECOND TEAM junior	Sheldon Sibley-O BHRV
Tori Elgersma Alayna Wingate Raya Van Beek Rylee Bomgaars	junior senior SECOND TEAM junior sophomore	Sheldon Sibley-O BHRV BHRV
Tori Elgersma Alayna Wingate Raya Van Beek Rylee Bomgaars Tierney Huss	junior senior SECOND TEAM junior sophomore junior	Sheldon Sibley-O BHRV BHRV BHRV
Tori Elgersma Alayna Wingate Raya Van Beek Rylee Bomgaars Tierney Huss Lili Fleming	junior senior SECOND TEAM junior sophomore junior junior	Sheldon Sibley-O BHRV BHRV BHRV MOC-FV MOC-FV
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In the circle, Tatum Schmalbeck went 16-8 over 130 1/3 innings



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

Dating back to 2019, when Tatum started as an eighth-grader, the class ended their careers with a record of 94-49, a conference title in 2021 and a state tournament appearance in 2022. They never finished lower than third in the conference standings.

"They've put in a lot of time whether it's academics or athletics. They will be greatly missed. They left big shoes to fill," coach Schmalbeck said. "Specifically for softball, I feel like they've been the face of the program for a while. Things will look different in Warrior softball. They've done a great job of building the culture of Warrior softball and got a lot of little girls excited about the game."

Coach Schmalbeck said she's looking forward to next year and how her returning players grow in the offseason.

"We saw firsthand how much they want to improve and want to learn," she said. "I'm looking forward to developing pitchers and working with them and seeing who rises to the occasion with them. I'm excited for the future because we'll be bringing a lot back."

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