

# SECOND FRONT PAGE



(Sioux Center News photo by Renee Wielenga)

Sioux Center residents Ron Oostra and Dave Netz will be hosting a plant exchange 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday, May 18, at Heritage Village just west of the Sioux County fairgrounds. All

those interested in sharing their flower or vegetable or shrub plants — any plants really — or coming to see what's available are welcome to stop by.

## Plant exchange comes to Heritage Village

By Renee Wielenga

A new event is coming to Heritage Village this spring.

Sioux Center residents Dave Netz and Ron Oostra will be hosting a plant exchange 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday, May 18, at village just west of the Sioux County fairgrounds.

"A plant exchange is for

anyone interested in sharing their flower or vegetable or shrub plants — any plants really — or coming to see what's available," Netz said.

Bringing a shovel or hand trowel and a few extra pots may be required if there's interest in taking a portion of the plants growing at Heritage Village also.

"That's one reason why we wanted to host the event out here," Oostra said. "There's quite a variety out here, from shrubs to flowers to garden stuff like herbs that people can come take a look at. We like diversity, too, so people can bring plants that we might want to add out here as well."

As long as the plant is not

a weed, it's welcome at the event.

The duo initiated the plant exchange this year as a way to try something new and to enhance the gardening community.

**NETZ, OOSTRA,**  
see section 1 / Page 11

## Chamber board selects Den Herder

The Sioux Center Chamber of Commerce announced Monday that Barbara Den Herder has accepted its executive director position.

Den Herder will begin her duties midsummer. Ardith Lein, the present chamber executive director, will retire Sept. 1 after serving for the past 24 years.

As executive director, Den Herder will be involved in the establishment, development and retention of the retail, service and industrial interests of the City of Sioux Center. Currently the Chamber of Commerce has a membership of over 190 organizations and businesses which it represents.

Den Herder has been employed by the Orange City Area Health System for the past 11 years as education coordinator. She coordinated services relating to community health education within the area businesses, schools and the healthcare system. Other aspects of her duties involved conducting continuing education opportunities for the staff and acting as the assistant public information officer.

Den Herder is a lifelong resident of Sioux Center and graduated from Sioux Center Community Schools in 1991. She received her bachelor's degree from Northwestern College. She resides in Sioux Center with her husband Matt and their three children, Collin, Avery and Ayda.

"I look forward to growing professionally and being an integral part of the Sioux Center business community," Den Herder said. "Sioux Center is a thriving community that has achieved a suc-



Barbara Den Herder

cessful blend of retail, service and industrial businesses. The community is prosperous and growing and I value the opportunity to be involved in its continued growth."

Jason Moeller, the Sioux Center Chamber board president, said many people applied for the position.

"The legwork and meeting schedule began in late 2012 for this candidate search and we are excited to field such a qualified candidate for this position," Moeller said. "We are excited about Barb's enthusiasm and her knowledge of our community. Barb has shown her ability to educate and lead large groups of people while working for her previous employer. She also understands promotion and event planning which will be very beneficial while hosting our wide variety of chamber-sponsored events including the Indoor Fair, Women's Expo, Bridal Fair, Summer Celebration and a host of other events."

## Farm ministry, volunteers aid De Groot family

By Renee Wielenga

Waking up Mach 10, Daryl De Groot looked down and saw his right leg had swollen to nearly three times its normal size.

"I didn't really have any signs telling me something was wrong," De Groot said.

In February 2012 De Groot had his right knee replaced for the second time due to his first knee implant being crooked. Three weeks later De Groot ended up with staph infection but doctors thought all medications taken a year ago had cleared up the problem.

To clean up the area this year, doctors completely removed the knee implant and have antibiotics pumping through the empty knee socket to rid the area of infection.

That leaves De Groot sitting in his living room rather than his tractor.

"It's frustrating, this situation," De Groot said, "but all this support is really amazing."

The rural Hull dairy and crop farmer is living the spring planting dream vicariously through Farm Rescue, a North Dakota-based farm ministry that provides plant-

ing and harvesting assistance to farm families who have experienced a major injury, illness or natural disaster.

Farm Rescue, which began in 2006, provides that assistance to farm families in North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota, eastern Montana and just branched into Iowa last summer.

"It's our mission is to help family farmers bridge crises so they have an opportunity to continue to be viable operations," said Faron Wahl, Farm Rescue regional operations manager, who was on-site Monday overseeing the planting of 200 acres. "Farm Rescue gives families a chance to continue their livelihood by providing the necessary equipment and manpower to plant or harvest their crop, free of charge."

Farm Rescue does not give money to farmers.

"The organization merely provides the labor — the volunteers — and farm equipment, supplied by RDO Equipment Company," Wahl said, noting Northwest Iowa

**FARM RESCUE,**  
see Section 1 / Page 12



(Sioux Center News photo by Renee Wielenga)

Farm Rescue volunteer Levi Wielenga plants corn for Daryl De Groot on Monday. The Sioux City resident is a Sioux County native and is one of 70 Farm Rescue equipment operator and field support volunteers. Wielenga and his wife

Carol have been Farm Rescue volunteers for three years. Farm Rescue, which began in 2006, provides that assistance to farm families in North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota, eastern Montana and just branched into Iowa last summer.



(Sioux Center News photo by Renee Wielenga)

Dordt College president Erik Hoekstra gave the commencement address to 308 graduates at Dordt's graduation program last Friday morning.

## 308 Dordt students receive diplomas

By Steve Hoogland

Dordt College president Erik Hoekstra presented a challenge to 308 graduates at Dordt's commencement program last Friday morning.

"Imagine yourself as a living house," Hoekstra said.

"God comes in to rebuild the house. At first perhaps, you can understand what he is doing. He's stopping the leaks in the roof and so on. You're not surprised because it needs doing. But presently, he starts knocking about the house in

a way that hurts and you wonder what he's up to. The explanation is that he is building a different house from the

**HOEKSTRA CHALLENGES,**  
see Section 2 / Page 8

## Book inspired by murder case

By Renee Wielenga

Writing a book does not happen overnight. Just ask author Nicole Baart of Sioux Center. Her seventh book coming to shelves May 21 has been 10 years in the making.

"Sleeping in Eden' is the first novel I ever started," said Baart, who writes literary, hope-filled fiction. "It has gone through more revisions and edits than any of my books — it's been rewritten at least three or four times."

The revisions came after the manuscript had been rejected by the Christian Booksellers Association.

"When I received my publishing contract the first time around (with CBA), they accepted 'After The Leaves Fall,' and they wanted a second book," Baart said. "I gave them 'Sleeping in Eden,' which was called something else at that point. While it was rejected, I was told I should not forget about it, that it's a good story but it's missing something."

For years, Baart didn't know what that something was until her agent gave the story to beta readers.

"Finally they said what bothers us is one of the characters and his motivations," Baart said. She's excited about the final product.

"I have some of my own beta readers and they've said this is their favorite of all my books," Baart said.

Join us a for a closer look at the book and

**BAART'S NEW,**  
see Section 1 / Page 7



(Sioux Center News photo by Renee Wielenga)

Author Nicole Baart holds a copy of "Sleeping in Eden" that will hit stores May 21.



# AGRICULTURE



(Sioux Center News photos by Renee Wielenga)

Daryl and Marla De Groot of rural Hull are the first Iowa family to have spring planting help from Farm Rescue, a North Dakota-based farm ministry that provides assistance to farm families who have experienced a major injury, illness or natural disaster.

## Farm Rescue brings mission to Iowa

from Section 1 / Page 3 sponsors that help pay for the farm equipment are Walmart Corporation with a store in Sioux Center, American State Bank in Hull, KIHK of Rock Valley, Sudenga Industries of George and Pizza Ranch Corporation based in Orange City. "Families are responsible for providing crop inputs like seed, fertilizer and fuel."

All applicants must be actively engaged in farming, have a viable farming operation and have at least three years of experience operating their own farm.

The organization aided three Iowa families during the 2012 harvest season. Daryl De Groot is the first Iowa family the organization has helped this spring season.

Farm Rescue equipment operator and field support volunteer Levi Wielenga was excited to be behind the wheel Monday planting corn for the De Groots. The Sioux City resident is a Sioux County native as a grew up on a rural Hull farm.

"I love the fact that this kind of volunteering allows

me to get back to my roots," Wielenga said. "I just love being out here because I get to serve God, serve others and farm with my family to a certain degree."

Wielenga, who is one of 70 equipment operator and field support volunteers, and his wife Carol have helped about 25 families in the three years they've volunteered for Farm Rescue. The couple has traveled as far north as the Canadian border in North Dakota, to Montana and Minnesota, South Dakota and now Iowa to aid farming families.

"I've been on service projects through church and Justice For All and loved doing those," Wielenga said, who works full time as a locomotive engineer for BNSF Railway. "I enjoyed trains more so I didn't go into farming, but to be able to run farm equipment and serve God is a perfect volunteer fit for me."

Wielenga is more than excited to serve in his home area — and the De Groots are more than thankful for his

### WHAT'S NEXT?

Daryl De Groot's knee socket must be pumped with antibiotics through May 29.

"After that, I get my knee put back in and it's back to rehab so I can learn to reuse my knee," he said. "That's the plan for now. I'm not sure where that will place me in fall. I'm learning plans change."

help and the help of all the other Farm Rescue volunteers as well as the help from their neighbors.

"It's overwhelming, all the support," said Marla De Groot. "I met Levi once a long time ago, but knowing really that these volunteers are just doing it out of the goodness of their hearts without really knowing us or other families they help, that's incredible."

## Colony collapse disorder continues

Where are the bees? That question has been in the news, and a concern about the disappearance of honeybees continues to build as more beekeepers report an abnormal condition in their beehives. Bees have been disappearing from their hives for reasons unknown to beekeepers, who note their hives look perfectly healthy one day, and a few weeks later the hive appears mostly abandoned.

The condition has been named Colony Collapse Disorder or CCD. The specific cause of the disappearance of the bees from the hives is unknown and the problem continues to cause concern as beekeepers continue to report the problem in various regions in the U.S. each year since 2006.

Many beekeepers suspect that an introduced parasitic varroa mite that lives on the honeybee is the major problem. It weakens the bee, and it transmits debilitating viral diseases that weaken the health of the hive.

Other beekeepers implicate various pesticides, especially a new class of insecticides called neonics. This new class of insecticide moves systemically through the plant, and there is a suspicion that the insecticide affects pollen and nectar with residues from the insecticide.

There are other potential causes, but no one factor has been isolated as the cause of CCD. There may be multiple factors acting together that may cause the collapse of the colony.

How will a decline in bee numbers impact Northwest Iowa? The impact is unknown, but bees are important pollinators for fruit trees such as apple trees, vegetable crops such as cucumbers and melons and for field crops. Misshapen vegetables and a lack of fruit are indicators of poor pollination.

There has been research in Iowa, which has shown that under the right conditions bees could help boost soybean yields by improving pod set even though it is a self-



(File photos)

Beekeeper and Dordt College agriculture professor Duane Bajema keeps hives on his rural Sioux Center acreage. Bajema has not been affected by Colony Collapse Disorder but hopes a solution can be found soon.

pollinated crop. More research has to be done to verify the impact of pollinators on soybeans, but if soybean yields could be increased by 3-5 percent due to the presence of pollinators and subsequent increased pod set, an increased yield of two bushels per acre has substantial financial implications.

Beekeepers are reacting to the CCD problem in a number of different ways. They are trying to control the parasitic varroa mite within the beehive, which is very difficult. Various control methods are helpful but not completely effective.

Beekeepers are also working with pesticide vendors and crop producers to minimize insecticide applications within three miles of beehives, if possible. If an insecticide application is necessary for the control of soybean aphids, for example, applicators try to time the application of the insecticide for the very early morning or very late evening so that the bees are in the

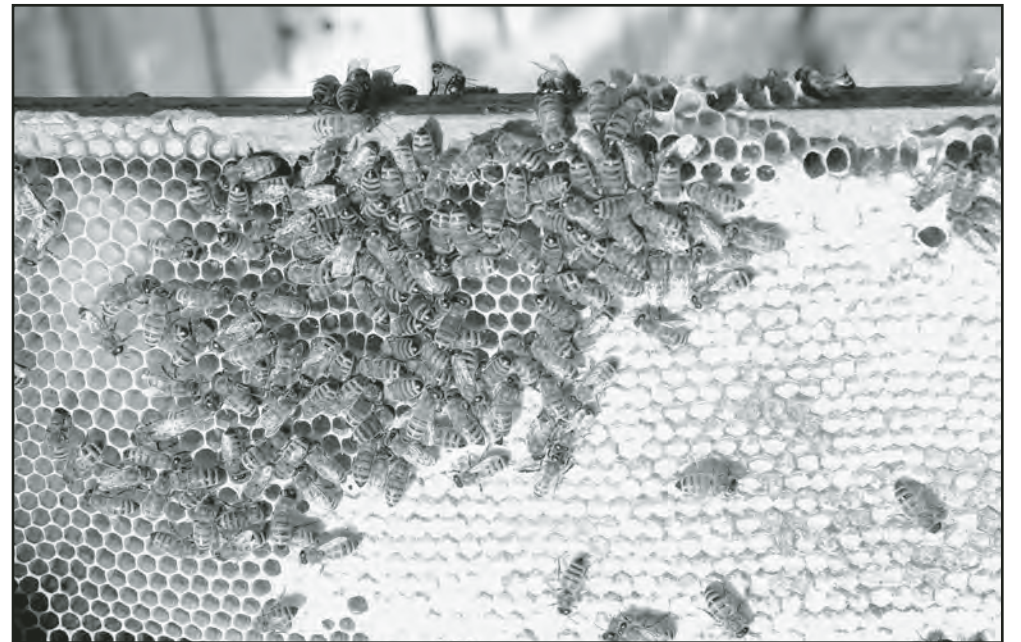
hive and not out in the field when the spraying occurs.

No one is confident about finding an early or quick solution to CCD. In the meantime, while researchers work on the matter, certain actions are being promoted to benefit bee populations. Ditches, conservation and wildlife areas, terraces, wasteland and right-of-ways are being seeded with a diversity of flowering plants such as sweet clover and various other clover varieties that bees can utilize as a nectar and pollen source. Insecticides are being applied more carefully to minimize potential damage to beneficial insects.

Farmers interested in encouraging native bee habitats can contact the Natural Resources Conservation Service in Orange City (712-737-2253) or find information online at the Native Pollinators in Agriculture Work Group ([www.agpollinators.org](http://www.agpollinators.org)). Source: Submitted by Duane Bajema, Dordt College professor of agriculture



Faron Wahl (left), Farm Rescue regional operations manager, stands with field support volunteers Carol and Levi Wielenga, who helped plant Daryl De Groot's crops on Monday.



Bees have been disappearing from their hives for reasons unknown to beekeepers. The condition has been named Colony Collapse Disorder or CCD.

## Applications coming due for century farms

The deadline to apply for the 2013 Century and Heritage Farm Program is June 1. The program recognizes families that have owned their farm for 100 years in the case of Century Farms and 150 years for Heritage Farms.

Applications are available at [www.IowaAgriculture.gov](http://www.IowaAgriculture.gov) by clicking on the Century Farm or Heritage Farm link under "Hot Topics."

Applications may also be requested from Becky Lorenz, Coordinator of the Century and Heritage Farm Program via phone at 515-281-3645, email at [Becky.Lorenz@IowaAgriculture.gov](mailto:Becky.Lorenz@IowaAgriculture.gov) or by writing to Century or Heritage Farms Program, Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, Henry A. Wallace Building, 502 E. 9th St., Des Moines, IA 50319.

The ceremony to recognize the 2013 Century and Heritage Farms will be held at the Iowa State Fair and is scheduled for Tuesday, Aug. 13.

Last year 345 Century Farms and 69 Heritage Farms were recognized.



## Congratulations ~ See you this fall!

### Sioux Center

Amber Baker—Pre-Practical Nursing  
Makinsy Brantsen—Photography  
Jorge Bucio Olivares—Photography  
Megan Griffioen—Clerical Accounting  
Ashley Ham—Associate of Arts  
Kasey Hawks—Carpentry  
Kyle Heemstra—Business  
Brenda Ruiz Lopez—Administrative Secretarial  
Jasmine Popovich—Child Development  
Ryan Van Beek—Business

### Western Christian

Gregory Boer—Transportation Service  
Joseph Bootsma—Carpentry  
Nichelle Carney—Pre-Practical Nursing  
Jonathan Den Hartog—Associate of Arts  
Courtney Dolieslager—Professional Photography  
Austen Gonnerman—Agriculture  
Alexa Gulker—Pre-Practical Nursing  
Andrew Hoekstra—Agriculture  
Sara Horstman—Professional Photography  
Ross Te Slaa—Industrial Retail Management  
Lucas Van Holland—Computer Science

### Unity

Allison Bylsma—Pre-Practical Nursing  
Alexandra Castelan—Criminal Justice  
Nathan De Groot—Transportation Service  
Dalton De Haan—Industrial & Commercial Wiring  
Joel Groeneweg—Industrial Instrumentation & Control  
Tyler Huizenga—Collision Repair & Refinishing  
Lindsey Klynsma—Pre-Practical Nursing  
Tanner Miedema—Business  
Caleb Nibbelink—Heavy Equipment  
Andrew Nieuwendorp—Heavy Equipment  
Maria Perez—Business  
Rebecca Ten Napel—Radiologic Technology  
Tanner Van Der Stoep—Business  
Jalen Van Wyk—Computer Science  
Benton Vargason—Associate of Arts

NCC accepted students as of May 1, 2013.

SEARCH KEYWORD

Northwest Iowa Community College



603 West Park St. • Sheldon, IA • [nwicc.edu](http://nwicc.edu)  
712-324-5061 or 800-352-4907 • [studentservices@nwicc.edu](mailto:studentservices@nwicc.edu)  
f/nwicc • t/nwicc • "THUNDER" to 82942