

# Remembering Freckles...

**Editor's Note:**

"All good things must come to an end."  
This simple truth hit home at *The Progress Review* last week when the life of our resident News Cat, Freckles, came to an end. And what a life it was for her and all who came to know her in the pages of this publication.

As a kitten, she made the bold move to leave the mean streets of Waterloo in the rearview mirror of Greg Wagner's pickup, moving up in the world to a newspaper and print shop in La Porte City. One look at Bob and Doris Wagner and she was in the door to stay.

The early years of the budding News Cat were relatively uneventful, though she thoroughly enjoyed calling La Porte City her home. When she wasn't supervising Bob in the print shop, mooching for snacks, she could be found chasing errant paper wads, sometimes at full speed into whatever obstacles lay in her path. And it was always a good day when Bob and Doris' grandkids had time to spend with her.

In October 2002, following the retirement of her beloved Bob and Doris, Freckles made an important life decision, graciously allowing Mike and Jane Whittlesey to come work for her at *The Progress Review*. On October 30, 2002, her first appearance in the newspaper came in the form of a photo and best wishes to the Wagners for a happy retirement. Following the many comments generated by that infamous photo ("Who is that BIG cat?"), it was decided that Freckles should host her own entertainment page in *The Progress Review*.

In 2003, The Freckles' Fun Page was launched and soon the News Cat was the most recognized feline in town. Along with her legendary hunger for fish snacks, Freckles was known to express her considerable disdain for the camera. In the absence of portrait-quality photos of the News Cat to publish, her staff was forced to rely upon the CDE method of photography (Creative Digital Enhancement). Of course, no image of Freckles came without its own special dose of catitude.

Over the years, several stories published in *The Progress Review*, were told by Freckles for our readers' entertainment. It should be noted that stories such as "My Big Day Out" and "The Adventure of the Festival of Trails Killer Beef Sticks," were based, in part, on actual events.

In recent years, Freckles was especially proud to partner with the Cedar Bend Humane Society, encouraging loving and responsible potential pet owners to consider adopting a cat or dog appearing in the Freckles' Adopt-a-Pet feature.

We are especially grateful for the excellent care Freckles received at the La Porte City Vet Clinic. And while she put up a bit of a fuss when it was time for a "fluff and buff," the wonderful groomers at the Cedar Valley Vet Clinic in Cedar Falls always left the News Cat looking her best. Thank you!

As we celebrate the life of Freckles the News Cat, we take one last, fond look at some of our favorite Freckles moments. We hope you enjoy them as much as we have enjoyed sharing them with you. -MW

**2005**

## A Wasson Look-Alike?



A recent trip through *The Progress Review* archives revealed this "photo" of one of La Porte City's "founding felines," Freckles Wasson.

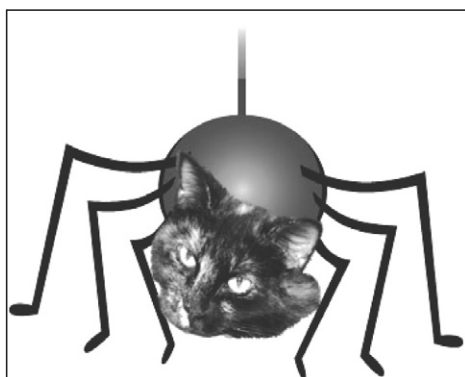
**2006**

## A Freckles' Fun Page Exclusive: Find the "Freckluse" Spiders

Halloween will soon be here, and with it, the appearance of ghouls, goblins, witches and the like. In addition to these scary creatures, an amazing discovery has been made at the office of *The Progress Review*- the Brown "Freckluse" Spider.

The Brown "Freckluse" Spider belongs to a group of spiders that is officially known as the "recluse spiders" in the genus *Loxosceles* (pronounced lox-sos-a-leez). These spiders are also commonly referred to as "goldfish" spiders because of the fat-free fish snack-shaped marking on the top surface of the cephalothorax (fused head and thorax- see photo at right).

If bitten by a "Freckluse" spider, remain calm. In most cases, a "Freckluse" spider bite results only in a strong craving for "goldfish" snack crackers.

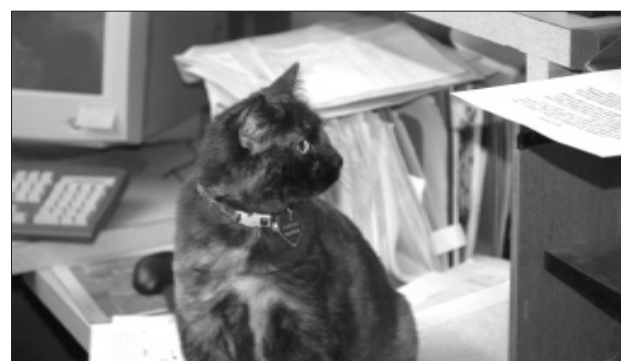


The Brown "Freckluse" Spider, also known as the "Not-So-Itsy-Bitsy Spider."

**2007**

## Freckles v. The Fax Machine

Once again, *The Progress Review* staff is saved by the News Cat, who shows she is no feline to mess with. Final score: Cat 1, Fax Machine 0.



1. "What's this?! I didn't order a fax."



2. "You want a piece of me?!"



3. "I can see you back there. Don't make me come in after you!"



4. "GOTCHA!"

**2006**



When Freckles wants to "get away from it all," she finds a special place under an antique radio in the shop, where she transforms herself into the Super Feline "InvisiCat." Convinced that no one can see her, she sometimes closes her eyes to make it so, particularly when a camera is nearby.

**2006**



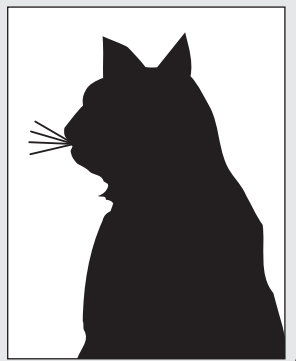
Freckles awoke on Easter Sunday with high hopes that the Easter Bunny had left her a basket filled with fat-free fish snacks. Fortunately, her disappointment was eased after a quick glance in the mirror confirmed how dashing she looked in her Easter bonnet.

**2008**



**HAVE YOU SEEN THIS CAT??**

Freckles is hot on the trail of the suspect who removed her favorite statue, Charles, from garden next to *The Progress Review* office. "Chuck" was last seen on or around June 24th. He is small, round and bears a striking resemblance to *The Progress Review's* News Cat. Any information on the whereabouts of this "cat" can be emailed to *The Progress Review* Crimestoppers Hotline at: [freckles@theprogressreview.com](mailto:freckles@theprogressreview.com). A reward of 10 fat-free fish snacks has been offered.



**The Kidnapping of Chuck, Part II**

A confidential informant (pictured at right) has come forward with information about the missing "Chuck statue" as reported on the Freckles' Fun Page in the July 2, 2008 edition of *The Progress Review*. The informant reported seeing a statue resembling Chuck at a residence in La Porte City, nestled under a rather large clump of catnip. The informant also stated this residence is home to three black cats and a rosebush named Freckles. As this issue went to press, Freckles (the News Cat, not the rosebush) was unable to confirm the accuracy of the informant's statement, and is withholding the reward of 10 fat-free fish snacks until more can be purchased to replace the ones she ate.

**2010**

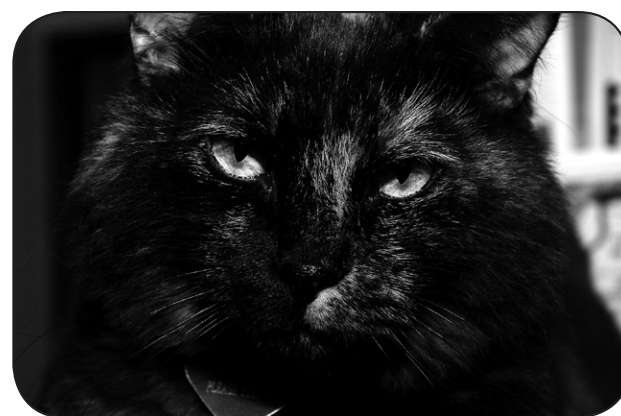


It looks like we've found where the line for the Scooby Snacks begins... Yum! Yum!



"Hey! Who locked up the fat-free fish snacks in this file cabinet?! Don't make me call the locksmith..."

**2009**



Freckles wrote this poem in honor of Valentines Day:

Roses are Red,  
Violets are Blue  
I Love Fat-Free Fish Snacks,  
SO KEEP YOUR MITTS OFF THEM!!