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While Siouxlanders enjoy some of the biggest events of the year, we wondered what it takes to get everything ready. This edition, we go behind the scenes and look at where they store the Tulip Festival Floats, how they redo a riverfront park and what it takes to put on the biggest county fair in the country. We also introduce you to people starting businesses that could be the next big things. Come along and go behind the scenes. We've got plenty to share.



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ON THE COVER

Lora Vander Zwaag, River-Cade board president, says there's a rich history in Sioux City's longest-running festival, River-Cade. Meet some of the women who wore the Queen of the River crown and discover what drives the event.

Photograph by *Tim Hynds*

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who has a post-game game plan. Working on a master's degree, he has figured out how to extend his career in baseball.



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might have started at a summer training camp. We go into the gym and find out what goes on at just one of those camps.

HOME *one to remember*



'HEAVEN ON EARTH'

Historic home recalls glory days of the 1920s



The Tom and Cyndi Tener residence, 4103 Perry Way, is shown in June in Sioux City. The all brick craftsman-style home was built in 1927 and has its original floors, woodwork and landscaping features.

Tom Tener holds a copy of the plans for his residence's gardens at 4103 Perry Way.

Text by *Dolly A. Butz* | Photographs by *Tim Hynds*

SIOUX CITY — A brochure from the 1920s touts Country Club Place as “Sioux City’s exclusive colony of homes of high character.”

A brick craftsman-style home with a green tile roof at 4103 Perry Way sits on nearly 1 1/2 acres of land in that north side development. Tom and Cyndi Tener bought the historic home in 2020.

When the couple first laid their eyes on the property, they thought it was “heaven on earth,” according to Tom.

“We’ve been buying furniture all our married life for this house and didn’t even know it. We love old things,” Tom said over the sounds of birds chirping and water flowing from a garden fountain.

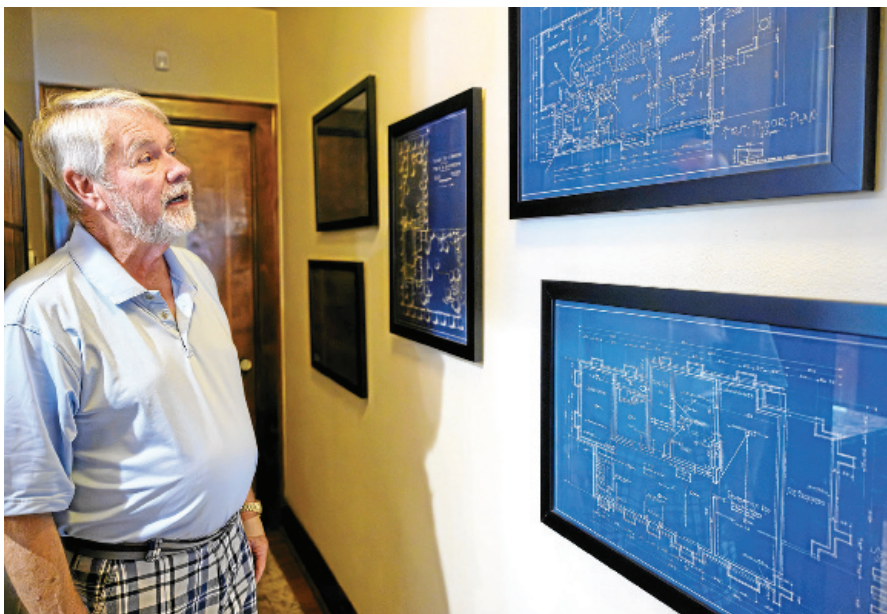
The gardens and fountain are original to the property. In fact, the plans for the garden, as well as blueprints for the seven-bed, four-bath house hang framed in a hallway off of the kitchen.

Every nook and cranny of the 5,200-square-foot home seems to have a story to tell, and, soon, new owners will be hearing it. The house is on the market, as the Teners are moving to Hannibal, Missouri, for Cyndi’s job. She works in health care.





A wine cellar is shown at the Tom and Cyndi Tener residence, 4103 Perry Way. The all-brick craftsman-style home has its original floors, woodwork and landscaping features.



Tom Tener looks at framed blueprints of his home.

A lower level bedroom is shown at the Tom and Cyndi Tener residence.



An original chandelier is shown in the dining room at the Tom and Cyndi Tener residence. The craftsman-style home has its original floors, woodwork and landscaping features.



"We're sorry we're going to have to leave it. We would've loved to have stayed forever," Tom said.

'Built like a fort'

Tom said the neon house numbers, which are constantly illuminated above the porch, were manufactured on May 29, 1938.

He said the porch, which was originally open, was likely enclosed sometime after that year.

"One of the things that really attracted us to this is all the owners took care of it. They didn't try to make it something it's not. It's a 1927 house that is built like a fort," he said.

The porch was a three-season room when the Teners purchased the house. Cyndi transformed it into an inviting sitting area, which can be used year-round. An oversized armchair, potted plants and shadow box end tables, which display bandage scissors and other vintage first aid pieces, round out the space.

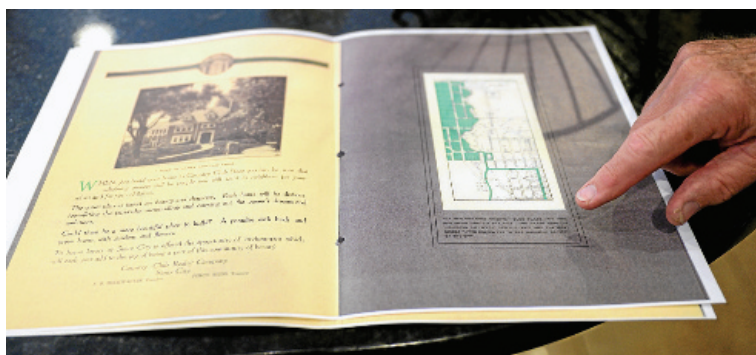
Even when it's 10 degrees outside, Tom said temperatures hover in the 60s on the porch.

Original pieces abound

The gas fireplace is the focal point of the living room. But, back in the day,



Vintage items are shown on top of a cabinet in a lower level living room at the Tom and Cyndi Tener residence. The Teners are avid collectors of antiques.



Tom Tener gestures toward marketing materials for what was then the Country Club Realty Company. Country Club Place, where Tener's home was built in 1927, was described as being in an "exclusive colony of homes of high character."

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The main floor living room is shown at the Tom and Cyndi Tener residence, 4103 Perry Way. The craftsman-style home has its original floors, woodwork and landscaping features.



Tom Tener gestures toward original plaster crown molding in the front living room of his Sioux City home.



The dining room includes a period chandelier.



A lower-level living room space is shown at the Tom and Cyndi Tener residence.

Tom believes it burned coal, since there is an area for coal in the basement.

The floors in the living room, as well as in the formal dining room, office, hallways and homeowner's suite, are oak, while the doors are made of three different types of wood — cypress, maple and walnut.

"It's a joy to have floors like this," Tom remarked.

The crown molding in the living room looks like wood, but Tom said it's actually plaster.

"The way you know it's not wood is that there are no seams," he said. "I've never seen a house like that."

A formal dining room and another eating nook are just off the living room. The informal eating space features original terrazzo floors and a unique curve where the wall and ceiling meet.

"I'm told one of the reasons they did that was because they used wet wood that hadn't dried out. If they put wet wood up as a ceiling or as crown molding, as it dried, it would shrink," Tom said. "I don't know if that's true or not. But it's the only room in the house that's like that."

A "Hoosier cabinet" or "Kitchen Queen" serves as a conversation piece

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An original fountain is shown in a garden at Tom and Cyndi Tener's home.



A small eating area off of his home's dining room. The space features original terrazzo floors and an antique kitchen work and storage cabinet.



Restored neon house numbers are shown at the Tom and Cyndi Tener residence.



in the space. The Teners acquired the self-contained work and storage cabinet, which was once gifted as a wedding present in 1908.

"They were virtually all made in Indiana," Tom said. "It was in many kitchens.

It was the only thing the cook had other than the stove and their iceboxes."

All of the light fixtures in the home are original. Tom said he found some of the sconces, which now hang in the dining room, downstairs covered in inches

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A view from inside the "summer house". The Teners restored the unique structure after moving in three years ago.

of dirt.

"Some of them were missing when we moved in. They had been taken down and covered with artwork," he said. "I cleaned them up and called an electrician to come in. He put them up, and the darn things work."

Updated kitchen

The kitchen remains in its original

space and is the same size as it has always been, but, today, it has modern features.

The countertops are a mix of granite and quartz, while the cabinets are cherry wood. There is a wine refrigerator, dishwasher and double oven.

Tom opened a cupboard and pulled out a piece of light-green Frankoma Pottery. John Frank founded Frank Potteries,

Oklahoma's first commercial pottery enterprise, in Norman in 1933 during the Great Depression. He renamed his company Frankoma Pottery in 1934.

Tom fondly recalled touring the place where Frankoma Pottery was made, when he was a sixth-grade student in Tulsa. He picked up a salt and pepper shaker in the gift shop, which he took home to his parents.

"Dad, the next Christmas, went out and bought a whole bunch of this," he said with a chuckle. "We've got whole bunches of that up there."

Summer house

The summer house at the end of the property was in rough shape when the Teners moved in three years ago, so they restored it. The previous owners used it for storage.

"I think the little old ladies went out there in their long dresses and long sleeves and had tea. It's shown on the drawings, and they call it a summer house," Tom said. "There's wicker furniture in it and we use it to have our cocktails in the evening after it gets a little cooler."

Tom said they painted the summer house to match the main house, put new screens in it and added electricity.

"We engaged a local company and they came out and buried a line. We have electricity and a ceiling fan. So, once the sun goes down or gets close to going down, it's pleasant," he said.

Tranquil gardens

On the south side of the property, water bubbled from the home's original fountain above a koi pond. The pond is flanked by purple coneflowers, irises, meadow sage, red twig dogwood bushes and other plants.

Just east of the fountain, a walkway to the house leads under a brick archway, which is topped with a green tile roof. Tom said the archway is also original to the property, but he said he doesn't know what it was ever used for.

"We find people in there if they get caught in the rain," he said. "And, then, we'll find people sitting around the koi pond in the gardens there. People we don't know."

Tom said children will venture into the garden and pick a flower.

"We've told all of them coming by here, 'Go pick a flower, as long as you don't take the whole plant,'" he said with a chuckle.



The Tom and Cyndi Tener residence, 4103 Perry Way, is shown in June. The brick craftsman-style home was built in 1927 and has its original floors, woodwork and landscaping features.



Orange City Tulip Festival parade floats, like the “De Klompen” (wooden shoes) float shown here, are in storage most of the year.

FLOATING AN IDEA

Orange City Tulip Festival parade floats: 362 days in storage, 3 days of glory

Text by *Mason Dockter* | Photographs by *Jesse Brothers*

ORANGE CITY, Iowa — For about 362 days a year, 15 or 20 elaborate, permanently decorated parade floats sit in storage in two big steel sheds on the southern outskirts of Orange City.

In late April, the floats see people again — if only for a day or so — when student-volunteers from Orange City dust them off, touch up their paint and get them ready for the spotlight in May. A family of kittens was once found living inside

one of the floats when it was moved from storage. (The kitties found new homes after they were discovered.)

After they’re cleaned up, the floats remain in the sheds for a few more weeks.

Then, the morning of the first day of the Orange City Tulip Festival, the floats emerge from storage and head downtown for the Volksparade, to be admired by thousands of Orange City Tulip Festival-goers. Following a ceremonial street-

scrubbing, the floats are deployed in two parades a day over the three-day festival.

After the festival, the floats go back into storage — where they are now — awaiting next year’s outing.

The perennial floats are highly elaborate, fanciful homages to Holland — there’s a “Wooden Shoe Factory” float (itself a replica of a float that took part in the first parade in 1936), a “Flying Dutchman” float (which takes the form



The Old Dutch Cleanser float is self-propelled, built on the chassis of an old truck. The Orange City Tulip Festival parade floats sit in storage for most of the year, awaiting the next parade.



The First Kiss float, a rare recent addition to the more-or-less unchanging lineup of Orange City Tulip Festival parade floats, is shown in storage.



The 75th Anniversary Float is a replica of the first float for the parade in 1936. The Orange City Tulip Festival parade floats are stored at a warehouse in Orange City.



The De Klompen float is built backwards on the chassis of a bus with the steering wheel in back.

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John Weber pops the hood on the queen's float to reveal a Dodge engine. Then, he tests the engine to make sure everything is in proper working condition.

Below you can see where a driver sits in one of the shoes at the back of the De Klompen float.



The Old Mill float has required a few repairs such as new letters on the side.



Left: The queen's birthday float is shown in storage. **Above:** The queen's float is built on the chassis of an old bus and the dashboard is still visible on the inside.

of a ship), an “Old Dutch Cleanser” float (which takes its styling cues from the iconic cleaning product, whose advertising circa the 1930s featured a Dutch girl with a stick “chasing dirt”), and an “Old Mill” float (in the popular imagination, windmills loom large over Holland). Many are decorated with silk flowers and artificial grass.

There’s “a little bit of everything,” said John Weber of Orange City who, with wife JoAnn, had been at the helm of the Tulip Festival’s parade committee for four years. This past year, while serving as the heads of the Tulip Festival’s steering committee, they were the parade’s grand marshals.

“They’re pretty permanent. There’s not much that changes on those floats,” he added.

For all that the mainstay floats appear year after year, they do not last forever. The culprit, such as it is, is usually mechanical — some of the floats are self-propelled, built around the chassis of other vehicles (often old buses or cars).

As nifty as it is to see a parade float ambling down the street on its own power, that comes at a cost.

“The problem with self-propelled floats is — these things run for three days out of the year,” Weber said. “Then they sit idle for 362 days. And so a lot of times, those engines get kind of finicky and don’t want to run so well.”

One self-propelled float was recently retired after it broke down repeatedly on the parade route. Since that float was put out to pasture, there has been talk of building a new float.

“Because we did decommission one of the floats this year. So, we kind of need a replacement for that one,” Weber said. “It’s not 100 percent, but we’re thinking about maybe building another one for next year.”

It’s not often that a new float enters the mix. Some of the mainstay floats have been in use since before the Webers moved to Orange City in 2000, John Weber said.

“There’s some that I bet are 30-plus years old,” he said.

Bringing a float into existence is no small achievement: They’re a labor-intensive product of art and imagination. A few years ago, the Webers and a resident who had experience in ice-sculpting built a new float — called “First Kiss” — with a 10-foot-high Dutch boy and girl, carved out of insulation foam, getting ready to kiss.

“It was quite the process to build it,” Weber said.



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*With new leadership, Clay County Fair
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Text by *Jared McNett* | Photographs by *Jesse Brothers*

SPENCER, Iowa — When hundreds of thousands of visitors come streaming into the Clay County Fairgrounds over the second full week of September, there will be plenty of familiar sights, sounds and smells for them to take in.

Among them: All kinds of creatures great and small around the Livestock Pavilion. Live artist demonstrations and musical performances for “Arts on Grand” in the Photography Center. Artery-clogging items at some of the food vendor booths.

But there’s also a lot that’s new the 105-year-old, self-described “World’s

Greatest County Fair” has to offer.

Of-the-moment musical acts such as Dylan Scott, Jimmie Allen and Katy Nichole will be performing at the Clay County Fair Grandstand. The Creative Living Building is being completely reworked. Walls have come down in certain buildings. Benches have been repaired. New signs have been painted. One of the restroom areas will now have hot water for the faucets for the first time.

Oh, and the Clay County Fair has a “new guy” calling the shots.

In February, the Clay County Fair named Jerome Hertel, a Parker, South Dakota,



Hertel

The Commercial Exhibits building will be cleared out in preparation for the Clay County Fair in Spencer, Iowa.





The Centennial Plaza is shown as preparations are underway for the Clay County Fair happening Sept. 9-17, 2023 in Spencer, Iowa.

native, the successor to Jeremy Parsons who left the position to become the CEO and manager of the Iowa State Fair. Hertel officially started in April and was previously the CEO of the Alaska State Fair for seven years and the general manager of the South Dakota State Fair for eight years.

"I've been in the industry pretty much my entire career," Hertel said.

As a matter of fact, Hertel spent the earliest part of his life within spitting distance of fair grounds.

"I grew up in Parker, South Dakota,

which is the home of the Turner County Fair, the oldest county fair in South Dakota, and I grew up across the street from it. It was pretty much the playground for me growing up."

Hertel said he's been so spellbound by fairs because he relishes the chance to entertain people and to see them enjoying themselves. He said there are four tentpoles of a fair that are needed to make it a success: agriculture, carnival rides, entertainment and food.

"I think each fair has its own culture and identity to it. Most of the fairs in a region represent the

culture they reside in. Coming here to this fair, even though I've only been here a couple of months, I can see it plays a very important role in the community (and in) representing this area as far as agriculture goes."

With respect to agriculture, the 2023 Clay County Fair will feature well over 100 farming-related vendors. Scattered across the fairgrounds at 800 W. 18th St. will be: interactive displays about how butter and ice cream are produced, a cow-milking station, a farmers market with new exhibitors and vendors each day, walkable crop plots, a combine simulator, classic tractors to stroll past, an environmental education center





Randy Johnson removes the old bolts on these bleachers to install new boards as they prepare for the Clay County Fair in Spencer, Iowa.



Dan Alspach cuts off rusty bolts in order to install new boards and modernize these bleachers before the Clay County Fair opens.



The horse barn which was repainted last year is shown as workers prepare the various buildings for the Clay County Fair.

“It’s a bit of mess now but that’s how it always starts”

*Bob Alexander,
maintenance specialist*

and plenty more.

According to Hertel, the Livestock Pavilion will include some new pens.

“I think the biggest bit of prep work right now is some stuff going on in the barns,” he said.

BAKING A WINNER

As for food, or at least the making of it, the Clay County Fair’s Creative Living Building had its demonstration area for baking and cooking moved closer to where the crafts and floriculture sections are. There are angled mirrors above the kitchen work surfaces so spectators can watch. Certain baked goods are stored in cold storage shelving. One case is just for showing off different kinds of bread people have made and brought in. Under the same roof, entrants for an arrangement-making contest will be able to have their works featured in a new display case. The floriculture area is going to have competitions for place settings and flower compositions.

“It’s a bit of mess now but that’s how it always starts,” said Bob Alexander, a maintenance specialist working in the Creative Living Building.

Allen Williams, who has worked for the Clay County Fair for more than 20 years and serves as the maintenance coordinator, said the prep work for the Clay County Fair season begins in



The horse barn is shown as workers prepare the various buildings for the Clay County Fair.

earnest with the cleaning of the cattle and hog barns. A new facet of one of those sites, the Junior Feeder Cattle and Ponies Building, is that the walls have been taken down to allow more air in.

"The cattle are led there right from the cattle yard," Williams said.

Through and through, the Clay County Fair is a family matter for Williams.

When Williams paints new signage for the fair, he does so with his wife and daughters. Williams' wife has additional duties leading a team of people who go



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The Big Giant Slide is shown during the off season in Spencer, Iowa.



The Centennial Plaza is shown as preparations are underway for the Clay County Fair happening Sept. 9-17, 2023 in Spencer, Iowa.

around with tongs to pick up cigarette butts during the fair. Williams' brother works in the barn crew. Same goes for his brother's wife. And Williams' dad worked for the Clay County Fair for several decades.

"What I like about it is it's different every day," Williams said.

WORK NEVER ENDS

While the fair's going on, there isn't

a lot of time for folks like Williams or Hertel or Alexander to stop and see the event. "We're working constantly," Williams said. As soon as the fair concludes, it's nearly as much of a madhouse, Williams said, because everything has to be stored by Oct. 1.

"It never stops," he said.

Since the Clay County Fair is on its own on the Iowa county fair schedule, Hertel acknowledged there is some

pressure to deliver for the folks descending on Spencer from the region. But he believes he and his crew will be ready for September.

"There are some challenges, when it comes to some of the shows and livestock and stuff," Hertel said. "But you know, we consider ourselves the last hurrah of the summer and an opportunity for people to be able to enjoy the last fair of the season."



18th Annual Missouri River Outdoor Expo

Nebraska Game and Parks is proud to announce the 18th Annual Missouri River Outdoor Expo is scheduled for Sept. 16th & 17th at Ponca State Park in Ponca, NE. The Missouri River Outdoor Expo is an opportunity for people of all ages to connect with the outdoors through hands-on activities, educational exhibits, vendor displays and featured entertainment. With over 100 hands-on activities, there is something for everyone; shooting sports, fishing, kayaking, rock climbing, ropes obstacle course, outdoor cooking, logrolling, etc. Some of the new attractions and entertainers lined up include; Wayne American Fly-in Bush Plane for remote camping and hunting trips, Exhibition Fun Shoot for high school and college trap teams, a World Record setting log roll across the Missouri River by the Axe Women Loggers of Maine, Nebraska Star Party, DockDogs Aquatic Competitions, International Regalia – Live Raptors, Wildlife Encounters, Matt Stutzman – Precision Archer, Go Dogs Omaha, and so much more.

For additional details on all facets of the 18th Annual Missouri River Outdoor Expo, please visit <https://outdoornebraska.gov/learn/outdoor-skills/expo/missouri-river-expo/> or our Facebook page MissouriRiverOutdoorExpo

The Missouri River Outdoor Expo is the only outdoor expo in the Midwest. Thanks to the generosity of our sponsors and over 900 volunteers all activities are free, you just need a state park vehicle permit. A daily vehicle permit for Nebraska licensed vehicle runs \$6, and a daily vehicle permit for out-of-state licensed vehicle is \$12. So if you have six people in a Nebraska licensed vehicle that equals \$1 per person. The 18th Annual Missouri River Outdoor Expo, September 16th & 17th, 9:00 am – 5:00 pm at Ponca State Park. Hope to see you there.

For more info about the 18th Annual Missouri River Outdoor Expo
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Lora Vander Zwaag, River-Cade board president holds a 1993 photo of River-Cade royalty and volunteers. Vander Zwagg began volunteering for River-Cade in 1993.

TIARA TALES

Past River-Cade royalty reflect on their time behind the sash

Text by *Earl Horlyk* | Photographs by *Tim Hynds*

Lora Vander Zwaag has uncovered a pirate's booty-worth of River-Cade memorabilia.

From vintage advertising to cup koozies to artifact anchors, the now-retired Western Iowa Tech Community College admissions director has plenty of seaworthy swag to commemorate Sioux City's seminal summertime festival in time for its 60th birthday.

However, Vander Zwaag — the Port of River-Cade's board president — has a special place in her heart for the popular River-Cade Queen and her Royal Court competition, an annual event that began

with the first festival in 1964.

"I was one of the chaperones who went from place to place with the River-Cade Queen and the Princesses," Vander Zwaag said, showing off photos from Royal Courts over the years. "It was an honor for me to do it plus I had such a blast, meeting with the girls in a very personal way."

Since the reign of Kathy Thiltgen Moser, thousands of Siouxsland women have sought the title of River-Cade Queen.

Why do they do it?

Well, with the tiara came other perks. For instance, River-Cade has awarded

nearly \$250,000 in tuition money.

GAINING CONFIDENCE, FINDING A CAREER

For Mary Murray August, 1966's River-Cade "Queen of the River," it literally changed her course of her life.

"I was very fortunate to be chosen during the actual competition," the now 78-year-old woman remembered. "My predecessor Kathy Thiltgen was actually chosen before the River-Cade festival began."

August admitted she didn't have high hopes when entering the competition.

CAPTURING THAT MOMENT IN TIME

Sioux City Public Museum's permanent sports exhibit tells people's stories

Text by Jared McNett | Photographs by Tim Hynds

SIOUX CITY — The 2016-2017 Sioux City Musketeers won. A lot.

During the regular season, the team, anchored by Matiss Kivlenieks, won 40 games and lost only 13. The record was good enough to garner them the regular season trophy, known as the Anderson Cup, and the top seed in the United States Hockey League playoffs.

In that postseason, they won some more. They won enough to reach the best-of-five Clark Cup Championship where they squared off against the Chicago Steel. The Musketeers took two games from the Steel but, in the pivotal Game 5, at home, they lost in overtime by a single goal.

"I can remember it like it was yesterday," Sioux City Musketeers owner and managing partner Lloyd Ney said.

"They came down the rink. It was in overtime. Really good shot. And it just hit the bar and went in and as soon as it went in, I just walked down to the locker room. I wanted to make sure I was with our coaching staff and the team and it went from there."

A hockey puck from that Musketeers team, which went as far it could without winning it all, is featured in the Sioux City Public Museum's new permanent exhibit "Sioux City Sports" which features more than 100 pieces of memorabilia from local athletes, teams and clubs that made an impact on the community in one way or another.



Haley Aguirre, Sioux City Public Museum archival records clerk, talks about the museum's new exhibit showcasing the history of sports in Sioux City. The sports exhibit is the first new permanent exhibit since the museum moved to its current downtown location in 2011.

While on the tour, museumgoers can also see: a trophy for the Sioux City South Flyers Racing Pigeon Club's 1979 400-mile old bird race; a tribute to the Sioux City Cornhuskers (an 1890s Western League baseball team that became the Chicago White Sox); golf clubs from Judy Kimball, a Sioux City East grad who won the 1962 Women's PGA Championship in Las Vegas; a University of Northern Iowa basketball jersey of Jacqui Kalin's who graduated from Sioux City North and played

basketball for Team USA in the 2013 Maccabiah Games where she won a gold medal; a Chicago Bulls "Latin Night" jersey from former Sioux City West basketball star Kirk Hinrich and a track top from Shelby Houlihan, the American women's record holder for the 1,500 and 5,000-meter runs.

Featured, too, are pieces from former Sioux City North footballer Matt Chatham, who made it on to the New England Patriots in the early 2000s; Olympic pentathlon silver medalist George Lambert



A display of items that spotlight Sioux City's colleges and high schools is a part of the exhibit.



A Hoover Hornets sign that once hung in the middle school's gym is displayed over items from middle, high school and college memorabilia.



A pair of track shoes worn and autographed by Shelby Houlihan, an East High School graduate and Olympic runner.

and judo attire from Frankie Williams.

Sioux City Public Museum Archives Manager Tom Munson said some of the decisions about who to include were already made for him and other staffers because a number of individuals recognized in the new exhibit were already a part of the previously existing Siouxland Sports Hall of Fame. Munson said Siouxland athletes who found more recent success, such as Houlihan, weren't a part of that group but were obvious selections for the museum.

"We didn't want to continue exactly what they were doing, because we wanted to have kind of our own Hall of Fame," Munson said.

By Munson's estimation, about 95% of the items on display in the exhibit were already in the museum's collection. The remaining 5% took some time.

"Some things came in because we were doing the exhibit," Munson said. "(But) a couple of people were a little bit reluctant. They had done the first steps in donating an artifact but then pulled back."

"It means a lot," Houlihan said about being recognized in a permanent exhibit of her hometown's public museum.

The track spikes Houlihan gave to the Sioux City Public Museum are from her 2016 runs at the Summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro where she finished 11th in the 5,000-meter final. Houlihan was the only American in the 3.1-mile race, and she's the first female Olympian ever from Sioux City.

"I hope it kind of gives inspiration to the younger generations who go through the museum and see the sports exhibit and look at that and I hope they say: If she can do it, why can't I? That's kind of the inspiration I'm hoping to instill in younger athletes."

Houlihan's spikes being on display isn't the only case of local recognition she's gotten over the years.

Following the 2016 Olympics, she got the chance to speak at the Siouxland Chamber of Commerce Dinner where she received a standing ovation. In 2017, the now 30-year-old Houlihan had a portion of road just south of Sioux City East High School renamed in her honor. Now known as Houlihan Run, the roadway spans about two-fifths of a mile between South



Lora Vander Zwaag, River-Cade board president stands with a River-Cade officer uniform at her Sioux City home. Vander Zwaag began volunteering for River-Cade in 1993.

"My dad sold cars for a million years and, then, he sold insurance," she said. "We lived on (Sioux City's) west side when more prominent families lived on the north side."

But August wowed the judges, who selected her as River-Cade's queen at the tail-end of the festival.

"That was the quirk with River-Cade," she explained. "The Queen and the Royal Court were chosen during the actual event, which meant our reign wouldn't end until the following year."

Which meant August and her princesses were put to work for an entire year.

"I was shocked to discover how many little towns had special days going on," August said with a laugh. "I know we represented River-Cade during Soybean Days, Corn Days and, even, Turkey Days."

The 1960s were an especially heady time for River-Cade royalty, since local businesses jumped at the chance for sponsorship.

"We had furriers who were giving away prizes as well as hair salons who wanted to do our hair for our entire reign," August said. "It was a pretty sweet deal."



River-Cade souvenirs.



PROVIDED

Mary Murray August said becoming the 1966 River-Cade "Queen of the River" changed her life.



PROVIDED

Amy Le Master Oliver (middle, flanked by Cyndi Dillon and Lori Negus Petrie) is not only a former River-Cade Princess, she is also the pageant's "unofficial historian."

Travel was also part of the package.

"During my year, United Airlines invited all of Midwestern Queens to a special luncheon on a yacht during Minneapolis' Aquatennial," August said. "It was there that I asked to become a flight attendant."

"I became a United Airlines flight attendant for 34 years, flying out of Los Angeles," she added. "I credit my reign in River-Cade for giving me the confidence and the people skills I needed for my profession. My love of travel came from my River-Cade experience."

A FAMILY TRADITION IN RIVER-CADE ROYALTY

For Amy Le Master Oliver, River-Cade has become something of a family tradition.

Oliver was selected to be a Princess during the 1984 River-Cade. Her daughter Abby Oliver Rook was named River-Cade "Queen of the River," 30 years later.

Throughout those years, Oliver has been a chaperone for River-Cade as well as the Royal Court's "unofficial historian."

"I don't know where that title came from but I don't mind it," she said with a chuckle.

Perhaps Oliver's rep was cemented early on in her River-Cade reign.

"Back then, being River-Cade royalty was like having a job," she said. "I liked learning about the history of River-Cade as well as how much life in Siouxland was tied to the Missouri."

This knowledge worked out well when Oliver became a chaperone. It was



PROVIDED

Sydney McManamy (right, with Princess Alexis McCrory and Queen Taylor Strawn) said her time as a River-Cade Princess in 2019 gave her the confidence to become a community leader.

also important when River-Cade hit a few snags over the years.

"When I was River-Cade royalty, we had so many applicants to get their shot," she said. "Plus the actual River-Cade festival was held over a 10-day period instead of the current five-day schedule."

Over time, River-Cade lost a bit of its luster as other, newer events were started in the summertime. In addition, pageants began looking antiquated for many younger women.

RIVER-CADE ROYALTY ADAPTING FOR CHANGING TIMES

That didn't stop Sydney McManamy from entering the contest. Named one of the River-Cade princesses in 2019, she and her court served an unprecedented three-year term, due to COVID.

"I had a blast because our court was so evenly balanced," she remembered. "The Queen, Taylor Strawn, was a chemistry and biology major who loved participating in any event involving animals."

"Princess Alexis McCrory was a special education major and had an affinity with kids," McManamy continued. "Me? I was the business management major of the group, so I got to deal with the grown-ups."

A CHEERLEADER FOR SIOUXLAND

McManamy continues to work with the grown-ups, not only as a real estate agent for United Real Estate Solution but also as the president of Sioux City Growth Organization (GO), which encourages young professionals to become active community members.

In addition, she is also a member of the River-Cade Board/Reunion Committee.

"Guess I just can't stay away from River-Cade," McManamy said with a laugh. "Not even for a little while."

"As River-Cade royalty, I learned how to become a cheerleader for the community," she added. "As a lifelong Sioux Cityan, I've always known Siouxland is a pretty nice place to live."

WELCOMING IN THE NEXT GENERATION OF ROYALS

Reflecting on her time as River-Cade royalty, McManamy still gets a kick out of the reaction she'd get from children.

McManamy knows they are the royals of the future.

"Every kid is attracted to a princess who is wearing a sparkly tiara in a parade," she said. "To be honest, I still miss my tiara and wish there were more tiara-wearing opportunities."



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A T-shirt signed by the members of the 1999 state champion West High School boys basketball team includes the signature of NBA star Kirk Hinrich.



A Sioux City Boat Club golf bag used by Phyllis Holzrichter is part of the Sioux City Public Museum's exhibit showcasing the history of sports in Sioux City.

The first few minutes after experiencing an accident, injury or illness are typically the most important – especially as you decide with whom to entrust your medical care. But assessing the situation and deciding the best type of health care in just an instance can be tricky.

From broken bones to allergic reactions, knowing when to choose primary care, urgent care or emergency care can be the most important step in receiving the care you need, when and where you need it. Next time you require medical care to restore your health, follow this guide to make sure you are choosing the right form of care to best meet your needs.

Primary Care

Primary care is a unique branch of care that includes health care providers, usually family medicine doctors, internists and pediatricians, specifically trained and skilled in health promotion, disease prevention, health maintenance, counseling, patient education as well as the diagnosis and treatment of acute and chronic illnesses.

When should you use primary care?

Scheduling routine visits, including your annual physical exam, is important to maintain overall health. Over time, your primary care provider forms a complete picture of your past and current health to better protect you against future health complications. Your primary care provider can also help to diagnose and treat minor illnesses and injuries.

Urgent Care

Urgent care clinics are same-day clinics, which can handle a variety of health conditions that require immediate medical attention but that are not life threatening. While primary care clinics typically see patients Monday through Friday during regular business hours, urgent care clinics offer services after hours, on weekends and during holidays.

When should you use urgent care?

Though you should always try to set up an appointment with your primary care provider before using an urgent care clinic, choose urgent care for non-emergency conditions that arise when your primary care provider is not available.

Emergency Room

An emergency room (ER) is usually part of a hospital or medical center designated to treat patients experiencing any type of emergency or trauma. Emergency rooms operate around-the-clock, providing full emergency medical support and resources on a walk-in basis.

When should you go to the emergency room?

Always choose emergency care when you are faced with a severe, life-threatening condition. Dial 9-1-1 or visit your ER right away if you or someone around you is experiencing chest pains, seizure, loss of consciousness, abdominal pain, head injury, poisoning, choking or breathing difficulties, and more.

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STAYING IN THE GAME

Sioux City Explorers' Kent Hasler juggles online MBA classes while playing baseball

Text by Earl Horlyk | Photographs by Jesse Brothers

On the road and in the clubhouse, Kent Hasler can often be seen on his computer.

While the Sioux City Explorers pitcher is laser-focused on baseball, he is also juggling a busy class-load as an online student in Louisiana Tech University's Master of Business Administration graduate program.

"I'd like to think I'm good at time management," the 28-year-old Hasler said with a smile. "But it's taken me three years to finish a degree that should've taken a year-and-a-half to complete."

Still, the scholastic abilities of

the Chandler, Arizona, native has attracted the attention of X's field manager Steve "Mongo" Montgomery.

"Sometimes, I'll sneak up and see what Kent is working on and realize he's a smart kid," Montgomery explained. "Kent does take an intellectual approach to his pitching game, working things out in his head."

Apparently, that has been a successful strategy for Hasler, who was one of three X's selected to play on the West Division All-Star team in the 2003 American Association of Professional Baseball's All-Star game

in Milwaukee later this summer.

Indeed, it has been a busy time for Hasler, who came to Sioux City after making a run playing Triple A ball with the Milwaukee Brewers organization last season.

He started his professional career in the Frontier League, before making his way to the Winnipeg Gold-eyes while landing with the Brewers.

Hasler said he's enjoying his time with the X's and already built camaraderie with his teammates.

"We really are a band of brothers," he said, inside of the X's locker room a few hours before gametime.



Kent Hasler is the pitcher for the Sioux City Explorers.

"I know as soon as we arrive at the ballpark, all of the pressures of our outside lives disappear. Now, it's time to have fun and play a game."

After all, this has been Hasler's life for as long as he can remember.

"There hasn't been time when I wasn't playing baseball, from Little League to school to college to now," he said. "Whenever a school counselor would ask me what I wanted to do in life, I'd say I wanted to play ball. What's Plan B? Well, there never was a Plan B."

Which makes sense since Hasler's graduate degree — which he'll complete by the end of summer — will allow him to continue in baseball.

"An MBA can go a long way in the front offices of many ballclubs," he explained. "I'll play as long as I can, but I want to be in baseball for the long haul."

Even if the post-playing baseball career isn't in Hasler's future, he already knows how to market himself.

"A ballplayer is a team player, which is what every business needs more of," Hasler reasoned. "A ballplayer also becomes the face of a team. We are the ones who do the interviews and handle the public relations for the team, whether it is with the media or with the fans."

"A ballplayer has those PR skills, which is valuable, both on and off of the field," he added.

Clearly, Hasler is adept at the art of the business pitch as he is on the pitching mound.

This makes combining a professional baseball career with the life of a graduate student a game changer.

"To be fair, you'll see a lot of young players working on their undergraduate degrees," Hasler allowed. "It's less common to see someone commit to a graduate degree while playing ball."

Hasler said it was a no-brainer for him, since an advanced degree will allow him to stay in the game that he loves.

"I get to play baseball for a living," he said with a big grin. "Who wouldn't want to keep doing that for as long as you can?"



Kent Hasler.
COURTESY PHOTO



LEFT: Kent Hasler pitches for the Sioux City Explorers in the game against the Cleburne Railroaders.

FAR LEFT: Explorers' Kent Hasler shakes hands with catcher Jake Ortega in the sixth inning of the game against the Cleburne Railroaders.

Lakeport Street and Sergeant Road on what used to be a portion of Lincoln Way. Houlihan and her mom, Connie, a high school track recordholder herself, agreed the street renaming was the most surreal.

"I think that was kind of a shock for us all," Connie Houlihan said.

Jay Varady, who coached the 2016-2017 Sioux City Musketeers team and is now an assistant coach for the Detroit Red Wings, said he appreciates the recognition the squad got from the exhibit.

"It's important because we won the regular season. We were able to accomplish that. And Matiss won 'Goalie of the Year' that year. That was a big accomplishment for him and the rest of our group also. They played hard in front of him and he recognized that."

Varady said the 2016-2017 run the Musketeers had was a kind of culmination for a management group and coaching staff who had been together for four years. That season was the final one for many.

"It was a good hockey team. It was constructed the right way."

Now, visitors to the Sioux City Public Museum can see a small piece of that team's history.



Pieces commemorating a number of Sioux City natives who excelled at sports beyond the high school level: Golf clubs from Judy Kimball, a Sioux City East grad who won the 1962 Women's PGA Championship in Las Vegas; a University of Northern Iowa basketball jersey of Jacqui Kalin's who graduated from Sioux City North and played basketball for Team USA in the 2013 Maccabiah Games where she won a gold medal; a Chicago Bulls "Latin Night" jersey from former Sioux City West basketball star Kirk Hinrich and a track top from Shelby Houlihan, the American women's record holder for the 1,500 and 5,000-meter runs.

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THE BALL BOUNCES



East High holds summer camps for aspiring basketball players

Text by Madaleine Dishaw | Photographs by Jesse Brothers

For the past 35 years, young basketball players in Siouxland have been lacing up their sneakers and hitting the court at East High School for its annual summer basketball camp.

Camp every June is hosted by East boys basketball head coach and 2022 National High School Athletic Coaches Association's coach of the year nominee Rick "Ras" Vanderloo.

He hosts camps as an opportunity for some kids to try something new, while giving others the chance to build upon the progress they've made from attending camp in the past.

"I tell them every day, you know, if you have fun, work hard and you learn one thing each day, whether it be a drill, a fundamental, anything, learn

one thing each day, you've done good," said Vanderloo.

Even though he has hosted over three decades of camp, not much has changed. Drills and activities have evolved over the years, but the general timetable has remained the same. And this rings true no matter where Vanderloo is hosting a camp, whether it be Mexico, Ecuador, Italy, or when he was in China this July.

"I do camps all over the country, all over the world actually, and every little region is a little different, but at the end of the day, it's still basketball," said Vanderloo. "It's still trying to put that little orange ball in that hoop."

Camp begins in the morning with grades 3-8. It's much more relaxed,

focusing mainly on the core fundamentals of basketball, competing in contests for prizes and trying to have as much fun as possible.

"At the end of the day, we want them to have fun," said Vanderloo. "If it's not fun, they don't come back in any sports anymore. The sport has to be fun."

But the atmosphere, however, changes with the sessions. The afternoon block for grades 9-12, runs similarly to a practice you'd see during high school basketball season. The work is a lot harder, as Vanderloo tries to push each athlete.

But he doesn't do all of this himself. Camp is all-hands-on-deck for Black Raiders basketball. Along with Vander-

LEFT: Ras Vanderloo, head basketball coach for the boys team at Sioux City East High School, instructs a group during Basketball Camp at Sioux City East High School.

RIGHT: Jake Lias practices drills.

loo and his entire coaching staff, a majority of his varsity players volunteer to help during morning sessions. It gives the younger kids an opportunity to meet and interact with the players they idolize during the winter.

"I think it's just a way of giving back to the younger kids. And, you know, it just gives them a personal relationship, that I saw that guy play and now he's coaching my little team here," said Vanderloo. "I always think it's important for the younger kids to see the older guys and I think it's important for the older guys to give back to the younger guys."

But it's not only the current roster that comes back to help during camp. Black Raiders basketball has had several alumni who have played collegiately and have worked with professional teams come back to assist with camp, primarily as guest speakers. This year's speaker was Jailen Billings,

who graduated from East in 2017. He was a 1000-point scorer in high school and went on to play at Mount Marty University in Yankton, South Dakota.

"It's interesting how a lot of our former players, they just like coming back," said Vanderloo. "We love to have them and it's great."

The ultimate goal of camp is growth, but that's also the reason Vanderloo brings it back every year. He wants the kids who come back year

after year to feel as though they've grown over time and seeing that improvement with his own eyes is the most gratifying part.

"It's fun for us coaches who have been around a long time and all of us that are here have been around a long time to see these guys evolve, you know, physically over time, then their game itself, their talent levels, how it changes," said Vanderloo. "It's a lot of work, but we love doing it."



Austin Bockelmann practices drills during basketball camp at Sioux City East High School.



Brecken Wagner, left, practices against Callan Koch, right, during basketball camp.

PLAY ON

New Preservation Plaza attracts large crowds for family friendly entertainment

Text and Photographs by Caitlin Yamada

ARNOLDS PARK, Iowa — Arnolds Park Amusement Park's new Preservation Plaza Stage is complete.

The new stage on which to host outdoor concerts and entertainment has completed construction at Preservation Plaza, along with a permanent concession stand, a "Concert Viewing Deck" and restrooms.

Concertgoers can park their lawn chairs in front of the stage and enjoy the music. A variety of bands have already performed on the new stage, drawing large seasonal crowds.

"It has been awesome. People love the new stage and the new concert deck," said Paul Plumb, marketing director for the historic amusement park. Construction on the stage was completed in May. The venue can hold around 7,000 people and the larger stage can attract big-name artists, Plumb said.

Ted and Tami Woodroof are Spirit Lake natives. They said the new stage is amazing

and offers a unique, family-fun opportunity. Olivia and Orla Stodghill were visiting the Okobojis for the weekend and decided to check out the venue. Orla Stodghill said the venue was beautiful and appreciated the history of the facility.

The massive stage has a unique design, with each piece representing different aspects of the region.

The Iowa Great Lakes, blue waters of the Okobojis, history of

wooden boats, Iowa prairies and wetlands, and existing architectural and lighting aesthetics from the State Pier, Promenade, Boardwalk and Arnolds Park Amusement Park Legend rollercoaster are all represented in the new stage, according to a Preservation Plaza handout.

The roof of the venue is shaped like waves, representing the waters of the Iowa Great Lakes and the white canopy fascia is intended to symbolize white caps from the waves.

The roof also has built-in LED lights that are programmed in conjunction with the stage lights, meant to represent the lights on Arnolds Park's wooden roller coaster.

The wood underside of the canopy is meant to represent the wooden boards that can be found on the Lakes and the vertical masts that support the canopy represent the sailboats that can be seen on West Lake, according to the pamphlet.

Both the



JUMP Van Halen tribute band performs on Preservation Plaza Stage, Arnolds Park's new outdoor venue.

CIRCLE: She's With Us performs on the Preservation Plaza Stage in Arnolds Park on July 8.



stage and the new concession stands feature stone and wood, which are meant to blend into the natural setting of the green space.

Plumb said these are “huge improvements” that were made possible by a donor.

Every Saturday night during the summer, Arnolds Park Amusement Park offers a free show and fireworks. Concertgoers can place lawn chairs or blankets on the sprawling lawns near the stage, or get an up-close experience standing right in front of the stage.

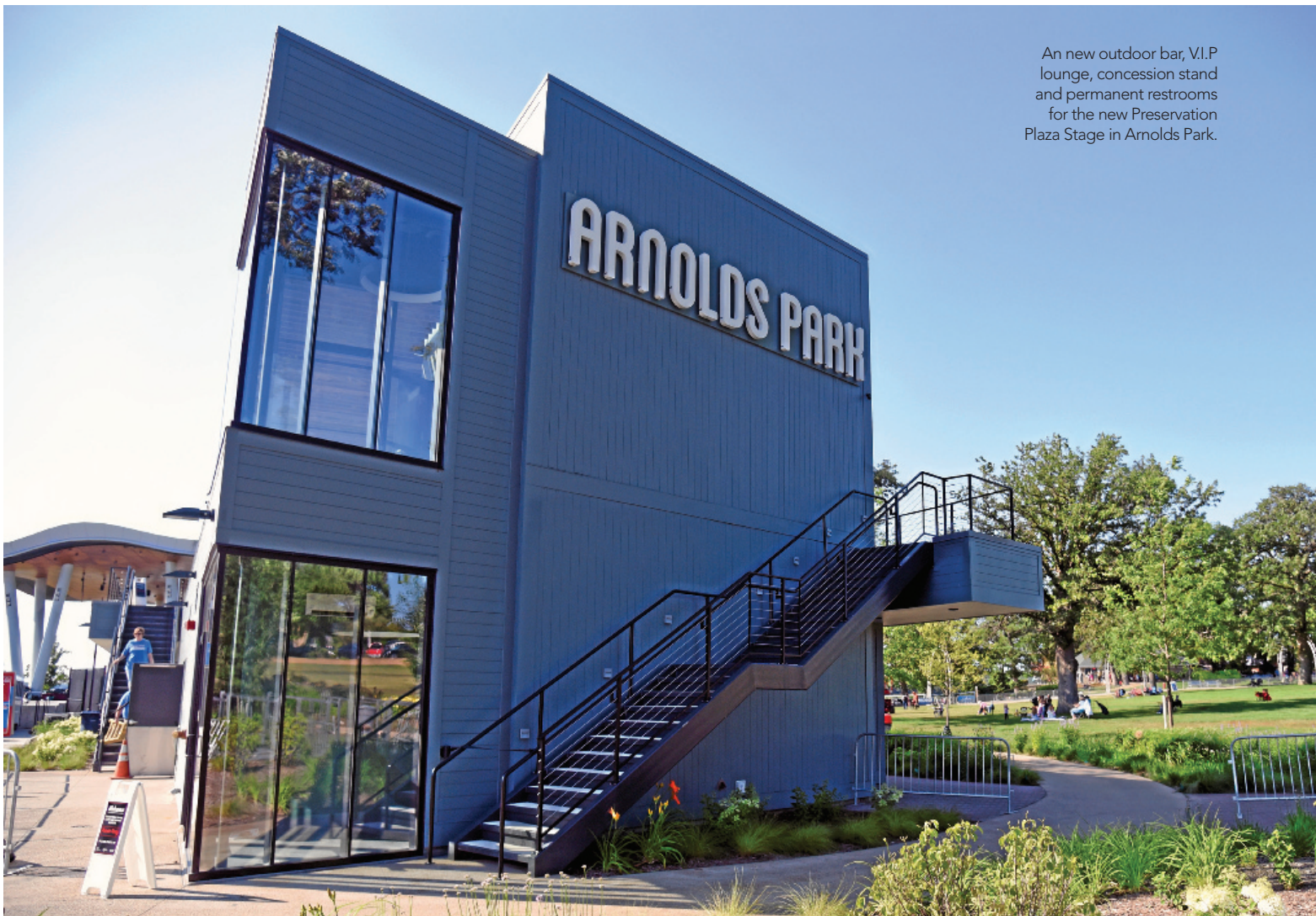
“We are able to have a venue that is world-class and top of the line,” Plumb said. “When bands are looking at the venue they can see great facilities in a great setting.”

In mid-July, JUMP, a Van Halen cover band drew a massive crowd to the stage. Following the performance, the park hosted its delayed Fourth of July fireworks show on the lake. More than 5,000 people attended the performance, packing the lawn and stage front.

Arnolds Park has been operating



Audience members watching JUMP, a Van Halen tribute band, perform on Preservation Plaza Stage, Arnolds Park's new outdoor venue.



An new outdoor bar, V.I.P lounge, concession stand and permanent restrooms for the new Preservation Plaza Stage in Arnolds Park.

since 1889. In 1999 the owner at the time accepted an offer from a development company to use the site for residential condominiums, according to a Preservation Plaza sign. The whole site was set to be razed.

A public “Save the Park” campaign raised \$7.25 million in six weeks to save the park. A nonprofit called the Iowa Great Lakes Maritime Museum was formed to manage the park. The park began to struggle financially again, but another public campaign called “Sustain the Park” raised enough funds to rid the park of its \$2 million in debt in 2005.

A specific donation from the Iowa National Heritage Foundation allowed the park to secure a conservation easement for the Preservation Plaza land, preserving the space and preventing it from being developed on, according to the sign.



Lead singer of JUMP—America's Van Halen Experience poses for a photo on the Preservation Plaza Stage in Arnolds Park on July 8.



Fireworks behind a fountain at Berkley Bedell State Pier on West Lake Okoboji on July 8.



JUMP—America's Van Halen Experience performs on the Preservation Plaza Stage in Arnolds Park.



Preservation Plaza Stage.

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JASON RASMUS

-Market President



As Market President, Jason is responsible for directing and overseeing the performance of all staff, including the daily operations of the bank, loan supervision, and more. He is a Cherokee, Iowa native and a 2008 Iowa State alumnus. Jason is involved in the community as a volunteer sports coach, volunteer at United Way of Siouxland, board member for The Western Iowa Community Improvement Regional Housing Trust Fund. He also serves as a board member of Habitat for Humanity Restore. Rasmus lives with his wife, Courtney and their four kids in Lawton.

JON FRIESSEN

-Vice President Senior Loan Officer



Jon serves as the Vice President Senior Loan Officer responsible for generating, approving, and maintaining quality business and agriculture loans for the bank's loan portfolio. A Sioux City native, Jon is a Heelan and Morningside graduate. Jon has extensive banking experience. He serves as a board member of New Perspectives, Inc. and as a volunteer youth sports coach. He lives with his wife, Niki and their three kids.

TERRY MULDER

-Vice President Mortgage Loan Officer
(NMLS #442575)



Terry comes to Availa Bank with 20 years of experience in the banking industry. In 2021, he received the Winner's Circle award through the Iowa Mortgage Association for being a top producer. As Vice President Mortgage Loan Officer, his responsibilities are residential lending with a focus on FHA, VA, Conventional, and Construction loans. Terry, a Sioux Center, Iowa native, is a graduate of Dordt College. He is active in his church, is married with three daughters and enjoys being outside, golfing and cheering on his favorite college and NFL teams.

LOGAN ROBBINS

-Retail Bank Officer
(NMLS #1443235)



Logan is responsible for procedures and oversight of the consumer function. His focus is bringing new deposit and lending relationships while enhancing customer retention and overall staff development. He graduated from Colorado State University with a Bachelor of Science in MIS and Business Analytics. He has called Siouxland home for more than eight years! Robbins also proudly served six years in the Iowa National Guard.

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REVISED RIVERFRONT



TIM HYNDY PHOTOS, SIOUX CITY JOURNAL

Youth play in a playscape section of the redeveloped Chris Larsen Park along the Missouri River.

Redeveloped Chris Larsen Park a 'premier location' in Sioux City

DOLLY A. BUTZ

dbutz@siouxcityjournal.com

SIOUX CITY — After roughly three years and \$12 million in construction costs, the finishing touches are being placed on Chris Larsen Park, which Parks and Recreation Manager Angel Wallace described as a “premier location” in the city.

Additions to the Missouri Riverfront include an interactive fountain, playground, red bench-style swing, plaza, dog park, overlooks, trails and exercise equipment.

“In my opinion, it is everything that we planned it to be,” Wallace said of the park.

Back in 2015, the city submitted a request for quote for a master plan for the riverfront. Since then, a host of people, including generous donors, have worked

to make the improvements a reality.

Ground was broken on the first phase of the project in June 2020, with construction starting just west of Virginia Street and ending at the Floyd River.

Floyd Plaza features fountains and misters that rise up from the ground, with a push of a button, as well as a shelter and seating. The fountain is operational during park hours, 7 a.m. to 11 p.m.

“It does run through a cycle, so if there’s no activity and no one reactivates it, it does shut off. It doesn’t run continuously,” Wallace said.

Adjacent to Floyd Plaza is the Great Lawn, promenade and Exploration Ridge.

Wallace said the Great Lawn will host special events. She said people will be able to rent the green space, which is sponsored by Missouri River Historical Development, for concerts or other city-wide events. Native plants, such as purple coneflowers, and tiered seating line the promenade, a leisurely public walkway by the Great Lawn.

“We wanted to create a seating opportunity that was different in height and scope, and kind of give a different texture

and feel to the park,” Wallace said. “The block concrete and wood plank seating is part of the whole design.”

Exploration Ridge features slides, as well as swings and climbing apparatuses. The playground is covered with a shade structure.

“The slide features are metal, so we wanted to make sure that we were ensuring some safety for our little ones who are going to play on the playground,” Wallace said.

Exercise equipment is affixed at the top of the ridge and can also be found in other areas of the park.

“There’s an elliptical machine. There’s a bike. There’s arm exercises, lat pulls, overhead presses at that station,” Wallace said.

Another fitness amenity is a yoga lawn. The green space has its own shade structure to keep yoga program participants protected from the sun.

“We added the canopy, of course, because, on days like this when it’s super sunny, that structure creates a tranquil environment,” Wallace said.

Parkgoers will find a handful of overlooks along the riverfront. One of them

is positioned where the Argosy riverboat casino was formerly docked.

"Primarily the locations where we have the overlooks are locations where there were already, either structures in place, or it was just feasible in the design and layout to include them in those locations," Wallace said.

Plants and plots in the Stockyard Garden were designed to resemble cattle stalls.

"It's a broad interpretation of that, but that's kind of where the design team was

going," Wallace said of Smith Group, the firm that provided design services for the project.

The park's red bench-style swing, which was donated by Dave Layhee, of McCook Lake, South Dakota, is rarely ever empty.

Layhee, of McCook Lake, South Dakota, got the idea to have such a swing fabricated after visiting friends in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. He said a friend of his donated a similar swing in Coeur d'Alene, a city in the northwestern portion of the state known for water sports.

"One of my friends donated a swing. And, then, there was another party, once that swing went up, who donated in the city park area that overlooks the

lake," Layhee said. "That's what I tried to capture."

Layhee obtained the swing's blueprints from Coeur d'Alene parks and recreation staff. Then, those design plans were passed on to Dan Lee, of Port Neal Welding Company, so the swing could be fabricated. Layhee said he chose red for the swing because it's his favorite color.

"I thought it would be a nice addition. I find two or three people just sitting in the swing, gazing out at the river," said Layhee, who noted the swing has a braking system to prevent people from falling off of it or flipping it over. "What the city's been able to do with that whole complex, I think, is just phenomenal. It's going to be a go-to place."



Parker Koeppe, of Sioux City, soaks his head in the spray from a water feature as he and his brother Milo play at the Floyd Pavilion in the redeveloped Chris Larsen Park along the Missouri River.



Wildflowers are shown in a planter at the redeveloped Chris Larsen Park along the Missouri River.



Exercise equipment is shown at the redeveloped Chris Larsen Park.



Angel Wallace, Sioux City Parks and Recreation Manager, is shown at one of the two river overlooks at the redeveloped Chris Larsen Park along the Missouri River. The park is rapidly nearing completion.



A BUDDING BUSINESS



Cosmos flowers.

Jessica Krohn checks on her Distant Drum roses at Petal & Thorn Flower Farm at her home in Sioux City.

Sioux Cityan grows an idea into a flower farm

Text by *Madaleine Dishaw*
Photographs by *Jesse Brothers*

Flower farms are blossoming across the country and Sioux City is no exception.

Petal & Thorn is a new flower farm located in Jessica Krohn's backyard. After being a hair stylist for 25 years, she decided to change her career after moving to Sioux City a year ago. Krohn turned her hobby of gardening into a full-fledged business.

"You know, back like in COVID, I did a lot more with flowers because everyone was just home," said Krohn. "And I remember thinking to myself how cool it'd

be if I could turn this into a business."

She began by completing an online course by Floret Flower Farm in Skagit Valley, Washington, that taught Krohn not only the best ways to begin growing, but also how to create a successful business. She grew everything she has on the farm from seed in her basement using grow lamps and heat mats.

"I probably have started 10,000 to 15,000 plants from seed in my basement," Krohn said.

An aspect of the online course was also learning how to grow sustainably without the use of pesticides and chemicals. Since learning about the effects of these additives, Krohn has made it her mission for Petal & Thorn to be 100-percent sustainable.

"Eighty percent of the flowers in the United States are imported from other countries. In order for them to get here

and still be good, they are heavily covered in pesticides and chemicals," said Krohn. "A huge movement in the United States is to have people start more flower farming so that we can buy more local and fresh flowers with less chemicals."

Krohn's flowers begin in mid to late April where she grows around 50 different varieties of flowers on her property. She's currently one of the only growers in the area who offers garden roses, which she typically sells to florists for arrangements. She has also planted over 800 sunflowers this year, which she does in stages, so she always has a constant supply, as well as a large supply of dahlias.

"In the spring my favorite are my tulips and daffodils, and I will be offering over 4,000 of them next year," said Krohn.

Petal & Thorn offers many services, both on and off the property. She has weekly subscriptions where one can receive a seasonal bouquet, a bloom bar for private events, a space for photo shoots and specialty events like Brews & Blooms or Mimosa Mornings.

One of her more recent offerings, starting July 9, is her U-Pick events. Attendees can walk about the farm every Wednesday and Sunday from 5-9 p.m.



Earth Angel Parfuma roses.



A bee collects pollen from a dahlia.



Sunflowers are shown at Petal & Thorn Flower Farm.

and pick their own fresh flowers to arrange them into a bouquet.

Krohn looks to continue to try and grow her business along with her flowers, with hopes of expanding her varieties as well as adding a greenhouse to the farm to grow year-round. Otherwise, she is looking to expand her reach, so Siouxlanders are aware of the opportunities Petal & Thorn presents for the community.

"It's been very well received, and people are excited to have something different and new to Sioux City," said Krohn. "It was so gratifying to take a bare piece of land and turn it into something beautiful for other people to enjoy and just something to give back to nature."



LEFT: Jessica Krohn sets out vases for guests to use when they come to pick flowers at Petal & Thorn Flower Farm at Krohn's home.

TOP OF PAGE: Jessica Krohn checks on her zinnias.



Sit Pretty Barkery Owner Melissa Gritzmaker at her Sioux City Farmers Market stand. Sit Pretty Barkery is a Sioux City business that specializes in homemade dog treats, birthday cakes and cupcakes.

DOG-EAT-DOG WORLD

*Sit Pretty Barkery offering
locally made, natural dog treats*

Story, photographs by Caitlin Yamada

While a dog is a “man’s best friend,” they are also seen as a member of the family.

When choosing what treats to give their dogs, some families opt for a more natural, locally made option, such as Sit Pretty Barkery.

Sit Pretty Barkery is a Sioux City business that specializes in homemade dog treats, birthday cakes and cupcakes. Owner Melissa Gritzmaker said people are choosing small businesses and keeping their money in town, versus buying from box stores.

Gritzmaker grew up baking cakes and

decorating cookies with her grandmother, so baking came naturally.

When her sister-in-law opened the Bed and Biscuit dog daycare center customers were wanting to celebrate their dogs’ birthdays.

“She approached me [and asked], ‘Can you possibly make a doggie birthday cake?’” Gritzmaker said.

At the time, homemade dog cakes and treats were not as popular, so Gritzmaker did the research and testing to make a recipe that is cake-like and dog safe. Her dog, Mabel, is the head taste tester.

No added sugars, all natural dyes, no artificial preservatives, healthy ingredients and dog favorite flavors are the highlights of Gritzmaker’s dog treats.

“I love keeping it natural,” she said.

What started as an occasional dog cake or batch of cupcakes six years ago has turned into a full business for Gritzmaker. Twice a week Gritzmaker can be found at the Sioux City Farmers Market, selling her decorated cookies, doggy biscuits, pup cakes, treats and more. She

also gets frequent orders for her celebration cakes and cupcakes.

"This is definitely my creative outlet," she said.

This is Gritzmaker's third year selling her treats at the farmers market. While her iced dog cookies draw people in, the best seller this year is her sweet potato and oat chewy dog cookie.

Other treats that can be found at her farmers market stall include iced doggy biscuits, grain-free pumpkin dog treats, doggy donuts and pup cakes.

Gritzmaker's favorite part of running her business is meeting the dogs and hearing their stories. She also loves the creative aspect of it.

Sit Pretty Barkery's logo was created before the name was. Gritzmaker said she doodled a variety of logos first and wanted to incorporate a pun into the name. She said thinking about how dogs are trained, "sit pretty," stuck in her head.

"Birthdays are still one of the most popular things [I sell]," she said. Anything that can be done to customize the cakes specifically to their pets is what people prefer.

Sit Pretty Barkery is a registered business and, therefore, has to meet certain dog treat regulations.

The Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship requires businesses to be registered and comply with Iowa regulations for the type of product before the item can be sold at farmer's markets.

When Gritzmaker comes up with a new recipe for her treats, she sends a sample to a lab that tests the ingredients and produces a "guaranteed analysis." The analysis shows the percentages of crude protein, fat, fiber and moisture.

Just like treats found in pet stores, Gritzmakers are labeled with a list of ingredients, net weight, feeding directions, etc. The department of agriculture then reviews the labels and testing, before allowing Gritzmaker to sell the treats.

"I love letting people know my stuff is all lab tested," she said. "A lot of dogs have food allergies so everything on my [label] is listed."



Sit Pretty Barkery is a favorite among dogs visiting the Sioux City Farmers Market.



Sit Pretty Barkery's decorated dog biscuits.



LEFT: Two children pick out treats for their dog from the Sit Pretty Barkery.

FAR LEFT: Sit Pretty Barkery Owner Melissa Gritzmaker frosts pup-cakes.



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SELFIES WEREN'T ALWAYS THE WAY TO PRESERVE A MOMENT

There were no selfies before cellphones.

In the days of cameras, we took one photo and hoped it was good. When we got the pictures back from the processor, it was a crapshoot. Someone's eyes may have been closed, the flash may have failed or the background was unrecognizable.

Toss them? Not on your life. They went into the photo album. Even if someone's finger was in front of the lens.

Vacation pictures were considered a success if one was good enough to show others. A keeper was rarely spontaneous and, if possible, it included at least five people in the frame.

Looking back through family albums, I realized most of my grandparents' photos were posed by a photographer and done in a studio. They all looked stiff.

My parents were a bit more active but frequently dressed up. If you were going to lick a flashbulb, apparently, you wanted to make sure it was worthy.

Somewhere in the 1970s, Instamatic cameras became the rage and, frankly, the results looked like someone with cataracts had developed them. Everything was fuzzy. Some had rounded corners, others were rectangular. All were ones you'd delete now if they turned up on a cellphone.

The "flashcube" was apparently too close to the lens, so we had to get extenders to remove the red eyes. The pictures? Just as bad.

Somewhere after the Instamatic era, I got a 35-millimeter camera and decided it was time to be artsy. So, a wedding could be the occasion but few of the photos included the bride and groom. Instead, there might be a centerpiece or a slice of cake. Out of focus and in the background: the wedding party. Artsy, I guess.

Light became another tool from this era. If I used the right filter I could make the light behind you look like a star. I was great at sharpness. If you had a line in your face, I could capture it.

The only problem? No one wants their face to have more rings than a redwood.

Surprisingly, I loved black and white pictures back then.

I could be shooting someone in front of a waterfall in Yellowstone and still choose black and white film.

Polaroid cameras followed and they, too, had their drawbacks. When you had to "fix" the frame with a pink goo, you could miss a corner and the picture would fade in that spot. If you waited too long, it could disappear entirely. Because the film was expensive, we didn't bother with retakes.

Luckily, the pocket camera followed and it encouraged a second shot. You could capture any moment. Spontaneously. Even if the lighting wasn't all that good.

Then, cellphones arrived and gave us the opportunity to shoot until we got a decent picture. With each new iPhone, the lenses got better and we tried more poses than a supermodel.

By iPhone 12, we had learned how to pose for maximum effect. One shot and we got it.

The downside? Those photos haven't gone anywhere. The only time I print out a photo is for a Christmas card. Otherwise, I just scroll and scroll and scroll to find them.

Now if you've got an hour, I'm sure I can find a picture you'd love to see.

Somewhere on my phone, I've got one of me at Yellowstone.

I took the color out of it and it looks very retro.

Who knew?



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