

# HUMBOLDT NOW!

Volume 7 • • Issue 9 • • September 2016

- 
- ! What's *YOUR* sign?
  - ! HCH30
  - ! *Triumph* over tragedy
  - ! *Hungry in Humboldt...* **Handlebar**



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THE DATE**  
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*Jenny Condon, ARNP, Pulmonology Specialist*



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# INSIDE!

## FEATURES

5 | What's your sign?

8 | Out & About

10 | Hardpack

14 | Wine Walk

16 | Historically Speaking

18 | Grotto & Liberty Fountain

22 | Hungry in Humboldt

26 | Triumph over Tragedy

30 | Kaela Burmeister

33 | Pet of the Month

34 | Kids Works



**On the cover:** The informational kiosk on Sumner Avenue at the base of the Dakota City hill was made possible with funds raised by the Humboldt County Hardpack 30 bicycle ride. This year's Hardpack ride is Sept. 24.  
*Photo by Jeff Gargano.*

**PUBLISHER:** James Gargano  
**SALES:** Lana Pratt  
Jaime Zweibohmer  
**DESIGN/LAYOUT:** Jen Jensen  
Danette Miller  
**CONTRIBUTORS:** Jeff Gargano · Vivien Hansen  
Traci Holm · Demi Johnson · Carolyn Saul Logan  
Phil Monson · Kent Thompson

**email:** independent@humboldtnews.com  
**phone:** 515.332.2514  
**fax:** 515.332.1505

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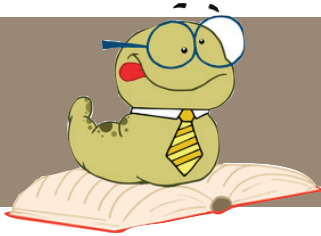
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# THE BOOKWORM!

## Hamilton: The Revolution and Hamilton (original Broadway Cast Recording)

By Demi Johnson, Humboldt Public Library Director



ct I

*"I am a stranger in this country. I have no property here, no connexions."*

-Alexander Hamilton 1780

*Hamilton* is the hottest ticket on Broadway right now by Lin-Manuel Miranda about Alexander Hamilton. Crazy? I certainly thought so. A musical about one of our Founding Fathers, taking place in the 18th century but done in the hip-hop style. Not for me, I thought to myself. But I did buy the sound track for the library and took it home to give it a *shot* and surprisingly, I loved it! But was certainly confused? I will admit I knew Hamilton was on the \$10 bill; actually I wasn't absolutely sure which bill he was on, I did not know a whole lot about his life, but even after the first time I played it...true story, I haven't taken it out of my stereo since I bought my own copy, I loved it that much.

In June I bought a copy of the book *Hamilton: The Revolution* by Lin-Manuel Miranda and Jeremy McCarter. This is phenomenal. The book tells the stories of two revolutions, the American Revolution involving Hamilton, George Washington, Aaron Burr, John Laurens, Thomas Jefferson, and James Madison to name a few, but also the revolution of this new diverse America and the evolution of the musical Hamilton and how it came to be, certainly not done in the traditional Broadway style that we are familiar with.

Miranda started thinking about this while vacationing in Mexico reading the biography written by Ron Chernow. Hamilton took seven years to create, "this is a story about America then, told by America now." For instance, the

actors have on period costumes from the late 1700s from the neck down, but the hairstyles of

what the actors are wearing today. No time in history was there a Broadway musical in "living memory" that was one man's idea, story, lyrics, and performance.

"The dominant purpose of Hamilton's life was the creation of a national sentiment, and therefore the making of a great and powerful nation from the discordant elements furnished by 13 jarring states. The widely acclaimed musical that draws from the breadth of America's culture and shows its audience what we share doesn't just dramatize Hamilton's revolution: It continues it."

The book I found fascinating. Beautiful pictures of the actors and scenes of Hamilton led to a wonderfully intriguing tale of how this musical came to be and the people along the way who were part of the captivating music and dramatic production of Hamilton. Included after every little bit of information is the libretto (the words) to each song and little thoughts and directions scribbled in the margins from the composer.

Lin-Manuel Miranda has ended his run of playing Hamilton and rumor has it that to see his final performance tickets were going for prices as high as \$25,000.


Act II

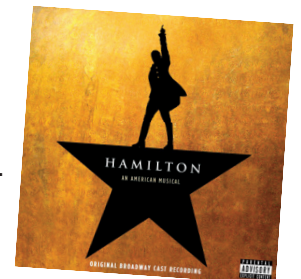
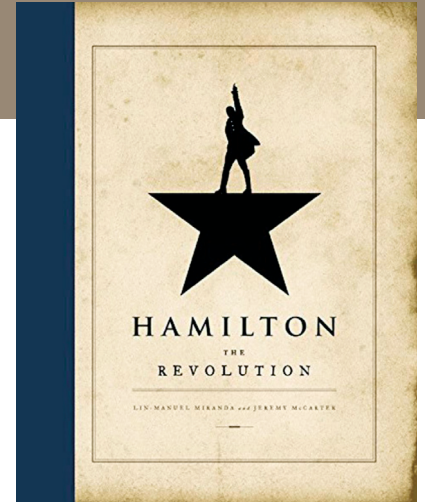
*"Am I then more of an American than those who drew their first breath on American ground?"*

- Alexander Hamilton 1795

This is less political, more personal and about to get stormy; then enter stage right... Chaos.

Shall I say scandal, heart-wrenching grief, and rip-your-heart-out emotional? But I do tend to get overdramatic at times. The music of the second act is bluesy, jazzier and clear the furniture because you will want to get up a dance.

What I did was I checked out the book and the CD, read a chapter and then followed along with the lyrics while listening to the music. Want to see what the hype is all about? Check out a little culture at your library." 



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# What's your sign?

By Vivien Aasland Hansen

**I** always check my Leo sign in “Today’s Horoscopes” in the morning paper. One such: *“You’ll take on projects that you have no idea how you’re going to complete. But the first step is just to move. Don’t worry about the end game right now. Just get in motion!”* HOW COULD THEY KNOW!?

Last winter it said my ancestors would be proud! I was making lefse that day! I’ve traced those ancestors through Ancestry.com. My family gave me a subscription for Christmas a few years back that kept me busy and happy through the long, cold Iowa winter; like I didn’t have 10 other projects “cooking” on the back burner! I started in on Dec. 27, after all seven beds had been shaped up, I’d vacuumed up all the chunks from under the dining room table and made a huge pot of soup so I could sit and play and eat soup for 4-5 days straight. I don’t mind

that! It’s wonderful to think I don’t have to think about it! (You did get that, didn’t you?)

To “*get in motion*,” I entered my great-great-grandmother Aasland’s line. It is Anne’s (Ah’ nah’s) people we actually *know* today, visit with through Christmas cards and e-mails and connect with when in Norway, and she’s an “A” by marriage! I had been told her line goes way back, so I decided to do that first, see how far it went and get it out of the way. I could hardly stand it!! Have you seen the ads on TV for Ancestry.com? The little green leaf waves at you, you grab it and shake it and ANOTHER generation pops up! I kept going and going (and going!)

This energizer bunny was in for some surprises! Before long my Norwegian ancestors started coming out of Denmark! That’s reasonable, the Danes and Norskies were actually *one* at times (like the Hansens and the Aaslands!),

what with the plundering and all. Then Iceland came up. That too, made sense. Those Vikings did travel! But now I am intrigued; “Northumbria” shows up and I’m thinking, “That’s . . . not . . . Norway!” So off to England (now part of Scotland) I go. I find Tostig Godwinson, a royal. A ROYAL!!?? Come on!!

I have big doubts by now, so I called in and asked questions like - - “Is this legit?” The rep at Ancestry.com said *he* had been trying, himself, to find a thread into a royal line on his tree. If you did, you could think the information was true because they had scribes who wrote this stuff down. When I told him my story so far, he said, “WOW!” (Such a profound utterance!) So, that gave me the incentive to go on. It seems Tostig was the youngest son of Godwin, who had another son, Harold, as in KING Harold Godwinson! (Or Earl, or Jarl, whichever).

Long story short, on Sept. 25, 1066,



the two brothers “go at it!” Sibling rivalry, you know, and do battle, the “Battle of Stamford Bridge,” to decide who would be “Earl of Northumbria.” Tostig gets broad axed to Valhalla, and his two young sons, Skule and Kjetil, hiding under the bridge, decide to save themselves, skedaddle on out of there and flee to Norway! On Oct. 14, 1066, during the “Battle of Hastings,” brother, Harold took an arrow to the eye and died! Some say a band of Norman Knights, (Northmen) was sent to assassinate him! Skeptical?

Google Tostig Godwinson! Bunk, you say? Look it up! The “Battle of Stamford Bridge” is one of the major battles of all time! Skule Tostigson IS IN OUR LINE! Honest to Olaf, he is! Once in Norway, Skule takes up with a sweet Norwegian maiden, had progeny, and *here we are!*

Of course, I can’t let things go at that, but it *IS* believable, so far, right? So I shook those little green leaves some

more and got to B C! I kid you not! Back on the hunt the next day, Abraham and Sarah show up, right about lunch time! I am going to go on to the end, wherever that takes me! I had to get my Bible works out when Jacob and Leah pop in! I have a daughter, Leah, who has a son, Levi – and, OMGosh! She has a sister-in-law – Rachel! (But no, her husband is Peter, not Jacob!) I suppose you think, by now, I’m just making this up to “josh” with you! I haven’t connected directly with Joshua yet, but I guess I’ll keep going. My horoscope told me to! And not to worry about the “end game!” Besides, not everyone has “rellies” named Gytha Thorkelsdotter or Thorgils Sprakaleg! For real! Google them! **U**



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# What's Happening NOW!

September

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Humboldt Cross Country</b> 6 @ Estherville-LC - 5PM 12 @ Ballard - 4:30PM 15 @ Clear Lake - 4:30PM 19 Humboldt Invite - 5PM 26 @ Algona - 4:30PM 	<b>ROCK 'N' PICNIC</b> ★SHELDON PARK   HUMBOLDT, IOWA★ SATURDAY   03 SEPT 2016 PERFORMANCE BY: THE NEDD FREELEY FUN BAND SUNDAY   04 SEPT 2016 PERFORMANCES BY: THE GREAT LAKES HYBRIDS TANTRUM 2 BLIND   CROSSEYED MARY THE JAY CLYDE BAND		Volleyball vs. Boone HHS - 6PM	1 9th Football vs. Hampton-Dumont HHS - 4:45PM	2 2 Varsity Football vs. Hampton-Dumont HHS - 7:30PM "Armed Forces Night"	3
4 NO SCHOOL  <b>2-4 POLKA FEST</b> Humboldt County Fairgrounds <b>LABOR DAY</b> Humboldt City Council - 5:30PM	5 Volleyball vs. Manson-NWW HHS - 6PM	6 Cy-Hawk 3-9PM Downtown Humboldt	7 Volleyball @ Clarion-G/D - 6PM 9th Football @ South Calhoun County - 6PM	8 Varsity Football @ Spencer - 7PM	9 9th VB @ Forest City - 9AM Volleyball @ Spencer - 9AM	10
11 <b>PATRIOT DAY 9-11</b>  JV Volleyball @ Lake Mills - 6PM JV Football vs. Kuemper HHS - 6PM	12 EVERY MONDAY Board of Supervisors - 8:30AM Volleyball vs. Webster City HHS - 6PM	13 Dakota City City Council - 7:00PM	14 17 Volleyball @ Carroll - 9AM JV Volleyball @ Hampton - 9AM	15 Varsity Football vs. Algona HHS - 7PM <b>HOMECOMING</b> 	16 Model A Club Car Show Hy-Vee Parking Lot - 10AM-2PM Wine Walk Humboldt Co. Historical Museum - 11AM-3PM	17
18 Humboldt City Council - 5:30PM JV Football vs. Forest City HHS - 6PM	19  <b>FARMER'S MARKET</b> EVERY SATURDAY 8:30AM-NOON DOWNTOWN HUMBOLDT	20 21 <b>AUTUMN BEGINS</b> Volleyball vs. Clear Lake HHS - 6PM 9th FB vs. Carroll Kuemper HHS - 6PM	22 Varsity Football vs. Storm Lake HHS - 7PM	23 24 West Fork Services Bubble Run Registration 8AM - Race 9AM	24 Pella Dutch Marching Band Invitational (Pella)	24
25 FALL FLING - 10AM Humboldt Co. Museum 26 HAAC 11th Annual Art Exhibit "Have a Heart for Art" River Valley Orchard & Winery - 6-8PM	26 Volleyball vs. IF-Alden HHS - 6PM	27 	28 Volleyball @ Hampton-Dumont - 6PM	29 Varsity Football @ Spirit Lake - 7PM	30 <b>SEPT. 24TH</b>  <b>HARDPACK 30</b> 30 MILE BICYCLE RIDE ON THE THREE RIVERS TRAIL	30

To submit items for the Community Calendar please email [independent@humboldtnews.com](mailto:independent@humboldtnews.com) or call 515.332.2514

Community Calendar Sponsored by:

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# OUT & ABOUT!

## Humboldt County Fair

July 26-31

By Kent Thompson



A great thing about machinery exhibits is that kids can get a real feel for what it's like to drive a new tractor. Landon Tinken of Dakota City tries out this 1025R John Deere from K.C.Nielsen.

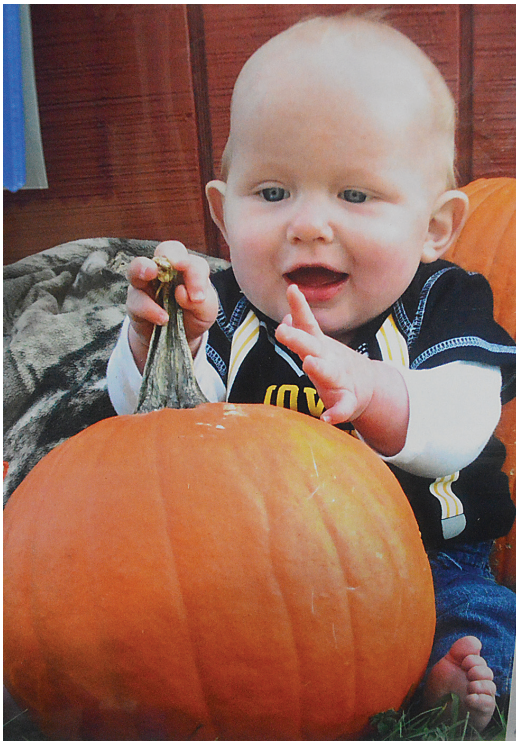
Lisa Rodriguez, a member of the Thor Vikings 4-H Club, feeds her pet rabbit, Zoey, a carrot. That tender, loving care must have paid off, as Lisa earned one of two Best of Show trophies at the rabbit judging.



Each year, Humboldt County 4-H clubs develop a poster or banner with a theme for the exhibit hall. This year, in keeping with an underwater idea, the Ottosen Opossums encourage people to "dive to new depths."



Left: Holly Egdorf won a blue ribbon for this photo of a Baby with a Pumpkin in the photography competition. Below: from left to right: Christian Alcala, Christopher Robinson and Joey Race, all of Bode, like the feel of The Scrambler.







Enjoying a ride on the tubs are Sydney Thoma of Manson (left) and her niece, Kyla Thoma of Fort Dodge. It was one of several rides on the midway from the Next Generation Shows carnival.



What's a county fair without a little barbecue? Cody Skeeters of Humboldt shows how it's done with a sampling of chicken wings, ribs and corned beef brisket.



Day Care provider Calli McClintock holds Sawyer Johnston (left) as he pulls Leo (red top) and Jaxson Stalpes in a Radio Flyer at the fair. Sawyer was named Little Mister Humboldt County Fair, after his name was drawn from a hat.



It's hard to tell if Makayla Stalpes, 7, of Livermore, has more soap on herself or her bucket bottle calf during a bath at the fairgrounds. It looks like Makayla has been to see the face painter, a very popular stop for children at the annual exposition.



All aboard! Ringing the bell is the conductor Myles Hatten, 3, of Grimes. Along for the ride is Bo Rutz, 18 months, of Des Moines. The boys were enjoying the fair with their grandmothers, Shelly Bakken and Susan Rutz.



Pictured are a few of the alternate State Fair exhibits that were judged at this year's Humboldt County Fair. 4-H members come up with some very creative ideas for projects in a wide variety of categories.



# Humboldt Hardpack 30

By Jeff Gargano



**T**o commemorate the fifth annual Humboldt Hardpack 30 bicycle ride, more fun entertainment is being planned, including music and a beer garden for the conclusion of the ride in Rutland.

The ride on the Three Rivers Trail will be Saturday, Sept. 24, starting at 9:30 a.m. at Rutland. Riders will pedal from Rutland to Rolfe, a distance of about 13.5 miles. And then they'll return to Rutland (27 miles round trip). People can also do a Halfpack ride and end at Rolfe (you'll need to find your own ride back).

Entry fee is \$30, which includes

a long sleeved t-shirt designed by Hardpack 30 organizer Jake Zweibohmer. This year, the first 50 to register for the Hardpack 30 received custom designed Hardpack 30 socks for free. Those socks will be available the day of the ride for \$10. There will also be some other giveaways included when people pick up their shirts before the ride.

Profits from the ride go towards trail improvements. More than \$4,000 has been donated to Humboldt County Conservation and Pocahontas County Conservation since the

ride started.

"Kallie Davis and the city of Rutland has really jumped on board to create a fun afternoon when riders return to Rutland," Zweibohmer said.

Plans call for musical entertainment by singer Jami Olson, a beer garden by Nut's Landing and food (pulled pork sandwiches and sides), which



Three Rivers Trails sign.



Top: A photo from last year's Hardpack 30 ride from Rutland to Rolfe and back to Rutland. Above: The socks that will be available the day of the Humboldt County Hardpack 30 bike ride on Sept. 24, starting in Rutland.





**Above: This metal sign was created by Chantland MHS for the new kiosk at the site of the old Humboldt train depot. Right: Bradgate is a nice stopping point for riders to take a break.**



will help create a festival atmosphere.

"We had 170 riders last year, the most ever. Our goal is to get to 200 riders. There's been a lot of people talking about the Hardpack 30, so hopefully that translates into a great turnout," Zweibohmer said.

The event is held rain or shine. The public is invited to take part in the festivities after the ride

in Rutland starting at about noon on Sept. 24.

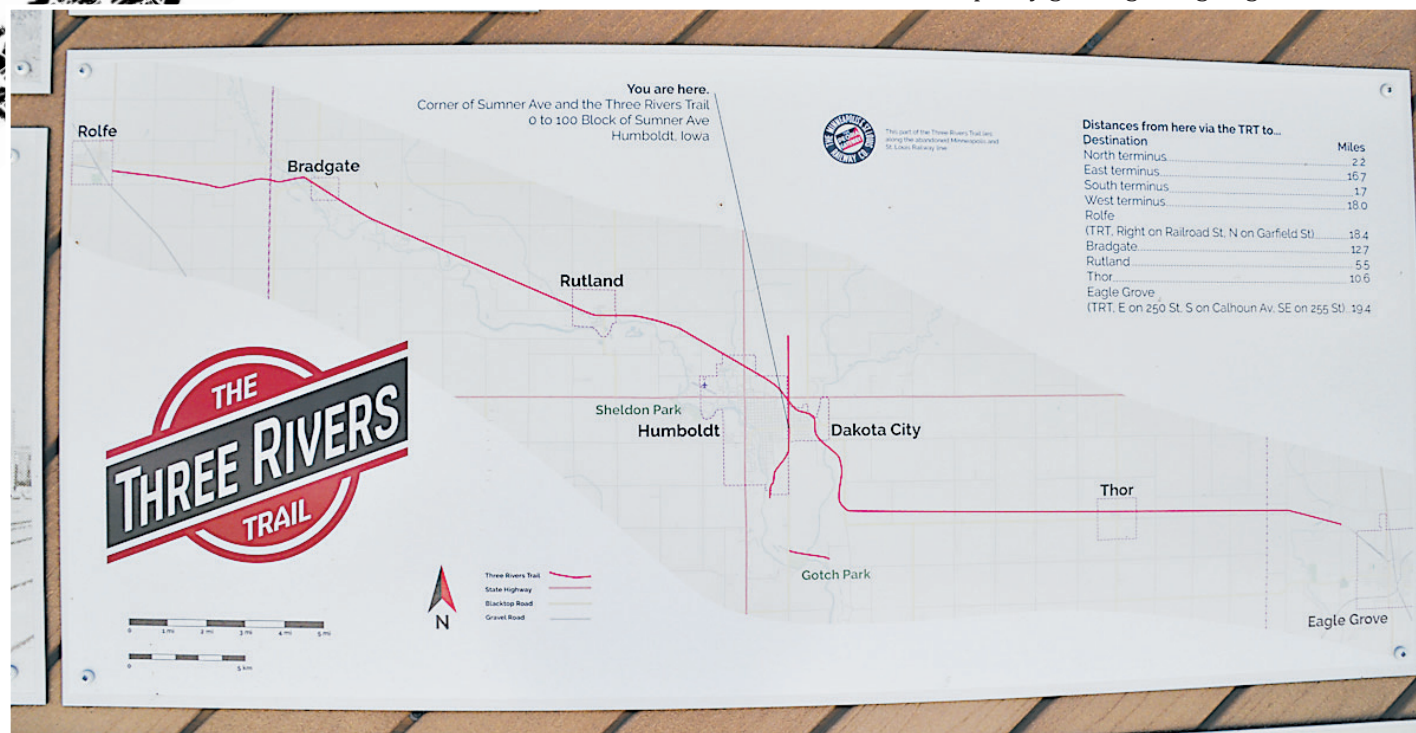
"You don't have to be a registered rider to participate in the fun afterwards in Rutland," Zweibohmer said. In Rolfe, the Rolfe Rodeo serves a breakfast in the park on Main Street as a fundraiser each year. Across the street, the Community Pub LLC (formerly Wes's Place in Rolfe) serves

as a gathering place before riders head back to Rutland.

The Rolfe ambulance staff will be on hand at Rolfe for anyone who might need assistance.

The first Hardpack 30 in 2012 had 104 participants, and that grew to 114 in year two, 116 in year three and 170 last year.

"We always hope for a nice day. That time of year, you never know. That stretch of the Three Rivers Trail has a pretty gentle grade going west. There's



**The map shows the Three Rivers Trail that goes from Rolfe to Eagle Grove, going through parts of three counties.**



a lot of tree canopy and sheltered areas from the wind. There are some very beautiful stretches right long the river," Zweibohmer said. "The whole idea of the bike ride was to call attention to this beautiful asset we have in the Three Rivers Trail, and to help



**A view of the Three Rivers Trail northwest of Rutland.**



**This biker was raring to go.**

raise money to maintain the trail and continue to improve it."

Money raised by Hardpack 30 helped pay for a new covered kiosk on Sumner Avenue in Humboldt at the base of the hill going to Dakota City. It tells a little history of the railroad in Humboldt County, and how the trail came to be through the Rails to Trails program. The kiosk is situated at the site of the former Humboldt train depot that burned down in the 1980s.

Funding has also gone towards trail expansion north of Hy-Vee, plus was used for steel Three Rivers Trail logos at various

crossings. Money has also been used for trail clearing tools to help create a mountain bike trail at Sheldon Park (still in progress).

Zweibohmer said it's not a race, but an informal bike ride.

"You can go as fast or as slow as you want," Zweibohmer said.

"Some people might be intimidated by the number of miles, but it's a more casual pace and a fun time."

For more information or to register, people can go to [www.2treesdesign.dunked.com](http://www.2treesdesign.dunked.com), or go to [www.humboldtnews.com](http://www.humboldtnews.com). Information can also be found on Facebook. Questions can be emailed to [jake@2treesdesignco.com](mailto:jake@2treesdesignco.com). **IA**

**The start of last year's Humboldt County Hardpack 30 bike ride. The ride takes place on the Three Rivers Trail and proceeds from the ride go towards trail improvements.**



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**Proceeds support** the Humboldt Area Art Community's mission  
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### **Contact**

Lisa Rasmussen 515.890.1098, lisajrasmussen@gmail.com  
or Kris Christensen at krchristensen@yahoo.com  
with your intent to create so further information can be mailed.

Jennifer Hansen (left) representing  
the Humboldt Area Arts  
Community, presented the 4-H  
Arts Award to Taylor McKimmey  
at the 2016 Humboldt County Fair.



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## **SAVE THE DATE!**

**2017 Arts Festival**

Saturday, June 17, 2017



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- Adult Class list coming soon
- Photography Show  
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professional & amateur categories





# Taste of History Wine Walk

By Jeff Gargano

**T**he fourth annual “Taste of History Wine Walk” will be held on Saturday, Sept. 17, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on the grounds of the Humboldt County Historical Museum on the east side of Dakota City. The event will be held rain or shine. In the event of rain, it will be held inside the spacious Clancy building.

In addition to seven wineries, there will also be one brewery and Humes Distributing on hand providing wine and beer samples. Bottles of wine will be available for purchase from the wineries. In addition, there will be vendors offering products for sale.

Food will be available for purchase on the grounds. Food vendors include Hy-Vee, Miller’s Landing and Fire and Ice of Webster City, offering kettle korn, gourmet grilled cheese sandwiches and more.

There’s a raffle this year of a prime rib dinner at River Valley Orchards Winery (west of Humboldt on Highway 3). The raffle prize is a prime rib dinner for six including a limo ride to the winery. The evening has a value of \$1,000.

Raffle tickets are available at Humboldt Engraving and Gifts for \$5 each or six for \$20.

Proceeds from the Wine Walk go to the Humboldt County Historical Museum. Last year, more than 300 people attended and a check was presented to the museum.

Tickets are \$10 in advance, and \$15 at the door the day of the event. Included with the ticket purchase is a wine glass for wine sampling (by Humboldt Engraving and Gifts), plus tours of the unique historic museum buildings. There will be music by Kris Karr on acoustic guitar. Tables and chairs will be set up to listen to the music.

The first 75 tickets will be sold at the Hy-Vee customer service desk exclusively, and those ticket holders will receive a free gift bag full of goodies. Once the first 75 tickets are sold, tickets can be purchased at Humboldt Engraving and Gifts, Hy-Vee Wine and Spirits, and the Hy-Vee customer service desk.

At the wine walk, people can sample products from the vendors and then vote for their favorite red and white wine. The People’s Choice Awards will be announced at the end of the wine walk.

There will be prize drawings about every 20 minutes throughout the event.

The popular photo booth returns where people can have their photos

taken.

The wine and beer vendors include: Plum Creek Winery of Algona; Train Wreck Winery of Algona; River Valley Orchards of Humboldt; Soldier Creek Winery of Fort Dodge; Little Swan Lake Winery of Estherville; Stone Cliff Winery of Dubuque; Van Wijk Winery of Sully; Back Country Winery of Stratford; Johnson Brothers brewery; and Humes Distributing.

Most of the vendors return along with several new ones this year.

Sponsors for the event include Humboldt Engraving and Gifts, Hy-Vee and KHBT.

For more information, people can stop in to Humboldt Engraving and Gifts at 617 Sumner Avenue in downtown Humboldt or visit the Taste of History Facebook page. ■

**Top: Organizers of the fourth annual “Taste of History Wine Walk” on Sept. 17 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Humboldt County Historical Museum include (l to r): Renae Dreyer, Kallie Davis, Deb Lanus, Tracy Schriber, Karri George, Kathy Courtney and Dan Steenhoek. Kathi Black is also a committee member. Proceeds from the Wine Walk go towards the Humboldt County Historical Museum.**





HUMBOLDT MUSIC DEPARTMENT

# DOWNBEAT

## HUMBOLDT WELCOMES TWO NEW DIRECTORS

### Drew Barker

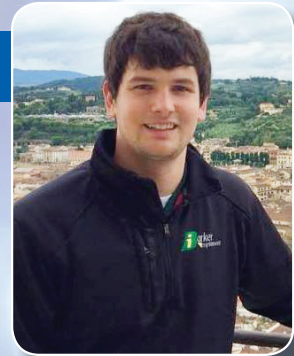
High School Band

I grew up and went to school in Lenox, IA with an older brother and two younger sisters. I grew up around John Deere as our family managed a string of John Deere implements across Southwest Iowa. Both of my parents are very musical, my mom was a vocal music teacher for a number of years and my dad played trumpet in the Iowa State marching band.

I started at Iowa State in 2010 as an Instrumental Music major. Throughout my years at Iowa State, I participated in every large band ensemble the university had to offer. These ensembles included Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Band, Concert Band, Campus Band, Marching Band, Pep Band, Jazz I and Jazz II. I also sang in the Iowa Statesmen choir for five years and the male a capella group, Shy of a Dozen, for two years.

Some highlights from my college years include traveling to Europe twice with the Wind Ensemble, performing around the state with Shy of a Dozen, marching with my dad every year in the homecoming football game, and being drum major my last year in marching band.

This will be my first year teaching, and I am very excited to be at Humboldt! I am looking forward to the band performing for the community at every football game!



### Sam Johnson

Middle School Band

Sam Johnson is the 7/8 Band Director at Humboldt Middle School. Originally from Atlantic, IA, he received his Bachelor of Music in Music Education from Iowa State University, where he studied Horn with Dr. Peter Kortenkamp, Conducting with Dr. Michael Golemo, and Voice with Dr. Donald Simonson.

At Iowa State, he participated in a large variety of musical experiences such as the Iowa Statesmen Men's Chorus, the ISU Theatre Spring Musical, and the Iowa State University Wind Ensemble.

Mr. Johnson was also heavily involved with the marching band program at Iowa State, participating in the ensemble for four years. His final year, he served on the student staff for the band and is now currently the videographer for the band.

More recently, Mr. Johnson was a member of the Tour Staff for the Phantom Regiment Drum & Bugle Corps, a marching musical ensemble that competes across the nation during the summer. He is very excited to begin his teaching career at Humboldt and looks forward to the opportunities that it will present.



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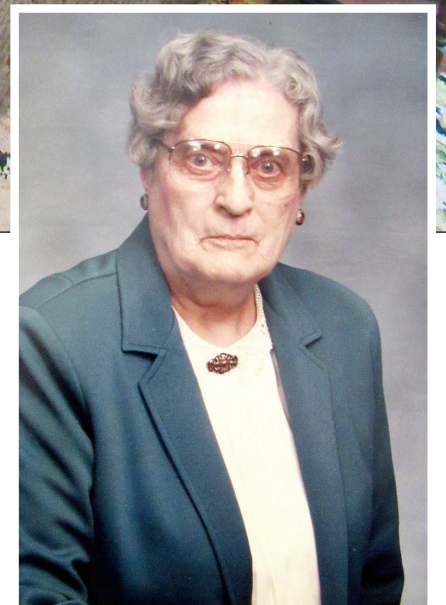
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# HISTORICALLY SPEAKING!

by Carolyn Saul Logan

## History from scratch



**D**isplayed in the Frances Messer Room in the museum is a quilt that is almost 200 years old. It was part of the dowry of Mary Morse, Frances's grandmother.

A woman's dowry was property or money brought to her husband and his family at the time of their marriage. Mary's family probably lived on a farm near Rochester, a town in Windsor County, VT. We can infer this because the cloth of this quilt, which would have been a family project, was woven from the wool of the family's sheep. The dyes used to color the fabric were from walnut and butternut trees, which most likely grew on the property. They

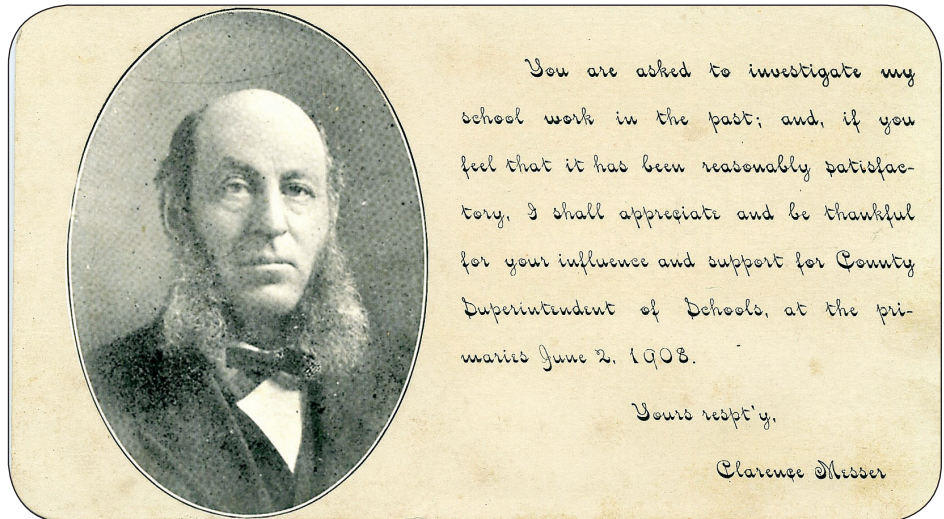
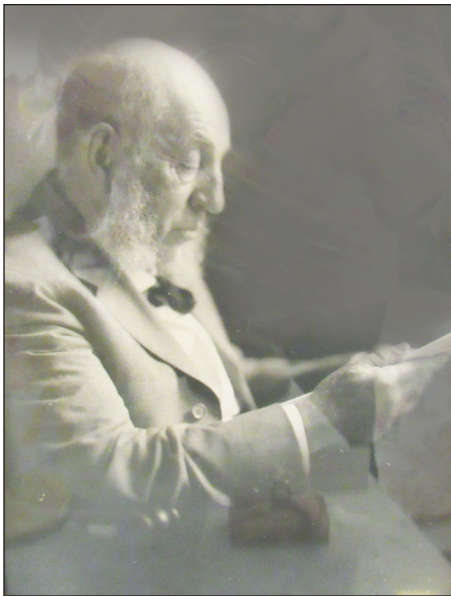
also grew crops, because the thread that was used to quilt the coverlet was spun from flax grown on their property. The whole quilt was created from scratch, all parts grown and worked by the family on their property.

Mary's son, Clarence Messer, was the Humboldt County superintendent of schools and according to the recollections of many people, was feared by students and teachers alike. Superintendent Messer traveled around the county, visiting all the country schools and inspecting them. It was a job, which required him to make judgments on the work of teachers and students. The future education of boys and girls depended on getting good

**Above: This is a portrait of Frances as many knew her in later life. Also in the bedroom are photos of her as a child with all her dolls. Top: Mary Morse Messer's quilt. Note the intricate quilting effect. Submitted photos.**



**Below: Clarence Messer's photo on a dresser in the Messer Room. Right: A card Clarence Messer would have handed to voters when running for the office of County Superintendent of Schools. Submitted photos.**



Today, not many things are made from scratch and most people would not know how to go about creating such an item. Spinning, weaving and quilting are done by people who want to keep these crafts alive. The natural colors created by plant dyes are not as popular as those created by chemistry. So, to many eyes, the quilt pales in comparison to one created today from modern cloth. The women who quilt by hand are few and it is now possible to have your quilting done by machine.

The old quilt and the way it was created is not better or worse than a modern quilt. However, in its history we can glimpse a way of life that has all but disappeared as well as values that have been eclipsed by modern life.

All the history on view in the museum is like the quilt—an artifact from the past. Implicit is also the history of the people who created the

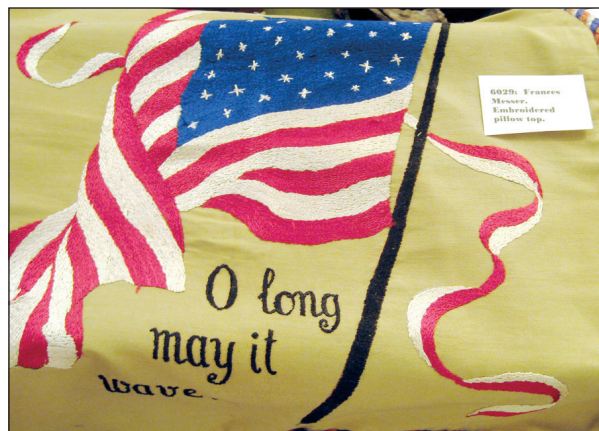
item. By looking at the facts about the Messer quilt, we can see also the history of her family and people like them who lived a life that was full of the work of creating things from the barest beginnings, from scratch.

Many of this type of item are on display during the Fall Fling, which is held the last Sunday in September. A selection of old quilts is draped over the pews in the Hardy Church, creating a colorful display. Displays of tools made by hand are in the Red Barn, many of them brought from the "Old Country." In the hayloft of the barn are the tools used to carve out the limestone bricks, used to construct many public and private buildings in town. Looking at displays with an eye to seeing the history of their creation is an interesting way to tour the Museum. ■

results so that they could go on to high school and college. Teachers depended on a good report to keep their jobs. So Messer carried a lot of clout, if only in his position as superintendent.

One former student found his demeanor slightly terrifying, especially his long sideburns, which can be seen in his photos. Also, there doesn't seem to be a photo of him smiling. However, Messer was a good superintendent, with an excellent education, and did his job well. He was probably a serious man who took his job seriously.

Later his daughter, Frances, became superintendent of county schools and reports from students show that she was not feared but highly respected. Frances Messer was prominent among the people who established the Humboldt County Historical Association and donated many items to the museum, most of which are housed in one of the bedrooms in the Mill Farm House. Messer's room was dedicated to her in June, 1995. That is where the old quilt, part of her grandmother's dowry, is displayed.



**Above: embroidered pillowcase in the Messer Room. Right: some of Frances Messer's dolls and a photo of her with them when she was a child. Submitted photos.**





# West Bend Grotto & Humboldt's Liberty Fountain

part of Father Dobberstein's grand plan By Kent Thompson



It may be 28 miles between Humboldt and West Bend, but for Father Paul Dobberstein and his vision of a shrine to the grace of God, it is but a few small steps.

"It's a unique aspect that the three fountains at the Shrine of the Grotto of the Redemption and the Liberty Fountain in John Brown Park in Humboldt are the only fountains incorporated into Father Dobberstein's work. That tells me that he felt this area of the heartland, here in north central Iowa, was special to him and held a special place in his heart," said Andy Milam.

Milam is a Humboldt native, who serves as the marketing and public relations coordinator for the Grotto in West Bend.

"Father Dobberstein was not only a Catholic priest but was well known for his architectural building style that is present in all his works, most particularly in the similarities between the Grotto in West Bend and the fountain in John Brown Park," Milam said.

Dobberstein's story and how the Grotto in West Bend came to be built, is fairly well known, but as a point of historical reference, bears repeating.

Dobberstein immigrated to the U.S. in the early 1890s and attended St. Francis Seminary in Milwaukee, WI.

While there, he was stricken with a virulent strain of pneumonia. He implored the Blessed Virgin Mary for intercession and promised that if he regained his health, he would construct a shrine in her honor.

Father Dobberstein did recover and was ordained as a priest in 1896.

**The Liberty Fountain in Humboldt's John Brown Park is the only working fountain among Father Paul Dobberstein's artistic creations made in the early part of the last century. The Liberty Fountain was completed in 1918.**

God smiled on citizens around the four-county area of Humboldt, Emmet, Palo Alto and Kossuth by having Father Dobberstein assigned to the Saints Peter and Paul Catholic Church in West Bend.



**Andy Milam**



**Father Dobberstein**

Not long after settling into his new home, Dobberstein began collecting geological specimens from all over the U.S. and the world, using the agate, azurite, quartz, petrified wood and other rocks, precious stones and minerals to create the Grotto in West Bend, which tells the story of man's fall from grace and the stations of the cross and Jesus' resurrection.

In 1912, Dobberstein laid the first stone at the Grotto and continued building the shrine over the next 42 years. He was assisted by Matthew Szerencse, the son of a local farmer, and Father Louis Greving. Greving worked with Dobberstein eight years, and later served as the parish priest, continuing Dobberstein's work on the Grotto until his retirement in 1996.







**The Shrine of the Grotto of the Redemption in West Bend is a monument to faith, hope and love through an artistic portrayal of the life of Jesus Christ in stone. The Grotto is a tourist attraction known worldwide, and annually draws thousands of visitors. Submitted photo.**

Work on the Trinity Grotto started in 1912. After its completion, the Liberty Fountain was constructed in 1918.

The statue at the top of the Liberty Fountain is Fay Hessian, a young girl from Humboldt who died after contracting tuberculosis in 1912. She was in her early 20s.

Fay's father, Denis Hessian, commissioned Dobberstein to build the fountain as a memorial to his daughter.

"The fountain in John Brown Park speaks to Father Dobberstein's patriotic nature. It also reflects an America of the early 20th century, when immigrants were showing their abilities and reflecting pride in their new country and new freedom," Milam said.

"Father Dobberstein accomplished a unison where religion and the state could co-exist in a positive way at a time when being Catholic and being German was not viewed in a positive light in this country," Milam said.

"I think Father Dobberstein's work on the fountain in John Brown Park sparked a fire in his eye as to how he wanted the Grotto to formulate itself."

Dobberstein built the fountain at his shop in West Bend and transported it to Humboldt for placement in the city park.

"It had to be a very laborious and

painstaking process in moving the fountain. That was before Szerencse had stepped in to help, so it was purely the Father's work.

"You can see how the concrete lays out and the panels work together, so you can see similarities between the Liberty Fountain and the Shrine of the Grotto of the Redemption, and can also see differences as well," Milam said.



**Above: In rocks of all different kinds, shapes, textures and hues, The Rev. Paul Dobberstein created a homage to the creator for all to view in what became his American hometown of West Bend, after migrating from Germany at the age of 20. Submitted photo. Left: The statue of Fay Hessian on the Liberty Fountain at John Brown Park overlooks the area as the park's centerpiece. While the Grotto is a spiritual structure and the Liberty Fountain a civic/humanitarian piece, there are similarities that tie the creations together.**







**Quartz rock spell out the words Humanity, Justice, Liberty and Victory around the Liberty Fountain at Humboldt's John Brown Park. The fountain was completed near the end of World War I, and has an element of patriotism shown through the eyes of a first generation immigrant, Father Paul Dobberstein of West Bend. Outside of the massive Grotto of the Redemption, the Liberty Fountain is one of Dobberstein's larger pieces of art.**

"Knowing the tragedy of losing a child was an inspiration to him and is reflected in the work of the fountain," Milam commented.

Hessian's statue was sculpted in Italy and shipped to the U.S. During the 2010-11 restoration of the fountain, the only part of the statue that was altered was a new hand for the young female figure.

From an intellectual standpoint, there are messages of symbolism in all of The Rev. Paul Dobberstein's works.

"It's interesting that there is flowing water at the fountain in John Brown Park and not at the fountains at the Grotto in West Bend. In Catholic theology, the road to the Holy Spirit is through flowing water," Milam said.

Humboldt and West Bend are communities that mirror each other in that both are very progressive and respect the art that Father Dobberstein created.

"He felt that connection and put a lot of foresight into establishing that connection through his works," Milam said.

The connection continues to the present day. Don Howlett, owner of Preservation Services Inc., near Oshkosh, WI, who did the restoration work on the Liberty Fountain, also does restoration work at the Grotto and uses some of the same stones.

"He has been very true to the original construction and in making sure that each piece of the restoration is true to Father Dobberstein's original vision. With some of today's advancements in treatments and materials, we can assure that the weatherization and deterioration aspects can be minimized and these works can be maintained and enjoyed for generations to come," Milam said.



**This stone in front of the Liberty Fountain in John Brown Park, is dedicated to Fay Hessian, the young woman whose image is carved into the statue at the top of the fountain.**

As the marketing and public relations coordinator, and with a good knowledge of both communities, Milam is eager to cross promote the attractions and encourages visitors to the Grotto in West Bend to stop by Humboldt and see the Liberty Fountain, the Frank Gotch Statue and other area landmarks.

"Both are rich in geological history and while the nine grottos in West Bend are of a spiritual and Christ-centered nature, the Liberty Foundation is purely a civic-minded pursuit to honor a young woman, yet the work ties together.

"You could sit the Liberty Fountain down at the Grotto or in the town of West Bend and you could absolutely see the genesis of what Father Dobberstein was working toward.

"And all of his works, be it the nine grottos in West Bend, the Liberty Fountain or the town marker in old Rolfe, are all unique into and of themselves. There was no blueprint. It was all in Dobberstein's head," said Milam, a fact that has made it difficult for preservationists in restorative efforts.

The Shrine of the Grotto of the Redemption was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2001, and Milam said attempts are being made to have it declared a National Shrine, a distinction that has to be approved by the National Conference of Catholic Bishops and the Vatican in Rome.

Outside of the Grotto in West Bend, the Liberty Fountain at John Brown Park in Humboldt is one of the largest pieces of art Dobberstein created.

"We regard it as a hidden gem and want to keep the legacy of Father Dobberstein's work growing, to keep history alive and the hallmark and landmarks of our towns," Milam said.

"If we can get 25,000 people to visit the Grotto this year and can direct 5,000 of them to stop in Humboldt to see the fountain, that's a good start" at community-directed tourism,





Milam believes.

One thing is for certain, both the Shrine of the Grotto of the Redemption and the Liberty Fountain are a reflection of Father Paul Dobberstein's outpouring of love for mankind. ■

**The Grotto of the Redemption in West Bend has undergone two fairly big changes in the last year. The offices and gift shop have moved from the detached building across the street back to their original location in the Grotto. Also, the Grotto café has closed and that space is in the process of being converted into a meeting space area and museum. The meeting space area will be big enough to house small gatherings of between 20-40 people. People can find out more about the attraction at [www.westbendgrotto.com](http://www.westbendgrotto.com). Submitted photo.**



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# HUNGRY

## IN HUMBOLDT

By Traci Holm

### The HandleBar & Restaurant

**T**he bell has rung and school is back in session. I have always considered myself lucky to go to school when I did. Adults didn't worry themselves about a 5-year old's reading potential in the 80s. Instead our curriculum was loosely based on Robert Fulghams poem *All I Ever Needed to Know I Learned in Kindergarten*. Young tikes were graded on how well we played with others, if we put away our blocks when we were done, and how well we washed our hands after the bathroom break. My teacher's name was Mrs. Martha Wells. She was always ready to greet us with a big smile, a warm hug and stickers if we remembered our book bag. I run into her every once in a while when I go back to my hometown of Emmetsburg. She still greets me with a big hug and smile. She also fibs a little bit and tells me that I was her favorite student. I love Mrs. Wells.

In junior high I began my love of Fridays; however, this month I had a black Friday with Thanksgiving. I was already feeling better. I enjoyed the black eyed Susan's blooming in the ditches. The Black Angus cattle were out to pasture on

a black Friday. Not the black great shopping deals and eating regrets, but the kind when the world had beat decided to take my jump in the car

a grass bluff with their young calves and the bountiful corn that had erected from our black Iowa soil.

After about a 25-minute drive things were looking up. We had pulled into LuVerne and we were ending our ride at The HandleBar and Restaurant. The sign was black and orange. We took it as an indication that we should go in.

We had never been to The HandleBar and Restaurant, but the moment we walked in we were greeted with a warm smile and a friendly welcome that made us feel like we were being greeted by a long, lost friend. After sitting down near the entrance we soon learned that the bartender greets everyone that way. The place filled up pretty fast with few empty seats to be found.

We were lucky enough to get a chance to sit down with each of the owners' one at a time. The four-person partnership includes, Roy and Debbie Scott and Jess and Will Williams. Jess Williams is Roy and Debbie's daughter and Will is their son-in-law.

So I asked Roy, "Whose idea was HandleBar?" "Actually we were never looking to do anything like this. Two years ago the prior owner of HandleBar called Debbie and asked if she would be the manager. I wasn't really in favor of it. It is really hard to find an owner/manager relationship where each person feels like they are being

**Hawg Wing with vegetable and wild rice sides. Mushrooms, peppers and onions were a tasty addition to the wild rice.**





treated fairly. It seems like someone always feels like they are being shorted. Debbie convinced me to meet with the prior owner and we had a meeting. I listened, but still wasn't going to do it! Then we kept talking and I casually laughed and suggested that he would be better off to just sell us the place." The prior owner agreed.

Then Roy and Debbie decided that before they went any further they needed to meet with Jess and Will.

"We wouldn't have done this without Jess and Will. Each of us has our own special niche and Will's niche is definitely being an excellent cook. He has been cooking since he was 16 years old. We knew one thing. You don't have any chance at being a successful restaurant if you don't have a great cook," Debbie said.

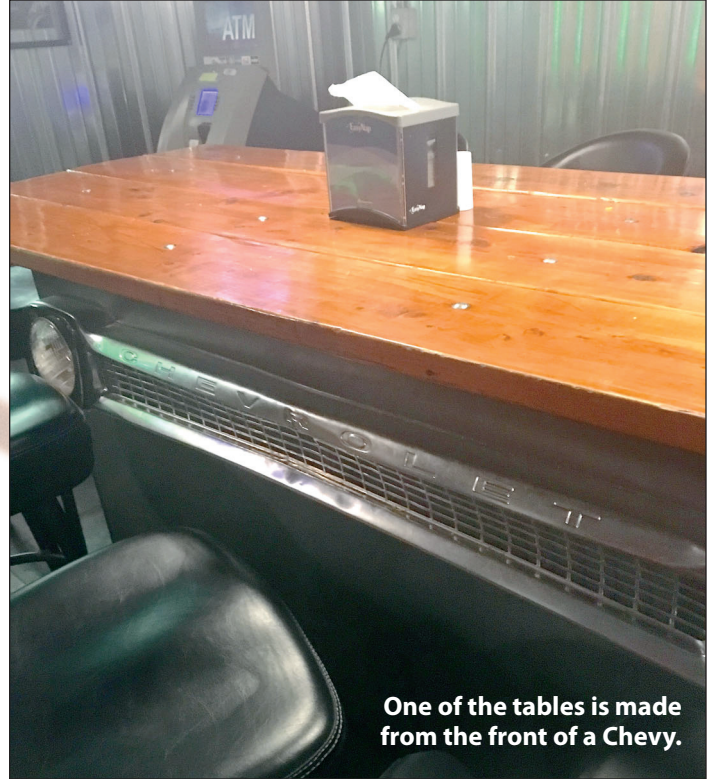
It took a little negotiating, but the four owners will have the second anniversary in October. Primarily Jess and Debbie take orders and get customers situated. Roy is the bartender and Will is cooking in the kitchen.

"We don't do anything without talking it over with each other," says Jess with a big smile on her face.

I found myself really enjoying the décor as much as I did the friendly staff. The high bar tables have an engraved logo on their wooden tops. The galvanized steel on the wall plays off nicely against the exposed brick and plaster on the accent wall. One of the tables was made from the front of an old Chevrolet car. The other observation I need to mention is how clean everything in the restaurant was. The floors, tables, chairs, and bathrooms were immaculately clean.

"When we took over we cleaned everything from head to toe. The kitchen equipment looked brand new when we were finished" shares Roy.

The HandleBar and Restaurant was particularly busy the night we stopped and it was easy to see why. Debbie and Jess are really great servers. They really like the food the restaurant offers and are happy to recommend dinner



One of the tables is made from the front of a Chevy.

options from their evening specials menu or their regular menu. Your drinks and appetizers are served quickly with folksy conversation and enthusiasm.

"The appetizer menu is not just hand cut and battered, but HandleBar cut and battered," Jess winks as she tells me.

Each night of the week The HandleBar and Restaurant has a different special or theme. Taco Tuesday includes large portion Mexican

**The Handlebar and Restaurant is open Tuesday-Friday, 5 p.m.-close and Saturday, 4 p.m.-close.**

fare including tacos, burritos, taco salads, HandleBar nachos, and cheese quesadillas. The HandleBar nachos are served on a 12" grilled flour tortilla with a generous portion of waffle fries, topped with taco meat, white queso cheese, lettuce, tomatoes, onions, black olives, jalapeños, and cheddar cheese. Chicken Wing Wednesday's special is a dollar a wing for a buffalo, BBQ, or plain order. Jess went on to share with us that people really "go nuts" on Wednesday because the wings are "so good."

Thursday's clever name is Swine and Wine, \$3 glasses of wine with special pork dinner options. Swine entrée options include broasted Iowa bone in pork chop that is breaded and pressure fried until golden brown, Texas style BLTs which includes extra slices

**The owners of The HandleBar and Restaurant, Roy and Debbie Scott and Jess and Will Williams.**







**"Handlebar cut" and battered fried goodies, served with ranch, of course.**



**Another popular entrée that seemed to flood out of the kitchen was the broasted chicken. Served with two sides and cleverly served on a small baking sheet.**

of bacon piled on Texas toast with lettuce and tomato, and Mandarin orange pork chop. The Mandarin orange pork chop is the chef's own creation. It is a butterflied boneless chop charbroiled to perfection and topped with an in house tangy orange sauce. Friday and Saturday nights are prime rib with two sides.

After gazing at the cattle on the way over my husband and I weren't able to order the beef. Instead we ordered pork on our visit. I had a Hawg Wing with a vegetable, wild rice side and Culley ordered the pork tenderloin with sweet potato fries. The pork tenderloin was a nice size and very filling. Culley also liked the honey, mustard sauce that came with his sweet potato fries. The Hawg Wing is a charbroiled tender pork shank. My pork shank was charbroiled perfectly and the side addition of onions, mushrooms and peppers to the wild rice was something I had never had before and would definitely order again.

Culley and I stuck around for most of the evening. We people watched as diners finished their dinners and packed up their take home bag for tomorrow's lunch. Roy, Debbie, and Jess made a sincere effort to thank everyone who came in that night. I thoroughly enjoyed watching Debbie hug about four different people throughout the night as they made their way to the door.

I guess you learn something every day. A good hug works for a welcoming hello and a nice goodbye.

Love and Shamrocks until we meet again. 🍀



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# John Hatcher triumphs over tragedy

By Phil Monson

John Hatcher (right) is shown with his son, John Kevin, and Maxx.



ct. 8, 2015, began as a picture perfect autumn day for Humboldt retiree John Hatcher and his son, John Kevin Hatcher.

Little did they know a life-changing event would be thrust into their lives that afternoon – but they are thankful to be together today to tell their story and provide inspiration for others.

John, who retired six years ago after a long career with Corn Belt Power Cooperative, was operating a powerful tiller in the family garden that afternoon when his left foot became entangled and was severely shredded in the accident. The rest as they say, is history.

“It was a beautiful and sunny October day. A Thursday,” John, a soft-spoken 71-year-old, said.

“I was operating my Honda tiller that’s over 30 years old. I finished tilling the garden and I tried to take the clutch out, but for some reason, it did not stop, so I reached up to put it into neutral and it popped into reverse and came back and got my lower left leg,” John said. “I don’t remember much from that point on, just bits and pieces.”

“The tiller engine died as I was trying to get it back into neutral. My foot was all tangled up in the tines and I struggled to get it out of reverse,” John said. “I had my cell phone in my pocket and so I wiggled it out and tried to call Johnny (John Kevin). He wasn’t by his phone so I called my wife, Donna, and told her ‘I think the tiller tore my leg off.’ She hung up and was headed this way.”

“I called Johnny back and he happened to be by his phone and I told him what happened. Pretty soon I saw his blue pickup coming toward me,” John said.

John Kevin, who is the head mechanic at B & N Auto, located along Highway 3 on the west end of Humboldt, probably set a speed record between the shop and the Hatcher residence, located in the 1200 block of Jerry Hatcher Road north of Hy-Vee Food Store. The road is named after John’s brother, who died in the Vietnam War on April 8, 1967.



"It's amazing that I didn't get into a fender bender when I was driving on the highway through the intersection with Highway 169. After I got through there I floored it and I think I looked down and saw 126 miles per hour at one point," John Kevin said.

"I came flying into the driveway. I could see in the yard the tiller was on its side and Dad was on the other side. I got there, grabbed the tiller and put it into neutral," John Kevin said. "The main artery on the front of his leg was ripped out. Blood was gushing all over the place when I got there. It took me two complete revolutions of the tines to get his leg out of there."

"I was trying to bring the tines around with one hand and trying to bring his foot back around with the other hand," John Kevin said. "I got it out and threw the tiller to the side. I told Dad, 'here, grab your fingers together' and I put his arms around my neck, grabbed ahold of him by the belt and lifted him up and placed him in the passenger side of my truck. He was complaining badly how much it hurt."

"When I got into the truck, I told him, 'hang on, because this is going to hurt,'" John Kevin said. "I tore out of there as fast as I could. I had my emergency flashers on. I drove down the highway and to the hospital as soon as I could."

"There was a lot of blood on my hands. I think I was almost in half shock, too. I know Dad was clearly in shock, yet he stayed conscious the whole time," John Kevin said. "When we got to the hospital I grabbed a wheelchair in the emergency room. I got him around the corner and into the room and said, 'somebody has got to help me.' They came and got him placed onto the bed."

"I don't remember any pain, but I was in shock, so that had something to do with it," John said.

The life flight helicopter from Fort Dodge soon arrived and flew John Hatcher to Des Moines.

"I don't remember anything in the emergency room but I do remember taking off in the helicopter. The next thing I recall they're placing me on a bed after I had that first surgery to get my foot cleaned up," John said.

Donna drove to Des Moines that evening and joined her husband. John Kevin came down early the next day for a visit, arriving at 8:15 a.m.

The younger Hatcher was what he called, "blown away" by the positive and even joking attitude his father displayed when they spoke for the first time after the accident.

"I walked into the hospital room on Friday morning and Dad looks over at me and says, 'you've got to get me an eye patch and a hook for my hand to go with my peg leg, you know it's almost Halloween,'" John Kevin said. "His survival attitude was strong from the get-go. It was phenomenal. I needed to hear him say that."

After consulting with doctors on his options, right away John said it didn't take him long to decide to have the lower portion of his left leg amputated, rather than rebuild it with no guarantees.

"About eight inches below the knee the bones were all fragmented and the muscle was torn up," John said. "The doctors told me they would rebuild it, but it would be two to three years of surgeries and they would have had to take muscle out of my other leg and a lot of skin for grafting and bone from a cadaver."

"They said if I had all of those surgeries to rebuild it, there was no guarantee that it would work. With that, they might still have to take more off and go above the knee," John said.

"With amputation, they told me I could probably walk again in six months with a prosthetic leg. I told them at my age, I don't have two

to three years to sit around and it would drive me nuts," John said.

"I ended up having three surgeries that week and the last one was the amputation. They wrapped it up and nothing came off until six weeks later when the surgeon took the wrappings off," John said. "I had to go to Des Moines a week later for x-rays to make sure it was healing alright. The stitches were taken out a few weeks after the bandages were taken off. Next came a visit with Hanger Clinic for Prosthetics & Orthotics in Fort Dodge in November to get fitted with a shrinking boot."

"After about a month, I got a prosthetic leg lined up and on Dec. 23 I had a leg to walk on," John said.

"It was different walking for the first time that day. I was real wobbly. But today, I'm to the point now where when I sit down, it is like I can feel the bottom of my foot," John said.

"He complains sometimes that it feels like his sock is bunched up in his arch," John Kevin said.

"I've been told those are phantom pains," John said. "It doesn't hurt, but there are days when I have been on it for a long time and I'll have that aching feeling down there. I put the leg on at 6:30 to 7 a.m. and I'll have it on until nine or 10 at night. That's a long time."

"After I take the leg off, I wear the shrink sock at night to keep it from swelling up. It does swell some overnight," John said. "In the morning when I put it on, I do it without a sock that I wear over my stump. After breakfast and before I get going for the day, I have different socks of varying layers of thickness that I can wear over my stump."

"The stump is shrinking more all the time," John said. "I've had the current leg now four about two months. There are always little adjustments you have to make with the leg because of the shrinkage of the stump, and that changes the angle of the foot. The adjustments with the titanium leg and the foot vary, whether you move it in, down or out."

"The roughest part is trying to walk out in the yard where there's gravel or rough spots. If I hit a tough spot, it will almost throw me

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down," John said. "The angle of the foot is permanent. It doesn't flex at the ankle like the normal human foot. It is in a fixed position."

"I used a walker for quite a while at first, then I graduated to using a cane. I think I used that for about two months. I quit using the cane in late June, but I still have one on hand in the pickup in case I need it," John said.

As John and his son look back, the past year certainly has been life-changing. However, the way they responded to adversity has made life better today.

"Dad and I spend a lot more time together now. There are things he cannot do. He used to grow the garden. It was all his. Now it is ours," John Kevin said. "I do the work and I'll pick the benefits for him. I'm learning how to be a master gardener like him."

"We have a lot of fun together. Before our time together was spotty because I was working extra at the garage and he would be gone. He now comes up to the house in the evening and we talk things over. It has been different," John Kevin said.

"In some ways, it has been really bad this past year, but in other ways it has been really good," John Kevin said. "It made me realize in a heart beat how precious life really is. I praise the Lord every day that Dad had his cell phone on him. If not, he could have lost a lot of blood and died that afternoon out in that garden."

"I tell a lot of people, if you have parents or people you care for, make sure they have their cell phone on them at all times. Make sure they have a cell phone to use in case of an emergency," John Kevin said. "I bet I've told 500 or more people to make sure they have their cell phone on them."

"I have been totally impressed with Dad's mental toughness and attitude. I don't know if I could do what he has done. Nobody

knows until they have to go through it," John Kevin said, his voice weakened by emotion. "His attitude...he has been a very big inspiration to me."

Because of John's attitude and resolve, the Hanger Clinic is asking him to help counsel new amputees in a new networking program they are starting this summer.

A 1963 graduate of Humboldt High School, John is a life-long Humboldt resident and wouldn't have it any other way. He has three brothers and four sisters. His youngest brother, Mick, also lives in Humboldt. Bill lives in Jacksonville, NC. Joe resides in White Bear Lake, MN.

Betty Zentner lives in LuVerne, Jean Dunscombe lives in Humboldt, Jackie resides in Red Oak, TX, and Barb is in Moore, OK.

John has two children from his first marriage. A daughter, Michelle, resides in Denver, CO. John's wife, Donna, has two grown children, Deb Lanus of Gilmore City and Jay Schluter of Macon, GA.

John admits there have been some tough days, but he tries to keep them at a minimum.

"I've always been told that you have to get ahold of your bootstraps, pull yourself up and get going," John said. "No sense in feeling sorry for yourself. It won't get you anywhere."

"The message in our family over the years: improvise, adapt and overcome," John Kevin said.

"You could feel sorry for yourself, but it doesn't do any good. You just as well look at the bright side. I'm here. God says I still have work to do and thank God I'm here to do it," John said.

"He was just minutes from dying. It really wakes a person up. Life is pretty precious," John Kevin said. "Every day is a gift from God. We all have to remember that." ■

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# Humboldt Family Aquatic Center

Wednesday, August 3

Photos by Kent Thompson



With temperatures right at 90 degrees, Wednesday, Aug. 3, it was a busy afternoon at the Humboldt Family Aquatic Center.

If you are going to go down the water slide covering your mouth and nose is a good precaution.



Christian Gilliam of Humboldt sports some cool goggles on his afternoon swim.



Jayden Gargano, 11, Humboldt does a forward somersault for a soft landing.

Tyson Crahan splits his time during the summer between Livermore and Humboldt. Fortunately, both communities have swimming pools.



Michael Johnson of Bode can do an underwater handstand. Warning, don't try this unless you are good at holding your breath.



Left: Izaka Parker, 14, of Humboldt, shows good form at the top of his dive. Above: Four-year-old Kellan Shekey of Humboldt waves to the camera while being held by his grandma, Shirley Poutre, also of Humboldt. Right: Two-year-old Bradlee Thompson of Humboldt (right) leaps into mother Andie's arms at the Humboldt Family Aquatic Center. "She loves the water," her mother said.







# Humboldt's Kaela Burmeister, part of renovation team

By Jeff Gargano



**H**umboldt's Kaela Burmeister has been part of a group that has helped renovate Cap Timm Field, home of the Iowa State Cyclones Club Baseball. Burmeister, a 2012 graduate of Humboldt High School, is studying architecture at Iowa State University. The Cap Timm field renovation was part of an integrated design studio.

"Iowa State Rec Services pairs up with the college of design and our professor and they decide on different projects. It's the same as if a client were going to an architecture firm," Burmeister said.

This past year they came to Professor Bruce Bassler and asked the class to do a master plan of Cap Timm Field and renovate all of it or at least part of it.

"We decided as a studio early on that we wanted this whole project and not to do just one part," Burmeister said.

Cap Timm Field is named after one of Iowa State's longtime, legendary coaches, Leroy "Cap" Timm. Baseball was dropped by Iowa State following the 2001 season. A club

**Humboldt's Kaela Burmeister was part of a group of architecture students at Iowa State University that renovated Cap Timm Field, the baseball field at ISU.**

team has been calling the field home. Keeping the field in tip-top shape hasn't been easy. It got some much needed help with the class project.

With 41 students in the class, each phase of the project required extensive communication and cooperation to make sure everyone was on the same page.

"This was difficult, but great experience for the professional world," she said.

They started with initial design ideas and had a couple of different meetings with their client. Their client included ISU Rec Services (which donated \$25,000 for the renovation project), ISU Athletic Services (who donated \$25,000 for a dedication to Cap Timm), and the baseball club team, who use the field in the fall and some in the spring.

Bassler, along with Harlan Groe, a landscape architect who has taught at Iowa State in the past, along with the 41 students presented their ideas with the first four weeks and after that demolition began.

"I worked with a crew that began tearing out the benches of the dugouts. Others worked on salvaging materials we would later use in seating. We had to divide into groups to help get the work done at this point. I was part of the site group, meaning I worked every day on different parts of the site," Burmeister said. Others worked with metal fabrication and some worked on framing in the warehouse the college of design owns specifically for design build studios.

Burmeister was specifically part of the team that designed the backstop wall and she was in charge of the masonry work.



**Kaela Burmeister of Humboldt (right), an architecture student at Iowa State University, is shown laying block as part of the renovation of the Cap Timm baseball field at ISU.**



**Below: Kaela Burmeister helped rebuild the backstop wall that honors legendary ISU baseball coach Cap Timm.**



**Kaela (right) is shown at Cap Timm Field during the renovation project in the top photo, while the bottom photo shows the finished project.**



“I called Spec Mix and Rhino Materials and we were able to get a donation as well as some masonry lessons. For two full days we worked learning how to lay block correctly and then we were able to finish the project on our own,” Burmeister said.

Beyond the masonry, she worked and designed a storage unit for the home baseball team, finished the wooden framing of the roof, some landscaping, and two set-in corner plaques dedicated to Cap Timm.

Overall, the project was quite extensive, consisting of an entry sign dedicating the field, an entry plaza providing space for fans to gather and meet, or eat or chat, a memorial wall giving the background of Iowa State’s longest and best head baseball coach, Cap Timm, a statue art piece of Cap Timm consisting of individual poles that create an image at the right perspective.

Also included were two berms for newly designed seating using re-purposed bleacher seats, new dugout roof, benches, drainage, flooring and the permanent backstop wall.

“We were able to complete this whole project in 15 weeks and under \$50,000,” Burmeister said.

“This project was a great way to help upper level students interact with each other, learn how to communicate and work with other disciplines. It was a great hands-on and professional experience, and the baseball club got an amazing renovated ball field,” Burmeister said.

This summer, Burmeister spent five weeks in Berlin, Germany, studying Sustainable Architecture and Design focusing on learning software that can help better analyze how the environment interacts with a designed building.

“I was able to experience sustainable design techniques

and understand how they work and how they can be improved,” Burmeister said.

She is bringing back those observations to her current internship with the Brock Borg Skiles Architecture and Engineering firm of Des Moines. Because of this summer’s study abroad opportunity, Burmeister is able to graduate from the five-year architecture program at ISU in four and one-half years.

Through her final semester at Iowa State this fall she will be continuing her internship in Des Moines as well as taking her final 15 credits.

After graduation, she hopes to continue working with Brooks Borg Skiles and work towards getting her full Architecture License and become LEED certified (a certification in sustainable building). ■

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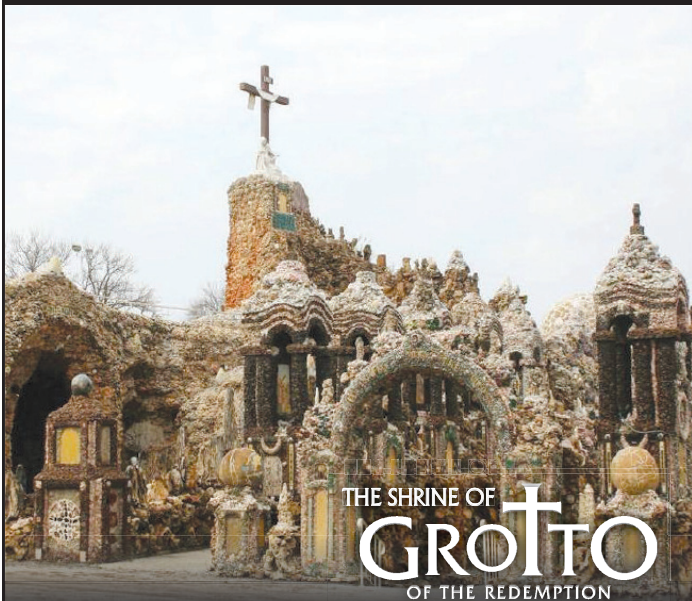
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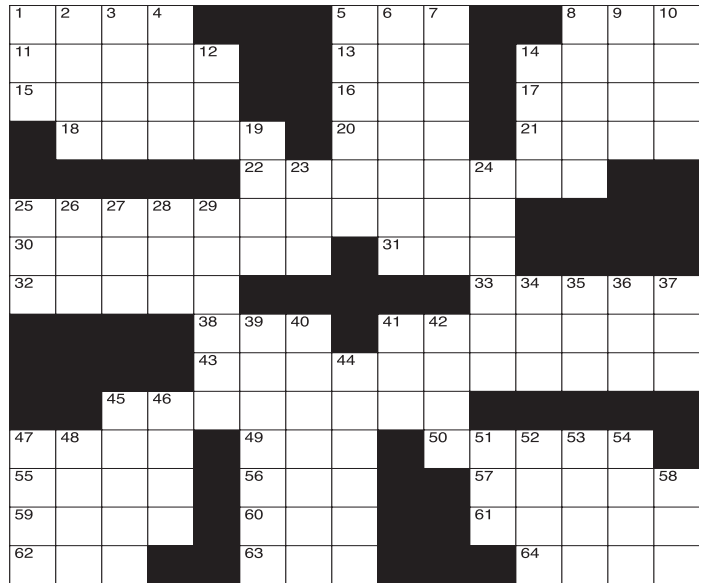
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### ACROSS

1. Kiln
5. American time
8. Female sibling
11. Fencing sword
13. Spoken in Laos
14. Swiss river
15. Fictional Middle-earth
16. "The Real World" (abbr.)
17. Replacement worker
18. Form after cuts
20. Frozen water
21. Irritates
22. Type of bread
25. Female peace officers
30. Where to put things
31. Commercials
32. Hard drinker
33. Take in
38. Copy
41. Volume of published materials
43. Used to be called "skim"
45. Organizes
47. Parts of worms
49. \_\_\_ Khan: hereditary title
50. A cravat with wide square ends
55. Central China mountain range
56. Longing
57. Elephant's name
59. British children's author Blyton
60. Something curved in shape
61. Home to important events
62. Nagorno Karabakh Republic (abbr.)
63. A very large body of water
64. Consists of two elements

### DOWN

1. Former CIA
2. Ooohs and \_\_\_
3. Invests in little enterprises
4. Spanish river
5. In the preceding month
6. Malignant tumor
7. Dried off
8. Via \_\_\_: main street of Ancient Rome

Crossword sponsored by:

9. Asian country (alt. sp.)
10. One point south of southeast
12. Confederate soldier
14. Popular Bollywood actress Thottumkal
19. Small scale embedded generation (abbr.)
23. Female sheep
24. Of unsound mind
25. Pacific Time
26. Iowa town 51044
27. Trim
28. Wrath
29. Used to serve wine
34. Make less bright
35. Skywalker mentor \_\_\_-Wan Kenobi
36. Protestant, Ulster, Loyalist
37. Expression of disappointment
39. Tropical fruits
40. Furniture with open shelves
41. Metal can be extracted from it
42. Flat tableland with steep edges
44. Lingua \_\_\_
45. Chadic language
46. Peruse
47. Yemenese port city
48. Lean
51. Helps little firms
52. Blackjack players need this
53. Be obedient to
54. Source of the Nile River
58. Cool

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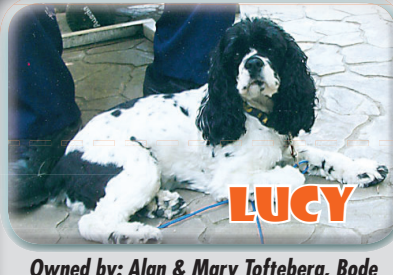
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Humboldt

## LUCKY



Owned by:  
Michelle &  
Eric Peters,  
Humboldt



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Owned by: Alan & Mary Tofteberg, Bode



## BO

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Regan Minor,  
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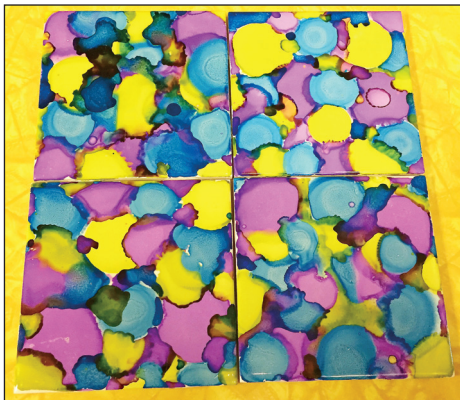


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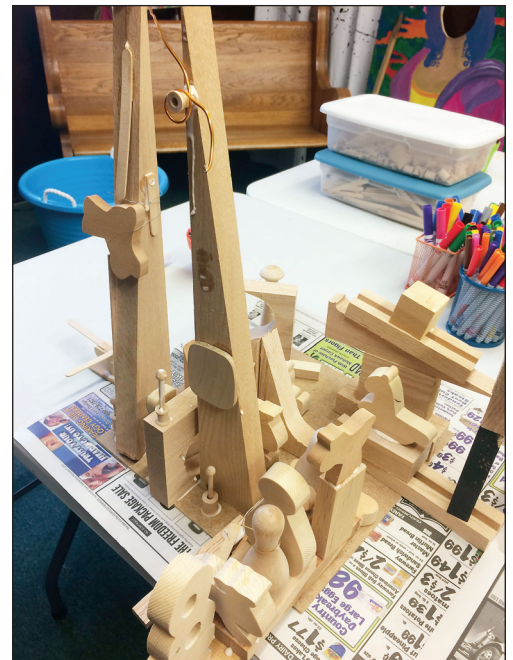
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*Alcohol Ink Tiles • Aneisha Sritharan*



*Clay Heads • Tori Gargano*



*Scrap Wood Sculpture • Hunter Brodale*



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