



POW WOW

Van Buren Jr./Sr. High School 405 4th St., Keosauqua, IA 52565 www.van-buren.k12.ia.us/powwow/main.html October 16, 2002

Halls Packed with New Friends at Van Buren

--by Kendra Lee Himes

The long school year at Van Buren has begun with classes, friends, and packed hallways. With the fifty-three students from Fox Valley and the ten students from other areas, the little school of Van Buren is becoming large. The Van Buren faculty and students would like to welcome all sixty-three students. Being new may be hard, but the Van Buren teachers and students are working hard to make sure all the new students feel welcome.

This year's seventh grade class has no new students, although they themselves are new to the high school. The eighth grade has the most new students. They have twenty new students, in which only three came from other places besides Fox Valley. The ninth grade has gotten ten new students. Only two of them are not from Fox Valley. The sophomore class has gotten ten new students. Two of those ten are not from Fox Valley. The junior class has gotten thirteen new students. Only one of them are not from Fox Valley. The senior class has gotten only nine new students. Two of them are not from Fox Valley.

Van Buren School has worked with the Fox Valley school for long enough that most students are familiar with each other. The school district hopes that the students at Van Buren are making an effort to make new friends and learn about the new students that they were not familiar with before this year.



Mrs. Benge

New Teachers



Music teacher Jack Barron joins the Van Buren faculty.

Mrs. Benge Arrives

--by Bridgette Clubb

As you all have probably noticed, especially to those who are in 7th grade English and 8th grade Reading, Mrs. Lisa Benge is a new teacher at Van Buren. She was born and raised in Ottumwa. She married her husband Gregg 16 years ago. She worked in Garnet, Kansas, for one year; she substituted at Ottumwa for 16 years, and then she substituted at Davis County for three years. She then taught full time at Fox Valley for 2 years.

When she was asked why she came to Van Buren, she said, "They needed me!! They needed another English teacher, plus I like smaller schools."

Mrs. Benge has two sons, Clay who is 10 and Curtis, 13. She says she likes to teach because she likes to see the kids understand and to help to teach them about school. She also likes to make them come to an "ahh" moment because that's what the kids say when they understand.

When asked what her biggest surprise or adjustment was she said, "Readjusting to 7th and 8th graders because I mostly had taught high school students." Another thing was class sizes; coming from Fox Valley, the class sizes were very small. Mrs. Benge's future goals and plans are to continue teaching and to become a better teacher doing it.

The News in Summary

Fairfield Seeks to Save Topsoil

--by Courtney Warner

Fairfield introduced a new law to help topsoil.

Fairfield wants IDOT to salvage topsoil, compost and mulch to fertilize and to restore the shoulders and backs. IDOT just barely saved the topsoil. Miller, being a farmer, says this new bill is going to save Jefferson/ Wapello's "black gold."

Every twelve acres of land lost per mile of land being dug up equals about fourteen thousand six hundred and sixty-two tons of topsoil being lost. Miller thinks that the last two and a half million years of topsoil has been lost because of highway construction. Now Miller has said they are now going to do something about it.

When DOT comes in to clear an area of land, they save the topsoil and use it for planting areas around the highways. John Jeavens, who is a pioneer in farming techniques, says that saving the topsoil is very important. John and others have realized farmers need topsoil for farming if they are actually going to make a profit. Jeaven's only thinks the U.S. is going to have only 43 more years of successful farming left, due to topsoil loss. It takes 500 years just to get an inch of topsoil back. Iowa had twelve inches of topsoil 150 years ago. Today two inches of rich topsoil are left for farming. For every one pound of food eaten, we lose six pounds of rich, fertile topsoil. Miller says, "It's a matter of raising awareness and doing something about it. Farmers have done their part of trying to cut down the loss of topsoil in Iowa. Now it is time the government does the same."

Significance

This article is important because Miller and the government are trying to raise awareness to save topsoil. They are doing this because if they don't do something about it, they are afraid farmers won't be able to feed the world by 2040. This is because the soil won't be rich enough for crops.

My Point of View

I think article is important because if everyone keeps destroying the topsoil there won't be any good soil left to grow anything and the world depends on farming.

Work Cited

Gesner, Joann. "Jefferson/Wapello counties topsoil saved in the nick of time, miller says." *Ottumwa Courier*, 17 Sept. 2002: 3.



Question of the Month



If you could change one thing in your life what would it be??

I would change my mom and make her not have a brain tumor. -- Bridgette Clubb

I would change all the pain that friends of mine have gone through or will go through this year. -- Toni Linn

I would bring back my friend.-- Nathan Al-Khanfar

My personality. --Cory Prevett

I would go back in time. -- Patrick L. Thomas

I would change my dad and make him not so annoying. -- Stacy Harris

I would change all the problems that my dad has with his kidneys, livers, and everything. -- Adrienne Franklin

If I could change one thing in the world it would be love. When you fall in love it's the greatest thing, but when your loved ones die, it hurts. -- Anna Millard

If I could change one thing about me it would be my french nose. Gosh knows I hate my french nose.

-- Terry Jester.
A Book Review: **Soldier's Heart**

--by Corey Jarr

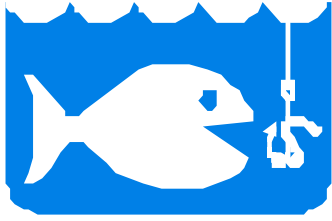
If you're looking for a quick read, this is the novel for you. This novel takes place during the darkest hours of American history, the Civil War.

Charlie's built big for his age of fifteen and passes for a man. He joins the Minnesota Volunteers for the Union North, kisses his mom good-bye, and heads off to receive his training as an infantry soldier.

Charlie's ready for battle, he's tired of training; little does he know he will encounter every major infantry battle in the Civil War. At the end of the novel, Charlie realizes that through living and watching others die, he has earned a Soldier's Heart.

Through real life encounters and great battle scenes, Gary Paulson has once again written a great novel of the integrity of the human spirit.

8th Grade Writing



A Day of Fishing

--by Ethan Pippitt

It was the end of July, on a sunny, cool Saturday morning; it was a little windy but still an exceptional day for fishing. Tyler Seifert, his Grandpa Wayne, Uncle Toby, dad Wes and cousin Cole took advantage of it and went fishing at Kenny Totobush's pond in Missouri.

Tyler was ready to fish after spending the night at his uncle Toby's house. That morning he got up at 6:00 a.m. and rode with his uncle to Kenny's pond, which is a little smaller than Lake Lacey. The water appeared crystal clear, but the water level was a little shallow because they were using the water to irrigate crops. They fished from 6:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., casting about four feet off the bank with live worms and bobbers. Tyler caught about fifteen fish. His monstrous catch of the day was a four-pound carp. When he caught the carp, it did not fight much. Tyler just reeled it in until it got close to the shore. Then it took off and started fighting for all it was worth! Tyler knew then it was going to be a big fish. When he finally got the fish in, he held it up, and his cousin Cole said, "Tyler, that carp is gigantic!"

He and his family caught many catfish, blue gills, carp, and bullheads that day. Tyler and his family kept about fifty of the eighty fish they caught. They had a bunch of fun fishing at Kenny's pond. They plan to go again and hope for even better luck and bigger fish.

Student Goes on Band Trip

--by Josh Burgason

James Small, of the 8th grade, went to Chicago on July 1, 2, and 3rd for a trip with the Fox Valley Jr. High band. He got to Chicago by means of a coach bus (the ride was about 6 hours long).

According to James, the trip was fun. He first checked into his hotel and then went to Nike Town then to Six Flags Great America (which he said was really huge). He stayed in a hotel (three days). He ate Chinese and subs from Subway, and from the information I have gathered, I think that Chicago would be a fun place to go on vacation.

Benjamin's Ozark Trip

--by Ann DeHart

In the beautiful month of May, Benjamin Morelock set off to a lake, ninety-two miles long, known as the Lake of the Ozarks, with the Carter family. The five-hour trek flew by as their road led them south through Iowa and Missouri towards their final destination. He saw things he'd never seen before, and he noticed that Iowa has smoother roads than Missouri.

While they were in the Ozarks, they stayed in a peaceful cabin by the lake shore. They had the opportunity to eat at one of the best restaurants in town, the Horny Toad, where B.J. enjoyed a delicious chicken sandwich. Sometimes they would go swimming after dark. The water would be mostly warm, but in some places it would run a chill up his spine.

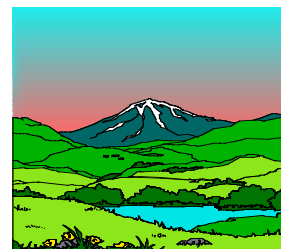
"At night everybody had lights on their docks. It was pretty cool," said B.J.

They also had the pleasure of driving at one of the nine go-cart tracks in the lake area. The go-carts can go thirty to thirty-five miles per hour and cost five to six dollars for a six-minute race. When the started yelled go, B.J. slammed the accelerator to the floor. He suffered the agony of defeat, but he still had a good time. Along with go-carting, he went putt-putt golfing. He was thrilled when he succeeded in hitting a hole-in-one.

The one thing B.J. missed during his trip was his family. It was too quiet, as you might imagine if you were used to four younger siblings (J.J., Ellie, Isaac, and Hailey), but the joy of water skiing and tubing helped cheer him up. To him, tubing was a major adrenaline rush. He tried tubing in many positions, including on his head, which ended in a painful, sideways flip, or in other words, and major wipeout. Another wipeout occurred while skiing. B.J. was trying to jump the foaming wake of the boat when he jumped out of one ski. He tried to balance with the one that was left, but it was too difficult, and he fell, unsuccessfully, into the water.

One piece of advice from B.J. on water skiing, "It's not hard, but it takes timing. If you try to stand up too soon, you'll sink, but if you try too late you'll fall."

All in all, B.J. and the Carter family enjoyed their exciting vacation, but B.J. was glad to return to his noisy home.



Special Feature:

Ships of Mercy

--by Annie Vaughn

Not many people know what the Mercy Ship does or even what it is. It is a floating hospital fleet. The Mercy Ship has helped millions of people throughout the world and has accomplished a lot.

The Mercy Ship started in 1978 "seeking to bring hope and healing to the world of need." The Mercy Ships mission is to "send a team of high-qualified volunteer doctors to all parts of the world and to make a big difference in changing many individual's life" ("Customer"). The Mercy Ship visit many unheard and almost forgotten nations. The people on the ships do free services for the poor and needy, and they also provide food, clothing, seed for farming, training, education, and surgeries ("Latest"). They do surgeries for congenital disfigurements, limb loss, blindness, disease poverty and many others ("Customer"). They teach people in the areas of nutrition, farming/irrigation, sanitation, and food production ("Latest"). The Mercy Ships work in Central and South America, Asia, and Africa. The ships have about seven hundred full-term volunteers ("Customer"). The crew consist of doctors, water engineers, deckhands, teachers, agricultural experts, and naval officers. The cofounders are Don and Deyon Stephen ("About").

The Mercy Ships have accomplished many things since 1978. The people on the ship have treated more than 200,000 people in medical clinics in many villages. They have performed 8,000 on-board operations. They have performed more than 100,000 dental treatments. They have provided millions of dollars of medical equipment and supplies, and medicine. They have completed about 250 constructions and agriculture projects ("About"). The ships have visited over seventy port districts ("Latest"). The crew has seen thousands of

people convert their lives to Christianity ("About").

The Mercy Ship has three different hospital fleets. The Anastasis is the largest, non-government owned floating hospital fleet acquired in 1978 ("Customer"). It is 522 feet long. The fleet has three operating theaters, a x-ray unit, a dental clinic, a laboratory, and 1,500 cargo capacity. It has 350 Christian volunteers. The Caribbean was acquired in 1994. It is 265 feet long. It travels around the Caribbean basin, South America and Central America. It has a surgical eye unit, and mobile medical/dental clinics. The Island/African was acquired in 1999. It travels around the islands of the South Pacific. It has a surgical eye unit. Since it has a shallow draft, it is able to bring medical/dental teams to smaller villages. The Dronning Ingrid is the newest Mercy Ship just purchased. It was once a train/car ferry built in 1980 ("Latest"). The work to make the ship into a hospital fleet will take approximately two years (Customer). It will be able to bring relief to Africa ("Latest").

The Mercy Ship is a great organization. It has brought tons of healing to millions of people. It is a good way for Christians to do something for others and do what they think God wants them to do. The Mercy Ship wouldn't exist if it wasn't for the CEO, Don Stephen. He has a very good idea and went with it and it is still going twenty-four years later.

The Mercy Ships mission is to "send a team of high-qualified volunteer doctors to all parts of the world and to make a big difference in changing many individual's life."

Works Cited

"About Us." www.mercyship.org 9 Apr. 2002.

<www.mercyship.org/aboutus/aboutus.htm>

"Customer-Mercy Ships." www.about.com 3 Apr. 2002.

8 Apr. 2002. <www.flagsys.com/customers/mercyships/>

"Lastest Update." www.friendship.org Sept. 2001. 12 Apr.

2002 <www.friendship.org/september2001.html>

