

HUMBOLDT NOW!

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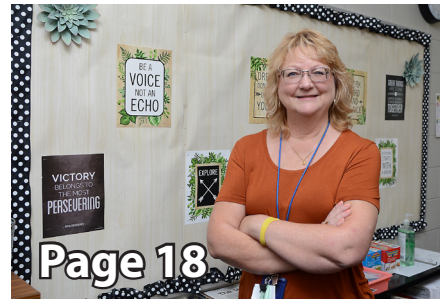


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- ! **Gerjets** Looking back on 34 years
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On the cover: This photo of the late Mason Maach was taken in the summer of 2002, eight months after the high school football field was re-named in his honor. See story on page 8.

— Photo by Phil Monson

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THE BOOKWORM



The Inheritance Games by Jennifer Barnes

By Caitlynn Haack, Humboldt Public Library Young Adult Librarian

When you cannot control the situation you are in, take control of the things you can. Avery Grambs has her life mapped out to ensure a better future: survive high school, secure a scholarship to send her to college, and get out. However, Avery's plans change in an instant when the billionaire Tobias Hawthorne dies and leaves her practically his entire fortune. The biggest question that Avery faces is not how she is going to spend it, but rather, who is Tobias Hawthorne and why did a stranger leave her his entire legacy?

In order to receive the inheritance Avery must move into the Hawthorne House for a minimum of one year. Doesn't sound too bad to her, she's lived in much worse places than an expansive, secret passage filled mansion where every room possesses a touch of the old man—his love of codes, riddles, and puzzles. Currently Avery lives with her legal guardian and half-sister, Libby, and her abusive on and off again boyfriend Drake. She would do pretty much anything to convince Libby to finally leave Drake...and an inheritance with a better life waiting on the horizon might just be the thing to finally convince her that they deserve better.

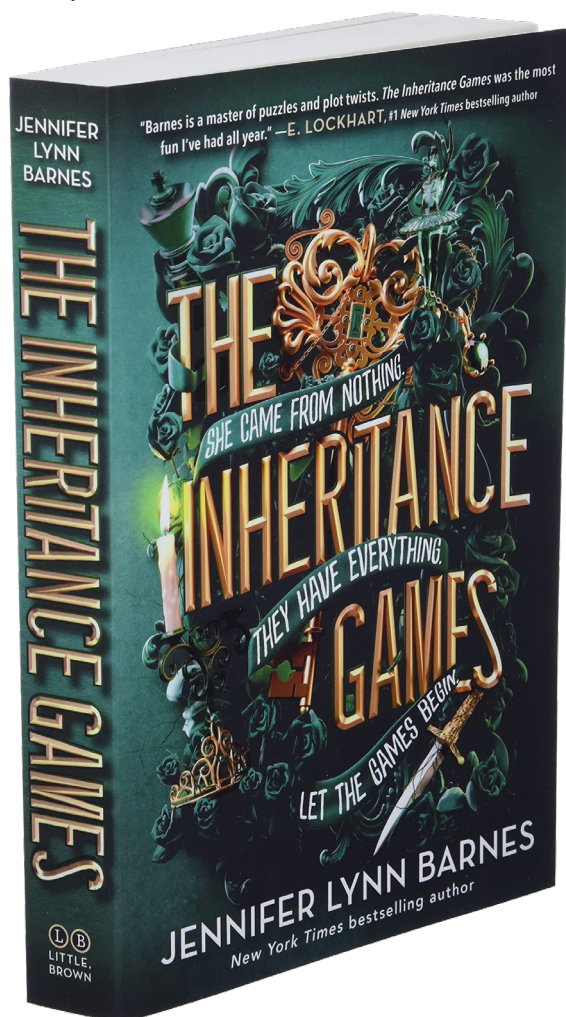
Not only must Avery stay at Hawthorne House, but so must the rather abundant amount of family members that Tobias Hawthorne has just dispossessed. This includes the four alluring Hawthorne grandsons: precarious, captivating, brilliant boys who were raised believing that one day they would inherit

their grandfather's billions. Along with the gated mansion comes a top-notch protective detail, but can they protect her from the danger she faces if the threats Avery is up against are not outside the gates, but rather lie within.

The heir apparent, Greyson Hawthorne is convinced that Avery is a conwoman, who targeted the old man in his more vulnerable state, and is ready to take out the threat to their family, even if it is just a money hungry teenage girl. Jameson, Greyson's younger brother, is committed to the idea that Avery is just another disposable pawn in one last riddle that

their grandfather left for them to figure out. She won't be needed for long, and after they use her for her intended purpose in the game they can throw her out onto the streets again. He might just have a little fun with the little heiress girl along the way.

No one in or outside of Hawthorne House is exempt from playing the game when called into it. Everyone has their own reason for wanting to solve the riddles, puzzles, and codes in order for it to end. However, caught in a world that she doesn't belong in and doesn't know the rules to successfully navigate, Avery will have to play the game just to survive and see the end of her one year at Hawthorne House. The longer the game is played, the more confusing it becomes. When allies become dangerous enemies and vice versa, and twists and turns are around every corner whom do you trust? Especially when the most dangerous threat of all might be sleeping under the same roof. ■



What's Happening NOW!

November

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<p>PATHS 2nd Tuesday every month Mease Elementary Board Room - 5:30PM</p>		1 State Volleyball	2	3 INTO THE WOODS Nov. 3-5 - 7PM R. Wesley Carlson Auditorium	4 5
6 DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS Fall Back	7	8 ELECTION DAY Humboldt City Council - 5:30PM	9 Dakota City City Council - 7:00PM	10	11 VETERANS DAY November 11 Humboldt Co. Courthouse - 11AM	12 NCIBA - MS Honor Band
13	14 EVERY MONDAY Board of Supervisors - 8:30AM	15	16 GWR @ Fort Dodge - 5:30PM	17	18 GWR @ Ridge View - 10AM Wildcat Wrestling Tournament HHS - 8AM-5PM	19 G BB Scrimmage @ ELC - TBD
20 Wrestling ISU vs. Grand View HHS - 2-4PM	21 Humboldt City Council - 5:30PM 9th/JV/V G BB @ Gilbert - 4:30PM	22 G WR @ Osage - 6PM JV/V G BB vs. PAC HHS - 6PM	23 NO SCHOOL	24 NO SCHOOL happy THANKSGIVING	25 NO SCHOOL CHRISTMASLAND OPENS	26 Small Business Saturday SHOP SMALL 26 B BB Scrimmage vs. Aplington-Parkersburg @ A-P HS - 1PM 26 Christmas Market Humboldt Co. Fairgrounds - 10AM-3PM
27 G WR vs. Le Mars HHS - 6:30PM 9/10 G/B BB @ Webster City - 6:30PM	28 B WR @ Winterset - 5:30PM JV/V G/B BB vs. Manson-NWW HHS - 3:45PM 9/10 G/B BB @ Spencer - 6PM	29	30			

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Out & About

Pumpkins & Ponies

Saturday, October 8

Photos by Kent Thompson



Above: Approximately 2,500 visitors attended the annual Pumpkins and Ponies event south of Humboldt on the Robert and Lonnie Larson farm. Right: Tractor driver John Doyle waves to the camera. He was one of several wagon drivers escorting people to the pumpkin patch.



Left: Gerrad Elliott of Humboldt (right) helps his son, Easton, 7, look for a good pumpkin for carving.

Left: Kati Olson (left) of Otho, is pictured with her nieces and nephew, Lynden, Addysen and Cayden Reynolds, all of Alexander, as they pick out their favorite pumpkins.



Right: Emmett Wood, 4, of Clarion, wants everyone to know that he found the special pumpkin he was looking for.



Above: From left: Lanita, Lucy and Erin Lane, all of Fort Dodge, enjoy some Reed's homemade ice cream at the event.



Above: Four-year-old Emberly Lamirande of Fort Dodge is happy with the pumpkins she picked out, big and small alike.



Above: This angel stands tall during the Dragonfire Dancing Horses show at Pumpkins and Ponies.



Left: Charlott Nielson, 8, of Humboldt, finds out that shelling corn with a hand-crank grinder can be a lot of fun.



Gerald Davis of Humboldt, one of the members of the Des Moines River Valley Antique Tractor and Engine Club, uses his 1952 Cockshutt tractor with his Oliver two-bottom, 14-inch plow to turn a furrow.



Right: Kelly Christine's Dragonfire Dancing Horses are always a big hit at the Pumpkins and Ponies event, featuring riders in beautiful costumes exhibiting trick riding skills.

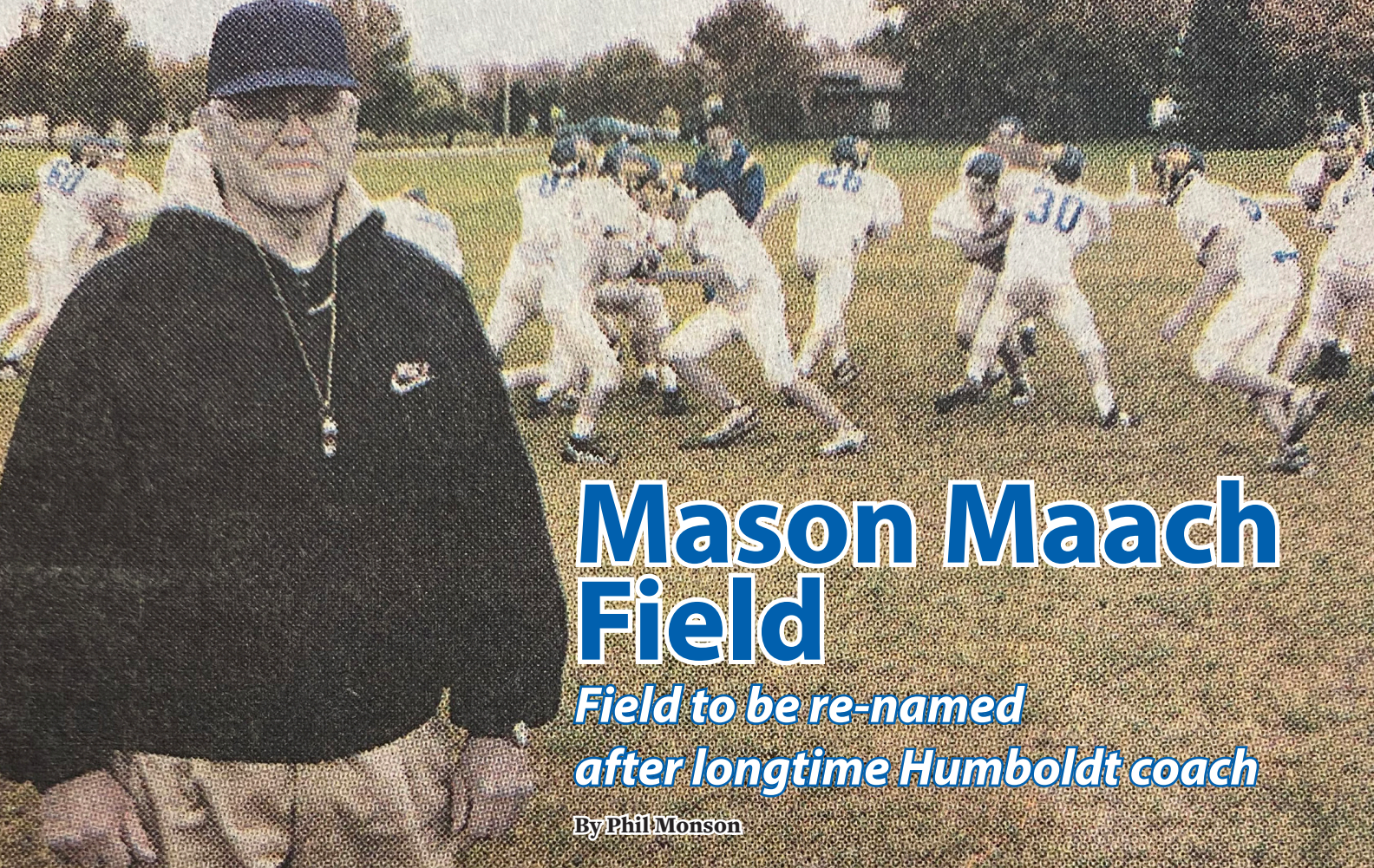


Above: Ray Von Ahn offered carriage rides around the farm on Oct. 8-9, part of Pumpkins and Ponies.



This young fella enjoys his pony ride, begin led by one of the Dragonfire Dancing Horse performers.

Find these and many other photos at www.humboldtnews.com — click on "BUY A PHOTO"



Mason Maach Field

Field to be re-named after longtime Humboldt coach

By Phil Monson

Editor's note: This story appeared in the Oct. 18, 2001 issue of the Humboldt Independent, prior to the dedication of Mason Maach Field on Oct. 26, 2001.



Mason Maach has given a lifetime to Humboldt football.

So it is only fitting that the Humboldt High School football field be re-named "Mason Maach Field."

His name will live with Humboldt football forever after a dedication ceremony, to take place Oct. 26 at the team's final regular season home game against Boone.

Maach, 79, has been a part of Humboldt football going back to the 1930s, where he was a two-year starter and team captain playing guard on both offense and defense.

"This is a wonderful honor," Maach told the Independent last week. "This is overwhelming for me."

"I don't think I deserve it because I haven't really done anything that no one else has done. I appreciate the honor a great deal...I'm still not sure I deserve

it," Maach said in his typical, humble fashion.

The dedication will take place right before kickoff of next week's home game. The declaration of naming of the field will take place, along with the presentation of the plaque to Maach. Then the press box sign with his name will be unveiled.

"I'm very humbled by this. I appreciate it... Again...I don't know what to say," Maach said.

Maach graduated from Humboldt High School in 1939. In addition to playing football, he participated on the Wildcat track team and ran the 220 and 440-yard running events. He also threw the shot put, where he was a conference champion his senior year. He was also the conference 440-yard sprint champion his junior year.

After graduation, Maach chose to stay on the home farm with his parents, Albert and Gladys, for three years. The farm was located just north of Humboldt. The big brick house remains on the site today.

He later enrolled in the Army AirCorps in 1943 and served his country

in World War II for two years.

"I didn't want to get drafted so I volunteered for the AirCorps," Maach said. "I trained in the Texas area most of the time to get my bombardier/navigator wings. I then flew practice missions in the Carolina area."

"Then we flew over to Italy and also down to South America and landed in three different places," Maach said. "We then flew over to a small island south of the equator called Ascension Island. We also landed in Southern Africa, and eventually, I was stationed in three stations in Italy."

Maach, who earned the rank of First Lieutenant, flew 52 missions, including 50 at night. He was honored by receiving four Air Medals and he also received one Distinguished Flying Cross.

Maach spoke in a voice hushed by emotion as he described his war experience flying planes for the United States.

"I flew missions over northern Italy and also over southern Austria," Maach said.

"The first two missions were the scariest of my life," Maach said. "We flew daytime on the first two missions. I remember we flew in combat formation

Left: Longtime Humboldt football coach Mason Maach, shown here during a freshman practice session last week, will have the high school field named in his honor at a dedication ceremony prior to the Oct. 26 home game with Boone.

on two missions over Bologna, Italy. There was a big troop concentration down there and we bombed them on consecutive days.”

“The air was just black with flack...it was the scariest moment of my life, to be honest with you,” Maach said.

“We survived and did a good job with that mission, but it was scary. I remember looking out and seeing some of our planes going down on both sides of me,” Maach said.

“Our group, the 47th bomb group of the 12th Air Force, went into night missions where we flew A-20s and A-26s. We went up at night and were told to hit anything that moved on the ground,” Maach said.

“One time we flew over Milan, Italy, and bombed railroad yards. We bombed some ammunition and oil dumps over there,” Maach said. “But one of the most interesting missions I had was in working with the artillery division of the U.S. Army. They had a castle in the mountains in Italy and they wanted this thing bombed because headquarters were there.”

“The artillery put out flares, one in each corner, so we could find the area. Four airplanes were assigned to fly and we had to have the navigation down to seconds because we had to fly in the right direction when those flares were going off,” Maach said. “I also remember bombing a moving train on another mission.”

Maach left the service in the fall of 1945 and began attending school at Fort Dodge Junior College, where he studied for two years. He played on the football team there both years, where he was a starter and co-captain as an end and guard on both offense and defense.

He transferred to Iowa State University in Ames for one semester in 1948. Later he enrolled at Iowa State Teachers College in Cedar Falls (now Northern Iowa), where he obtained a degree in industrial arts. He graduated in the summer of 1949.

He later obtained his Master’s Degree in 1963 from the State College of Iowa (Northern Iowa).

In the fall of 1949, Maach began teaching at Highview Consolidated Schools at Linn Grove, where he taught and coached for two years.

“They didn’t have football but they had spring and fall baseball, boys’ basketball and girls’ basketball,” Maach said. “After two years, I quit teaching to come home and farm and my mother was battling an illness and I wanted to be closer to her.”

“She had cancer. Back in those days, they didn’t know what to do with it, so her last five years were a hard five years,” Maach said.

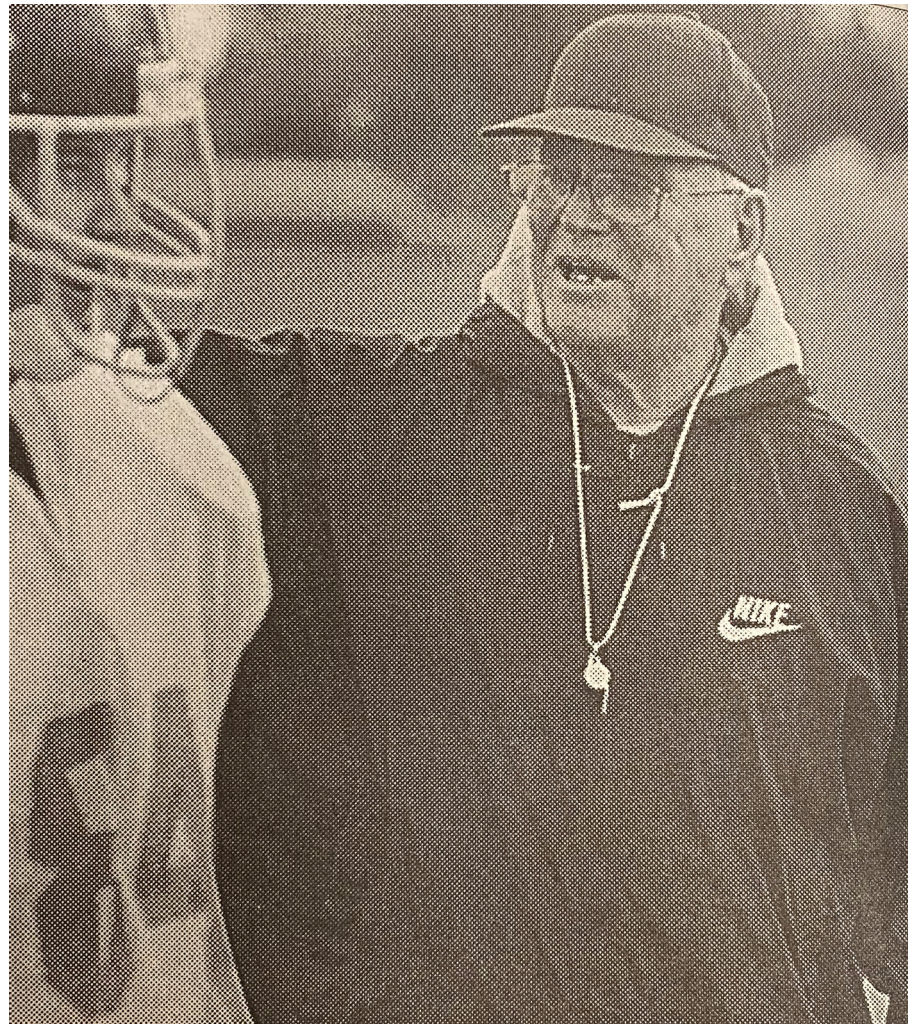
Mason’s mother died in 1953. His father, who later remarried, died in 1986 at the age of 86. Mason’s step-mother, Pearl, resides at Friendship Haven in Fort Dodge. Mason’s brother, Jayson, and

wife, Helen, continue living in Humboldt.

“In the early 1950s we had a tornado that knocked down a lot of the buildings on the farm. At that time I decided farming probably wasn’t for me, so I began teaching at Bradgate Consolidated School and I was there for two years,” Maach said. “I was the acting principal. They already had a good coach so they didn’t need another coach there.”

“In the fall of 1955, Mr. Clyde Mease of Humboldt hired me as a junior high math teacher. I also coached eighth grade football and basketball the first year. Later they told me they wanted me to coach the sophomore football team,” Maach said. “I also coached junior high basketball for 10 years.”

“I began teaching industrial arts here in 1961. We didn’t have the program before because it was dropped during the war years,” Maach said. “I started up



Coach Maach gives encouragement to a Humboldt player in a practice session last week.

the industrial arts program at the junior high from scratch when they added the room there to the original building.”

“During my coaching career, I probably coached sophomore football for most of my career, but I did have varsity for a few years under head coach Dan McClannahan later on,” Maach said.

“In the last four to five years I’ve been coaching with Mr. Parks and Mr. Johnson at the ninth grade level,” Maach said. “So I’ve had a lot of head coaches over the years.”

“There have been a lot of good coaches I’ve worked under, too,” Maach said. “I worked with Al Hadar for three years. Then I worked under Whitey Kuhlman for a number of years. Then there was Bob Norris and Dale Scheideman, each coached here for one year.”

“Leo McElrath came and coached many years, and I was also under Bob Pattee for one year, Dan McClannahan for 20 years, John Wickett and Doug Van Pelt for one year. Now I’m in my second year under Greg Thomas,” Maach said.

“I’ve also worked under some very good head boys’ track coaches. People like Al Hadar, Whitey Kuhlman, Jim Duea, Gary Newell, Charlie Bunn, Dan McClannahan and Greg Wickett,” Maach said.

Maach, who played football before

face masks became common, loves being around the sport and young people. He retired from his industrial arts teaching position from Humboldt in 1990. He was a substitute teacher for 10 years but hasn’t given up coaching football and track.

So why does he keep coming back?

“I just enjoy being around youngsters. I feel I can help them with their values and thinking of morality. I want to help make better citizens out of them...or at least make an attempt to give them some decent guidance,” Maach said.

“I think a great number of the kids today are still great. They have been good through the years. I do think they need more guidance now days so I’m trying to help provide that,” Maach said.

“Parents are so busy now days making a living that I think they need help and so maybe teachers and coaches can contribute in some way,” Maach said.

“If my health holds up, I would like to coach for at least one more year. And that would be my 50th year of coaching. That’s a goal for me. I guess 50 is a nice round number to shoot for,” Maach said with a smile.

Maach still gets excited on game night.

“You have to get excited about the football games and track meets. You have to get psyched up and help the youngsters do the same thing. It’s a lot

of fun,” Maach said.

“I’ve seen so much change in football. I think we are so much better organized today with larger coaching staffs, new techniques and new formations. I think young people were great back then. Just like I think young people today are great in their own way,” Maach said.

Mason and his wife, Betty, are parents of three children. Linda Potek, resides in St. Louis Park, MN, where she is a medical doctor. Linda and her husband, Jason, have three children: Aaron, Nathan and Elena. David Maach and his wife, Gail, reside in Ames, where David works for the Iowa Department of Transportation. Diane Tuttle lives in Clive, IA, with her husband, John. Diane and John have three children: Brianne, Maren and a four-month-old Ethan. Diane is a stay-at-home mother.

“With this honor, I would like to thank past and present head coaches, assistant coaches, administrators, boards of education, parents and students. Thanks to them for giving me this wonderful honor,” Maach said.

Maach has used a straight-forward approach throughout his lifetime.

“I try to be fair and considerate to each individual. You don’t have to be an all-state player in my mind to warrant the coaching techniques we use. I like being around young people and Humboldt has had a great number of them,” Maach said. “I’ve tried to be fair, considerate and consistent with them over the years.”

“I never put anybody down or tried to criticize. I tried to make criticism constructive,” Maach said.

“I enjoyed my school years in Humboldt and after being away I knew Humboldt was one good rural town,” Maach said. “I have no aspirations to live in a big city. Humboldt is the greatest place for me.”

“Coaching here has been special to me. I hope I’ve done good things for Humboldt football,” Maach said. “It’s been fulfilling. Real enjoyable. And I appreciate it.” ■

This photo of the late Mason Maach was taken in the summer of 2002 by Phil Monson of the Humboldt Independent Newspaper, eight months after the high school football field was re-named in his honor.





HUMBOLDT MUSIC DEPARTMENT

DOWNBEAT

Humboldt Welcomes New Band Director



MADISON SMITH

Hello Humboldt,

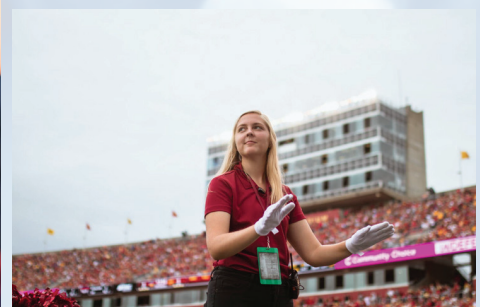
I am Maddie Smith, the new 7th/8th grade band teacher! I am originally from Humboldt and graduated from HHS in 2017. I am thrilled to be back and connecting with students through music and helping students progress as young musicians! My goals as a teacher are that my students leave band appreciating music, can express themselves through music, and can connect with others while playing together!

I recently graduated from Iowa State in music education.

During my time there, I participated in the Cyclone Marching Band, symphonic band, wind ensemble, basketball pep bands, and Kappa Kappa Psi (a music service organization). I even had the privilege of serving as a student staff member for the Cyclone Marching Band. This included helping set up for rehearsals, teaching marching techniques, and conducting the band. I had a wonderful experience at ISU traveling with the bands and making lifelong friends and memories!

I student-taught at South Hamilton Community Schools. There, I worked with the 7th/8th grade band and the high school band. I had plenty of experience with the jazz bands, working on music for their spring concert, and helped the 7th/8th graders get ready for their solo contest! I then went to Roland-Story Middle School and worked with their 5th-8th grade band program. At Roland-Story, I also assisted with their jazz bands and prepared for a concert for each grade. One of my favorite memories from Roland-Story was working with the 5th graders and seeing how long they could hold a note! One student got to 43 seconds!

My hobbies include being outside, reading, spending time with friends and families, traveling, and cheering on the Cyclones!



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HISTORICALLY SPEAKING!

by Carolyn Saul Logan

Chasing Family History



Alex Haley, the author of “Roots: The Story of an American Family,” wrote “It is only through an unfolding of the peoples’ histories that a nation’s culture can be studied in its fullest meaning.”

Peoples’ histories are genealogy. I found 16 different reasons to study your family’s genealogy on the internet. I was dragged into the study by my mother. I had long dismissed her stories about our family as legend and myth with a sprinkle of truth. Mom handed me her results, all recorded in a scrapbook-like book and told me it was my turn. I thought, “Oh, I’ll just read through this and then...” Well then, I was hooked.

Who were these people? I wondered. What was their life

like? Where did they live and why did they live there? What did they believe? How were they part of history? Am I like them? How am I like them?

Much of genealogical research is tracking down data—facts such as dates of birth, death, marriage, etc. We are lucky here in Humboldt because we have an active Genealogy Society. I joined up and plunged into genealogical data accessible in the Humboldt Library, on my computer, in records of Humboldt County at the courthouse and family records. I filled in many gaps but there were always more searches to make.

Along with the data there came the hints of stories.



Above: Alexander Tucker’s brother built this house near Paris, Kentucky in the late 1700’s. A local newspaper article about the house said that the wood paneling in the house was splendid.

Right: The Doe Hill Virginia cemetery which contains many of my ancestors.

THE TUCKERS

It is a fact that my very great-grandfather Edward Tucker, five generations removed from me, and several of his sons fought for freedom from England in the Revolutionary War and that he died at the age of 81 in 1801 when he was cutting down a tree. What was he doing felling a tree at that age? Why was he in Kentucky when he died, not in Maryland where he was born? How did he get to Kentucky? What about his sons?

In short, I wanted stories about these ancestors. I wanted to know more about their lives, the reasons they moved around the country, who they married, what they did for a living, what church did they go to, what were their politics, how they died... and on and on.

The data didn't really answer these questions so I took to the road and drove to Paris, Kentucky, where Edward Tucker and several sons, including Alexander, my ancestor, had lived. Paris had all sorts of records that added to the Tucker story. Alexander, with his father and brothers traveled to Kentucky on a trail blazed by Daniel Boone. In Paris, I found the memoir of a relative relating the hardships of this journey. The house that Alexander's brother built is still standing and I photographed it. I found a copy of a letter that told how the Tucker family had converted to Methodism in Maryland and when they finally made it to Paris, they were part of a group that established a Methodist church and school in an area called Pleasant Green. In 1818 "the great Pleasant Green revival" occurred. According to a report, "This had a very powerful effect upon the whole surrounding community."

At the Paris courthouse, I obtained a copy of Alexander's will and a list of his belongings when he died in 1811. He owned several slaves—a one-year-old boy, a woman Ama

(four years servitude), Rachel (four years old), Black Lucy and a man named Levi. All of them, including Black Lucy's children, were to be freed according to the instructions in his will. These stated that Ama had to wait until 1815, Rachel and Levi until they were 25 years old and only Black Lucy was to be immediately freed in court. There were no instructions for the little boy, he may have been Black Lucy's son.

Reading the list of Alexander Tucker's belongings is fascinating. It lists all the animals, tools, furniture, clothing, due bills, slaves, curtains, "Large" Bible, spoons, knives, pewter dishes, candles, beds—every little thing.

One odd bequest stands out in Alexander's will: eighty pounds of spun yarn. To all the members of his family he left spun yarn: half to his wife and the remaining forty pounds to three of his daughters. What was the family doing with all that spun yarn? Reading down the list of Alexander's estate after his death shows that he owned fifty sheep (each producing 2 to 20 pounds of wool a year), large amounts of flax and flax seed, cotton wheels (maybe spinning wheels?) and at least two looms. Also, something listed as "Lindsey in the loom." Linsey-woolsey is a coarse twill or plain-woven fabric woven with a linen warp and a woolen weft. In Colonial America linsey-woolsey was also called wincey.

Alexander Tucker's plantation produced a large amount of woven cloth, some of it was linsey-woolsey. Maybe it was all used to clothe the family. Or perhaps it earned cash. It may have been that they as a family had been in the business of wool and cotton and fabrics for a long time, as research into the name Tucker showed me. There are some things you can never find out for sure.



THE McCOYS

After my visit to Kentucky, I headed for Doe Hill, Virginia, a very small dot on the map. I found a cemetery full of people whose names were in my mother's genealogy book. Back during the Civil War, my ancestor, Benjamin McCoy lived there and joined the Union army while two of his brothers joined the Confederates. Adding insult to injury, the Southern Rebels ran off with the horses that belonged to Benjamin's widowed mother who must have been tough because she continued to farm without the horses. How did she plow a field? She complained bitterly about her loss in the letters she wrote to her Confederate son. These letters are on the Virginia Military Institute web site.

So, how did Benjamin McCoy get from Doe Hill (population 91 in 2022) to Webster City, Iowa? According to an account of Benjamin's life, "At the end of nine months' service (in the Union army) Benjamin McCoy was discharged on account of disability and returned home. He was constantly harassed by the skirmishing rebels as well as by the guerrillas who infested that section, and on several occasions barely escaped with his life, for his sympathy with the Union cause was well known to these bands and aroused their bitter

enmity. When, only by exercising the utmost caution, he had thwarted several of their plans to shoot him, he deemed discretion the better part of valor and concluded to leave that part of the country." That's why I did not grow up in Doe Hill, Virginia.

In Webster City, Benjamin farmed, served as a school director and treasurer, held the office of constable and was a deputy sheriff, among other things. His daughter Rosina became a teacher and I remember her as my old, old granny. I inherited from her my deafness, white hair that appeared in our early twenties and a pair of woolen mittens she knitted for me. I loved her soft white hair and was allowed to brush it. I also learned to yell directly in her left ear if I wanted her attention. Hers was the first family funeral that I attended.

These two journeys in search of family stories showed me how my family fit into the great events of American history—wars, religious movements, education, slavery—and more importantly, showed me how I was part and parcel of my family. All of our stories are a part of the nation's larger history with personal stories that connect the generations. Genealogy is a good way to find these stories; I recommend it highly. ■



employee ANNIVERSARIES

2 **Kevin Stewart** 2 **KaSara Smith**



35 **Steve Lehman** 1 **Spencer Hamilton**

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By Karen May

Karen's Quips!



Only two months left and another year will be gone!! TIME FLIES when you are having fun! November will be full of fun activities, even though the temperatures will be getting cooler! That's something special about living in Iowa - the seasons have lots of changes!!! The farmers are almost complete with this year's harvest and most of the fall tillage work is done. In spite of a year with lower-than-average rainfall, most of the yields did not show it! But there seemed to be a BIG variance in yields - some corn/bean yields per acre were lots higher than others!! Much depended on the rainfall. Farmers in our part of the state are thankful rain seemed to come when needed.


The Humboldt County Hospital Auxiliary held their 54th annual meeting in late September with a large number of Auxiliary members present at a dinner meeting at Zion Lutheran Church. I am proud to say that this has been one of my favorite organizations to be a member of. When the organization was being organized in the mid-1960s, I was news editor of the Humboldt Newspapers and the late Tom Welch (head of Iowa Public Service) was a strong proponent of the organization, encouraging residents to join. HE brought advertising to the newspaper weekly and kept encouraging me to join. I kept putting him off with the usual "I'm too busy" - "I belong to enough groups", etc. Eventually,

his efforts wore me down and I became a charter member. Through the years I attended many meetings, served as an officer and historian, and worked at the snack bar. Now I can wonder "Where did the years go?" But I am proud of being one of the two living charter members AND I have attended EVERY annual meeting. To women (and men) who have just a little extra time, consider belonging to this organization - do as little or as much as you want - and it's right here in your community! Genevieve's Place is more than a gift shop - it is a wonderful place to shop (or work) and is a great place to meet friends and neighbors!

Talking about the Humboldt Co. Memorial Hospital, CONGRATULATIONS on being named (by the Des Moines Register) as a TOP work place again this year - two years in a row - 2021 and 2022. This special honor shows a lot about how important our hospital AND staff are!!

The calendar shows that there are only two months remaining in 2022. Lots has been accomplished but there is still time to get things done! Did you get the garden all tilled and ready for another year? The yard raked and leaves burned? Golf clubs cleaned and put away? Perhaps the garage cleaned out and items rearranged so the cars have room to park inside again? Anti-freeze checked in the car/truck?

I want to remind ALL of you picture takers out there to be sure and identify persons in photos you take. It is amazing how



many family photos people have that they cannot identify the persons!! Uncle Don with someone - a friend? relative? Who knows. Often, it's Aunt Ida - but two generations later no one remembers an Aunt Ida!! In this day and age there are a lot of digital photos not identified at all. OH MY - won't those be fun to figure out?? Genevieve Carlson was a long-time local resident, single and with few relatives. The Genealogy Society has many photos of her with family, but NO IDENTIFICATION? What do we do with those?

Thanksgiving is our next holiday and many traditions are begun or continue with this special day. Remember the song, "Over the River and through the Woods?" I can remember singing that as we drove to grandparents' and/or parents' homes for a turkey dinner, gathering of relatives and just a fun time. Unfortunately, this doesn't happen often anymore. Often times parents and children no longer live close enough for a daytime - or even a weekend trip! But the holiday continues and we gather with friends and neighbors to give thanks for our blessings from another year. Not necessarily with turkey, but the food always is abundant!

I would like to recall a memory of mine at Thanksgiving time. We lived on a farm near Garner and raised lots of geese, ducks and chickens. My mother's family lived at Ossian (near Decorah) in NE Iowa and couldn't gather for the holiday. My dad went out late afternoon the day before Thanksgiving,

butchered a goose, wrapped it special and took it to the train that ran through town early that evening, and sent it to mom's family in Ossian. Four hours later, my aunt met the train about midnight, and put the goose in the old cook stove and baked it for dinner the next day!! What a memory - but can you imagine any of us trying to do that now? Of course, we never know when the trains are coming and going!! And the goose would HAVE to be refrigerated!

I hope now that COVID has come under control (is that the correct word?), I HOPE that families, organizations and events will be able to resume their normal activities. I'm happy to say churches have seen a return to regular services and MOST organizations and athletic events are back CLOSE to normal. However, many of us still wear masks on occasion and many professional health groups (hospitals, doctor's offices, etc.) require them. It is something we just HAVE to adhere to in this ever-changing world!!

How many of you remember that it was last November that the NOW magazine featured the first column of Karen's Quips?! It has been an exciting and eventful year for me to be a part of the Humboldt Newspaper family again!!! I enjoy "talking" with each of you and in return, I have received over 200 notes or comments personally!!! How do I say THANK YOU? I encourage you to KEEP READING, KEEP COMMENTING and I hope to continue to please you!! ▀

Gerjets looks back on her 34 years in education

By Phil Monson

As education has evolved, Shelley Gerjets has learned to change and adapt in her journey as an educator.

Gerjets, an ELL (English Language Learning) instructor at Humboldt Middle School, is currently in her 34th year in education.

“I like working with the kids and teaching them English. It is gratifying. It happens fast with some of them. You can see what you’ve done from year to year,” Gerjets said.

“A few years ago I started working with a fifth grader who had only been in the country for about one year. I had to rely on a translator to communicate quite a bit with her. Now she has transitioned to speaking English completely,” Gerjets said. “That is really neat to see.”

“ELL is a highly needed position. We’ve been getting more and more students coming in from different countries. In the last 10 years we’ve gotten students from Honduras. A lot of them come with a family and a lot more are in the lower level grades,” Gerjets said.

“We do sometimes get students who come into our high school and speak no English. That is challenging,” Gerjets said.

“When you see the light turn on, so to speak, it is rewarding,” Gerjets said. “The older the student is, the harder it is for them to pick up English. When they are younger, they catch on faster.”

“For the older kids the content material at school is harder and so they don’t have the English reading ability. It’s hard for them to get that information when they don’t speak the language,” Gerjets said.

“My job is to teach them English and



Shelley Gerjets is in her 34th year in education. She is shown here inside her classroom at Humboldt Middle School, where she is the English Language Learning instructor.

help them learn in the classes that are presented in English. There’s a lot of translating. A lot of visuals and concepts to get it across to them,” English said.

“I have a group of three at the high school now who speak very little English. We are learning the basics. Basic words. Full words. How to say basic sentences and it moves on from there,” Gerjets said.

“Prior to taking this ELL position five years ago, I taught eighth grade language arts for 11 years,” Gerjets said.

“Last year I helped teach seventh grade literacy when we couldn’t find a teacher for the position. This year I’m back doing ELL full-time,” Gerjets said.

“It is hard to find people with the ELL certification. Because I have a background in elementary education, with all the phonics and learning to read components, I have also been a special education teacher in my past, too,” Gerjets said.

Gerjets grew up in Davenport. Her mother was a teacher and her aunt and uncle were also teachers. She graduated from Iowa State University with a degree in elementary education.

Her first teaching job was in Adel, where she taught first grade, third grade and fourth grade for a combined nine years.

“Then I met my husband, Rick. He farmed at the time and he still hobby farms in the Rockwell City area. We met and got married and so I knew I would have to move because you can’t move the farm,” Gerjets said.

“I knew I had to specialize in something else besides elementary education because back then it was hard to get elementary school teaching positions. Especially if you had taught for 10 years. It was just different back then. It was more competitive,” Gerjets said.

“I went back to school and obtained my master’s degree in special education. I was able to get a special education teaching position at Stratford. I held that position for a few years,” Gerjets said.

“After that I went back to Adel because my husband had gotten a job with Pioneer Seed Corn Company. I returned to the same school I had taught at before, but this time I was a special education teacher,” Gerjets said. “I held that position for three years.”

“Eventually my husband got a different job up in Wisconsin working for Case-International, which is based out of Racine, WI. I taught special education in that area,” Gerjets said.

“It wasn’t long after that where he was offered a territory to oversee for Case-International in northern Iowa, this area,” Gerjets said. “When we moved to this area, I was able to get a long-term substitute teaching position at Humboldt Middle School as eighth grade Language Arts. I finished out the second semester when I arrived.”

“I went back to school to get my middle school endorsement. I ended up getting the position full-time 11 years ago,” Gerjets said. “I feel like I have just about taught everything.”

“It’s hard to believe I’m in my 34th year teaching and I’ve taught this many years. Education changes every year,” Gerjets said.

“I really like working with the ELL students. The position is flexible and I like the fact I don’t have to correct papers and do grades. Those tasks take up a lot of time in regular education instruction,” Gerjets said. “I love working with the kids and helping them with their English skills and succeed in school.”

“Educators invest a lot of money and time in furthering their education to obtain teaching endorsements. My last endorsement I did online and finished up during the COVID-19 shutdown, which was difficult to do, because I had to be working with students for projects and work at the same time,” Gerjets said. “But it does take a lot of time to get specialized endorsements.”

Shelley’s family lives south of Humboldt in the Deer Creek Golf Course area. Rick still farms the home place near Rockwell City. His Red Power office is based out of Manson.

“His mother still lives on the family farm. He has some cattle there that he tends to along with a small amount of land where he raises crops on,” Gerjets said.

The Gerjets children have grown. Troy, the oldest, lives in Ames and attends Des Moines Area Community College. Savanna, the youngest, lives at home and attends Iowa Central Community College in Fort Dodge.

“Savanna just recently had her five-year checkup and she has been declared



Shelley Gerjets is shown here working with sixth grade student Bayron Ramirez in her English Language Learning (ELL) class at Humboldt Middle School. Bayron is a sixth grade student who came from Honduras a year ago.

cancer-free. She had Osteosarcoma in the ulna bone in her right arm. She only has to go back for checkups once a year, mostly to monitor her heart and her hearing,” Gerjets said. “She has slight hearing loss because of the chemotherapy she went through. Long-term, sometimes patients have heart issues. It’s been a long ordeal so we are thrilled with her progress.”

“After you go through that, the fear of cancer never really goes away because you never know,” Gerjets said.

“Cancer changes how you see everything. When I look back at all the homework I had to do myself over the years as an instructor, sometimes I wish I had spent more time with the kids here at home,” Gerjets said.

“Fortunately, when she was going through all of her treatments, the job my husband had at the time allowed him to go with her most of the time for her treatments and stay with her however long as needed because he could do a lot of his work through phone and computer,” Gerjets said.

“When you have cancer in your daily life, you don’t get upset with the small stuff in life and you focus on what’s important. It has changed Savanna’s life significantly and how she views the world,” Gerjets said.

Adding to that adversity, Rick is battling cancer, non-Hodgkins Lymphoma, which was diagnosed three years ago.

“He’s doing OK. There’s not a cure for it. It is more of a long-term illness that he has to monitor. He should be OK. He goes to Iowa City for regular checkups

every six months,” Gerjets said.

“I like what I do and I like helping make a difference. Kids have changed and teachers have changed. The environment has changed,” Gerjets said.

Gerjets reflected on her career in education.

“Politics now have affected things. Some kids hear stuff at home and they will spout it off here at school. And all the school shootings across the country make you concerned. Society in general is not as nice as it used to be,” Gerjets said.

“I think many teachers feel like many of the burdens of society are put on us. We have to be there emotionally for the kids. We have to feed them and get them school materials. It gets emotionally exhausting after a while,” Gerjets said.

“I’m always trying to learn more and become a better teacher. Sometimes that has meant taking classes and learning more. There is so much to learn to be a teacher that you don’t realize until you get into it,” Gerjets said.

“I need to remind myself that I do know a lot about many subject areas and about kids. Classroom management. Sometimes the changes in education can be hard to deal with. Sometimes they’ll say ‘we need to do this,’ and it’s something we did 20 years ago. Sometimes it can get frustrating,” Gerjets said.

“I’m a helping person. I like to help people in any way I can. This is the right job for me to accomplish that. I like to see results. I like to see things happen. Kids learn. Kids produce things,” Gerjets said. ■

Show & Shine Car Show



Top left: Mike Magruder of Fort Dodge showed off this classic 1953 Chevy Bel Air. Center: Merv Johnson of Humboldt's 1934 Chevy Master features dual horns and a lot of chrome. Right: Foster Caryl of Humboldt had the Best Restored Model in the show with his 1930 Ford Window Coupe.

The Humboldt County Fair Board hosted a Show and Shine Car Show at the Humboldt County Fairgrounds on Saturday, Sept. 24.

There were approximately 120 entries from as far away as Omaha, NE.

"We were really pleased with the number of entries and the turnout of people to see them. We look forward to having another show next year," Fair Board member and event organizer Ross Newton said.

Here is a list of the winning entries. Each one received a large banner.

- Best GMC/Chevy Truck – Jack and Marie Haas**
- Best GMC/Chevy Car – Bob Campbell**
- Best Mopar Car – Jim Merrill**
- Best Mopar Truck – Canice Laing**
- Best Ford Truck – Brian Woods**
- Best Ford Car – Karen Lund**
- Best Rat Rod – Paul Davis**
- Best Resto Mod – Foster Caryl**
- Best Motorcycle – Dan Parcel**
- Best Tractor – Lynn Miller**
- Best of Show – Bob Campbell (GMC/Chevy Car)**
- People's Choice – Wayne Hansen**



Left: Mike Chapman brought along his restored Ford Model T with the original four-cylinder engine.

Photos by Kent Thompson



Above: Nicki Mathis with Kelmar Catering in Gilmore City (left) helps feed the sweet tooth of Michelle Metzger of Bode (right). Left: Richard Simpson of Algona likes International tractors and has to have an International pickup to pull them, of course, like his 1955 100 International truck.

POEMS
Humboldt 7th grade
(2021-22)

KIDS WORKS!

Class Clown

I'm in class
being the class clown, as usual,
dancing when the teacher leaves
or when she isn't looking.
I talk to my friends while she teaches.
It makes her really mad,
but I will continue to do what I do best.

— *Trista Vaudt*

The Blanket

You gave it to me.
It sits there every night,
waiting to be used.
I remember that day
like it was yesterday -
Christmas Day.
I was excited to get a toy,
but when I opened the present you gave me,
there it sat:
a blanket you made,
fluffy and white
with pink and purple hearts embroidered on it.
I didn't realize
how much it meant to me
until you were gone.

— *Hayden Smith*

Ukraine

All that's going on
is tearing the world apart,
only for some land.

— *Brayden Lennon-Meyer*

Da Chair

Da chair is just sitting,
dark blue plastic
and smooth metal
at the bottom.
Quite uncomfortable.

— *Nash Palmer*

DOG

Bark! Bark! Bark!
is what my owner
thinks I say.
Little does she know
it's just me telling
her how
dramatic she
can be.

— *Peyton Leshner*

LOUIE

I open my grandma's
drawer,
looking for a snack.

Instead I find your collar,
still covered with your
dark fur.

You were never bad
luck.
You were the greatest
thing that ever hap-
pened to me.

I run to show my sister,
and together, we cry.

— *Emma VanOrd*

BROKEN LAMP

As it lies there shattered,
the pieces were scattered on the ground.
Wait till mom sees this.

— *Jaxson Kirchhoff*

Bathroom Floor

So sticky,
so grimy,
and so
disgusting.
You couldn't
even think
about
cleaning me?
This is so
frustrating.
These
children
just get to
make a
mess all
over me
without
cleaning it up.
I've had to put up
with this for way too long.
I am completely sick of this.
At this point, I am seriously considering
retirement because I don't know
if I am capable of
dealing with this for much longer.

— *Cash McIntire*

FISH

Every day you see me,
but you subconsciously
walk right past.

I'm not of interest to you anymore,
I guess.

Each morning, I swim over in hope that
you'll do more than just feed me,
but no . . .

Every day is the same routine
over and over again.

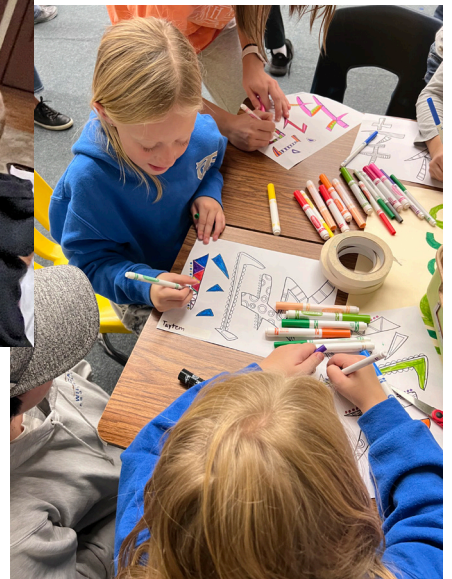
Every once in a while a new face,
maybe a friend,
comes over to the tank with a smile.

but you shoo them away.
"That's boring, let's do something else,"
I hear you say.

— *Trinity Manz*

KIDS WORKS!

Humboldt High School art students help Taft 2nd graders create paper





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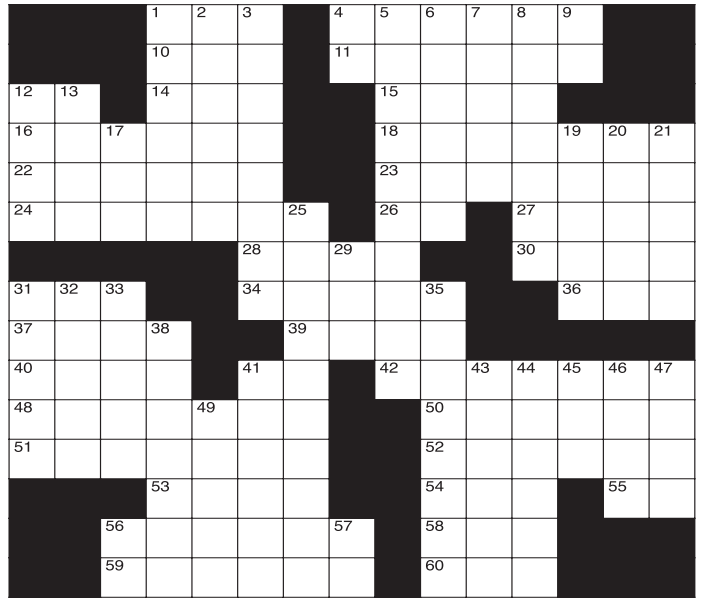


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CLUES ACROSS

1. The central bank of the US
4. Direct one's ambitions
10. Only
11. "Nothing ventured, nothing ___"
12. Lead
14. Returned material authorization (abbr.)
15. Indicates the pitch of notes
16. Set up to blame
18. States of rest
22. Complete
23. Be around longer than
24. Instructs
26. Childless (abbr.)
27. Coffee machines do it
28. Bowfin
30. A group separate from established Church
31. Soviet Socialist Republic
34. Mends with a needle
36. When you hope to get there
37. Popular 80's pop duo
39. Beloved Mexican dish
40. Extremely small amount
41. Special therapy
42. Cause to move slowly
48. A person's natural height
50. Elicited
51. Legislator
52. Baking ingredient
53. Sandwich store
54. Peyton's little brother
55. Southeast
56. Popular Mexican beer
58. Baglike structure in a plant or animal
59. Car body manufacturer
60. Midway between south and southeast

CLUES DOWN

1. Colorless volatile acid
2. A way to tangle
3. Jam rock band devotee
4. The nation's highest lawyer (abbr.)
5. Inviolable
6. Collision
7. Clumsy
8. Bends again
9. "Pollock" actor Harris
12. Flew off!
13. Soft creamy white cheese
17. Comedienne Gasteyer
19. Exclamation used for emphasis
20. Expel from one's property
21. Philly transit body
25. Small amount of something
29. Retirement account
31. Holey type of cheese
32. Young pig
33. Climbing palm
35. Discomfort
38. Bullfighter
41. High-level computer language
43. Fleshy extensions above the throat
44. Request
45. Equal to 10 meters (abbr.)
46. Bruce and Spike are two
47. Precipice
49. Wombs
56. A radio band
57. Emphasizes an amount

OCTOBER'S ANSWERS

O	R	A	D		R	U	B		A	G	R	A			
T	A	B	E	S		A	N	A		S	L	A	M		
U	N	E	V	E	N	J	C	L		S	O	K	E		
S	I	L	I	C	A		A	U	K		I	B	E	X	
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I	S	M	S		E	S	E		P	R	O	S			

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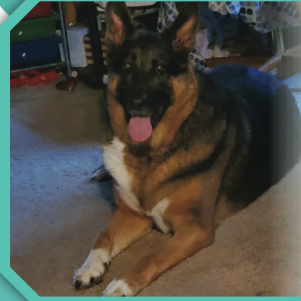


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Humboldt



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Gilmore City



Goldy

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Quinn Jensen,
Humboldt



Bob

Owned by:
Janice Gafford,
Gilmore City



Little Buddy

Owned by:
Jaxon Jensen,
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