

Peoria Partyline



connecting the extended Peoria community

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Peoria Partyline Mailing List

Do you want to be on
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you be moving or
have a new address?

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Nicki Veenstra:
641-625-4244

E-mail us
with questions or
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Peoria-ia-news@hotmail.com

Online issue: www.peoriacr.org

Burning Tractor Ignites Home

Coming in from the field for a noon break on May 18, Ed Van't Sant parked his John Deere 4255 in its well-worn spot up close to the house. Normally a good decision—because it gave a bit of extra space for moving machinery around on the yard—that day it would also be a decision which, in a few hours, would result in some very grave consequences.

About 6 p.m. Wilma was cooking supper when she heard the tractor running. That struck her as odd because she knew Ed was out in the field planting beans. Unbeknown to her, a short in the tractor's wiring had not only started it on fire, but it had also started the engine. Then Wilma smelled acrid smoke.

Running outside to investigate, she found the tractor ablaze. Her first thought was that someone was inside the cab, but she couldn't see through the smoke blackened windows. Then she dialed 911 followed by calls to neighbors.

Within minutes a fuel line burst—stopping the tractor—but also spraying the house with fuel. Fanned by a brisk northwest wind, the fire followed the fuel right onto the house. Sadly Wilma watched helplessly as the 100-year-old house, their home since 1972, became engulfed with flames even before the fire department arrived.

"Fortunately the house structure was spared," said Wilma. "But," she adds, "the inside was gutted and we lost most of our belongings." Both Ed and Wilma are thankful for all the help given them. "A special blessing," both agree, "is that no one was injured." Plans are in the works to have a new modular home up by fall.

-Warren Van Wyngarden



What's That Aroma?

Often as you drive through the countryside, you notice various aromas and many times the children will say "Ewww, what stinks?" But, if you are near Julie Roose's *Country Catering* you will hear, "Yum, that smells delicious!"

Several years ago, a friend gave the Roose family a loaf of freshly-milled homemade honey wheat bread and their family loved it. Julie purchased a heavy duty mixer, and included was a video about selling whole grain products at Farmer's Markets. "I can do that!" she thought. "My parents taught me how to do lots of odd jobs, and baking and selling whole grain bakery products would be a good learning experience for our kids as well."

So, in 2001, Julie started baking and taking things to Pella's Farmers Market. She purchases chemical free wheat berries and mills the wheat herself. That ensures all the nutrition of the wheat is included in her bakery products. Her weekly baking for the market now includes anywhere from 30 to 60 loaves of many varieties of whole grain breads—all sweetened with honey—along with cookies, bars, cinnamon rolls, quick breads, and buns.

People began asking Julie to cater various receptions and parties, so she and her husband Mark purchased commercial equipment, built a commercial kitchen, and asked the Iowa Department of Inspections and Appeals to review it. The inspector came, approved,

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Resting in Peace in Richland Township (Part 2)

Continuing my story, it costs Richland Township about \$4,000 a year to maintain its cemeteries. Arnold Ozinga currently mows the grass at the Peoria Cemetery but he doesn't touch the stones, even if they have broken or fallen over. A previous caretaker

must have become tired of mowing around fallen stones because I've noticed a number of them piled by an evergreen tree.

Moving neglected stones causes problems. The township has no records of burial plots sold before 1910 and such lots make up most of the western half of the Peoria Cemetery. It's sad that some graves have to remain unmarked unless/until the missing documents show up—if there are any.

Bordering the cemetery are two stone pillars that once held up a big metal arch. Word is that years ago, when the area was enclosed with a fence, the pillars and arch served as an official entrance to the cemetery. Also obvious to visitors is a large cement slab that used to be the site of a church. More recently a Richland Township hall stood there until it was decided to dismantle and sell the building. Today the slab comes in handy as a stage for Peoria's Memorial Day service—an annual attraction that draws a crowd to the cemetery for patriotic songs, special numbers, a message, and a delicious coffee time breakfast.

I had a few more questions and once again

Lawrence and Helen Roose had the answers. "Why is there an open space in the southwest part of the cemetery?"

"That area has been designated for poor people," they said. "That's why you don't see any gravestones there." They also told me that only one person can be buried in each spot—even if it's a baby or cremains.

I also found out that the oldest burial on record was in 1855 (two years after Peoria itself was laid out) and a number of Civil

War veterans have stones that can be interesting for visitors to locate. The older, western half of the cemetery is dotted with the graves of many babies—most likely from a time when there was not much medical care. And finally, only three people have cremains buried in this cemetery.

"Do people still want to be buried at Peoria Cemetery?"

"Yes," Helen says, "I have sold almost as many plots in the last four years as in the previous ten years. Younger ones, with roots in Peoria, are wanting to be buried here."

So, there you go—everything you wanted to know about Peoria Cemetery but never dared to ask! Whenever you want to take a walk in an interesting place, head to the hill on the west side of Peoria. You may see Barb and me there taking a daily walk with our dog, Jesse. It's a peaceful setting, particularly for those who look forward to the final defeat of death. (1 Corinthians 15)

-John Gorter



Top (l to r): Marshall, Spencer, Ben and Grant sing a special number for the crowd (below) that gathered at the Peoria Cemetery to celebrate Memorial Day 2006.



**Neighbors are much more than just names!
Grab a cup of coffee and let's meet Ben and Krystal Lefevre.**

If you've driven by 1362 Cordova Avenue lately, did you notice the brand new house going up? It's going to be the home of Ben and Krystal Lefevre.

For Krystal, building in this neighborhood is really coming back home. Her parents, Keith and Sue Van Ee, live nearby and own the farm ground around the new house. It's been in the family since 1929. Krystal points to a barn close to their new house and says, "That barn was built by my great grandpa Dahm."

Ben and his father-in-law, Keith, are doing most of the finish work on the new house. Most every evening they head there to work, only eating supper when it is getting close to dark—an interesting way to get to know your in-laws!

Krystal wanted to have two good sized rooms in her house: a mud room and a kitchen. The mud room because she remembers the dirt from growing up on the farm, and from Ben's work. The kitchen, because she likes to experiment with different kinds of food, such as those from different regions of the country. If Ben doesn't care for a certain concoction Krystal cooks up, they just offer the leftovers to their yellow lab, Sam.

Ben was not present for the interview because he was working at Earth Works in Sully. If you see a bulldozer moving dirt, it might be Ben. He grew up 30 miles north of Green Bay Wisconsin, roots for—you guessed it—the Packers, and it's a good thing he likes cheese because his father works at a cheese factory.

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Lower Grove (above) welcomed about 45 children each day to their June 5-9 VBS. It was centered around the theme "Praise and Triumph."

Peoria (below) held VBS the second week in July. 57 children arrived to learn and do activities that focused on the theme: "Trading Places: Where Jesus Makes a World of Difference."



Peoria Christian School Bazaar

Centennial

It's that time of year again! Mark your calendars for the annual school bazaar. This year is special as the school is getting ready to celebrate its centennial in 2007. The bazaar theme, "Centennial Celebration," will focus on 100 years of God's blessings. The scheduled date is Friday, November 3, 2006 with activities throughout the afternoon and evening. Treasures of Heart and Home starts at 1 p.m. Supper follows at 5 p.m. and the Auction will start at 7. Hope to see you there!



Peoria Christian School has had 3 school buildings in its 100-year-history.

- **July 6,7,8, 2007** will be the dates for Peoria Christian School's **Centennial Celebration** next year. Mark your calendars.
- **A book that focuses** on the school's history is being prepared. If you have a **one or two sentence** memory about what the school was like when you attended there, please send it to Marilee Vander Wal. When submitting a memory, please put the years you attended the school with it. Name of person submitting the memory is optional. Please keep memories general—not personal. Thanks for participating! Call 641-625-4145, or e-mail: lorenvw@kdsi.net
- **A Committee** is making plans for the school's celebration as well. Anyone desiring to donate funds for the event, please contact one of the steering committee members: Leo Fynaardt, Harold De Vries, Lois Klyn, Helen Roose, or Marcia Van Gorp.

-What's That Aroma? continued

and now they are licensed to provide delicious food for many occasions. "Our current setup will allow us to prepare for, and serve up to 400 individuals," shares Julie.

Since becoming a licensed kitchen, the Rooses feel more confident catering noon lunches 3 times a week for employees of Co-Line Welding and serving at larger events. Everything is prepared from scratch...no purchased, store-bought salads or breads used! "We've got something for everyone," says Julie. "I can prepare homemade buns with your choice of meat, side salad and dessert. But if you prefer prime rib or chicken cordon bleu with cheesecake for dessert, I'm up to that challenge as well."



Julie preparing for another event in her new kitchen.

How many sinks do you think are in Julie's immaculate kitchen? Seven. There are two for preparing fruits and vegetables, three for washing and sanitizing dishes, one for mopping, and one for hand washing.

"There are hundreds of pages of rules

Need a Sign?

When Karen Harrill worked at Co-Line, she learned how to assist with making vinyl graphic signs. Eventually she and her husband Rick purchased that division of Co-Line's business and for over a year now, she has been making signs from her home.



One of Karen's signs—on a front yard near Pella.

The pattern for a sign is first designed on her computer, and then the graphic is transferred to a large cutter for the vinyl which is applied to either a magnetic or adhesive backed sign. She has made signs as large as 18 feet, which makes a very eye-catching advertisement.

Would you like to personalize your child's lunch pail or do some unique interior decorating? Karen's got some great ideas. Maybe you need a personalized sign for your restored tractor or some eye-catching, colorful ones that

will advertise your business along the road or on a building? She can even make signs that will attach to your car like a magnet—that way you can advertise everywhere you go.

Contact Karen by phone at 641-780-4207, by e-mail at colinegraphics@iowatelecom.net, or at her home at 1185 Cordova Avenue.

-Doris Nibbelink



IN MEMORY

Our sympathy to the family of Jim Jochems. He grew up on a farm near Peoria, attended Peoria Christian School for grades 1-8, and he was a life-long member of the Peoria CRC.

You were an important part of our community, Jim, and you will be missed!

-the Peoria Partyline Team

to follow to be licensed," adds Julie, "and I'm working hard to follow all of them." Way to go, Julie!

Contact Julie at 625-4227 for your next event, put in your order, and then sit back and enjoy!

-Doris Nibbelink



Over 250 people attended the annual Peoria Hog Roast on July 14—an event Mark and Julie Roose catered again this year. Everyone enjoyed the delicious food as they visited with friends and neighbors over outdoor tables shaded by the school. It was a great way to end a very successful week of Vacation Bible School after a wonderful VBS program earlier that evening. Thanks Mark and Julie! We enjoyed the food!



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

■ Business Services

VAN'S Electrical and construction services, John VanWyngharden, 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.

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.

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.

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

■ For Sale

Pumpkins, gourds, squash, broomcorn, Indian corn, dried gourds, potatoes, corn stalks, and straw. September 8 to November 15. Arvin & Judy Roose. 625-4124.

- Meet the Lefevres continued

Ben and Krystal met in Northwest Iowa. Ben was attending Northwest Iowa Community College in Sheldon, and Krystal was attending Dordt College. It's been three years ago this summer that they married. Their first home was in Wisconsin where Ben worked and Krystal finished school at the University of Wisconsin in Green Bay.

Eventually they decided to move back to Iowa because they enjoy the peace of a rural setting. Right now they rent a house along the highway between Sully and Lynnville. Ben and Krystal hope to move into the basement of their new house in September. That will make it easier to work on the main floor and upstairs in the months ahead.



The Lefevre's new home is going up on Cordova Ave. southwest of Peoria.

Krystal currently works at Vermeers in data entry but she hopes to teach history in junior or senior high some day— maybe even at a college. During her free time she likes to read, garden and walk. Ben likes to golf, fish, hunt—anything

outdoors. He also keeps in shape with a punching bag and weights.

Welcome, Ben and Krystal, to the Peoria area. We hope you enjoy your neighbors and your new house! -John Gorter



Happy Thanksgiving



September: Harvest Days at Lower Grove Park.

Watch Pella papers for details.

Nov. 3: Peoria Christian School Bazaar

Nov. 7: Election Day

Nov. 20: Thanksgiving program and supper at Lower Grove church.



Don't forget to vote on Nov. 7.

The new polling place for residents

in Richland Township is the New Sharon Park

Building (102 West High St., New Sharon).

Polls open at 7 a.m. & close at 9 p.m.

Nov. 23: Thanksgiving Day, 9:30 a.m. service at Peoria Church.



Motorcyclists Donate Dollars to Peoria School

Recently Peoria Christian School received \$100 from the Red Rock Motorcycle Club as a result of their 2005 fall *Fun Run*. According to Arvin Roose, co-leader of the club, this is the fourth time they've donated \$100 to our little school.

"Every fall our club sponsors a run," said Arvin, "and originally it was called a *Poker Run*. Back then our riders would submit an entry fee, ride over 100 miles, pick up a playing card at five different stations, and then return to base. When every one was back, the five best card hands would win a trophy."

Today the club calls the event a *Fun Run*. It covers just as many miles but the number of stations varies with each run. Today's riders pick numbers out of a hat instead of choosing cards, and the winner is the rider who has the highest numbers in hand at the end of the ride.

"In the twenty plus years of our club," says Arvin, "We've given away well over \$10,000 to different charities in Iowa."

The biggest run for the club included 199 riders—the smallest—only 13 because it was pouring rain. "That was the year cars were more popular for making the run!" shares Arvin.

Do you enjoy riding and want to help charities? Join this group on September 2, 2006. Call Arvin at 625-4124 for details. Even though the run is sponsored by the Red Rock Motorcycle Club, cars are welcome!

- Terry Bandstra