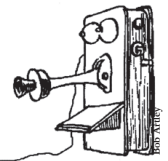


Peoria Partyline



connecting the extended Peoria community

Volume 3. No. 2

June 2007

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Peoria Partyline Mailing List

Do you want to be on our mailing list? Will you be moving or have a new address?

Call

Nicki Veenstra:

641-625-4244

E-mail us

with questions or submissions:

peoria-ia-news@hotmail.com

Online issue: www.peoriacrc.org

Ice Storm Produces a Ghost Town

Peoria became a ghost town when an ice storm came through south-central Iowa on Saturday, February 24. Temperatures were near the freezing point and as rain fell all through the night, a strong east wind turned it into layers of ice on power lines, trees limbs, and most everything else. All the churches of the area were cancelled on Sunday. Many people had never seen such a destructive ice storm.

The weight of the ice on power lines, plus the whipping of the wind, caused many utility poles to snap. Electricity was off in Peoria from Saturday afternoon until Monday night. Others in Richland Township waited even longer due to the large number of utility poles that were down. The storm also brought out curious "sight-seers" who could be seen driving around Peoria and the local area on Sunday morning in their 4-Wheel drive pickups. Many were taking pictures or stopping to share "storm stories" with people they met along the way.



A huge tree split in two falling with a crash onto the roof of Pastor and Barb Gorter's house.

Some brave souls, such as Jim and Tena Bandstra, stayed in Peoria for the duration of this outage. They used a kerosene heater to stay warm. Most everyone else moved

out—some to Pella or surrounding area motels, others to friends and relatives who opened their homes.

Driving through Peoria at night, during the black-out, was a twilight-zone experience—total darkness except for the stars and the newly installed caution lights for the school (which kept blinking eerily through the night because they are battery operated). During the day the sun glistened on the ice everywhere—a beautiful sight.

After the electricity came back on in Peoria and electric wires were spliced back together, people slowly moved back into their homes. Many out-lying residents were at the mercy of utility work crews. Eventually every home was up and running again. After checking their stores of food in the refrigerator and freezer, people wondered what to do with the mess of branches and limbs all around. For many the clean up had to wait a couple of days—the ice made everything too heavy to handle.

On Wednesday, February 28th, a crew of 15 to 20 men and a couple of women descended on Peoria. Limbs hanging in trees and lying on roofs were cut off at the parsonage, church, school yard, and a few houses in the northern part of town. Branches

- Continued on page 3



Top right: Ice brought limbs down all over Peoria.

Left: Many young trees simply bent over and froze to the ground. Above: Work crews created huge piles of branches which later were chipped with a Vermeer wood chipper.



**Neighbors are much more than just names!
Grab a cup of coffee and let's meet Zachary and Carissa Vander Linden.**

Where do those closed caption words on a television come from? If you are in Indiana or Georgia, and watch the local news early in the morning, these words may be coming straight from Peoria.

Zachary and Carissa Vander Linden moved to Peoria in February this year after Zach was offered the opportunity to farm Jake Van Gorp's land. Even though they had just bought a house in Pella a year earlier, they decided to move out to the country. Zach loves farming—he attended Iowa State University for agriculture studies—so this is a good fit for him. Zach is also familiar with the Peoria area since he attended church and went to school here during his childhood. His parents are Ken and Pam Vander Linden. He farms with his father and also works for Van Den Broek Concrete during the summer.

Carissa grew up in Pella and is making the adjustment to a quiet community. She attended the AIB College of Business in Des Moines to take up broadcast closed captioning. She now works for a company in Colorado which contracts with TV stations to provide closed captioning. Most of these stations are on the east and west coasts. Since closed captioning service is now a federal mandate, stations can be fined heavily if

they neglect to provide it.

By 5:00 a.m. Carissa is connected by a telephone line to a television station. With her headphones on, she is listening for the station's local news to begin. As the news anchor speaks, Carissa's fingers are punching keys on her court reporter machine—a phonetic typewriter. She can type well over 225 words a minute, but admits "fast talkers and lots of names can be challenging." The words are automatically sent to the TV station and then appear on the screen for deaf people. Carissa's work schedule for the day could include a couple of hours early in the morning, an hour at noon, and then an hour and a half in the late afternoon. Not a bad schedule and she doesn't have to dress up to go to work!



Zachary and Carissa

Zach and Carissa started dating their senior year at Pella Christian High School. They have been married almost three years and are expecting a child in June. Carissa enjoys shopping, singing, and card making. Zach likes to play golf, slow pitch softball, and card games with friends. Welcome to the Peoria community Zachary and Carissa! We hope that you enjoy your neighbors!

- John Gorter

New Babies in the Neighborhood



Carter Layton Brand was born on January 25, 2007, to Eric and Faye Brand. He weighed 6 lbs. 12 oz. and was 19 3/4" long. Welcome little Carter!



Travis and Sarah Turnbull are proud to announce the birth of their daughter, Stella Marie, who was born on March 28, 2007. She weighed 9 lbs. 11.5 oz. and was 20 3/4" long. She was welcomed home by big brother Treyton, age 2. Congratulations to the whole family!



Dennis and Susan Veenstra rejoice in the birth of their daughter, Jocelyn Marie. She was born on Friday, April 20, 2007, and weighed in at 6 lbs. 10 oz. She measured 19 3/4" in length. Congratulations Dennis and Susan!



Beautiful Lake Is Peaceful, Luring

Up in the northwest part of Richland township lies a beautiful lake called Seven A. It lays right along the road between Peoria and Sully in front of Co-Line Welding.

The company had the lake constructed for two reasons. First they didn't have any readily available source of water in case of a fire. As the lake was being built they had a dry hydrant installed which firefighters can connect to if needed. Second, it was made with employees in mind. It's a place where they can go to relax. To make it more enjoyable there is a cabin, a gazebo, an outhouse, a windmill, a dock, picnic tables, and benches. The well-groomed lawn and the wild-flower garden make it a very beautiful spot.

There is also a sidewalk all the way around the lake which makes for a very enjoyable stroll on a pleasant summer evening.

Last year the lake was the site of Co-Line's annual company picnic. The event was complete with fireworks and plans are already in the works to hold it there again this year.

-Terry Bandstra

*Lake Seven A
is idyllic, peaceful,
and meticulously
cared for—a
perfect setting for
Co-Line.*



From Grain to Grapes (Part I)

In 2001 Larry and Vi Engbers decided to rent out their farmland, but they still wanted to raise something. After reading some articles about vineyards and attending some meetings about grape production, they decided to switch from growing grain to growing grapes. They were the first in Mahaska County to start a vineyard.

Currently in Iowa there are around 300 commercial vineyards and 73 wineries—most located in South Central Iowa.



A large sign advertises that the Engbers raise both berries and grapes on their farm.

Caring for their five acres of grapevines is very labor intensive. It usually takes five years for vines to become productive. Grape vines require supports, so depending on the variety of grape, a single or double trellis must be provided for each plant. Vines are planted eight to ten feet apart. All the shoots, except the strongest one on the vine, are pruned so that the resulting plant can develop a strong main stem before it is allowed to bear fruit. Once a plant becomes productive, each spring several additional workers are hired to help prune—trimming each stem to two or three buds per fruiting cane—before the middle of April. Each variety of grape requires a different method of pruning.

Larry and Vi watch the thermometer closely once their vines have budded, and if the temperature dips to 32 degrees, they will get up in the wee hours of the morning to surround their vineyard with bales of old hay. Then they will burn the bales to create a smoke blanket inversion barrier to protect their plants from freezing. (Story continued in the next issue.)

-Doris Nibbelink

Larry says that grapes will grow anywhere as they do not require fertile soil. Their first plants were purchased from Arkansas, but most plants for Iowa vineyards come from New York.

Congratulations to all our graduates in 8th grade, high school, college, and beyond!



- Ice Storm continued

were piled up on the church yard and along the road.

Later, two men from Vermeer Manufacturing (Brad Van Rheenen and Bruce Cameron) arrived with a Vermeer wood chipper to turn all the broken branches into chips. It was a big job which took them several days to complete.



Trees cracked under the weight of the ice.

We thank all the volunteers who came to help, Vermeer Mfg. for kindly donating the use of the chipper, and Wavern Rozenboom for making the arrangements to have the chipper come.

Over the next few weeks, people continued the clean up—gathering smaller branches, raking up debris, and burning what they could to get rid of it. Others came by the Peoria Church to get free loads of wood chips for their property. There is still more available to any one who wants to come and get it.

This storm reminded us that we are not in control of our world. Proverbs 19:21 became real to many of us. And now that life has come back to normal, we are thankful for electricity; and we are thankful that no one was harmed.

-John Gorter



Poles cracked off causing power outages until crews arrived to replace them.

Vacation Bible School

July 9-13 are the dates for this year's VBS at the Peoria Church. It will run 8:30-11:30 every morning. All children 4 years old through those completing 6th grade, are invited to attend.



Throughout the week the children will learn how to rely on God and His Word in making wise life choices, and focus on Survival Skills from the book of Proverbs.

At the end of the week, there will be a short program at 6:30

on Friday evening followed by a community hog roast at about 7:00 p.m. For more information or to register, contact Barb Vande Voort at 625-4233 or e-mail her at dtbv@kdsi.net.

Come join us on a Son Canyon River Adventure!

Annual Peoria Hog Roast

Finger licking pork BBQ is on the menu for the community hog roast on Friday, July 13. We are asking Julie Roose to be the cook again this year—so the food will be great!

This event will take place after the Vacation Bible School program—about 7:00—and it will be held on the Peoria Church grounds (or in the gym in case of rain).

Along with meat on a bun, there will be a couple of salads, baked beans, dessert, and drink. So come hungry!

Please bring your lawn chairs, unless you don't mind sitting on metal chairs. Everything else will be provided. Everyone in the Peoria community is invited. Bring your friends and neighbors. See you there!

-John Gorter



... heard about it on the partyline ...

Business Services

VAN'S Electrical and construction services, John VanWyngarden, 1480-168th St. New Sharon, IA, 50207, Phone: 641-625-4280.

Van Den Broek Concrete, Inc. for all your concrete work, Cornie Van Den Broek, Cell: 641-660-0109, or 641-625-4107.

Peoria Trailer Sales, Dennis Rozenboom at Peoria Repair, is now selling H & H and Calico Stock Trailers, 641-625-4381.

Van Dyke Repair Inc., General repair on tractors and combines. Wayne Van Dyke, 641-625-4146.

Experienced backhoe operator looking for jobs. Tile holes, clean-up, final grade, septic systems, water lines, etc. Affordable \$55/hour. Owner: Jim Bandstra, Operator: Jesse Peterson. Call 641-780-6800 for Peterstra Backhoe.

CoLine Graphics, Custom Vinyl and Lettering. Call Karen Harrill at 641-780-4207 for more information.

Do you need scrapbooking supplies or assistance? Creative Memories consultant Tammy Veenstra is here to help. Call 641-780-2885.

Lower Grove VBS:
June 11-15. Program on the 17th at 6 p.m.

Peoria Repair a Family Affair

For many years the Roozeboom family has provided repair services in the Peoria community. In 1974 Gerald Roozeboom and Ron Vander Linden opened the V & R Repair shop. A few years later, Gerald's son Wavern joined his father, and in 1980 Dennis joined the crew. In 2000 Dennis and his wife Kathy purchased the business, now known as Peoria Repair.



A semi waits for "doctor" Dennis to work his magic.

What does Dennis repair? Primarily his work involves heavy duty semi work, but Dennis will do service work on cars, light maintenance on smaller trucks, or work on air conditioners in any vehicle—cars, trucks, or tractors.

Dennis' favorite part of the repair business is working with his hands. He finds it very rewarding to diagnose a problem, work on it, and fix it. "Working with a variety of customers keeps life interesting," says Dennis. "Some are gruff but most of them pleasant." Fortunately his wife Kathy does most of the bookwork, because that is Dennis' least favorite part of owning the business.

There's an important sideline too—Peoria Trailer Sales. The line includes both the Calico and H & H brands of stock trailers, flat beds and enclosed cargo trailers.

You could also say Dennis runs the local coffee shop. Stop in around 9 a.m. most weekdays, and you'll find several guys from the area gathered around the coffee pot discussing anything from planting to politics to personalities.



Trailers for sale displayed along the road going into Peoria.

Dennis is almost always willing to help out. However, he does set limits. For instance, when a truck driver called him from Des Moines at 2:30 a.m. because he was out of gas, Dennis refused to take him gas, but instead suggested that he walk to a gas station himself and get his own fuel.

-Doris Nibbelink



In Memory of John Kloosterman

John Kloosterman was born and grew up in the Peoria area. He and his wife Ida farmed his parents' farm east of Peoria for 79 years. John attended Peoria Christian School, was a life-long member of the Peoria Christian Reformed Church, and enjoyed 67 years of married life.



John also served on the school board, enjoyed playing pool, liked listening to quartet music, and was an avid reader. He had a special knowledge of the Bible.

Plan to attend the:
Centennial of the Peoria Christian School

www.peoriachristiangradeschool.com

July 6 at 7 p.m.: Kick-off variety program at the Peoria Gym (refreshments following)

July 7 at 9-11:30 a.m.: School tours, memorabilia displayed, slide show, refreshments/Peoria Gym

July 7 at 6 p.m.: Banquet at the Peoria Gym with a program following (for tickets call 625-4141)

July 8 at 9:30 a.m.: Praise and worship at Peoria church, followed by a noon fellowship potluck dinner at the Peoria gym (tableservice provided)

Upcoming Events

May 28: Memorial Day Service, Peoria Cemetery, 9 a.m.

July 6,7,8: Peoria Christian School Centennial Celebration, Peoria school and church. Watch for information to come out.

July 9-13: Vacation Bible School, Peoria Church, 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. M-F

July 13: Community Hog Roast, Peoria Church, 7 p.m.

Coming in the next issue:

- Interview with Peoria public school teacher.
- New look for Peoria Cemetery.
- Report on Peoria Chr. School's Centennial Celebration.