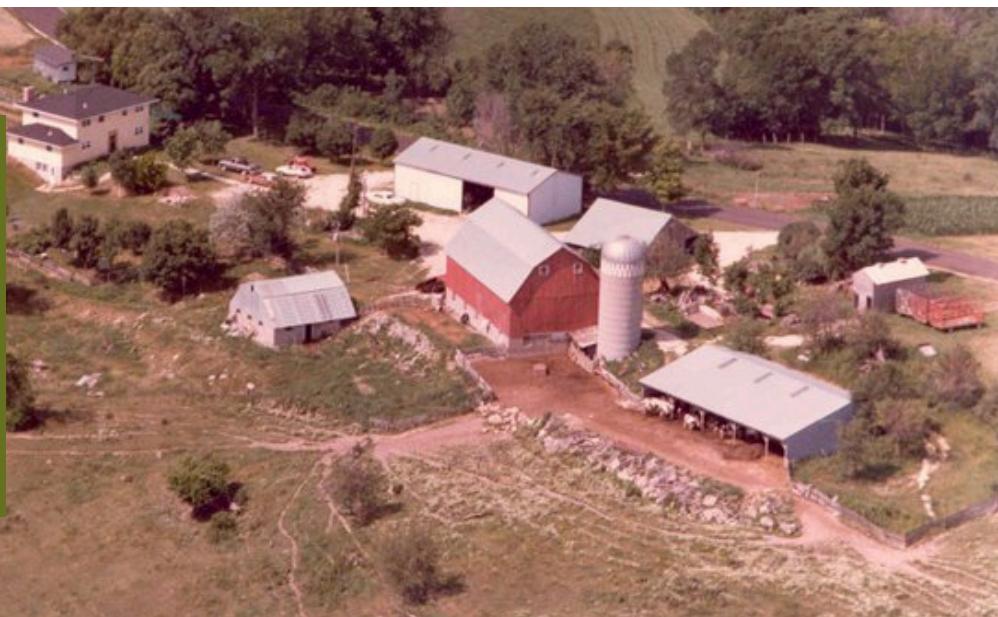


# WILLOW WIND

## WARBLER

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## Tidbits

By Abigail Nickrant

Here are just a few examples of some tidbits of news. They may not necessarily be a long enough story to write out as a full article, but news nonetheless we'd love to share with each other. If you have any small pieces of similar type news to share, feel free to have them added to the "Tidbits" section.

- Linda & Dick had their 50th wedding anniversary celebration. The food was extraordinary, the company was grand. They were sad they couldn't invite all of us, but the day was a wonderful celebration of the life they have created together and all the lives they touch. Congratulations you two!

- Joey Collard was cast as Judge Turpin in Sweeney Todd.
- Valerie Kihslinger has a new phone number: 603-991-0123. Make note, and give her a call. She'd love to hear from you.
- Milwaukee saw record breaking rainfall and flooding the evening of August 9, 2025. I have been quite busy removing carpet and

items from our basement hoping to prevent mold from setting in. Ellen and Alexa had 1.5" of standing water from the storm and have also been diligently cleaning out their basement. Mom (Carol Bork) seems to have escaped without too much damage, but the city is in a state of emergency and there is more rain coming tonight.



50th Wedding Anniversary Linda & Dick Kihslinger July 18, 2025





These are a couple maple seed chickens made by Freddie and Franklin McCann. They loved the seeds falling in the yard and with some critical questioning from Grandma Julie Krackow were able to draw enough chicken parts to get a whole bird, and then glue seeds onto the drawing. These are proudly hanging in Grandma Julie's dining room!

## Ellen's Theater Review

by Ellen Nickrant

On August 5, 2036, Abby, myself, Brenda (our friend/adopted brother Emmett's mom), and my nursing BFFs Jessica, Ericka, and Megan all enjoyed a magnificent dinner at The Calderone Club and the Marcus Performing Arts Center's (MPAC) presentation of Wicked. Neither Abby nor I had ever seen the stage production, but we all enjoyed the experience spectacularly! As Brenda lives on the one side of town, and my friends all live to the west, Abby, Ericka, Jess, and Megan all piled into my HR-V for a giggle-and-

song filled, and completely cramped journey to the MPAC. I wore green to Abby's pale pink and tiara. We have made it our tradition to dress accordingly to each show. I did keep any pointed hats off my hair though not wanting to block anyone's view. I did all I could not to sing along to every song. The costumes and sets were spectacular! After the show, we all piled back into my little HR-V for more singing and giggles. I enjoyed EVERY single moment of the evening!

## Summer Zoo Trips

by Ellen Nickrant

I've often been going to the Milwaukee County Zoo on weekends this summer, with Ericka (my best friend) and her 2 and a half year old daughter Charlotte. We've developed quite the routine; Ericka and Charlotte pick me up, we park, I put the sunscreen on everybody, and Ericka gets the wagon ready. We get our Bloody Marys and then walk around to the amusement of the toddler. It's quite an enjoyable way to spend the morning. It's now been about 3 weeks since our last trip, and Charlotte wakes up almost every day and asks to go pick up "Auntie Ellen" and go see the cows. I'm so blessed to get to have this toddler who is so excited to see me. I am so lucky to be among her favorite people right now!

## Update from our Medical Mission Sister Bestie

by Sr Estelle

My news is that I am now living in Paul's Run, a residence for people who need help.

The Medical Mission Sisters (MMS) in the USA decided some years ago that we would not build an infirmary to meet our own needs. Our study showed us that the cost would be prohibitive and use money that could be used in our missions. We decided to use local facilities instead. Paul's Run is one of those. And that is where I and four other MMS are living. At 93, I am well but have difficulty walking. And I do appreciate help for the tasks of daily living. The staff here is very attentive and helpful and there are many events available. As for me, I do enjoy researching online. I am busy with learning about LIFE on earth and how it all evolved. So many interesting animals and their family histories are unbelievable. How fish walked upon the land and terrestrials went back into the water! It's amazing. WHAT A CREATION WE LIVE IN! I DIDN'T KNOW IT BUT WE STILL LIVE IN PARADISE.

## Collard/Wilberg News from the North (& LA)

By Marissa Wilberg

Charlotte has been very busy this summer turning into a toddler, visiting the many libraries, parks, and splash pads of the Fox Valley, while also enjoying quality time with her grandparents! Charlotte, Marissa, and Victoria took a trip to Savannah, GA while Marissa attended a work event, and Charlotte got her first ocean beach day - SHE LOVED IT! She has already attended swim lessons and is planning to enroll in gymnastics this Fall.

Marissa continues to travel approx 2 weeks/month for her pharma job and is busy completing a DIY home office remodel while Willie has become Charlotte's favorite parent and has spent a lot of time reading history books this summer.

Mike got both hips replaced finally and is doing GREAT, although it has cut into sailing time this summer. He watches his granddaughter once a week, goes to nearly every music event in the Fox Valley, and trumpets in the city band.

Victoria plays with Charlotte two days per week, helps Marissa with her DIYing, and continues to quilt and craft. Mike and Victoria also took a trip to LA this summer to visit their wayward son JK ;) and now that Mike is more mobile they look forward to traveling more in retirement.

Cameron is working as much as he can in order to support his two kitties Comet and Cosmo at home! Being the best cat dad ever takes a lot of work. He might also be learning more coding or audio editing, but as



of publication, he has not confirmed this information.

Lucas has been hogging the sailboat this summer. He was also just in a production of the musical Anastasia and while he had a small part, the bio he wrote for himself in the program was easily the most witty. Other than that, he continues to enjoy time at the gym, and frightening his niece with his beard and tall stature.

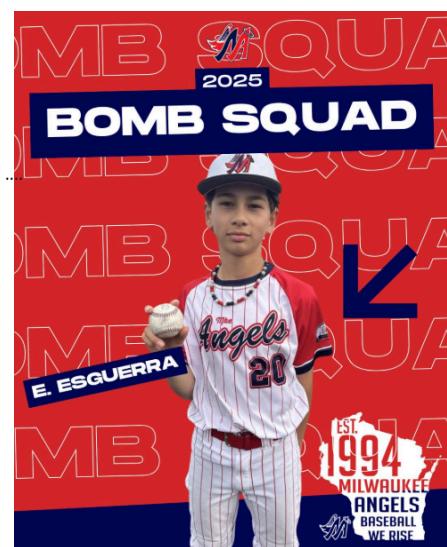
## The Sports Section

By Kyla Esguerra

Elliott Esguerra is playing for the Milwaukee Angels baseball team this season. He plays at the 12U AAA level - the highest level of competition for 12 year olds! This team has taken him to Illinois, Indiana, Iowa to play, and he will participate in the "Cal Ripken Experience" in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee in July. He is a pitcher and outfielder, and his current tally is four homeruns. Maybe he will add to this number by the time we go to print! His team celebrates homeruns by sharing "Bomb

Squad" photos like the one here on social media.

Jesse Esguerra recently wrapped up his 11U season with Bavarian United Soccer Club out of Glendale, WI. Jesse is a striker and midfielder, which means he has an excellent shot on goal. This keeps him busy in the spring, the fall, and even in the winter when his squad plays indoor futsal together. Fun fact: Clay Collard also plays for this soccer club!



## Rachel and Fernando's 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary "Hello"

By Rachel Muniz

Fernando's and my 15-year wedding anniversary occurred this July, and we decided it was time for a proper vacation. We left Marco with Grandma Julie and headed out on a lovely six day trip to Amsterdam and London! We arrived in Amsterdam at 9:30 am local time (2:30 am Wisconsin time). We checked into our hotel and were ready to explore! We walked to the Rijksmuseum, a museum dedicated to Dutch artists. Their best-known work is The Night Watch by Rembrandt, which they are doing an intense restoration of so it was fascinating to watch as they worked. We finished our day with a canal tour, learning about Amsterdam's history.



Fernando & Rachel at Rijksmuseum (Amsterdam)

The next morning, we were ready to visit the Van Gogh Museum. The Van Gogh Museum is clearly full of Van Gogh paintings, but it also includes paintings by his contemporaries, which had been gifted to Vincent or his brother. This is an amazing museum and was easily a main highlight of our trip. Afterward, we visited Royal Coster Diamonds, the oldest

diamond polishing house in the world. They have many claims to fame, but we were especially interested in the fact that they polished the Koh-i-Noor for the British Crown Jewels. I am always interested in libraries, so we visited the OBA - Amsterdam Central Library. There's a beautiful viewing platform on the seventh floor, where you can see over much of Amsterdam.

The next day we left Amsterdam and took the Eurostar, a direct train from Amsterdam to London that goes under the English Channel! The train didn't leave until 1:40, so we still had leisurely time to wander the streets before departure. Once on the train, they gave us a snack and a meal and the ride was very enjoyable. From St. Pancras Station, we walked to our hotel. We got settled, and then took a short walk through the streets around our hotel.

For our one full day in London, we joined a tour for an extremely busy itinerary. We made it to the bus stop before 7:30 (so early our hotel wasn't serving breakfast yet). The first stop was St. Paul's Cathedral, then the changing of the guard at Buckingham Palace, then a bird's eye view of London from the London Eye. Lastly, we took a water taxi on the Thames to the Tower of London. While at the Tower, we were able to see the actual Crown Jewels, which connected us right back to our time in Amsterdam.

We had to leave very early the next day for our flight home. Our trip was amazing and we're already looking forward to the next one! Happy Anniversary to us!



Wheatfield, Arles June 1888 Vincent Van Gogh



Fernando & Rachel in Queen Mary's Garden in Regent's Park (London)



Westminster / Big Ben from the London Eye (London)

## Big News for Aunt Virgie!

By Virgie Pellowski

On August 5, 2025 Aunt Virgie successfully moved to her new home at Seton Residence in Evansville, Indiana. In her own words, Aunt Virgie explains, "This was my choice and I wanted to move while I still have my marbles. This will be my last move. I am looking forward to it and I feel content about it. Seton is for older Daughters of Charity. 55 of them live there and I know many of them. It will be a change because I have lived in Missouri for so long. I spent 9 years in Kansas City, more time in Perryville (I don't remember how long), a short time in New Orleans and many years in St. Louis. There are only 3 Daughters of Charity left in Veronica House, where I live now, and 11 in Naomi House, where I used to live. Please come see me in Evansville! You are all invited!"

Sister Ellen kept Mary P informed as the process took place, and she spoke with Aunt Virgie directly on the following Friday. She said the drive was boring, but

she was happy to stop at Arby's for a mocha shake (one of her favorite things). She said she is settling in well. She has a mystery book collection in her room but has not checked out the onsite library yet.

Here is Aunt Virgie's new contact information. Please consider sending a housewarming card and/or give her a call. She would love it!

Sr. Virginia Pellowski  
Seton Residence  
9200 New Harmony Road  
Evansville, IN 47720-8938

Direct line: 812-963-7601  
Receptionist: 812-963-7600

The new "Sister Ellen" (caretaker/coordinator) is Sister Bonnie Hoffman, aka the Sister Servant at Seton Residence. She also happens to be a close friend of both Sister Ellen and Sister Marie Therese. Sister Bonnie's office number is 812-963-4273, and her cell is 240-385-2408.



## Pellowski Questionnaire

A quick reminder of what this is. We stole a famous questionnaire from a well known TV show called "15 questions to cover the full spectrum of the human experience" in order to get to know each other at a different level. Last issue Stephanie Bork answered these questions and nominated Cole Garbrick. Cole now gets to nominate our next subject. Enjoy!

### Answered By Cole Gabrick

- 1.Best Sandwich: Slow-roasted pork, jalapeño slaw, pineapple chutney, on brioche.
- 2.What's one thing you own that you really should throw out? A free Domino's Pizza coupon that is good only at a Domino's that closed down 10 years ago
- 3.What is the scariest animal? Tarantula hawk wasp. Look it up
- 4.Apples or Oranges? Oranges
- 5.Have you ever asked someone for their autograph? No.
- 6.What do you think happens when we die? We die, and our consciousness, the self, stops. What we were becomes memory in others, atoms in the world, maybe influencing through our actions. No lights, no tunnels, no awareness — just non-existence.
- 7.Favorite action movie? Doctor Strange
- 8.Favorite smell? Fresh-baked GG Cinnamon Rolls
- 9.Least favorite smell? The paint mixing experiment I did in the craft room in 2004 and found it in 2008...
- 10.Exercise: worth it? only if it's also being productive.
- 11.Flat or sparkling? Flat
- 12.Most used app on your phone? Google sheets.
- 13.You get one song to listen to for the rest of your life. What is it? "The Sound of Silence" — Simon & Garfunkel
- 14.What number am I thinking of? π
- 15.Describe the rest of your life in 5 words: writing novels in forgotten dreams Who's next?: Mona Bork

## Tales of the Milwaukee Flood, August 9, 2025

### Carol's Story By Carol Bork

My harrowing drive through the rainstorm of August 9, 2025 when Milwaukee and the surrounding area received record breaking amounts of rain.

Linda called me about 9:30 pm to tell me that Dick was having trouble breathing. They had called for an ambulance. The paramedics checked him out and decided he needed to go to the emergency room.

Linda wanted to go to be with him and wanted me to go with her. So I went to pick her up and drove through torrential rain. We had to go slow and at times the white stripe on the side of the road was the only thing that kept us on the road. But we arrived in one piece.

We found Dick in the emergency

room. He was determined to have pneumonia and would be admitted to the hospital. Linda and I stayed with him until there was nothing else we could do to support him. He needed to get some sleep, so we decided to go home at about 12:30 am. The rain was still very intense. We drove down 47th st to her house, as that was our usual route, and I got her home at about 1:00 am. The next morning, you can imagine Linda's surprise to find that a large part of 47th street had washed away, leaving the road completely impassable. I'm really glad that we didn't get washed away! Both of our houses escaped any flooding or water issues, but I will not soon forget our harrowing adventure that evening.

### Esguerra's fly home in a storm By The Milwaukee Esguerras

We drove from Williamstown, Mass through Vermont to Albany to catch our connecting flight in Atlanta, GA. We were scheduled to land around midnight in Milwaukee Saturday evening. However, due to the Milwaukee area storms we had to refuel in Minneapolis and attempt to land in Milwaukee a second time. But the storms were still bad enough we had to return to Minneapolis a second time. It was 3:00am by this point. We had to sit and wait for our scheduled 7:40am boarding. The captain got an applause when he showed up just shy of 9:00am. Luckily, this time we were able to land before 11:00am. We were all pretty groggy but happy to be home and not flooded - as I did basement work years ago to safeguard our home. Our hearts go out to any family having to contend with flood damage. Wishing you all the best.

### Bette & Ron Storm Situation By Bette Pellowski

We had such a weird thing happen from the flooding. We were at the State Fair in line to go to the Lynyrd Skynyrd concert when the rain started. It didn't take long for us to see it was time to hightail it to the car. The water just kept rising, there was so much water! Thankfully we were able to get out of the Fair parking lot before our car flooded and made it home safely. However, I did suffer a bit of minor flooding.

Once we were home, I could see water coming in along the walls where all the gutter to sewer pipe connections are because of the sheer volume of water. But the weird part? Apparently the water

came down so fast and hard and at just the right angle such that it went into my chimney and into the exhaust piping on my gas water heaters and rendered both (the upper and lower units) water heaters unusable! And although the water heaters were not damaged by flooding, the water damage is still not covered by homeowners insurance, so for now, Ron and I are unable to take proper showers in this messy stinky hot weather. The cleanup wasn't horrific at our place, but the smell is something I am working to clear out. All I want is a real shower! Hopefully my plumber friend can stop by and give me some insight soon.



Marco Muniz splashing in the flood waters in their back yard.

## Tales of the Milwaukee Flood, August 9, 2025

**Abby's Story**  
By Abigail Nickrant

My tale is not nearly as harrowing, but I too was affected by the storm. Mom and Linda's area of town got somewhere around 12" of rain overnight. My neighborhood was closer to 8-10." For those who don't know, I live in the upper part of a duplex where the landlords are my downstairs neighbors. I've lived here 13 years, ever since their son was born (now going into 8th grade, which somehow makes that timespan feel so much longer). My landlords were not worried about the rain at all, our house is on an elevation they love to refer to as a hill, so after about 10:00pm they went to bed convinced we were not going to be affected.

However, when I woke up and looked outside, I noticed some tell tale signs of flooding along our street, sidewalk, my car (which survived, thank God), and the surrounding area. I chalk this up to Louisiana flood training 101, which might have been the most important thing I learned in grad school, and immediately headed to the basement.

Now our basement is large, the basement is larger than the main house, courtesy of cold war architecture, the footprint goes out below the front yard, so our basement has 6 separate rooms to it. And there is a lot of stuff down there. Early last year I took the time to move and rearrange all of my things into plastic totes and purchased some garage

heavy duty shelving to keep my bins on. These were placed in one of the rooms and left to live quietly in their corner (Thank you Cole and Betsy for helping me get it all finally down there last year).

Once I was down there (also note, these are the infamous stairs my poor mother fell down this past Spring and I still have PTSD even walking down them) I noticed puddles. For better or worse, I was in flip flops and as I walked room to room, I quickly heard the dreaded squish of saturated carpet underfoot. But we are not talking just normal carpet you might have thrown into a basement. Oh no. We are talking 3 layers of carpet piled on top of each other, no glue, no staples, just thrown down GIANT scraps. And they're all soaked. And the amount of things on that carpet or on the cement floor is immeasurable. It is an amount of things words cannot express the level of anxiety they induce (and that's before they were all wet). I messaged the neighbors & landlords immediately and heard them barrel down the stairs to check it out for themselves.

It is too big of a project for just one person, that is for sure. I could hear the panic echoing up the stairs from my unit, and that Catholic guilt (or more probably Pellowski need to help), I texted saying that I could help get the carpet out as soon as they cleared out enough space to

access it.

You guys. And. gals. You know as well as I do, I didn't wait, I was down there pretty much right away. I have spent hours of my week down there thus far. I have carried up approx. 600 square feet of wet carpet times 3. We discovered that someone painted the cement floor under 3 layers of carpet blood red at some undisclosed date in the past. We/I decided the most efficient way to cart this carpet out was to cut it into strips layer by layer, place those strips into super heavy-duty contractor bags, and then hoist them onto my shoulders and carry them out of the house. It turns out, I'm the only one strong enough in this house to carry those bags. But when you put wet carpet that was sitting on 30+ year old wet blood red paint, the paint seeps into the carpet and drips out of the bags and down the torso/legs of the one carrying it. So as I came out of the house with each load I was covered with more and more paint splatter, looking as if the true tragedy of the house was a full blown murder. Thankfully I haven't seen anyone checking the carpet bags for body parts.

We are still not done, but the worst of it is over. But plenty more to remove as soon as possible. The idea of any of that molding is the true reason I keep going down there to do someone else's work. Someday I will have my own house and I will stop cleaning up their messes. Wish me luck.

## Tales of the Milwaukee Flood, August 9, 2025



### Ellen's House Flood Story By Ellen Nlckrant

On August 10th, Milwaukee had historic rainfalls, and Alexa stayed up watching the flood and thunderstorm warnings. At 1:30 am, she was up and noted that our 3 cats were trying to get her attention, and not for their normal demands for food. Alexa followed the three very concerned looking cats to the basement stairs and noted the 1-2 inches of water on the carpet in our basement! Alexa woke me up and I ran down to see what the situation was! Our sump pump had shorted out the GFI circuit for some unknown reason, but I was able to get it working again. We grabbed a litter box from the basement and brought it upstairs to the main level of our house for emergency use, but nobody was happy about this development and upheaval to routine. We had 5 unhappy household members for 4 whole days. We spent Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday

all day removing our sodden carpeting from our basement. The standing water thankfully had resolved completely by the morning. We later learned that our neighbor to the north had 6 inches of water in his basement. While I had intended to remove the carpeting in the future, this was not the timeframe I had intended to use, nor would I ever wish that it was wet when we removed it. I was fortunate to pick up the last dehumidifier from Ace hardware on Sunday morning to supplement our existing one. Now our basement is less humid than the upper level, and we have completed all the necessary parts of the labor, and our cats are much happier with their facilities returned to their normal places. Thank you Nugget, Matcha, and Dumpling for your early notification of the basement flood and your cooperation with the unintended inconveniences.

### John & Clay Storm Update By John Collard

We had a bit of water in the basement Monday, but were able to soak it up with towels. The house lost power Tuesday (so did Carol and Rachel), but Clay and I escaped to Door Co, so we missed the power outage. I just hope the cats weren't too freaked out. Thank you, Carol, for visiting and feeding them while we were gone. Upon returning, we learned the basketball hoop did fall over and a clay pot full of soil that was helping hold it down shattered all over the driveway. The neighbor said it happened Tuesday during the second storm.



## Thor and Annie go to Scotland

By Thor Collard

This past May, we spent almost 3 weeks in the Highlands area of Scotland! We limited our trip to the Highlands and did not visit any of the big cities like Glasgow or Edinburgh. We had 4 'bases' which were: Inverness, Portree (on the Isle of Skye), Strontian (north of the Isle of Mull), and Kingussie in the Cairngorms. We stayed at each base about 4 days and did day trips and tours from those bases. We also caught an amazing time for weather—the first 10 days it didn't rain a drop and was bright, sunny and in the 70s. The last few days rain was in the forecast and it may have misted

a bit but most days we were completely dry. It only rained hard once for about an hour, so we ducked into a historical Catholic Church in Oban (St. Columba's Cathedral).



### Inverness

This small city is pretty walkable. We stayed at a little B&B in town and walked to town for dinners and the Ness Islands which are very cool and have creative benches and creatures made from logs. You need reservations at most restaurants, but we found some we just walked in on. The usual fare was things like Steak and Ale Pie, Fish and Chips, Haggis, Neeps and Tatties, and often fresh seafood.

The first day we drove ourselves up North visiting waterfalls, doing some short hikes and going to visit Dornoch, which has the greatest golf course in the world, Royal Dornoch and Thor wanted a quick look at it again. We got a picture by the big Dornoch sign and they allowed us to walk the course so we walked 5 or 6 holes. We visited a nature center at Laigs - The toilet lid at the nature center had a picture of a cow reading a newspaper on it – so funny. We also stopped at a cloddie well where people tie strips of cloth (or their underwear) to the trees near the well. When the cloth disintegrates, the people are healed!

The second day we took a guided tour in a van out to the Northeast coast and it had a very changed schedule from what we had signed up for, so we missed some things, but it was still a very good tour with a wonderful guide. We saw a 'folly' which was a teeny tiny castle (maybe 2 or 3 people could stand in it) on the beach. The beach was not what we expected to see in Scotland—it looked like we visited some Caribbean island! We had lunch at the Lochinver Larder, famous for its pies and they were very yummy. On the third day we drove down the East side of Loch Ness, a single track road which we thought was so lovely. Visited Foyers falls and hiked there. Drove completely around Loch Ness through all the little towns and really enjoyed that. Visited the Urquhart castle. Then we went to ClavaCairn which was one of our absolute favorites. Much larger than expected and there were so many cairns. These are round structures with a hole in the middle and a path you can walk into to be in the hole.

### Skye

The Isle of Skye is becoming an incredibly popular spot. We went in May which was just the beginning of 'in season' and when we arrived on Skye it did not seem too crowded. By the time we left—I was just starting to think it was getting to have too much traffic and too many people. So we timed it well. We stayed right on the shore at a sheep farm, and could look out our window and see the ocean and the islands across the ocean and sheep and lambs running about. We took a boat tour and saw lots of seals and the boat dropped us off for hiking around a lake and later picked us up. We almost got lost trying to find our way back to the boat landing, and Thor lost his shoe (temporarily) in a bog! It was beautiful. The next day we took a guided van tour to most of the popular spots on Skye including the Fairy Pools, Talisker Distillery, Dunvegan Castle and Gardens, Highland Coos (cows), the Fairy Glen, Uig, the Quiraing, Kilt Rock and waterfall, and the Old Man of Storr. Our favorite was the Fairy Glen. It was so cool seeing how the terrain is and the way things grow on it. The views from the Quiraing are fantastic. The tour driver pointed out Dougie Jurassic's dinosaur museum and the next day we had to go there. It was small but amazing. His daughter was our guide. It contains locally found dinosaur fossils and items from early life on Skye.



Annie at Ness Islands Inverness

# Thor and Annie go to Scotland (continued)

By Thor Collard

## Strontian

Nerd alert: Strontian is the town where the element Strontium was discovered and got its name! Stayed at a wonderful bed and breakfast with the best breakfasts we had all trip. Scottish bacon for the win! On the way we stopped and had lunch and a scone with Clotted Cream. Thus began our daily quest for more clotted cream (something you can't find in the U.S. because it has to be made with unpasteurized milk). From this base we visited Fort William, Glencoe, Kinlochleven, Oban, and our favorite thing of all-took a boat to see the puffins on Staffa. They are so cute and

there are so many and they are just 2 or 3 feet away from you-not afraid at all. We watched them for hours. Glencoe is very beautiful but there was a lot of traffic trying to get into the same viewing areas. We started down a remote road but there was too much traffic on it for me so we turned around. One track roads are wonderful but not if there are constant cars going both ways. We hiked to a great waterfall in Kinlochleven. Oban was another favorite place-visited a great old tower called McCaig's tower and just walked up and down the port and went into all the shops and things.



Thor Collard & a boarder collie puppy



Fairy Glen



Thor and Tiny Castle (Folly)



A funny sign

## Cairngorms

The cairngorm mountains are visible from everywhere and are stunning. Different roads to explore, with mountain villages scattered here and there. We drove around and visited several. There is a route called the 'snowroad' which is really just a route to see a lot of the Cairngorms. We traveled part of it. There was a train at the top but it was closed. Also there is a wild reindeer herd, you can go and see and feed the reindeer right out of your hand! We stayed at a B&B with chickens running around in the yard. We chose this B&B because it had a laundry-well it takes 3 hours for the normal cycle of a Scottish washer to wash a load of clothes.

Finally I found a setting for a quickie wash for 'freshening up' and used that. Good enough. One of our favorite things that we did in this area was a sheep dog demonstration, where we got to watch trained Border Collies round up and maneuver sheep. They were great and the shepherd was very entertaining. We also did some hiking to and around some scenic Lochs in the area. Back to Inverness where we visited Fort George which was really cool, especially the way it was constructed. And inside is the Highlanders Museum which we visited.



Annie Collard Caught a Giant Fish, lol

## A Look Back

**House Hunting In Winona: May 15<sup>th</sup> 1992**  
By Anne Pellowski

Since I must vacate my house in Milwaukee by May 31, I came to Winona to do some house hunting from March 30-April 13 [1992]. So far I have looked at 13 houses, ranging in price from \$50,000 - \$95,000 and I still have not found one that speaks to me. Or rather, I did find one, on west 7th, only to discover an offer had already

\*\*For anyone who has looked at the housing market in the 21st century, this felt the right gem to share:

been accepted the day I looked at it. Angie wants me to buy a 9-room oldie that has been renovated within an inch of its life - it certainly does have space and is in tip-top move-in condition, but I'm not sure I want so much house to care for. I am still hoping against hope to have a house by reunion time.

A Note to Add: Aunt Anne purchased a house in Winona! This occurred after she had already written the above article for publication. Her new address is 830 W 7th St Winona MN 55987. Do not use this address until June 28, 1992. Her new phone number is not yet available. She will not be moving yet this May.

## Guess Who

Guess Who photos have been submitted as a fun way to look back. We challenge anyone to try and guess who is in each of these pictures. Answers will be posted in the next edition. Whoever responds with the correct answers first will be featured in the next edition with Kudos! Happy guessing!



Left to Right: Kit, Keith, Cameron, Mick, Mary P. & Angie



Left to right: Karianne, Keith, Betsy, Kyla, Steve, Abby, & Jane

**Summer at the Farm: August 1999**  
By Angie Bork

This summer has been a big family constantly. If you want to know what its like to live with the preteen and teen crowd these days, just take one of each: Paul, Stephanie, Rachel, Mia, Heidi, Ellen, Abby, April, Aaron and mix them all together there and there you have it. There is constant music and if you hear Sara McGlocton or something like that (Ha Ha you are all going to say, "Who's That?") well I am one up on you there. Well, as I was saying, when she is signing, all activity stops and they - those teenies all say "WAIT!" - until the song is over - but then one of Joey McIntyre's is on and they are all swooning and rolling on the floor. One evening they wanted a party. I was supposed to

invite a bunch of boys and get the party rolling. I don't know too many teen boys so that fell through.

Not one of them are true pioneers. They all have an aversion to work that makes their hands or clothes dirty. They don't even like to sweat! They have to sit in front of a fan if its even a little hot. Oh, they are very helpful (don't get me wrong), as long as they don't get dirty.

As for their eating habits, well its best if you have a restaurant type atmosphere because there is a constant diversification in anything they will consume. To keep track of who likes what or who wants to

eat when would take a super grandma. Course, if you give them macaroni and cheese or ramen three times a day they are pretty happy.

I don't really sit in the living room much these days because of these sprawling bodies - who are watching a movie or whatever. They are a great bunch and so much fun. They helped with the malt stand and then helped me count all the money for four days in a row from the county fair. We all know the road to Mondovi and now I know the melody to 60 different songs whose words do not make much sense. I will miss them and all the fellowship we share, they are all so special.

## A Look Back: August 1999

### French Braids, Fry Cakes, and Pickles

By Ellen Nickrant

Last week, sometime around August 7th 1999, I was watching Oklahoma with Betsy, Rachel, Mia, and Heidi, and I said to Betsy, "Will you French braid my hair?" Mia repeated the question and Betsy gave in to both of us. We sat down after we washed our hair (so it was easier to braid and we could leave it in the next day). Me first, and we both had our hair braided. We both looked so cute. We went to bed and still looked cute the next day. After Betsy left we had corn for supper. We had just come home from playing the farming game at Sara's and didn't think that that was enough so we suggested having something else... as in fry cakes maybe? Grandma made them and we feasted. I hinted that we should have cinnamon rolls for breakfast the

next day because we were running out of cereal. We didn't.

While we ate breakfast the next day (cereal, of course) I remembered I was missing the state fair...and the pickles. What a pity! I wrote my mom an email and called her telling her to get me one, and she said she would tell Abby to get one for me, but I couldn't wait until I got home, so I kept thinking what I was going to do.

We were picking tomatoes in the garden and I didn't want to so I wandered away to the smaller cucumber patch, and lo and behold there was perfect pickling cucumbers. Grandma made them into crock pickles. Finally, I had my pickle (they were a little too salty though).



The "teenies" from around the same time period as these stories were written. From left to right: Cole Gabrick, Mia Krackow, Ellen Nickrant, Stephanie Bork, Aaron Beck, Heidi Krackow, Paul Bork, Abigail Nickrant.

### Ailment Corner:

Heidi - sore arm

Sore ankle

Hand slammed in car door 2x

Bump on head - 3x

Sore foot

Sore armpits from crutches

Mia - Bee sting on foot

April - Bee sting on arm

(All of these occurring in one week)

Sara - Sore back (stress)

Hannah - Runny Nose

Goodwin Gunderson - broken hip

### Almost a Party

By Mia Krackow

We did everything we could think of while we were at Grandma's during the two weeks we were there. When we couldn't think of anything else to do, so we started to brainstorm. One of my suggestions was to have a party and invite some people over (especially guys) so Grandma started naming some guys she knew. In the end, we decided not to have a party, but I still think it was a good idea. Maybe next year?

### Heidi as a Casualty

By Mia Krackow

Let me tell you something! I never knew a girl the age of 11 that could get hurt so much in one week!!! This is how it went:

- First - oops, I stepped on your foot
- Second - Why did you jump out of the corndrib? What? Your ankle hurts?!
- Third - Did Ellen just throw a pen at your head?
- Fourth - Your armpits hurt from using those crutches?

One thing is for sure. At the rate this girl is going, she won't be able to drive until she's 32!!!

## Bork/Pronschinske "First" Cousins Gathering

By Linda Kihslinger

Two years ago Dan and Gary contacted each other and in a last-minute idea worked out a time to get together at the Golden Frog in Fountain City, when Dan was in town from Kentucky, where he lives. Gary spread the word and the

following folks shared the evening. They all had so much fun they wanted to do it again but this time include more cousins. Dan and I contacted cousins in the area that we still had contact with, and this time we got a bigger number to come out.



Clockwise from Left: Cindy (Wolfe), & Gary Pronschinske, Dan, & Kathy (Smith) Bork, Nathan Beheler, & Stephanie Bork, Janet (Pronschinske), & John Miemietz, Abigail Nickrant, & Omar Beckom, Bernard Pronschinske, & Karen (Pronschinske) Engstrand, Jeremy, Robert, and Patrice (Wessel) Bork. The Golden Frog Fountain City, WI August 9, 2023.

### WHO ARE THE BORK/PRONSCHINSKE FIRST COUSINS?

This is a list by family of the many cousins we share. Please let me know if I have missed anyone...

Seeing the names of those who have passed boggles my mind. I know we are all aging, but I still remember all the visiting we did at each other's homes on

Sunday afternoons and that just does not seem that LONG ago. Our mothers always provided a delicious meal for family and guests alike, and we loved playing with each other. This pizza night brought back so many stories of those visits, meals and games we loved to play.

Andrew  
Bork

Tony  
Bork

Robert  
Bork

Anna  
Pronschinske

Roman  
Bork

Cyriac  
Bork

Alvin  
Bork

Greg  
Ken  
Jerome  
Vince  
John

Josephine  
Noreen  
Norbert

Leo  
Bernita  
Judy  
Robert  
Joan  
Frederick  
Damian  
Rosie  
Sharon  
Louis  
Susie  
Thomas

Bernard  
Marie  
Gary  
Janet  
Roger  
Richard  
LaVerne  
John  
Virgil  
Karen

Linda  
Dan  
Kathy  
Carol  
Mona  
**Dorothy**  
Julie  
Betsy  
**Sara**  
Kristine

Jim  
Francis  
Leon  
Bernard  
Marilyn  
Dennis  
Barbara  
Paulette

Duane  
Baby Boy Bork  
Baby Boy Bork  
Rosemary  
Alice  
Mike  
Tim  
Mark

\*Deceased



15 of the 17 First Cousins who gathered on 25 July 2025 at Suncrest Gardens Pizza Farm, Cochrane, WI

L to R: Noreen Albrecht, Bernita Narvaez, Bernie Pronschinske, Linda Kihslinger, Damian Bork, Dan Bork, Gary Pronschinske, Kristine Beck, Betsy Bork, Joan Pieper, Robert Bork, Lois Zuelke, Judy Pieper, Ken, and Vince Bork. Not pictured: Mona Bork & Karen Engstrand

## Bork/Pronschinske "First" Cousins Gathering

By Linda Kihslinger



## BORK BOOK NOOK

### All Systems Red *Martha Wells*

#### Review by Marissa Wilberg

Robot main character provides security and protection for humans on dangerous missions to other worlds. Only problem is they is an introvert who is uncomfortable interacting with other humans and would rather just watch the media all day.

### The Helm of Midnight *Marina Lostetter*

#### Review by Joey Collard

It's a high fantasy thriller about a serial killer in a world where someone's personality can be preserved in a mask after they die, and anyone donning the mask can access their knowledge and skill. Took a lot of complicated worldbuilding and made it seem simple and fast paced.

### Six of Crows *Leigh Bardugo*

#### Review by Joey Collard

An urban fantasy heist. It felt like a game of the "Blades in the Dark" rpg. I've read and enjoyed other books by this author, but this is far and away her best. I didn't enjoy the other series set in this same universe, "Shadow and Bone," nearly as much.

### The Tainted Cup *Robert Jackson Bennett*

#### Review by Marissa Wilberg

Sherlock and Watson type duo solve unsolvable crimes in a fantasy world where giant leviathans both threaten the coast and provide essential supplies for magical enhancements

### Faust's Gold *Steven Ungerleider*

#### Review by Willie Wilberg

An account of the East German athletic doping program during the cold war era, mostly without the athletes' consent or knowledge.

### To Shape a Dragon's Breath *Moniquill Blackgoose*

#### Review by Joey Collard

About a Native American teenager bonded to a dragon hatchling, who has to navigate a white European dragon school to learn to raise her dragon. In this book, dragon breath can be used to perform chemistry operations like fusing smaller atoms into larger elements.

### All the Worst Humans *Phil Elwood*

#### Review by Willie Wilberg

Nonfiction insider tell-all about Washington and the PR industry representing questionable clients.

## FEATURED RECIPE

### Cream of Tomato Soup (Aunt Anne's Recipe)

Submitted by Mona Bork August 1999

#### Ingredients:

- 2 Tbs Chopped Onion
- 2 Tbs butter
- 1 cup water
- 3 Tbs. powdered chicken broth
- 2 Qts. tomatoes or tomato juice
- 2 Tbs flour
- 3 Tbs. sugar
- 2 cups milk

#### Directions:

Saute onion in 1 Tbs butter. Add water and chicken broth. Add tomatoes and sugar. Simmer for 15 minutes. In a separate saucepan - melt 1 Tbs butter, add flour. Mix well. Add milk. Heat over medium heat stirring constantly with a whisk until all lumps are out and white sauce is bubbly. Using a strainer, ladle tomato mixture into strainer over white sauce and keep stirring tomatoes so that only seeds and a few lumps are left in the strainer. Stir and serve.

## Warbler Wordsearch

W O Q N X K C Y U J M Q G Z F N W T Y R M K X O L I S U G S  
 Y H C O H Y S I B A R N S N N A W G O F Q E E K Z S Z S G Q  
 W A T N M O Z Y R O K C I H P M U I R M K J A C B E O E D L  
 Q Y U A V Y T K U N S B M A B F D E L B A K C L W K E L E A  
 V B A F W M B X M U E K L N X U E F K L X T V S T A Q Z E O  
 Y A K A Y S N T G Z Y Z W Q K Z B T T H O W O D T C J Z F P  
 C L Z F G R Y P S J K F L V E U D D F L W W Y Y O Y U U C L  
 V E O O A E D S E Y J H E P H C D D J O J E W P U R E P M B  
 L U W M C W V H I D B E O A J Q U J O S R Q S I R F S S R Q  
 J Z T C S O T X R J N P L C A U V A S V Z D N E N J U E N  
 G F A H S L E Q R R I C I R C L E O F L O V E N F D O L V E  
 U P E A G F A D E J E M Q J H D C S W T V H H H P O H O O H  
 B J C R G N Q S B Y T L E N A L F F U L B E L O C O E I L C  
 V Y V L P U B X P S S P B X M Q H G J G X E I G N A K D C T  
 B P E I K S G G S N L H M R Q S G N I L P M U D T G O A W I  
 R A Q E D B L K A L O X A G A S Y J Q K L G M V D U M L Z K  
 N W R N M C A X R U H R L O J W B W A R O T C A R T S G D Y  
 N A R X V S P Y Z R W X E F M V E Z G Q G Z R L R Y O D E J  
 V C G R P W O A N I Y S L L O R T E E W S G M I Q N A M O R  
 K I J U M V B N O I N U E R M V I R T D Z O P D M X B A R M

Angie	Holstein	Ford	Silo
Roman	Fry cakes	Smokehouse	Reunion
Charlie	Dumplings	Tomato	Raspberries
Barn	Cole Bluff Lane	Gladiolus	Hay Bale
Willow Wind	Hickory	Sweet Rolls	Freeze pop
Warbler	Tractor	Sunflowers	Clover
Kitchen	Puzzles	Circle of Love	

## Ellen's Birthday Journey

By Ellen Nickrant

You may not be aware, but I despise planning for my birthday. This year, I was utterly delighted to find that Abby and Alexa had set up a whole 6 piece scavenger hunt with Limericks to places in Milwaukee! I was delighted to visit 6 places I had never met. First, Alexa took me to The Well Red Damsel and Thirst, the two new independent romance bookstores in Milwaukee, I was so happy to see them, and they reminded me so much and in all the best ways of Beauty and the Book, a romance book store in Anchorage AK I was able to visit last September. I was so

so happy! I would have been happy to stop there, but then Abby and Alexa took me to Glorioso's Italian Market on Brady and the Sip and Purr cat cafe on Brady Street. I ate some delicious cheese and then got to meet some absolutely beautiful cats! I fell in love with a black cat named Ellie Mae and spent our hour there petting her quite happily. We then moved onwards to the Wicked themed pop-up bar and had some delightful Wicked-themed beverages before heading onwards to dinner at Centro Cafe in Riverwest. I got to have a tiramisu, and Abby and Alexa had provided our waitress with pasta shaped candles, which were so much fun!



## Birthdays

### August

- 8/2 Dan Bork: 74
- 8/3 Mary Pellowski: 62
- 8/6 Tom Redlich: 42
- 8/7 Kit Moore: 75
- 8/14 Sophia Lamin: 19
- 8/14 Paul Bork: 35
- 8/15 Sophia Kihslinger: 13
- 8/16 Ellen Nickrant: 39
- 8/17 John Collard: 64
- 8/22 Steve Grulkowski: 56
- 8/28 Elliott Esguerra: 13
- 8/28 April Stone: 37
- 8/29 Mia Lodahl: 39
- 8/30 Kyla Esguerra: 46

### September

- 9/4 David Nassar: 66
- 9/5 Rachael Dobias: 33
- 9/5 Willie Wilberg: 39
- 9/9 McKenzie Hussion: 7
- 9/9 Liz Kihslinger: 44
- 9/10 Joey Collard: 34
- 9/18 Donna Pellowski: 64
- 9/21 Roman Grulkowski: 24
- 9/23 Asher Herget: 4
- 9/26 Rachel Muniz: 40
- 9/27 Elizabeth Lamin: 49

## Anniversaries

- 8/5 Steve and Liz: 17
- 8/6 Betty and Ron: 3
- 8/9 Donna and Dan: 23
- 8/21 Matthew and Michelle: 10
- 8/27 Brooke & Eric: 9
- 8/29 Heidi & Keith: 10
- 9/11 Marissa and Willie: 4
- 9/15 Mike and Vicky: 41
- 9/21 Eric and Raina: 12

## Cole's Corner

By Cole Gabrick

Just as things seemed to be moving forward, Cole's home sale hit a snag—the prospective buyers backed out, leaving him back at square one. Mere weeks later, a storm swept through and sent a towering three-trunked tree crashing down on the power line connected to his house. The damage was extensive: the mast and electric meter were ripped off, a good chunk of siding and framing was torn away, and a large hole now gaped into the attic. Cole had to cancel a long-awaited four-day Milwaukee vacation to handle the cleanup and begin repairs.

On a brighter note, the orchard is looking sharp again. With

Anissa's major help, Cole got the waist-high grass finally knocked down. Work is also moving along on the vault privy—he's installed a 300-gallon septic tank, poured the concrete, and is now waiting on a door order to arrive, since he couldn't find an outswing option in stock.

As mentioned in the previous issue, the Cheese Curd Festival was on Cole's calendar. While the original group plans didn't pan out, he still made the trip—and was pleasantly surprised when Heather joined him at the last minute. His top pick this year was the hot honey curds, with last year's favorite, cinnamon sugar, coming in a close second.

## REQUEST FOR FEEDBACK

We would like to finalize a name for our newsletter and are looking for your suggestions! Please submit suggestions by emailing [Abigail.Nickrant@gmail.com](mailto:Abigail.Nickrant@gmail.com) and we will look to vote for a winner in an upcoming issue!

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A special thank you to all our contributors. For future contributions, please email: [abigail.nickrant@gmail.com](mailto:abigail.nickrant@gmail.com)