

HUMBOLDT NOW!

Volume 16 • Issue 10 • October 2025



! **Once a Girl Scout, always a Girl Scout**

! **Local couple brings comfort to shelter cats**

! **Rob Hughes, Algona Auto Racing Hall of Fame.**

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- Angie Guy- 19 Years of Service
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We know that getting a mammogram can feel uncomfortable — and for some, that discomfort is even greater when the person performing the exam is someone you might know from the community.

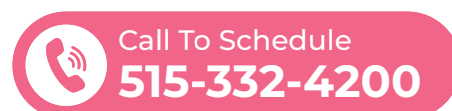
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Schedule your mammogram with the people who care about your health, your comfort, and your family.





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On the cover: Rob Hughes and his wife, Melanie, hold a few of the many trophies he received during his stock car racing career. Hughes, now retired, was inducted into the Algona Raceway Hall of Fame back on July 31.

See more inside! —Photo by Phil Monson

Edward Jones

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What's Happening NOW! *October*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			Schools - Early out	1	2	3
						4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	EVERY MONDAY Board of Supervisors - 8:30AM		Schools - Early out			
	Adams Post 119 meeting At VFW in Dakota City at 7PM Humboldt City Council - 5:30PM		Dakota City City Council 7PM			11-12 - Pumpkins & Ponies SpringVale Farm Saturday - 10AM-4PM Sunday - 11AM-4:30PM
12	13	14	15	16	No School	17
	Wed. Oct. 15 at The Ed & Betty Wilcox Performing Arts Center M5 - The Mexican Brass 2:30 & 7:30 Columbus Day		15 Congregational UCC Harvest Supper 5-7PM Wildcat PTO Mease Library - 5:30PM Conservation Board - 5:00PM			City of Humboldt Open Burn - Oct. 18, 8AM-6PM Fall Brush Pickup - Oct. 20
19	20	21	22	23	No School	24
	Humboldt School Board Meeting 5:30PM Admin office Humboldt City Council - 5:30PM	OCT. 20 & 23 PK-12 CONFERENCES 2 HOUR EARLY OUT	Humboldt Community Center Oct 26 10AM-2PM HUMBOLDT REC DEPT SPOOKTACULAR EVENT			Humboldt Library CLOSED for carpet cleaning
26	27	28	29	30	31	
St. Mary's Broasted Chicken Dinner Check Facebook for more information.	See ALL Humboldt Comm. School District's activities calendar, scan this QR code!	Schools - Early out			31 - HALLOWEEN Trick or Treat Night 5:30-7:30PM	

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

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“Red River Road”

Sullivan’s Crossing #1 by Robyn Carr

By ASHLEY WITTROCK, Children’s Librarian

Looking for a book with a missing woman, exploration of Western Australia and the feeling of always being watched? “Red River Road” by Ana Downes has all of the above (and much more)!

The Coral Coast Highway in Australia spans more than 1,000 kilometers (roughly 621.371 miles) and is considered one of the greatest road trips in the world.

Phoebe Sweeney decides to take a journey along this harsh and remote area by herself and journals about what she sees or does on social media. Three weeks into her solo van life expedition, Phoebe has vanished without a trace. Her regular Instagram updates have stopped, there were no witnesses or clues to her disappearance, and the police have no leads.

Phoebe’s sister, Katy, decides to take matters into her own hands when a year goes by without any answers. Using Phoebe’s social media updates as her guide, Katy retraces her sister’s journey, asking questions, eager to discover clues the authorities missed.

But as Katy drives her camper van further into the wild north, she realizes she is not as alone as she had first thought. Soon she is pulled into a complicated web of secrets, lies, myths and stories that force her to question everything she thought she knew about her sister.

Along Katy’s journey, her path collides with that of Beth, who is on the run from her own dark past. Katy realizes Beth might be her best-and only chance of finding out the truth about her sister. The two women form an uneasy alliance to find out what happened to Phoebe in the wild, beautiful, and perilous place of Australia.

This novel is powered by secrets and the unreliability of its narrators. Downes masterfully keeps you invested in the characters, while also questioning their integrity. What are they hiding and why?

The story moves at a fast pace and the chapters are short. Every chapter will leave you with an uneasy feeling of what is going on as the plot thickens and the countless cliffhangers will keep you guessing and wanting more.

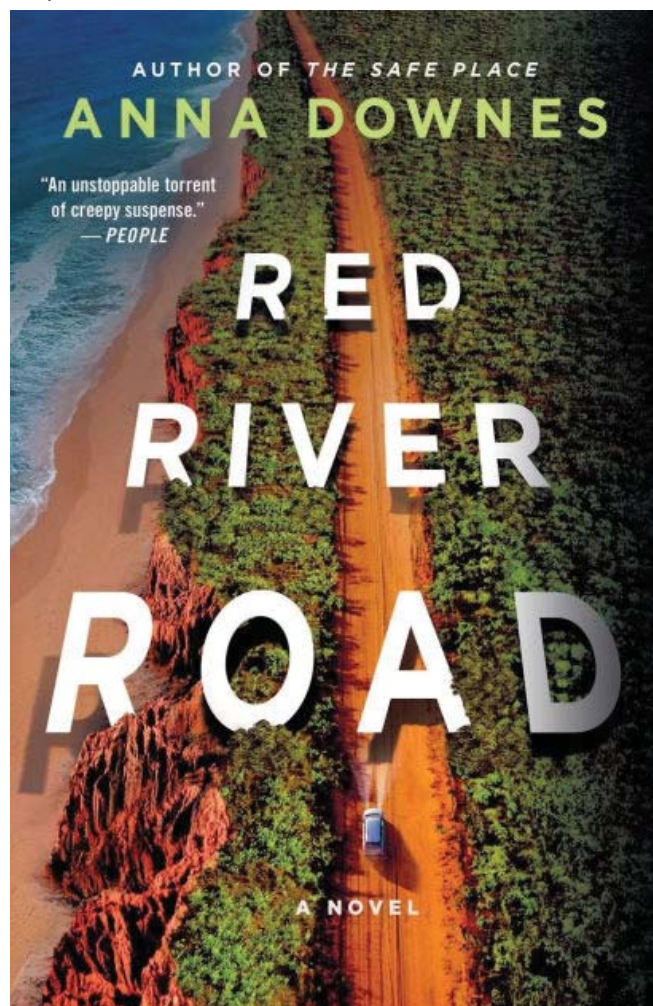
This novel examines the rights and responsibilities of solo travel and the dangers that face the unwary or unprepared. The wilderness and isolation are immensely attractive and addictive, but also

highly unpredictable and potentially dangerous.

The depth of research on all levels is astonishing, not just about vanlife and the locations, but of the field of psychology. Anyone interested in the human psyche, personality disorders, and the effects of trauma will also find this as a fascinating read.

Anne Downes takes us on a winding journey into the dark side of solo female travel in this gripping novel that explores what drives us to keep searching for those we have lost, the family bonds that can make or break us and the deception of memory.

I highly recommend reading “Red River Road” for those who enjoy a slow-burning mystery with tension and creepiness that gradually rise to a terrific ending. Check it out at the Humboldt Public Library and strap yourselves in tight for a nail-biter of a story.



UPCOMING LIBRARY EVENTS

* Sunday, Oct. 12, 2:00 p.m. at The Community Center, “The M&M Show: Still Standing”

* Monday, Oct. 13, 6:00 p.m. at the library, Iowa Author Linda McCann highlights the Rosie Riveters”

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HUMBOLDT IN THE '50S AND '60S

BY TOM SWEARINGEN

JOHNNY APPLESEED

Here comes Johnny Appleseed,
Apple seeds are all he needs,
Planting Orchards on his way out west.
Wears a pot upon his head,
Beneath the trees he makes his bed.
Folks say Johnny's apples are the best.

- Author Unknown

John Chapman (1774-1846), an American pioneer nurseryman, wanted to make sure there would be sufficient food for people arriving in the Midwest on their way to claim land in the 1800s. He walked throughout large parts of states from Pennsylvania to Iowa, planting seeds gleaned from a cider mill in Pennsylvania and from his own trees in the plant nursery he founded in Ohio.

Although he was born in Massachusetts, Johnny spent most of his life in Pennsylvania

and Ohio. A 180-year-old apple tree, said to have been planted by John Chapman, aka Johnny Appleseed, still stands in Nova, Ohio.

Every farm and household in Humboldt County in the 50s and 60s seemed to have an old apple tree or two gracing the yard. These trees didn't usually produce apples that one would desire to pick and consume right then and there. They were of the sour variety used mainly for desserts like pies and crisps, or sauces, jam and cider.

The gnarled trees weren't pretty, but they did outdo themselves in the spring, showing off their pastel blooms, and then producing bumper crops of sour green apples every other year (typical of most fruit trees).

The Crabtree is the only apple indigenous to the Hawkeye State. The varieties used for cooking and eating that are grown

in Iowa - Winesap, Worthington, Wealthy, etc - were brought into the state by other means.

Today, grocery stores like Hy-Vee and Fareway sell Granny Smith apples as the preferred fruit used to make pies, crisps, and sauces. They cook up okay, but I don't think they hold a candle to the old heirloom varieties.

In the past, I used to ask my mother to send me a box of those old special gems picked in the fall on the farm so that I could make pies, harkening me back to my youth. Once, I received 18 apples that cost a whopping \$33 to ship to me in North Carolina. It was worth every penny! Now, on my annual visits to Iowa, I make sure to visit the Community Orchard in Fort Dodge, where I buy authentic Iowa apples to bring home as tasty reminders of fall seasons growing up in Humboldt.

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HUMBOLDT

NEWS FROM YOUR CITY

ANNOUNCEMENT:

Overwhelmed by paper bills
in your mailbox?
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You can now choose to receive your
monthly city utility bill by email.
No more lost postcards!
Just call City Hall at 515-332-3435
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~A reminder for the fall season: Leaves
cannot be blown onto or burned on City
property, including streets and alleys.

FALL BRUSH PICKUP

Monday, October 20
Items should be curbside by 6:00 AM

BURNING PROHIBITED

Open burning of yard waste and garbage is
prohibited within the city limits of Humboldt.

Violators may be fined up to \$100.

The City Code designates the following dates between
the hours of 8:00 AM and 6:00 PM as open burning weekends
to dispose of yard waste only.

**These dates for 2025 will be
October 18, November 1 and 15.**

Recreational fires are permitted for cooking, heating, recreation and ceremonies.

Holiday Garbage Collection Schedule

As a general rule, if your regular garbage
day falls on a holiday, your garbage will be
picked up on the following day, along with
the route regularly scheduled for that day.

The rest of the week is picked up on the
normal schedule. Any exceptions are noted
in bold below:

Thanksgiving (Thursday & Friday), will
be picked up on **Wed., Nov. 26.**

Thursday, Dec. 25, will be picked
up on **Wed., Dec. 24**

Thursday, Jan. 1, will be picked
up on **Wed., Dec. 31**

TRICK OR TREAT NIGHT

October 31st • 5:30-7:30PM

HUMBOLDT

NEWS FROM YOUR CITY

PROGRAMS FROM THE HUMBOLDT REC DEPARTMENT...

September/October - Mini Milers, Adult Volleyball Open gym

October 25th - Halloween Spooktacular Family Event
(at community center)

November/December - 3rd-6th grade Basketball
(registration open now)

November 27th - 4th Annual Turkey Trot (registration open now)

December - Holiday Light Contest, Holiday Lights Bingo, Winter
Break youth programs

January/February - 1st-2nd grade basketball, 3yo - 6yo Mini Cats
Sports Clinic, Pickleball Leagues, Adults Men's Basketball

February - Multisport Mashup 3rd-6th Grade, Youth Track Clinic
All youth programs aprox. 4-5weeks

Schedules subject to change



**SCAN THE QR CODE FOR MORE
INFORMATION AND WHERE TO SIGN UP!**

HRD.RECDESK.COM

ALL REC PROGRAM REGISTRATIONS ARE NOW ONLINE!

Check out the Parks & Rec website at www.cityofhumboldt.org



Hughes into racing Hall of Fame

By PHIL MONSON

When Rob Hughes first attended a stock car race at the Algona Raceway, watching from the stands wasn't good enough. He wanted a seat behind a wheel.

Fast forward nearly 30 years and Hughes was back at the same track on July 31. But this time he stood at center track and was one of the inductees

into the track's Hall of Fame.

"I wasn't expecting this at all but I admit it's pretty neat," said Hughes, who lives in rural Humboldt and drove for 24 seasons on northcentral Iowa tracks.

"When I showed up at the races that night the announcer came up to me and said, 'congratulations.' I said, 'for what?' He said, 'you're getting inducted into the Hall of Fame.'"

"My first thought was, 'gee, this means I'm old.' But seriously, it's a great honor after all the

years I raced," Hughes said.

"I think it's a great honor and he definitely deserves it. We worked well together. Lots of late nights, a few cuss words and great memories," said his wife, Melanie.

"I had some friends who would drive to Knoxville a lot to watch stock car races. Some buddies of mine said 'we should go to Algona to watch the races.' It wasn't long after that I had my own race car," Hughes said. "I realized I didn't want to sit in the stands. I wanted to be out on the track racing."

His first year that he raced full-time was in 1998. He bought his first car in 1997 from another long-time area racer, Jeff Feaster, and drove in his first race at the end of the 1997 season. He drove in the Hobby Stock Class for three years before switching over to the Stock Car Class in 2001. He switched to the Modified Class in 2007.

"It was a lot of hours and a lot of money," Hughes said with a big laugh. "It's an expensive hobby and a time-consuming hobby. I've had good sponsors over the years. Harle Trucking was with me from the very start and stayed with me. Prior Distributing was with me the whole time."

"I've raced at a lot of tracks but the main tracks that I raced at was Algona and Britt. When Fort Dodge opened its track, we started going down there, too," Hughes said. "We ran at Mason City and Webster City a few times."

"I don't know what my total career victory total is overall but I know I

Rob Hughes and his wife, Melanie, hold a few of the many trophies he received during his stock car racing career. Hughes, now retired, was inducted into the Algona Raceway Hall of Fame back on July 31.



had 32 at Algona alone. Guess I'm not a very good bookkeeper," Hughes said.

"In IMCA (International Motor Contest Association) races I have 31 victories but there was a five-year stretch where Algona wasn't a sanctioned IMCA track," Hughes said. "The wins I had there and at Fort Dodge don't count because of that."

"I won the 2001 season Stock Car track championship in Britt. In 2010 I won the Modified Class season championship in Britt. I won the county fair race in Algona in 2001. You got a six-foot tall trophy for winning that race," Hughes said.

Rob's folks, Howard and Betty Hughes of Humboldt, were big supporters of their son's racing career.

"Without them it never would have happened financially. Dad worked on the car a lot. The late Dennis Knieriem worked on the car a lot. Al Meyer and Brad Peltz were loyal, long-time crew members. Without all of them it never would have taken place," Hughes said.

"For quite a few years I was driving truck and there were times I showed up at the race track and they had the car there ready and waiting for me," Hughes said. "Without those guys it would not have happened at all."

"I made a lot of friends driving a race car and I had pretty good luck," Hughes said.

"My very first night out in the car, which I bought from Jeff Feaster, it handled really good for me and I won my first heat race. Then I screwed up in the feature race," Hughes said.

"It takes a lot of confidence to drive into the corner and make that turn for as fast as you are going," Hughes said.



Rob Hughes is shown here with his family after winning a race early in his stock car racing career.

"Speed-wise you don't think you are going that fast, especially when you have other cars around you."

"Every week you are checking all of the nuts and bolts and making sure everything is straight. If somebody gets into you or you get into someone else on the track, it's critical to make sure everything is secure and in place, especially in the Modified Class. That took a lot of time," Hughes said.

"You wanted to make sure everything was straight because there's a lot of moving parts in those cars that you don't have in the Hobby Stock or Stock Car class," Hughes said.

"The more laps you drive the more confident you get. You need to be confident when you go into the corner. I had one car where something broke when I went into the corner and I

ended straight up into the wall. That wakes you up. It was a brand new car, too, so that made me feel really good," Hughes said.

"Seat time is really critical. Being confident knowing it's going to go the way you want it to go," Hughes said.

"Early in my career there were a lot more people driving cars on these tracks. I think the hobby stock class had 15 to 20 cars each night. When I started the modified class there was always at least 10 cars each night. Now there's maybe six tops," Hughes said. "A lot of that is the cost. Everything costs so much more now days."

"There were a lot of late nights. Some nights you didn't sleep much because you were working on the car so you could get it ready for the next day's race," Hughes said. "I remember racing in Britt on Friday nights and at Algona on Saturday night. If something happened Friday night you were up all night getting it ready to go for Saturday night."

"There was quite a few of those days. Back then it was enjoyable because I was a lot younger. I can't do that anymore," Hughes said.

For several years Rob and his son, Nathan, drove at the same time.

"Nate was 12 when he started and raced pretty much the whole time I did. For quite a few years we had two cars we drove. He was in the Hornet Class for two to three years. Then he drove in the sport mod class. But that



Rob Hughes of rural Humboldt is shown here with his daughter, Emily (left) and son, Nate (right) in front of his race car earlier in his career. Last summer Hughes was inducted into the Algona Raceway Hall of Fame.

took two trucks and two trailers to get to the track,” Hughes said.

“Then we decided two cars wasn’t the answer, so we went to one. But that has its drawbacks. By doing that you lose your seat time a little bit and he drives a little bit differently than I drive. One year I was racing IMCA and he was racing USRA (United States Racing Association in Webster City. We were changing motors from track to track. We got pretty good at it but that was time-consuming,” Hughes said. “The difference in our driving styles and seat time hurt us both.”

Hughes looked back on some memorable races.

“I recall a race where I came out of turn four and passed somebody to get the checkered flag to win it after being quite a ways behind him, that was fun,” Hughes said.

“I remember one night in Algona in the modified class where a rock came in and hit me in the finger and then it hit the kill switch and shut the car off at the start of the race. The yellow flag comes out and I go to the back. I ended up driving back up front to win that race,” Hughes said. “My knuckle hurt for a few days after that. That was a fun race.”

“The fair race up in Algona in 2001, before the race I was walking in front of the grandstand with one of my sponsors and all the trophies were lined up. We walked up to that six-foot tall trophy. He asked me ‘what are you thinking?’ I told him ‘I think I’m going to take that trophy home tonight after winning the race,’” Hughes said. “And I did.”

Hughes also recalls some scary, close-call moments.

“Knock on wood I never got upside down. The first year I was in the modified class and was in a feature race at Beatrice, NE. There was a bad wreck just ahead of me with cars standing up on one end and I drove between them, just missing them,” Hughes said. “It happened so fast. Later I thought back about how that could have been a really bad accident.”

“One time I totaled out a car in a race at Knoxville. Another car came across in front of me and I went up and over him. I ended up going straight on into the turn two wall and those walls down there don’t move,” Hughes said.

“In 2019 I raced in Arkansas in the



Rob Hughes was photographed with his family after winning a stock car race early in his career. He is pictured with his wife, Melanie, and children Nate (front left) and Emily (front right).

Hope For 71 event at Batesville. I got wrecked in the race prior to the big show. I went all the way down there and came home with a wrecked car. It was quite an experience with 90 modified cars there,” Hughes said. “I thought it would be a fun race. I was supposed to pay pretty good if you made the big show. That didn’t happen.”

Now that he’s retired from racing, Hughes continues to take in races from time to time at area tracks.

“I have some friends that still race and so I still go up and help some friends with their cars. Recently I helped a buddy race at Boone. But I’m not going to miss a weekend at the lakes just to go to the races,” Hughes said. “My time after work is spent camping, golfing and being with granddaughters.”

Hughes, a 1990 graduate of Humboldt High School, is employed with MidAmerican Energy in Fort Dodge as a mechanic. He drove truck for 14 years and also worked for Martin-Marietta for eight years. Melanie works at Midland Power Cooperative in the Humboldt corporate office.

They have two grown children. Nathan lives in Eagle Grove, is engaged to be married and has two daughters. Emily is married and lives in Webster City and has one daughter.

“We’ve made a lot of friends during

his racing career. We’ve had a lot of family time together through those years as well,” Melanie said. “A lot of cooking and cleaning. Washing racing suits. Cleaning trailers.”

“It was a fun experience. It took lots of time, money and love. And you worried about his safety in every race. You never stopped worrying. Later in his career I got a little bit more comfortable, but I never stopped worrying. And it picked up some more when Nate was out there on the track. I was a nervous wreck,” Melanie said.

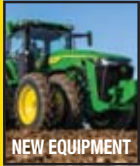
“Nobody in our family had any major injuries, which I’m thankful for, but I don’t miss it now. And I enjoy going to watch a race when I want to, but I don’t have the pressure to go. It was a lot when the kids were little, but we managed and got through it,” Melanie said.

“Over the years I didn’t like them being out in the shop at night by themselves in case something happened, so I would be out there helping in any way I could. Emily helped out a lot, too,” Melanie said. “It was a family affair.”

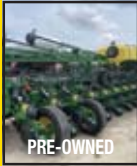
Rob, soft-spoken and not one to brag, summed it up in a few sentences.

“It’s a great accomplishment but I sure didn’t see this coming. It’s a great honor, I’ve made a lot of friends and I had a good time doing it.”

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Classes are Starting

Classes will be starting October - November see Facebook & Website for details!



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Eagle Grove Chamber of Commerce's Second Annual

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AND FALL VENDOR SHOW



SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4TH

200 BLK W. BROADWAY EAGLE GROVE

FREE ENTRY - FUN FOR EVERYONE!

THE DETAILS:

BBQ Competition

Presentation of ribs to our exclusive judging panel at 3:00.
Public judging of SPECIALTY ITEM & FIERY FUN 4:00 - 6:00pm
Sample mouth-watering BBQ and other items from our competing teams and vote for your favorite! JUDGING CARDS ARE FREE!
Winners announced approx 6:30pm

Vendor Show 1:00 - 6:00 pm

Shop a variety of items at our vendor show!

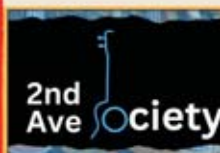


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4:00 - 6:00 PM



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A photograph of an older couple, Becky and Phil, smiling and holding two cats. Becky is on the left, wearing a pink sweater and glasses, holding a ginger cat. Phil is on the right, wearing a dark polo shirt, holding a white and grey cat. They are in a room with metal cages in the background, likely a shelter.

Becky (left) and Phil (right) hold two of the shelter cats at Moffitt Animal Shelter, where they volunteer every Thursday.

Local couple brings comfort to shelter cats

By KYLIE PORTZ

It takes a special kind of person to volunteer in animal rescue, someone with thick skin and a big heart. Like Phil and Becky Rose.

For a little over three years, Phil and Becky Rose have been volunteering at Moffitt Animal Shelter, located at 19th St. N., helping to take care of the many cats and kittens at the animal shelter.

The pair met in Vermillion, South Dakota, where they attended college, moving to Humboldt in 1986 just before their oldest started kindergarten. Together, they have three children (Michael, Kellie and Emilee), seven grandchildren and three grand-dogs.

Becky Rose is a retired microbiologist who supervised microbiology at Trinity Regional Medical Center in Fort Dodge. Phil Rose was the hematology supervisor there before becoming the lab manager at Humboldt County Memorial Hospital in 1985.

After Phil Rose retired from HCMH, the couple began volunteering at Moffitt

Animal Shelter, something Becky Rose had wanted to do for a while.

She said, "It's just something I wanted to do when he retired, because I needed help."

The couple has one cat, who they joke is a bit of a diva, preferring to be the only cat in the home.

Becky Rose said, "We've always had a cat. We have one right now and we can't take any home. She doesn't think she's a cat. She won't let us bring a cat into the house. We tried."

Although they couldn't bring another cat into their own home, the Roses have helped find homes for shelter cats with their friends and neighbors.

Becky Rose said, "Gary was a cat that came in, somebody moved and didn't take him with them and the house next door brought him in. They wanted to keep him, but their cat didn't get along with him. They just hated to bring him in, because he's just a very special cat."

She continued, "I talked with our neighbors, and they have a lot of cats, and they came in and instantly fell in love him. So, that's fun because I get to see Gary."

Phil Rose added, "He's an inside, outside cat. So he's kind, he makes the whole neighborhood know him."

"A lot of people like the kittens. Kittens are a lot of fun, but you know, when the cat is older, you get to kind of know their personality."

You can find the couple every Thursday

without fail, putting in the work at Moffitt Animal Shelter. A normal Thursday at the Shelter for the Roses begins at about nine in the morning.

Becky Rose said, "We show up about nine o'clock, and it takes us a couple of hours. What we do is start somewhere, so we can remember where we started. We take everything out of the cage."

"I hand him (Phil) the litter box and he cleans the litter box, then we take the blankets and the food and everything out. He cleans the dishes and fills the food and then I scrub down the inside of their cage and clean it all up. Put new blankets back in if they need it and give them a little attention."

The pair will let the cats out of the cage while they are cleaning it, so they can play and get a bit of their energy out.

Becky Rose said, "It's very satisfying when we're all done at the end. It's all clean and they're all tired; they had some good food and treats. A lot of them will be all stretched out. The kittens, sometimes it looks like we did not do their cage right away because they're messy."

For those wanting to volunteer, the couple had some sound advice.

"What's really nice is consistency, we come every Thursday morning and I think they like that because they know that people are here and (they) can get other things done, because we're taking care of the cats," said Becky Rose.

Becky Rose stressed the importance of listening to those who are training you

when you first start your volunteer journey. The couple was grateful to Judy Nobiling, who was there to help guide them when they started.

She said, “We followed her, did everything that she told us. She said, usually people walk away and think they know how to do that (cat chores) but Judy is a very good teacher. So listen to the person that’s training you because that’s how you learn.”

Animal rescue isn’t always easy. Becky Rose talked a bit about the most challenging part of the job.

She said, “The abuse that you see it breaks your heart. I don’t understand it. And once in a while, a kitten doesn’t make it or something, so that’s sad. But the abuse is unbelievable. If people treat an animal that way, how do they treat humans, you know? They have no feelings.”

But the love the animal has to give always makes up for the heartache of knowing where they came from.

Becky Rose said, “I fall in love with the, you know, and then they seem to be here for a while and then I’m so happy that they go (get adopted) but it makes me sad too.”

She said, “I had one cat that was a nose kisser and the whole time I cleaned his cage, he’s kissing my nose. We have another one in there now that wants a belly rub the whole time you’re cleaning his cage.”

Phil Rose said, “Some of these cats, that are here for a while, you get to really know their personalities and get to know them. And it’s kind of sad that you know they are here that long, because the cages are not very big. So, it’s nice to see when somebody gives them their forever home.”

Each year, shelters across the country are seeing a rise in cat populations. One way that shelters are addressing rising cat populations is through TNR (Trap Neuter Return) programs.

Phil and Becky Rose know just how



Becky Rose interacts with a few of the shelter cats at Moffitt Animal Shelter, where she volunteers with husband Phil.

beneficial programs like this can be for communities after seeing the success of a program in Portugal during a trip.

Becky Rose said, “We were in Portugal and we didn’t see a lot of cats. We were talking to our guide about it and he said that the government actually works with the health department and they have a program, so they fix and neuter all the feral cats. So they don’t have an overpopulation.”

Moffitt Animal Shelter Director Miranda Peterson said, “It (Portugal) is one of the places when you look up research behind TNR that they always bring up as a representation of a success story.”

She continued, “People don’t understand that trapping and then not fixing, or trapping, fixing and then relocating doesn’t actually solve the problem because more

cats come in.”

Stateside, TNR programs rely heavily on donations in order to fund their neuter programs.

The Roses’ dedication to the animal shelter and the cats that they care for does not go unnoticed.

Peterson said, “Thursdays are a special day for us because of Phil and Becky (Rose). Their dedication to our cat room means the kitties are always in loving hands and their energy and ideas reach far beyond the shelter.”

She continued, “From fundraisers to everyday care, they show up with consistency and heart. Allowing us to be able to focus on other, much-needed tasks, knowing everything is taken care of at the shelter when they’re around. We’re so

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grateful for the joy, fun and reliability they bring every week.”

The love was mutual, with Phil and Becky Rose praising Peterson and her family for all they do at the shelter.

Phil Rose said, “Humboldt really is lucky to have this shelter. You know, places don’t have shelters. We’re very lucky to have Miranda and her family, because her whole family is tired, you know, out here working and taking in the pets. And a lot of times they’re going above and beyond what’s needed.”

Becky Rose said, “People have no idea the hours and hours they spend.”

According to Becky Rose, one of the hardest parts about volunteering is not being able to take all the animals home.

She said, “It is hard because I do like cats, I like dogs too, but I think those are more specialized, so we just stay (volunteering) with the cats. But I fall in love every week with a new cat and he (Phil) comes with me, so I don’t take any cats home. That’s the part that’s very hard because you want to take them all home.”

If you are looking for an addition to your furry family, you can fill out an application on Moffitt Animal Shelter’s website (<https://moffittanimalshelter.org>) There you can also find an application form to apply to become a volunteer.

For those wanting to donate to support Moffitt Animal Shelter in TNR, or help the many animals they care for, you can a few different ways.

Donations can be mailed to PO Box, 123, Humboldt, Iowa 50548. You can also pay directly on their vet bills at Harmony Animal Hospital, Humboldt Vet Clinic, Emerson Vet Clinic in Eagle Grove, Manson Vet Clinic or JRG Pet Supply in Fort Dodge.

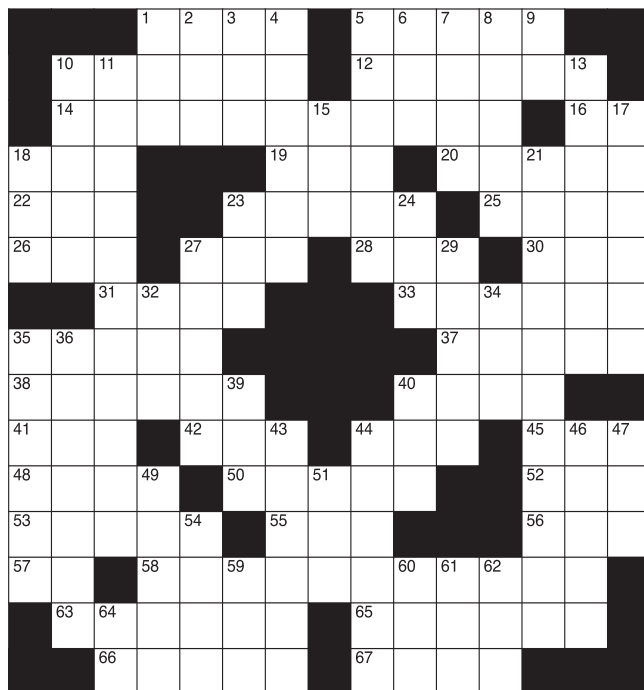
The shelter also accepts donations via PayPal and Venmo (@moffittanimalshelter). You can also purchase items off the shelter’s Amazon Wishlist (https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/1A2D6RSC01B91?ref_+wl_fw_le).

Or it’s Chewy Wishlist (https://www.chewy.com/g/humboldt-county-animal-shelter_b7613764).

Donations, both monetary and physical, can be dropped off at the shelter Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. For more ways to donate or get involved, follow the shelter’s Facebook Page, Moffitt Animal Shelter.



Phil (left) and Becky (right) Rose outside of Moffitt Animal Shelter, where they volunteer every Thursday, helping to care for the cats and kittens that live there. Independent photo.



CLUES ACROSS

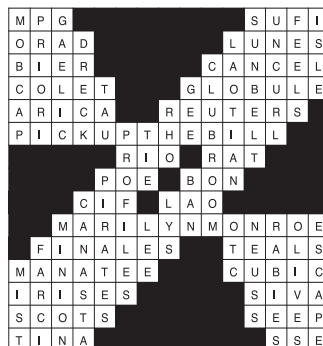
11. Native American people of CA
5. Long periods of time (Brit.)
10. Classroom tool
12. Rods
14. One who renews
16. They start the alphabet
17. Periodical (slang)
19. Smooth singer Cole
20. Dorsal sclerites in insects
22. One from Utah
23. The world of the dead
25. Singer Redding
26. Mafia head
27. Wrongly
28. Unhappy
30. Anger
31. Dark olive black
33. Places to sit and eat
35. Made a mistake
37. Damp
38. Banned fuel type
40. Actor Damon
41. What thespians do
42. A polite address for a woman
44. Disallow
45. Swiss river
48. A banana has one
50. Afrikaans
52. Relative biological effectiveness (abbr.)
53. Agave
55. Journalist Tarbell
56. One-time tech leader
57. Incidentally (abbr.)
58. Intestinal bacterium
63. Loose sheats around the

CLUES DOWN

1. Witch
2. Utilize
3. Writing utensil
4. Where rockers work
5. Becomes less intense
6. Consume
7. Type of catfish
8. “Horsetown, U.S.A.”
9. Atomic #50
10. The Muse of lyric poetry
11. Brings back to life
13. Humorous critiques
15. Cool!
17. Worst
18. Wet dirt
21. Useful
23. Hebrew unit of liquid capacity
24. High schoolers’ test

27. Internet device
29. City in India
32. A place to rest
34. Chat responder
35. A way to move on
36. What consumers are given
39. Digital audiotape
40. More (Spanish)
43. Disfigured
44. White (Spanish)
46. Church building
47. Georgia rockers
49. Surgeon’s tool
51. “Much ___ about nothing”
54. Make by braiding
59. Local area network
60. Unit of work
61. Indigenous person of Thailand
62. Liquefied natural gas
64. Distance to top

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Eck stands next to a quilt made up of different squares created by Humboldt Girl Scouts. It is one of her most prized possessions in the Girl Scout Room.

Once a Girl Scout, always a Girl Scout

By APRIL KELLEY

The Girl Scout Pledge reads “On my honor, I will try: To serve God and my country, To help people at all times and to live by the Girl Scout Law.”

What is the Girl Scout Law?

The Girl Scout Law outlines the values that Girl Scouts strive to uphold. It states that a Girl Scout is: honest, fair, friendly, helpful, considerate, caring, courageous, strong, responsible for what I say and do, respectful of myself and others, respectful of authority, use resources wisely, makes the world a better place and to be a sister to every Girl Scout.

Kathy Eck spent more than 40 years teaching young women to live by the words of that pledge first as a Girl Scout Leader in Humboldt County and then as a Unit Service Director, by modeling those attributes herself.

Eck who had only been a girl scout for a few years as a young girl, first became a Girl Scout leader when her daughter, Jenny was in third grade.

“Jenny had Girl Scouts in first grade and she had the same two leaders until third grade when one of the leaders had a baby and I think she just wasn’t going to do it anymore,” Eck said.

They needed another adult to assist the remaining leader, so Eck decided to give it a try.

“I assisted the other gal that first year, and it was a good year, but after that first year, I really didn’t want to do it anymore because the other leader that I was helping was very organized

and she had planned out the whole year,” Eck said.

While Eck learned a lot that first year, she also learned that she liked being in charge and able to plan different things for the girls.

The next year, the leader Eck had been helping moved away from the area. That same year, Eck’s second daughter, Debbie entered first grade and joined Girl Scouts.

“Both girls needed a leader and so instead of being a leader for just one girl, I was the leader for both of them, which probably wasn’t the best way to do it, but I did it,” Eck said.

“I couldn’t tell one girl I would be the leader of her troop but not for the other so I just did it,” Eck continued.

That first year Eck was the leader of both troops and it was a real learning year for her. As Debbie’s troop was young and new, they had meetings at Eck’s home which she quickly discovered wasn’t a good idea.

“You need space and the ability to do certain things like crafts where you aren’t worried about your furniture or flooring, somewhere designated for it,” Eck said.

As difficult as it was, she learned a lot that first year and decided to stick with it.

“Once I got past the second or third year, it was like, this isn’t so bad. I think I kind of got things down. You get a system started and then after that you just kind of keep building,” Eck said.

By 1992, the service unit director moved away from the area

so Eck decided to take on that role as well.

The service unit director oversees all of the troops in their area. Eck held a monthly meeting for the leaders allowing the leaders of the different troops to support each other and to learn new things.

Not only were the leaders important, there were several times a year that volunteers were crucial to the Girl Scout troops Eck was involved in, above and beyond the regular meetings.

Cookie sales, day camps, lock-ins and bus trips all could not have been accomplished without the help of volunteers, mostly moms, who would help out when needed. Those times helped to cement Eck's friendships with the other moms.

"I remember, especially during the lock-ins, that we would try to get the girls to lay down and go to sleep for a while but we moms would go into the kitchen and sit and talk and laugh," Eck said.

Those moms came in handy during the day camps and cookie sales too.

"When I first started doing cookie sales, the girls would go door-to-door with the order form and then we would order the cookies we needed. The cookies would be brought to a central place to sort and distribute to the scouts to be taken back to the people who ordered from them. It was a lot of work," Eck said.

Volunteers also helped at the day camps that were held each summer. This caused the camps to change as to the number of days and what time of day they were held.

"Camp started out as an all-day Monday through Friday thing with a sleepover on Thursday into Friday, and then went to evenings and then to just three days. We were really up against more sports teams and other activities as time went on," Eck said.

She really enjoyed those camps, though, because of what the scouts would learn to do.

"The girls would learn so many new things. Most had never cooked a meal over a fire or even washed a dish let alone without a sink. Many of them had to be taught how to do those things," Eck said.

She was also able to take Girl Scouts on several trips. Twice during her time as a leader or director, she accompanied a group of girls to Savannah, GA, the birthplace of the Girl Scouts and twice to Washington, DC to see the capital.

"Many of the girls who went had never been out of Iowa, never been on a trip like that. It was so fun to watch them learn new things and to see their world open up for them," Eck said.

During her time as the director, she also remained a troop leader on occasion. When her youngest daughter, Lisa, was old enough to join Girl Scouts, she became a leader for her as well.

When Lisa was in 9th grade, one of the troops that was forming didn't have leaders and Eck was becoming hard pressed to locate any. She decided to ask her daughter Lisa to help lead the troop.

"I thought hopefully after that first year there would be a parent or two that would step up and want to take over but by the end of the first year, only one mom was willing to help, but only wanted to be a co-leader so I stayed on," Eck said.

"I had fallen in love with those kids. They were the sweetest 10 little kindergarteners I had ever seen. I still keep in touch with many of them,"

One of those girls, Lacey Jorgensen, remained a Girl Scout through High School.

"Her mom, Julie, was a very hands-on mom and she helped with the troop, planning really wonderful crafts," Eck said.

Eck is still in touch with most of the leaders and volunteers



A personalized pillowcase with a depiction of the girls in troop #355 was created for Eck for Leader Appreciation Week by Lacey Jorgensen in 2006. she worked with over 40 years.

One of those leaders, Pam Hosford, became an extremely close friend to Eck.

"Pam was truly my right-hand gal while I was service unit director. I don't think I could have done it without her help," Eck said.

"I think I liked being a service unit director as much as being a troop leader because of the friendships I made with those other leaders. We always had a good, strong, group of women who were leaders or were willing to volunteer their time," Eck said.

Eck decided to leave the Girl Scouts in 2021. She had been thinking about it for several years, beginning in 2019, but COVID solidified those thoughts for her.

During COVID, because the troops were unable to hold meetings, numbers of scouts plummeted, the same as many other organizations and clubs. Eck felt that it was best to leave the rebuilding of the troops to someone younger and with new ideas.

The Girl Scouts had also changed in many ways that Eck wasn't as comfortable with.

"I used to type up a newsletter each week to send home with the girls. At the time, we were still meeting weekly. Pretty soon they went to every other week and then just monthly. When they did that the leaders would send an email," Eck said.

Now, Eck believes that most communication with parents is done through text if it is within the troop, but possibly email if it is from the district office.

The amount and proximity of support has also changed. At one time, there was a regional office in Fort Dodge that would provide support.

"The director there was always very good about coming to a



meeting or stopping to say they were there to support us. Now you may not see a director for several years unless you request it," Eck said.

The local Girl Scout camp had also been sold, leaving only a few Girl Scout overnight camps available in Iowa, Boone, Clear Lake, Westfield and Marshalltown.

"About 12 or 13 years ago, the Girl Scout councils combined throughout the whole United States. Each state basically went down to just two councils per state. Iowa had eight councils and they went down to two," Eck said.

Eck stated they said it was so that each council would be more cohesive, offering the same things for all regions, however, she feels it has just led to less support for the troops and troop leaders.

"When we had an office in Fort Dodge, we had somebody who worked there and came to many of our monthly leader meetings. Now you might not see them for several years unless you call with an issue, and then many times they will just talk over the phone," Eck said.

Currently there are two active troops in Humboldt County.

"They are really active though. I have met both leaders and they are very good. But the troops are small. We used to have large troops, like 12-14 girls and that's a lot of girls in a troop," Eck said.

Eck's love for Girl Scouts has passed along to her daughters as well. Her daughter, Jenny, had worked with the Girl Scouts.

"Jenny worked for about four years. She started working for them as a camp counselor and then after about six months she became the camp director during the summer and a membership director the rest of the year.

Eck's youngest daughter, Lisa has also been a Girl Scout Leader, since her daughter, Maggie, who is now in 10th grade joined as a Daisy in kindergarten. Approximately five years ago, Lisa also became a service unit director in Vermilion, SD.

Because her daughters are so involved in Girl Scouts to this day, Eck still has a front row seat to all the changes taking place, even though she resigned her position.

The different levels of scouting have changed in recent years. Daisies, who used to be only kindergarten, are now kindergarten and 1st grade, Brownies are 2nd and 3rd grades, Juniors are 4th and 5th grades, Cadets are in 6th, 7th and 8th, Seniors are 9th and 10th and Ambassadors are 11th and 12th.

Troops also used to be only one level of Girl Scout, whereas now, several levels can be combined to make a troop such as Daisies and Brownies together.

As much as Girl Scouts have changed though, there are things that will likely always remain the same. The girls still



Eck has collected many Girl Scout items over her 40 years of being involved in Girl Scouts. To keep it all organized, she has dedicated a room in her house to showcasing her most special things. Eck jokes that there are many more things packed away in other areas of the home.

receive badges to show their accomplishments. They are still encouraged to learn new things, support each other and their community and they are still taught to live by the Girl Scout Motto and the Girl Scout Law.

While Eck may not still be fully immersed as she once was, the legacy she created in four decades of girls as well as her own daughters lives, on keeping her forever more, a Girl Scout at heart.

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Karen's Quips!

By Karen May



My company has gone home and the house is quiet again! My sister and her husband, from California, and my brother and his wife, from Alabama, came for a few days. Oh, how we all enjoyed each other.

We keep in touch by phone and the occasional letter, but it's just not the same as seeing each other. I think it's been over four years since our last get-together, so there were a few changes. We "aged" a bit, gained or lost a few pounds etc. But we still knew each other. We had a lot to talk about and caught up on families and recent trips everyone had taken.

We started our get-together off with my son and daughter (and spouses) and met for dinner at Pasquale's, where we learned to try pizza many years ago and it still remains our favorite. We spent the entire evening there discussing and trying to catch up.

Since I spent most of last year taking photos of the Iowa Freedom Rocks and compiling a book of them for the library, we decided to spend a day touring the area and several of the rocks. My brother-in-law is a retired veteran, so he was especially interested in them!

Of course, we had to stop at the Grotto in West Bend - a tourist attraction that everyone has to see at least once or twice. It was a beautiful day, so it was fun to wander through the area. A lot of photos were taken by our visitors as well and souvenirs were purchased.

We were glad to get back home, spread out, relax and discuss our day. All too soon our time together has disappeared. We had taken lots of photos, discussed who, what, when and where and it was time to pack and return home!

One group drove south to Des Moines to catch their plane to California. And the other packed their car and headed southward, driving home to Alabama. We had a fantastic time, ate more than needed and hope we can gather again sometime in the future. Thank you to all who made our gathering a huge success!

It's that time of year when many of us are watching football, hoping our local teams do well and making sure we watch our favorite college teams as well! What did we ever do without TV to watch these games?

Basketball fans have been busy following the professional women's teams, especially the Indiana Fever, featuring our former Iowa Star, Caitlin Clark, and wondering if/when she will

be able to return to the court! By the time this is printed, her future will probably be found out! Much has been written, lots has been speculated, but unfortunately, she wasn't able to "give her all" this season. She sure put Iowa on the map and made us proud! Stay tuned!

This past month, while I was sitting outside enjoying the evening weather, I was looking toward my grove of almost 100 trees when I noticed a big bird sitting at the top of one tree. I finally decided it must be an eagle. I was excited, I hadn't seen an eagle in our grove for over 10 years.

As it was evening time, I watched and wondered if I could get a photo? I grabbed my camera from inside and tried to be quiet, but in a few seconds the creature had disappeared. How disappointed I was. I told a friend about my experience but most of them were sure I had not seen an eagle, as they are just not seen everywhere. However, this past week, the eagle returned!

It was a bright, sunny day and I was able to get two photos of it. One perched at the top of an old tree and another at the edge of our grove, just starting to fly away. What an experience, to see the eagle and get photos.

I shall be watching to see if it returns again. In the meantime, I have proof it was here!

Humboldt merchants went all out, featuring a Cyclone-Hawkeye event on Sumner Avenue a few weeks ago. What an event! Lots and lots of people and participation. Good job people!

The "big" game was the following Saturday. Some liked the result and some were disappointed. Well one team has to win, the other will have to try harder next year!

Sheldon Park turned out to be a busy place this summer. Recently, a local church held services there, an auto show was held there and several other activities were also held. It is a well-kept park and many people use the campgrounds. Humboldt County can be proud of the area! Frank Gotch Park is another local camping area that sees a lot of use. If you drive through, take note of the out-of-county license plates.

Have you noticed the price of eggs? Up and up and up! On a recent trip in Iowa, we noticed several area farmers had placed little "sheds" at the end of their driveways with EGGS for sale. MOST were in the \$3.00 area, to be purchased on the honor system - take what you want and leave your money. Good for the farmer and consumer.



Learning To Swim

By Phyllis Johnson

If you grew up on farm in the 30s, in the northern part of Humboldt County, you can relate to the struggles we had to endure, in order to join the activities of our city friends. One of those inconveniences was the availability of a swimming pool.

As far as I knew, there wasn't a pool in any town within 50 miles of the farms in our area back in those days. Sometimes several years later, we would go to Clear Lake or Okoboji with friends or on family picnics, and we could spend time in the lake. But we didn't know how to swim. We were satisfied to just play in the water.

Years later, in our 20s, when my friends and I were married with small children, we lived in the same community, and we formed a close-knit group. We did many things together as families, like playing cards, going on picnics, playing softball, among other things. We women would have our little coffee parties, clubs and other outings. One day, one of the girls announced that there was a new swimming pool in the area. It was in a little town called Whittemore, about 25 miles away. We decided we wanted to learn to swim. The husbands were in agreement to watch the kids one night a week, and we embarked on this new venture.

The pool was not as one would expect. It was large enough, and deep enough. It even had a diving board, but it had a sand bottom. The water was murky to say the least. But it was a place to swim. There were no swimming coaches to help us, and life guards, if there were any, would not have taught classes at night. So, we were self-taught.

We became braver as the weeks passed, and one night, I decided to jump off the diving board. I say "Jumped," ..Diving was totally out of the question. I climbed the ladder to the diving board, wondering if I would ever survive, but determined. I clenched two fingers over my nose, and jumped. I guess instinct kicked in and I needed to use both arms or something, because I removed my fingers. Now my nose was free to collect the entire water of the pool, and it felt like it did. Water went into my nose, and brain and any other channels in my head that would accept water. Getting back to the top of the water and out of the pool, after sputtering and thanking God I survived, I resolved never to do that again.

Our nights at the pool concluded at the end of that summer. None of us became proficient swimmers, so we decided we would give up the idea, or wait until pools were modernized.

Later, when my sons were in grade school, the Red Cross had lessons for school kids, and they learned at the pool where there were expert instructors My husband who had

been in the Navy knew how, too. We spent time each summer at Okoboji, and a lot of the time in the water. I never became a swimmer, but I was satisfied to float. I could do that easily, but was careful not to get too far from shore. My swimming skills were tested at one point when I drifted too far away, floating on a plastic inflated raft. Using my arms as paddles, I made it back to the dock. I decided to stay awake after this.

My swimming days are over. I enjoyed my son's pool in Arizona a couple of years ago, but I had forgotten the sensation of being totally immersed in water. At this stage of my life, I'm glad to stay upright, even on dry land.

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