

Volume 14 · · Issue 7 - July 2023

HUMBOLDT NOW!



! *A Fine Cigar - Livermore*
! *A New Look at History*
! **Rutz Dedicated to Fair**

POWER UP



Amanda Thul, RD, LD

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WHAT'S INSIDE!

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On the cover:
Brian and Seana Bolen at the Smoldering
Cigar in Livermore.

— Photo by Kent Thompson

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Humboldt NOW! is a publication of Humboldt County Newspapers, Inc., a locally owned company located at 512 Sumner Avenue in downtown Humboldt.

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THE BOOKWORM



Barbecues and Picnics

Review written by: Julie Larsen, Director – Humboldt Public Library

There's something special about summer with barbecues, picnics and spending time outside. The fresh air, sunshine, laughter and conversation, all surrounded by food. If you are looking for a signature recipe for a dish to bring, or you are wanting to create multiple dishes for a gathering, then be sure to make your first stop at Humboldt Public Library.

Chiles and Smoke by Brad Prose features BBQ, grilling and other fire-friendly recipes with spice and flavor. On my list of recipes to try is Picked Jalapenos, it combines brown sugar, vinegar and cloves giving your sauce, dressing or burgers a burst of spice and zing. Moving on to a side dish, if you don't have a garden – make a stop at the Farmer's Market for some fresh summer vegetables and serve Brazilian Vinaigrette Salsa. You won't find any spicy peppers in this salsa, thus making this a great choice for your guests who prefer a milder salsa. Baby Back Ribs are delicious on the grill or in the smoker, Chile Verde Baby Back Ribs are topped off with crispy bits of crushed pork rinds to add texture.

You'll find 100 easy small-batch recipes for weeknight meals and special celebrations from the editors of Good Housekeeping in Dishes for Two. Recipes could easily be doubled or tripled to serve guests. Rather than traditional potato salad with mayo, serve Potato Salad with Vinaigrette. This zippy red onion vinaigrette combines peas (fresh or frozen) with fresh dill that is sure to please anyone's palette. July and summer equals an abundance of zucchini. Whip up Lemon Zucchini Orzo for a twist on pasta salad, this recipe uses fresh basil and chives and gives you options for choosing your favorite pasta and additions/mix-ins to create several

variations of this side dish. Build the Perfect Pizza and toss it onto your grill. There are many options you can try such as Ricotta & Fresh Tomato. Create several combinations to serve to guests and offer a grilled pizza buffet.

Say CHEESE! And your guests will probably arrive early. That Cheese Plate Wants to Party by Marissa Mullen will give you options for festive boards, spreads and recipes with cheese-by-the-numbers method. That First Sip of Coffee Plate features cheese, produce, meat, dip, crunch and garnish for a wonderful appetizer board full of color for a delicious, tantalizing starter. Using fresh summer vegetables That Colorful Crudités Plate will impress your guests with crunchy, healthy choices.

Dessert anyone? Alison Roman's, Sweet Enough, is filled with recipes that include pies, tarts, galettes, pudding, and snacks, just to name a few topics. Frozen Melon with Crushed Berries is sure to be a pleaser on a hot summer day, incorporating watermelon or cantaloupe (your choice) with sugar or honey, blending it, freezing the mixture and topping it with berries. For coffee lovers, Very Iced, Very Frozen Coffee, is sure to be a delightful treat, and best thing – you don't need an espresso maker to create this dessert. Say chocolate and people come running, Chocolate-Sour Cream Pound Cake is dense and buttery, deeply chocolaty, and studded with even more chunks of chocolate. No need to frost,

slice and serve, and best yet, it can be made in advance.

The Library offers an



extensive variation of cookbooks. If you are looking for something new to serve, we have you covered from breakfast to supper, BBQs and picnics, and everything in between. Stop in, check out a stack, kick back at home

and peruse through the recipes. Your dishes will get grand reviews from your family and friends as you welcome the deliciousness of the season in what you are serving.



New Library Program

Cookbook Club

Will meet 3 - 4 times a year.
Call or stop by the library for more details. 515-332-1925



What's Happening NOW!

June

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

4TH OF JULY EVENTS

8AM Run, White & Blue 5K & 10K Run/Walk - Sumner Ave.
12:30PM Harness Races - Humboldt Co. Fairgrounds
7PM Parade • 10PM Fireworks

RUN, WHITE AND BLUE
 5K/10K - July 4th - 8AM

EVERY MONDAY
 Board of Supervisors - 8:30AM

1
 4th of July in West Bend
 Parade at 11AM
 Activities through out the day

2	3	4	5	6	7	8
7PM BASE: V @HHS B-Ball Field 7PM SB: V @Greene Co. HS Humboldt City Council - 5:30PM	4th of July	BASE: 5PM JV 7PM V @Spencer HSI	3 & 4 - 12:30PM Harness Racing Humboldt Co. Fairgrounds			8th - Lu Verne Days 9AM-10PM See more on facebook
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
U.S. Capitol dome		4 Iowa Bible Reading Marathon Courthouse Lawn - 8AM	Dakota City City Council - 7PM "Little House on the Prairie" Children's Program Humboldt Co. Museum - 1-3PM	Humboldt Area Art Council Meeting 5:30PM @ the Art Center	July 14 - 6PM Livermore Truck Pulls July 15 Livermore Daze	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Humboldt Board of Education 5:30PM Humboldt City Council - 5:30PM						
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
				HAAC painting with Moffitt 7/29 - 3PM @ Art Center		
30	31					

HUMBOLDT COUNTY FAIR • JULY 25-31

To submit items for the Community Calendar please email faith@humboldtnews.com or call 515.332.2514

Community Calendar Sponsored by:

HADAR MANUFACTURING • Humboldt •

Crossroads Country STORES
 Highway 169 S., Humboldt • 515-332-5151

CENEX

NO SPILL

\$12 SINGLE TOPPING
 \$14 ANY SPECIALTY PIZZA

Out & About

Humota Family Fun Days

June 17, 2023

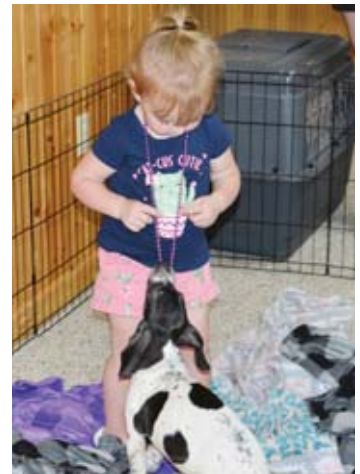
Photos by April Kelley



Kaitlyn Langel, RN, with public health holds Mr. Snake who demonstrates to children how to brush their teeth.



Kids play in the foam machine at the fairgrounds during Humota Family Fun day.



Hadleigh Steward, daughter of Emma Hesse and Wes Steward, plays with a puppy in at the Peace Creek Booth.

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



Riddled with Class played the night away at the Humota Family Fun day.



The toilet paper throw was a popular game before the rain started.



A young lady waits patiently while she is transformed into a butterfly at the face paint booth.



Children slide down the slide of the bouncy house before the rain came Saturday night.



The Humboldt Area Arts Council (HAAC) held a "build your own slime station". Faith Betts and her husband John Betts are pictured instructing and helping build slime.



THURSDAY • JULY 6
FRIDAY • JULY 7
SATURDAY • JULY 8
SUNDAY • JULY 9

*Honoring the founding of the
City of Algona, Iowa*

THURSDAY • JULY 6

- 10AM-4PM: POW MUSEUM OPEN** Located at 114 South Thorington St.
6PM: HERITAGE AWARD PRESENTATION at Riverview Cemetery
6:30PM "VOICES FROM THE PAST" presentation at Riverview Cemetery
6:30PM: KOSSUTH COUNTY SPEEDWAY DIRT TRACK RACING, Kossuth County Fairgrounds

FRIDAY • JULY 7

- 9:30AM: WEEKLY BUSINESS COFFEE** at Carnegie lawn area
10AM-4PM: POW MUSEUM OPEN. Located at 114 South Thorington St.
10:30AM: FREE CHILDREN'S MOVIE at State 5 Theater sponsored by Morwens Kiwanis, Noon Kiwanis and Founders' Day Committee.
11AM-4PM: KOSSUTH COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY OPEN
1:30PM: FREE CHILDREN'S MOVIE at State 5 Theater sponsored by Morwens Kiwanis, Noon Kiwanis, and Founders' Day Committee.
4:30-7PM: CAR CRUISE-IN: State Street, Downtown Algona. Music by MOJO Productions.
4:30PM: BAGS TOURNAMENT, 4:30 p.m. registration, 5 p.m. start, State Street (in front of Pep's)
5PM WALK ON THORINGTON
5-9PM FOOD TRUCKS on South Dodge St.
6PM: PARADE from corner of Thorington & Nebraska east to Harlan St., north to Call St., west to Thorington St. then south back to Nebraska St.
7PM: MIDLAND VIBE MUSIC performance on Stagemobile (west end of State St.)
7PM: WALK ON THORINGTON — tours start at the corner of State Street and Thorington Street (by Stagemobile). Enjoy the history of Thorington Street in this walking tour
8:30-11:30PM: HIP LIBERTY performing on Stagemobile Alcoholic beverages and non-alcoholic beverages available for purchase at Billie Jo's and Pep's

SATURDAY • JULY 8

- 7:30AM: EXERCISE FOR THE HEART 5K/ 10K WALK OR RUN** @Kossuth County Fairgrounds; 7:30 a.m. registration, 8 a.m. start - "Let us put in the work for those that currently are unable to" Goodie bags available for all participants.

Saturday • July 8 • continued

- 9-11AM: FARMER'S MARKET** on Carnegie Lawn area (corner of Dodge St. & Nebraska St.)
10 – 11:15AM: EXPLORING WILDHAVEN CAMPUS. Join Lynn Kueck on a free tour of a beautiful nature setting and its facilities. The walking tour will include visiting the pond, the new lodge, ranger station, and a replica of a Sioux Indian Tepee. Lynn will share true stories of Algona's past history. The tour will begin at 400 West Tietz St. — parking is available.
10AM-4PM: ART IN THE PARK — located at Carnegie lawn area. Sponsored by Stinson Prairie Arts Council
11AM-4PM: KOSSUTH COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY OPEN with special exhibit on display
11-AM-1PM: FREE KID'S BASH!!! Sponsored by Algona Ambassadors on Carnegie Library lawn & Nebraska Street: Inflatables & NW Iowa National Guard rock climbing wall, carnival games, face painting, sidewalk chalk art, balloon animals, and much more. Kids up to age 12 — adult supervision required. Goodie bag for each participant. Free hot dogs & cookies for all in attendance.
11-AM-1PM: DUNK TANK sponsored by Algona Fire Department in partnership with Algona Boy Scouts (located on Nebraska Street)
1PM: OMAHA STREET PERCUSSION on Carnegie Lawn area, Nebraska Street. Sponsored by the Stinson Prairie Arts Council
1:30PM: KIDS Q COMPETITION on South Dodge St.
1-4PM: POW MUSEUM OPEN. Located at 114 South Thorington St.
3PM: OMAHA STREET PERCUSSION on Carnegie Lawn area, Nebraska Street. Sponsored by the Stinson Prairie Arts Council
4-7PM: WORLD FOOD FESTIVAL with live music - downtown

SUNDAY • JULY 9

- 8AM: SHOWBOAT OPEN GOLF TOURNAMENT** at River Road Golf Club
1-4PM: POW MUSEUM OPEN. Located at 114 South Thorington St.
1PM: RIVER CANOEING EXPEDITION (pending level of water) 1-2 hr. outing along scenic bends of the East Fork River. Meet at Veteran's Park. Canoes, supplies, training, and transportation provided. Canoeing experience not necessary. Families welcome - children should be 9 or older and accompanied by an adult. Canoe holds 2-3 people. Wear closed toe shoes and pants that can get muddy. No charge. Pre-register by 3:30p.m. Friday, July 7— Call 515-295-2138; space is limited.
2PM: REPEAT PERFORMANCE OF "VOICES FROM THE PAST" at Algona Public Library



Tyler Rutz, a member of the Humboldt County Fair Board, is excited for what the fair has to offer for the community this year. The fair will run from July 25-31.

Rutz loves volunteering his time on the fair board

BY PHIL MONSON

Tyler Rutz has always been involved with the Humboldt County Fair and so now he's come full circle as a member of the fair board.

Rutz begins his fourth year volunteering his time. Involved with 4-H and FFA growing up, he feels it's his turn to give back to the community.

"I'm on the beef committee and I help with various duties around that part of the fair. I try to alleviate any problems that come up," Rutz said.

"I help out in the show arena during the fair and I'll help out with the winter weigh-ins. Make sure everything is running smoothly," Rutz said.

"I also work at most of the events that are in the grand stand. I'll run some of the equipment or be a flagger

for an event. It just all depends on what's happening out there," Rutz said. "I'll do prep work before an event starts. Preparation work can take quite a while to make sure a show goes off well."

Rutz, a 2013 Humboldt High School graduate, always appreciated the work the board does.

"I was always around the fair when I was a kid and I always thought the guys on the fair board were some of the best people because they were volunteering their time to help put on an event for the county, whatever that might be," Rutz said.

"When I got into high school I started helping out in events. That was what kind of drew me into being on the board. I always enjoyed unhooking

the trucks and tractors at the pulls. I started bringing one of my tractors in so I could use it to run the track packer. That was fun. It's a tractor that has been in our family since it was brand new in 1970," Rutz said.

Rutz says the fairgrounds are a venue that is well-served throughout the year.

"Our facilities are used throughout the year. It's amazing what we can all do here. They have motocross practice out in the infield of the track on weekends and we even have some races," Rutz said.

"And the harness races go on throughout the summer and the harness people train all year long. People can use the events center for weddings and other community activities. Birthday parties, graduation

parties, fundraisers...anything that needs a big enough building to hold a good-sized crowd," Rutz said.

"We have the space for large family reunions and class reunions. And now that we have two brand new buildings and now another one, we have more space for winter storage space that people want to rent," Rutz said. "People can store their campers out here in wintertime."

Being a fair board member also has its challenges.

"Everybody is always willing to help but there are a lot of things going on at once at the fair, many pieces to the puzzle to make it all happen," Rutz said. "It takes a lot of help so sometimes trying to find people can be difficult because there's so much to do. You get pulled away sometimes to deal with something that pops up."

"As a board, everybody has a lot of great ideas but sometimes we forget to express it to each other. Sometimes communication can be a little challenging but nobody ever gets upset with another member. Everybody finds a way to work together without conflict," Rutz said.

"Plus, we are all volunteers, so there's no need to get too fussy over something that can get accomplished. No one has a bad idea, it's just that some ideas are better than others and easier to see through until something is completed," Rutz said.

Rutz is excited about this year's fair, especially the country music concert on Saturday, July 29, involving shows by Tyler Farr and Jake Worthington.

"I always get excited for the truck and tractor pull each year. This year we are going to have country music singers for the Saturday night grandstand show. It's something we've never had before but I'm excited about us being able to offer it to the community," Rutz said. "It will take time and effort but I think we are up for the challenge."

"We wanted to get entertainers who are appropriate for just about any age group. There are people that are in the middle to upper ages that have heard this singer on the radio and there are kids who have also heard him on the radio," Rutz said.

"Kind of a change of pace. It's fun to have the rodeo. It's fun to have the demolition derby but when you can see those same events at other fairs and venues all over the state that are more established, it's hard to compete with

those events, too," Rutz said.

"It can be hard to get riders and people to participate in those events to make them large enough to make it worth holding them here in Humboldt," Rutz said.

"It's important to try and get some people out to the fair who might not come out to watch some of the other stuff," Rutz said. "The pulls, demolition derby and rodeos are not for everybody, but everybody likes music and so we feel it is something people will enjoy."

Facility upgrades and maintenance are ongoing.

"We've added a new water main that runs out to the center of the infield. That cuts our time down by over half to fill the water tank when we need water for activities," Rutz said.

"Other improvements include the new cattle building and lean-to on that in the northwest corner of the livestock area. The older building served its purpose but after time things fall apart and need to be replaced. Having that new beef building makes the whole facility look really nice on the north end," Rutz said. "We aren't always fixing a building now because we have new buildings we've constructed in recent years."

"The show arena, which has been new in recent years, has that old-time feel but it's bigger and much nicer for the public," Rutz said. "We have the new hog buildings, which have been a big plus for our fair. It's nicer for keeping the pigs cool. And it's functional for other things the rest of the year when the fair is over."

"The old grandstand isn't getting any newer. It is always a topic of conversation as to when we might replace it, but they are very expensive to build. Hopefully this concert we have this year, if we can make money off of it, maybe that can help go toward making payments toward grandstand improvements," Rutz said.



Tyler Rutz, one of the newest members of the fair board, is shown here at the newer, spacious show arena.

"The grandstand project will take time but we're getting closer to when that day comes when we have to replace the old, current one," Rutz said.

Rutz, who resides on an acreage north of Humboldt, is employed during the day at Jensen Drainage and Excavation. He also keeps busy doing other tasks, including farming.

"I work full-time for Jensen Drainage and Excavation. We do dirt work of all kinds. We put in septic tanks, leach fields, dig basements, lay tile and make building pads. We do just about anything that involves dirt," Rutz said.

"There's a lot of stuff that we can do that might not have a specific name. We can bury stuff. Clean up stuff," Rutz said.

"I'm also involved with my dad (Joel Rutz) and uncle (Jeff Rutz) in their farming operation. I help out as much as I can and do a little bit on my own, too. It's something I've always enjoyed doing. I enjoyed riding in a tractor with my dad or my grandpa (the late Don Rutz) and uncle Jeff ever since I was a kid," Rutz said.

"I've also have a small herd of cattle on an acreage north of town. There's never a dull moment," Rutz said.

"I don't do a lot of fun stuff anymore. I work during the day and I stay busy working afterwards. I end up not spending any money by working all the time," Rutz said, emitting a large smile. "I like to keep busy doing a lot of things and being on the fair board is a part of that."

HUMBOLDT

NEWS FROM YOUR CITY

**Garbage
Pick-up**
Tuesday's trash
will be picked up
on Monday, July
3, along with
Monday's
regular route.



Tuesday, July 4
7PM • Parade
Downtown Humboldt
10PM • Fireworks

*Fireworks are allowed to be
discharged on July 3, 10AM-10PM
& July 4, 10AM-11PM. Fireworks are
not allowed within 500 feet of the parade
route or 500 feet of the Fairgrounds.*

Due to the holiday, City Hall Offices
will be closed Tues., July 4th.



*Please remember not to blow grass into
the street when mowing. This causes clogging
of the storm sewer intakes and can cause
flooding during heavy rainfall.*



Tired of the wind and rain playing
havoc with your recycle bin?
Bin Covers manufactured by
Syntex Industries are
available in City Hall for \$10.



HUMBOLDT

NEWS FROM YOUR CITY

HUMBOLDT FAMILY AQUATIC CENTER

LAP SWIMMING

Monday-Friday
6:30-8AM • 12-12:45PM

Saturday-Sunday
7-9AM • 12-12:45PM

PRICES:

Family + 1 \$200

Family Pass \$165

Single \$95

Senior (+60) \$70

Daily Pass \$6 (3yrs+) Senior (60+) \$3

POOL RENTAL

\$200 for 1 hour

\$250 for 2 hours

Concession stand available for \$35

AQUACISE CLASS

Instructor Led

Monday-Friday

7-8AM • 11:45AM-12:45AM



**Daily
Hours
1-7PM**



The joys of a fine cigar

Livermore couple's dream lies in the air

By KENT THOMPSON

To find out just how unique a cigar store and smoker's lounge is in a town the size of Livermore, Iowa, population 381, just ask some of Brian and Seana Bolen's suppliers and customers.

"We've been open for a year-and-a-half. It has to be a destination place," Brian said of the unique shop at 411 4th Ave., Livermore.

The Bolens have found out that it's a destination few people know about, but more are finding out about it all the time.

"People think we're in Livermore, CA. Some can't find Livermore, IA when they do a search. We tell them how to find us and they just can't believe a town the size of Livermore has a cigar lounge," Brian Bolen said.

What the couple has created is an oasis in a sea of the common and ordinary. Sure, you can pick up a cheap cigar at a local retail outlet or online at a cost of less than \$1 apiece, but to get a fine-quality, all handmade cigar from Central or South America and be able to smoke it in a comfortable and leisurely environment, right here in Humboldt County, well, that's worth a little more.

The closest cigar shops dedicated to only cigars, are in the big cities nearly 100 miles or more away.

The Smoldering Cigar in Livermore is offering the flavor and aromatic pleasures of cigar smoking that has been heretofore only available in Ames, Des Moines, Davenport, Minneapolis and Sioux City, NE.

It was Seana's idea to start the business, but Brian was sold on the idea after becoming a cigar aficionado about three years ago.

"For a Father's Day gift in 2020, I bought Brian a whiskey glass set that came with a cigar holder and cigars. That summer we sat around the campfire and Brian said getting cigars and just being able to sit back and relax and let the pressures of life pass by was the best gift he had ever received," Seana said.

Seana works several days a week at a law firm in Des Moines where she is a legal assistant and office manger.

"I've worked at 31st and Ingersoll for many years. There is a cigar store three blocks away next to a restaurant we frequent. I never knew there was a cigar store there until after I bought Brian the whiskey glass set and the owner there hooked me up with some high-quality cigars."

Brian said he then began seriously considering



Seana and Brian Bolen stand outside one of Humboldt County's most unique businesses, the Smoldering Cigar, a premium cigar store and smoking lounge. NOW! Photos by Kent Thompson unless noted.



A good cigar is like a fine wine, meant to be enjoyed and savored.



The inventory at Smoldering Cigar numbers in the hundreds and rivals stores in much larger cities. It is all climate controlled in a humidor room featuring Spanish cedar.

opening a cigar store and smoking lounge for people who enjoy the experience.

"It's all about the cigars and the pleasure people derive from just relaxing and enjoying a fine cigar and connecting with others doing the same thing," Brian Bolen said.

"We offer a large variety of handmade cigars to provide something for everyone's palate from strong to mild," he said. "It's a broad spectrum."

While the Livermore location would be considered small compared to larger shops in large cities (one in Denver, CO boasts 10,000 different cigars,) there is quite a

variety to be had.

"I don't have a personal favorite. I enjoy trying them all and seeing what works well. I like a medium flavor with a lot of body," Brian said.

The couple purchased the former Coco's Place on Livermore's main street late in October of 2020.

The building was stripped down to the bare walls and rebuilt from scratch.

"We took our time to do it because we wanted it done right and wanted to involve our family in the process," Brian said.

"It took over a year, but it kept the overhead low and the costs down as we did much of the work ourselves," he added, going off design plans he wrote on a sheet of notebook paper. Seana did the color coordinating and interior design.

The Bolen's two children, Faith Bolen-Betts and Georgia Bolen and their significant others, John Betts and Trey Thomas, were actively involved.

The cigar store and smoking lounge is open from 12-7 p.m. on Wednesdays through Sundays. If there are other times people want to be there, they can call ahead (515) 320-0551, and the Bolens will make every effort to open.

The clientele varies from longtime



Seana and Brian Bolen put a lot of work into developing a humidor room for the stocking of their fine quality cigar line.

smokers to new people who want to come in and try something new.

"The nice thing about longtime smokers is we get to talk cigars. For novices, I can share with them some of the pleasures I get from it and what to look for in a good cigar.

"I would say in the past five years I've really fell in love with seeking knowledge and reading about cigars and all about them. It's really defined my passion for them and increased my learning of what I'm selling to people," Brian said.

"The lower to the ground the tobacco is harvested the sweeter it is. It's based

**See more Fine Cigar
Page 14**



Brian Bolen cuts insulation to be installed during the construction process in 2021. The Smoldering Cigar has been open in Livermore for just over a year-and-a-half. Submitted photo.

on the amount of sun. The more sun, the stronger the tobacco,” he reported.

What is sold in the Smoldering Cigar is all 100 percent premium, hand-rolled. All parts of the tobacco plant are used for the cigar, including the binder, filler and wrapper.

One of the popular brands is Plasencia, but there are all colors, flavors and aromas to choose from. Some of the most popular brands are from Nicaragua, Ecuador and Honduras. There is one manufacturer from Connecticut, but that is the only one from the U.S.

Anyone can be a cigar smoker and more women are taking up the idea of lighting up.

“It’s still probably 50 to 1 men, but women are more than welcome,” Seana said.

“We want to be equal to everyone and give them the experience,” Brian adds.

“It’s not like smoking a cigarette. That’s five minutes and you are on with your day. Cigar smoking is all about the experience. You can sit back, savor the flavor and contemplate life’s big questions,” Seana said.

The Smoldering Cigar is developing a national following. James Giehm is a podcaster from Cedar Rapids. He does a weekly show about everything cigars. He is joined by Tim Allen, an Iowa National Guardsman, not the Hollywood actor, and Nick Syris, a cigar expert from New Jersey and the owner of LH Cigars, which the Bolens stock in their shop.

“James came here and did a review. We thought he’d be here three hours and he was here from the time we opened (noon) to the time we closed (7 p.m.),” Seana said excitedly. “He posted pictures of the Indian and the Freedom Rock.”

The company has a website, www.smolderingcigar.com and a Facebook page. The company advertises locally and also is looking for more Google reviews so the shop is highlighted on Google Maps.

“Getting the word out has been slow but is picking up,” Brian said. “Locally, we’ve had real good support from the city and have some customers from Livermore, Algona and Humboldt and the area who are regulars and some from as far away as Spencer, Marshalltown and Albert Lea, MN.

“We have a regular group that comes in on Friday nights, especially in the winter, and like to play Euchre or Cribbage. Some of the spouses don’t smoke but they enjoy the company. We had one guy who was doing a project in the area and would come in and work on his computer and smoke cigars,” S.

Bolen said.

“I’ll get people introduced to what they are smoking and teach them how to light and cut the cigars. Seana will help with the social aspect,” Brian said.

“I’ll start in the corners and make sure everyone is introduced and get conversations started,” Seana said.

“I think people get a “Wow!” moment when they step in the shop. It really has the look and feel of a bigger city cigar shop and smoking lounge,” Seana Bolen notes.

When cigars are mentioned, some people get the impression of the back room of a dank, dark building where political deals are made, or a gin game in the back of a pool hall.

The Smoldering Cigar is clean, modern, comfortable and inviting. There is only the hint of the cigar aroma and heating and cooling units and exhaust fans keep the air circulating.

An impressive feature of the cigar store and lounge is its humidor room. Not only are the brands of cigars from Central and South America, so are the walls.

Spanish cedar wood is the top choice for humidors because of its natural aroma, moisture-regulating properties and resistance to mold and fungus.

Humidity control and temperature are essential elements to keeping the product fresh and aromatic. Both the temp and humidity in the humidor are kept at 65-70 (degrees and percent).

“The combination of the Spanish cedar and the good tobacco is a very pleasant smell,” Seana Bolen says.

While a lot of renovation of the building has already taken place, the Bolens and their immediate family members are busy creating a smoking lounge in the back of the shop, complete with a fireplace, pressed tin ceiling and a sofa and stuffed chairs. Brian even painstakingly constructed a stained-glass window.

“Our idea is to have a 24-hour lounge that members can get a pass to enter with a secure code. There will be lockers so



To the right of the entrance to the store is a antique game table and comfortable chairs.



The Blackened Whiskey and Blackened “M81” cigars are partially owned by Metallica co-founder James Hetfield, a cigar enthusiast.



An ornate tin ceiling is part of the new “members only” lounge area being created in the Smoldering Cigar in Livermore.

customers can access them before hours. For example, a lot of people like to go golfing early in the morning. They can stop here and pick up their cigars before they go. It's just another way to make this a destination location and be accommodating to our customers," B. Bolen said.

The Bolens are not ruling out being a full-scale tobacconist at some point, but right now, the focus is on cigars and only cigars.

"We want to give our full attention to what we are trying to sell before we branch out," Brian remarked.

Some people may not know that butane torch lighters is one of the preferred ways to ignite a fine cigar.

"It is triple purified and has no odor. You can't light one with a BIC lighter. It affects the aroma," S. Bolen reports.

A big celebration is coming up on July 15, which also happens to be Livermore Daze.

The Smoldering Cigar will be hosting a "Herf," A herf is a term coined by cigar aficionados that refers to appreciate a cigar either alone or in a group at one location.

It will also serve as a meeting of the Ash Holes Cigar Club, an organization of cigar lovers who may be aficionados that are working their way to becoming cigar connoisseurs.

"We have more than 30 people signed up. Many are from the Des Moines area, but there is another half-dozen from various spots in northern Iowa. It's a one-day event to support the store and the love of cigar smoking," Brian said.

"We're going to have a guy from Alabama come up and smoke 50 pounds of pork butt. He loves hunting up here, discovered our shop and has agreed to do it."

The Bolens recently completed an outdoor patio on the south side of the business which will help accommodate the large gathering.

"We'd like to have the back lounge area done by the end of the summer or for sure before rough weather kicks in," Brian said.

It took Brian 50 years, but he has found something that he absolutely loves to do.

"It's a family-owned business. It's low key and no stress. I never dreamed I'd be doing something like this but I'm really enjoying it," Brian said.

Seana likes it too. "He's my best customer," she said of her cigar-loving hubby.



An intricate stained glass window with beautiful color hues was created by Brian Bolen for the lounge area under construction in the Livermore venue.



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A dedicated team of volunteers led by Donna and Roger Day care for the grounds of the museum including the perennial garden shown which is to the East of the Hardy Methodist Church.

A New Look at History

By APRIL KELLEY

Humboldt County has had a group dedicated to preserving its history since the Humboldt County Historical Association was formed in 1962. The association wanted to be able to showcase the unique background of the county.

The donation of the Brown home, now called the Millhouse, and the land surrounding the building, allowed the Association to have a place to call home and to showcase the history of the area.

More buildings have been added over the years as funding or donations allowed. A schoolhouse was donated and moved onto the property in 1966, followed by a barn, jailhouse, chicken house, and the Hardy Methodist Church. In between that time, a log cabin, the kettle shed and the Clancy/Erickson building was built on the property in the manner they would have been built during the period they depict.

Walking into any of the buildings instantly transforms the visitor to an earlier time, without the distractions of the modern world. No television, no cell phones, no radio noise, just quiet.

When the house was built, this quiet would have been broken by the sound of the mill running, the cattle across the road, the workers milling about and all of the household inhabitants busy about their chores.

Now the only sound that breaks the silence is the noise of a car going by on the road in front of the house, the rhythmic hum of a lawn mower or the voices of the museum's manager or one of the volunteers giving a tour.

Erica Knudson became the Executive Director of Museum Operations in May of 2019.

Knudson graduated in 2018 from UNI.



A typical kitchen from the 1800's is shown. Food prep was done on a sideboard or kitchen table. Kitchen counters as we know them today were not used at the time.

"Formally my major was music education, instrumental but I switched to history education with the English endorsement my second year at UNI," Knudson said.

Knudson began to volunteer at the Cedar Falls Historical Society's Victorian Museum to fulfill a requirement for her class.

"I fell in love with the museum field and Victorian history. I ended up switching my major after that semester to public



Erica Knudson, Museum Director for the Humboldt County Historical Association gives a tour of the Millhouse. Here she is showing what was once the ballroom where the family would hold parties and dances. See this and other photos at www.humboldtnews.com. Humboldt Independent photo by April Kelley.

history,” Knudson said.

In 2018 she visited the Humboldt museum with her mother.

“I wanted to see how the museum had changed since I had been there when I was 8 years old and to see if they needed any volunteers,” Knudson said.

Instead, the museum director at that time, Sandra Back, who conducted the tour, inquired about her desire to work at the museum.

“I told her that would be awesome,” Knudson said.

She met with the director and one of the longtime board members, the current Vice President, Greg Stoebe, and was offered a job shortly after.

“One of the reasons they wanted to hire me was because I worked under Cedar Falls Historical Society interning and helping out the education coordinator there. The direction they wanted to go, like most museums in Iowa is how to get the younger generations excited about local history and history in general,” Knudson said.

Knudson is hoping to bring that freshness to the museum in Humboldt as well.

“When people come and tour the museum, they leave with a sense of wonder and it has given the museum the name ‘hidden gem of northern Iowa,’” Knudson said.

Of special interest to Knudson is watching children become interested in history when they come to the museum during school trips.

“I love watching kids just get interested in history and watching that spark come alive. Some of them do come back during the summer,” Knudson said.

Keeping things fresh can be a challenge when dealing with items that are hundreds of years old in an environment that is specifically kept in the past.

Knudson and her team of volunteers endeavor to ensure that the past and the present can coincide.

“We have about 15,000 items in our collection, give or take, and we have on display about half of them at any given time. The rest are kept in climate controlled storage,” Knudson said.

Some of the oldest items cannot be displayed anymore as they are extremely fragile and exposing them to the sun and elements would damage them beyond repair.

“Many things that are in storage are rotated in the house so they get their chance to tell the story of Humboldt County, whether that be changing out items in our existing displays or doing seasonal displays with a historic theme every year,” Knudson said.

Knudson credits the dedicated volunteers for the ability for the museum to educate the public, remain current and to care for the antiques.

“Martha (Schmidt) can tell you the history on most everything out here. As she reminds us though, she is always learning something new as well, Knudson said.

Martha is the volunteer in charge of collections and county history, and Pat Baker is our archive volunteer and historian.

“What Martha doesn’t know, Pat probably does,” Knudson said.

“I wouldn’t be able to do what we do without our family of volunteers at the museum. It wouldn’t be the wonderful place it is today without them and our generous donors,” Knudson said.

Other than changing out the collections in the house, Knudson refreshes the past by creating a visual walk through history in the Clancy/Erickson building.

The Erickson addition of the building initially served as storage but has been turned into a walk-through-time with areas that are designated to depict different scenes of a typical life several hundred years ago. This gives visitors to the museum a chance to immerse themselves in the past while being able to display more of the collection.

“I like to try to make the displays interactive so that people, especially children, can become a part of history as well,” Knudson said.

The exhibits allow the visitor to step into a general store, medical office, ladies’ parlor, post office, bank, blacksmith tool shop, newspaper and depression era kitchen. Without the Erickson building, these displays would not be possible.

“The Millhouse is more of a traditional display where visitors are encouraged not to touch as the items are more fragile but it offers the immersive feeling of being in a home. At some point it would be nice to have more hands on in the Millhouse as well,” Knudson said.

Knudson also keeps the museum current by offering programs that highlight different areas. This year she is offering programs on the many smaller towns surrounding Humboldt.

“This summer I have the ‘Little Town on the Prairie’ series where we will showcase Bradgate, Hardy, Thor and Pioneer by

**See more History
Page 18**

displaying items, maps and info about those towns as well as having a program,” Knudson said.

Many of the events can be found on the Humboldt County Historical Association Facebook page or online at www.humboldtcohm.org.

“I want to see the museum grow and to highlight what a wonderful place Humboldt is and the unique history that created it,” Knudson said.

The Grounds

The museum grounds are cared for by a dedicated group of volunteers led by Master Gardeners, Donna and Roger Day. Donna and her volunteers plan and care for the several acres of land surrounding the museum.

There are several distinct areas of the museum grounds that have been designated for a specific reason.

To the back of the grounds and east of the church is the perennial garden. This area was designed approximately 10 years ago as a classic walking garden. Included in the design are plants native to Iowa and of the type that might have been grown when the house was first occupied.

“I don’t think this would have been on the grounds as they wouldn’t have had time to care for it, but it would have been in a park area or the center of town later on,” Day said.

A sign in front of the garden tells about the types of plants there. A volunteer member of the garden group cares for each section.

“It takes quite a few people to do all of this. I couldn’t do it on my own. The volunteers are very dedicated to making sure the grounds look nice year-around,” Day said.

To the west of the church is a new woodland area that has just been created. Planted in this area are violets, bluebells, Sweet Williams, bloodroot, jack-in-the-pulpit and bleeding hearts.

“These plants would have been found growing wild in the woodland areas. We want to get an area started that is a bit more wild,” Day said.

Behind the Clancy-Erickson building is the butterfly garden. The plants that are in that area are meant to help protect and preserve the butterfly population.

To the east of the house is the kitchen



A sign explains the flowers that are planted in the perennial garden on the museum grounds.

garden. This area is an example of a late 1800’s kitchen garden. This garden would have been used to grow food for the use of the family who lived at the house.

“That garden usually has corn, tomatoes, potatoes, squash and herbs along with other vegetables. This would have fed the family and provided food through the winter,” Day said.

Throughout the grounds, a memorial tree program has been started. Those who wish to plant a tree in memory of someone, can purchase the tree from the museum to be planted on the grounds.

“We chose the type of tree because it has to work with the area and with the overall look of the museum. The grounds are on display year-around so it’s important to have trees and plants that make the museum beautiful all year,” Day said.

A plaque is added in front of the tree with the name of the loved one and the donors.

“We have had quite a few people choose to plant a tree. We started with oak trees because they are slow growing but have added a few others in so we have a mixture,” Day said.

While it doesn’t strictly pertain to gardening, Day also keeps tabs on the old mill run and the area that contained the mill.

“The rocks and things keep coming off the walls that are left. Someday we won’t have anything here but I try to pick the

rocks up and put them back. I think it is important to preserve the history,” Day said.

Visiting the Museum

The museum is definitely a labor of love for both Knudson and Day. They see the building and grounds not so much as a snapshot of the past, but rather as a living, breathing walk through history that they hope more people will take advantage of.

“We continue to plan new things and to try to create novel ways to introduce people to the past,” Knudson said.

“Our regular season runs June 1st through September 30th when we are open Monday through Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.,” Knudson said.

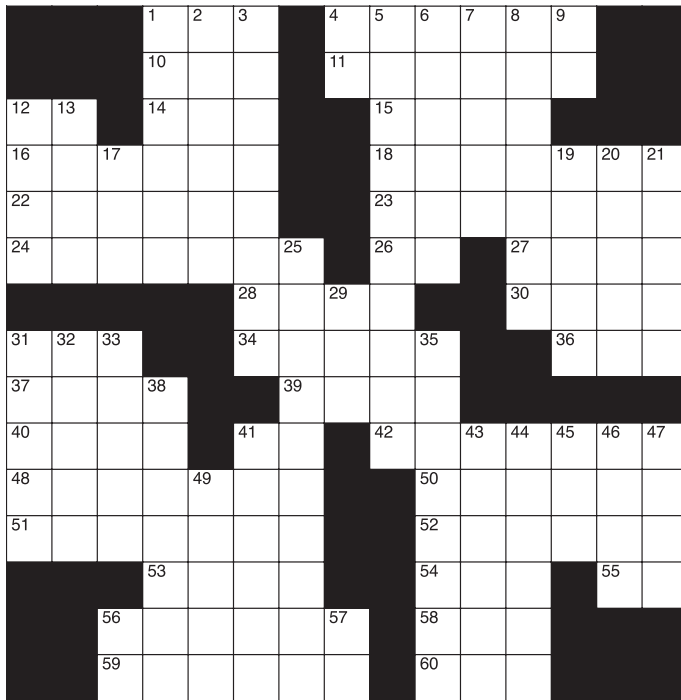
Admission is \$10 for adults and free for children 18 and under.

The church can also be rented for weddings, reunions or other events by contacting Knudson at the museum.

For more information on the Humboldt County Historical Association or the museum, visit

<https://www.humboldtcohm.org> or call the museum office at 515-604-6980.

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CLUES ACROSS

1. Small Eurasian deer
4. Irish county
10. A major division of geological time
11. Broadway actor Lane
12. Canadian province
14. It causes fainting (abbr.)
15. Two
16. A notable one is blue
18. Utter repeatedly
22. Rings
23. Sullies
24. Occurs
26. Publicity
27. Near
28. Tools of a trade
30. Offer in good faith
31. "American Idol" network
34. Garments
36. Soviet Socialist Republic
37. Retired NFL DC Dean
39. Hot meal
40. A type of gin
41. Percussion instrument
42. A \$10 bill
48. About ground
50. Medicine man
51. Seedless raisin
52. National capital of Albania
53. Appendage
54. OJ trial judge
55. By the way
56. Bicycle parts
58. Barbie's friend
59. In a way, stretched
60. Commercials

CLUES DOWN

1. Make up for
2. American songbird
3. Pay
4. International organization
5. Engravers

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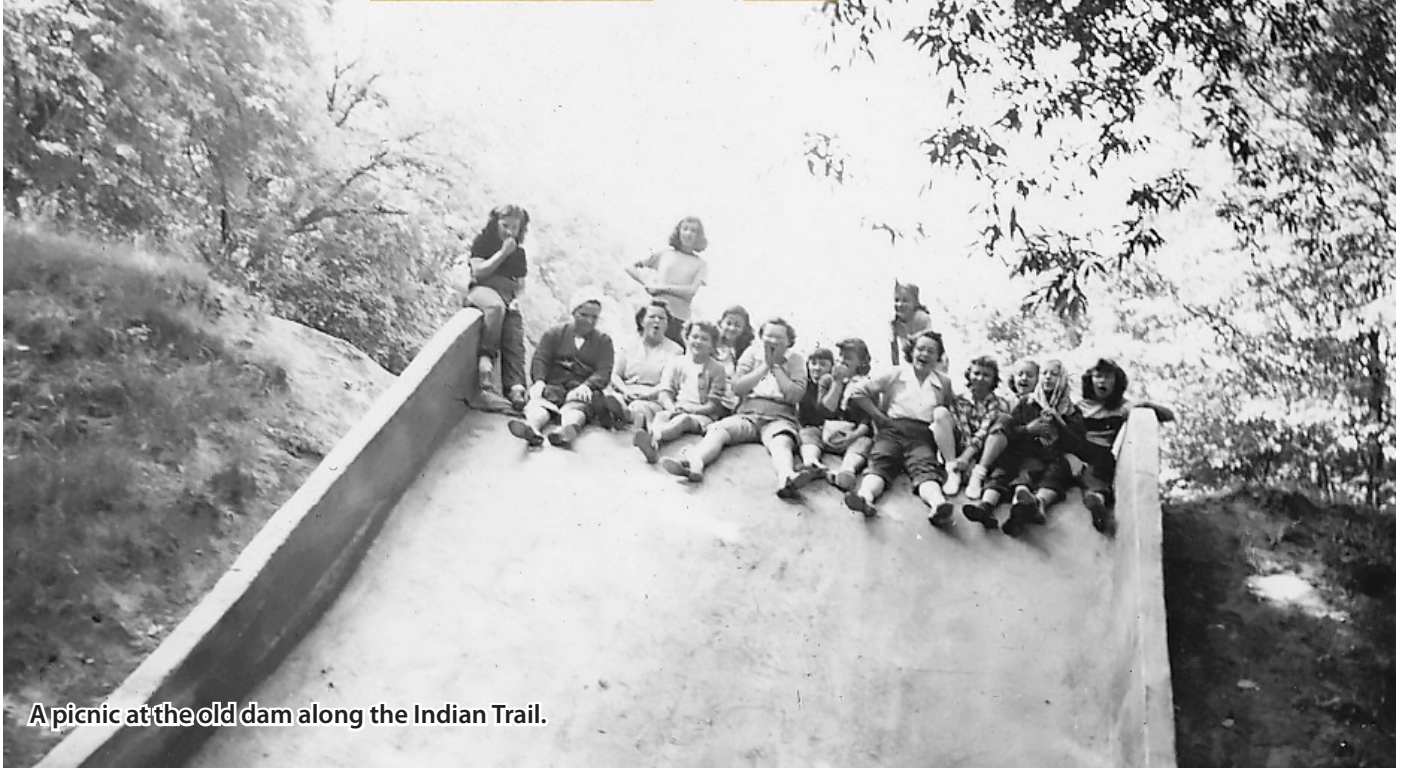
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Historically Speaking!

by Carolyn Saul Logan



A picnic at the old dam along the Indian Trail.

Let's Picnic!

A pleasant summer occasion is when people pack a meal and eat it outdoors on a blanket. Back in the 17th century this practice assumed the French term “pique-nique” or picnic. Such an occasion that combines food and the outdoors and maybe entertainment can also be called a barbecue, garden party, Barbie, clambake, cookout, excursion, fish fry, wiener roast, outing and so forth.

Although a picnic is not a huge happening on the historical scale, it is right up there on the memorable events list. Picnics in my 1930s childhood were often the Sunday event with relatives and friends joining together in a park or out on the front lawn. For me, the best thing was my mother's ice cream. It began in the kitchen as a sort of custard but was truly created in the ice cream freezer. This wonderful kitchen device was patented in 1846 by a woman named Nancy Johnson. Her hand-cranked freezer established the basic method of making ice cream today. I spent a lot of my childhood picnics sitting beside whoever was providing the arm to turn the freezer, trying to hurry the process along. The Humboldt Museum has a tiny ice cream freezer on display; it was probably a sample for a salesman to show customers.

The picnic menu in Iowa often includes hot dogs, which require a

fire for roasting. Building a picnic fire is an art. It has to be built somewhere close but also far enough away so the smoke doesn't blow in everybody's face. Often there was one person in the group that always built the fire and usually it was my dad until I assumed the role in our family after I went to Camp Fire camp and learned about building fires. Getting a good fire going and keeping it going for everyone's hot dogs and the marshmallows to follow took some work.

As an adult, my first “foreign” picnic was a luau in Honolulu, where I was teaching art in the Kamehameha Schools. Because this school was for children of Hawaiian descent, I already knew all about poi because it was part of the daily menu. Made from pounded taro root, it reminded me of library paste but I ate it. Popular items on the full luau menu always included poi, pig roasted in an imu (underground oven) and shredded, laulau meat (other kinds of meat) wrapped in leaves and steamed in the imu and haupia, which is a coconut pudding. A big luau always included lots of music and dancing.

A Peruvian picnic is called a pachamanca. There are four main ingredients in a home-cooked Pachamanca: the herbs, the meat, the vegetables, and the stock. In Peru, the main herb for a

pachamanca is huacatay, a type of wild mint; the meat is chicken, pork, or lamb; and the vegetables are potatoes, sweet potatoes, and corn. All of the ingredients were cooked in a huge hole in the ground covered with straw and dirt and wet gunny sacks. It was opened after the preliminaries: drinks, music, singing and talking and all the food was piled on tables or the ground and you picked out your meal. Peruvians consider guinea pig a delicacy and they were often included in the menu so I carefully sorted through the pile of meat when I attended pachamancas. Dessert was some sort of coconut creation.

I will never forget a simple family picnic that my husband and I had when our son was only a toddler. We lived in a Peruvian desert of sand and rock so one weekend we drove to a place on a river and found a grassy spot under some olive trees. Our son was upset by the grass that tickled his legs and was happy to sit on the blanket with us. After a while he began turning his head every which way and pointing up in the trees. I finally figured out that he was hearing birds chirping and singing and also realized that this was the first time he had heard bird song. Since he didn't have the word bird or even the notion of birds, it took a while before he understood. He liked the idea of whistling with the birds and did that all the way home.

When my folks visited me in Western Australia, we drove down south to see the sights and stopped for a picnic along the way. Australian flies are huge, obnoxious and everywhere outdoors in the "bush" which is anywhere outside towns. The locals deal with their picnic flies with what is called The Australian Salute—a brisk wave of the hand in front of your face just before you jam a bit of food in your mouth. My poor dad ended up eating in the car. He wasn't quick enough even though I taught him the Salute.

The Indian Trail here in Humboldt was a favorite spot for a picnic, especially where the old cement dam loomed up out of the weeds about a hundred yards back in a valley. It was built in the 1930s by Cassie Skow in order to dam up the creek to form a pond. Unfortunately, the west bank of the supporting dike gave way after about a year and the pond slipped away. Entertainment for that picnic was sliding down the dam.

So, here we are in the month of June and it is time to get out all the picnic stuff and head off to enjoy what people have always enjoyed—food and drink on a blanket in the shade of a leafy tree.

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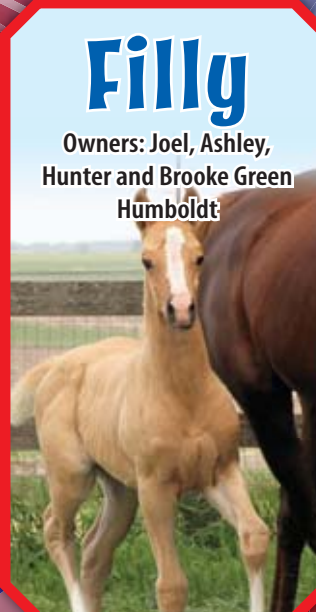
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By Karen May

Karen's Quips!

One year ago I mentioned the Freedom Rocks. What a year it has been. I have seen 56 thus far and have plans to see most of the rest this year.

I have given several talks to groups about them and many persons have taken the lists I made of where they are located. I also found out that a couple from neighboring Renwick, Dan and Renae Anliker, have visited ALL of them! HEY - congratulations!!! I have not visited with them about their experiences, BUT do plan to do so in the near future!!

Summer has come and my birds have left. This year I had an abundance of orioles and hummingbirds. They ate me out of grape jam, for sure! Although my birds have left, my son (who lives next door) says he still has a pair of orioles and some hummingbirds. Fun to watch them!

Others are watching the deer bring their young ones up to the openings of their yard/homes. When driving through the countryside in late afternoon, one can see them by the edge of groves, openings in trees and fence lines. Do watch for them!

I am happy to report there WILL BE a program on Memorial Day next year. While visiting with some residents at the bridge site that day, several commented that it was a shame this tradition was left by the wayside. It didn't take long for the men to discuss ways they could help and by gosh, by the time I left the group, it looked like a volunteer group would be in charge. Congratulations gentlemen. I won't name you now, but it's good to have you volunteer your services!! Humboldt is fortunate to have people like this. THANK YOU!

Another place where volunteers play a big part is at the Humboldt Co. Fair, July 25 - July 31. The 4-H groups have many activities with their various with their various animals and judging, and there are many

displays, exhibits, etc. for the general public in addition to the grandstand shows. Always something for everyone.

I understand the Humboldt Co. Genealogy Association will have a big display of farmsteads, including photos. It will be fun to see how the landscape has changed! Of course, I like to visit the food stands with all the homemade pies, grilled sandwiches, etc. The best thing of all is admittance is free. If you are looking for something to do - remember the fair!!

My sister in California has been complaining about their usually wonderful temperatures. This spring there has been a lot of rain and cooler weather, so instead of being outside, their spare time has been putting puzzles together! Isn't it funny how weather and temperatures are at such a variety around the country?

Now I hear of many fires from Canada sending smoke into the northeastern states for poor air quality! Weather presents problems lots of places!

A recent Sunday afternoon found us attending an open house at the Humboldt County Historical Museum watching one of several programs planned on Sundays this summer about Humboldt County's small towns. Erica Knudson did a fantastic job of preparing with maps, a video, photos, etc. I was extremely interested as my in-laws farmed in the area for many years and I spent the first 15 years of my married life there.

To think Hardy used to have grocery stores, banks, restaurants, a barber shop, gas stations, lumber yard, a church and all things that made a town!!! The Clancy classroom was full of persons interested in "the past." Erica has a full schedule of events planned for the summer and you can find details on the website: www.humboldtcnhm.org.

I think the museum has a catchy title as well: "Preserving Humboldt County's past for future generations to Learn, Grow and Enjoy."

Sunday nights there are free band concerts at neighboring Fort Dodge (featuring MANY talented Humboldt musicians!) We attended the first of the season at Oleson Park early in June. After an early shower when we thought it might be rained out, the concert continued for a good-sized crowd.

The Karl King Band is comprised of local area musicians and the city of Fort Dodge sponsors the weekly concerts. I counted over 20 Humboldt persons and I am sure there were more. They play all types of music and all you have to do is bring your own chair - no admission. Hard to beat!!

However, the concerts will not seem the same without the presence of the late Tom Tierney walking the grounds with his camera and watching the concert taking those famous photographs!!

Do YOU have a hard time keeping track of your cell phone in your home? I seem to carry it from room to room and then misplace it.

When I had a landline phone, I just called myself. Now that is gone I find myself a bit frantic at times. I would like to have someone invent an inexpensive "beeper" so all I had to do was push a button and I could find that little phone!! When I leave the house, it is always in my purse. Perhaps I should leave it IN MY PURSE when I am home as well?

Enjoy the summer - the sports, farmers market, walks, vacations, neighboring and the list goes on. Just think, in a few months it will be cool again!!! In the meantime, ENJOY what we have!!!!

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Humboldt students Kindergarten through Second Grade participated in a Fun Day at the end of the school year. Some of the activities involved team work as classes competed against each other in a water contest and a tug of war. Students also showed great sportsmanship as they cheered on their classmates in other fun competitions. These included a football throw, tire roll, Nerf arrow throwing, ball bounce and various races. A FUN day was had by all as they were great sports and the weather was beautiful!

Humboldt: 515.332.1451
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