

# Lake Mills Graphic



VOL. 152, No. 26

LAKE MILLS, IOWA 50450

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 26, 2024

\$1.25



## Scarville celebrates 125 years of small town pride

BY BONNIE KAY BALDWIN  
LAKE MILLS GRAPHIC

The small town of Scarville will be celebrating 125 years of history during their annual Fourth of July event.

To kick off the day, there will be a pancake breakfast at Scarville Lutheran School, from 7-10 a.m. Then stop by for the Bloody Mary bar at the Scarville Bar, starting at 9:30 a.m. Children are encouraged to decorate their bikes in red, white and blue for the Kiddo Bike Rally which will be held at 10 a.m. The annual parade (which goes through town twice) will start at 10:30 a.m. followed by the annual fire-

Store and is remembered by many a resident. The store was the center of town, and a place where one could purchase groceries, hardware, work boots, plus boots for any member of the family, fabric, gifts and about anything a person needed.

As resident Ole Rosen remarked, "If Reiso didn't have it, you probably didn't need it."

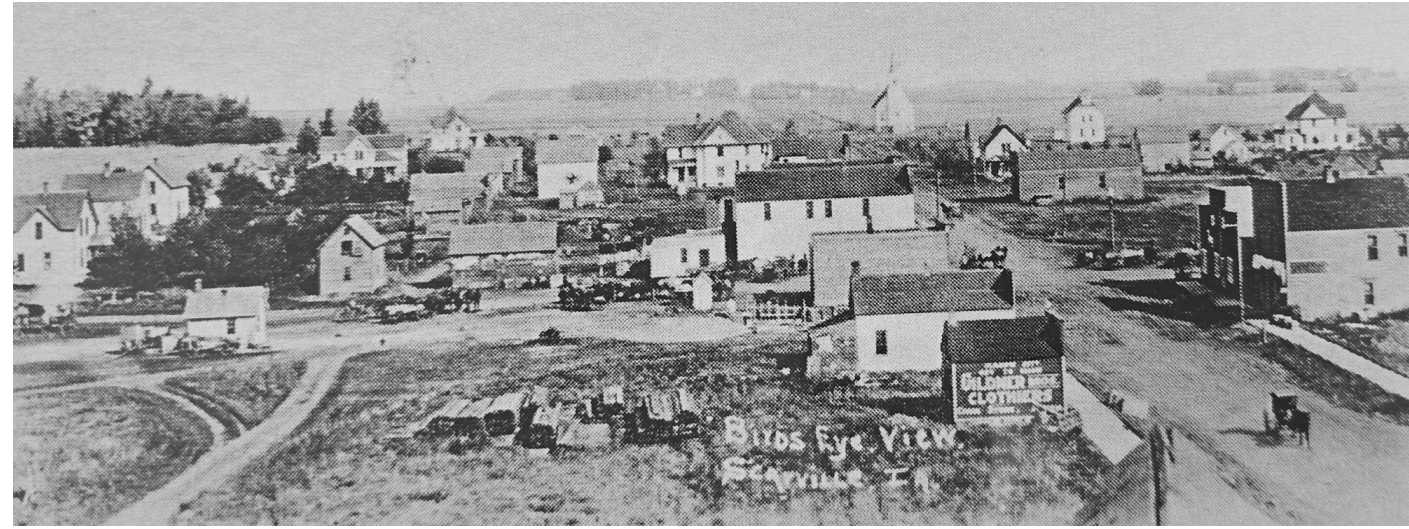
Retiring after 53 years, Reiso sold the store to Hilmer and Pat Leddon, transplants from Florida. In 1978, the Leddons sold the store to local woman, Karen Throne, who remodeled the store and put in gas pumps. With the help of her daughter, Teresa Feldmann, and friends, Sharon Rosen, Margaret Nesje, Elsie Peterson and others, she worked her store for 20 years until she retired in May 1998 and closed the store. (From 1996 to 1998, Throne's daughter, Teresa, also ran a craft and home decor store in the east end of the building, called Homespun.)

Visiting with Throne recently, she shared a bit of her own history.

She was born on a farm south of Vinje, daughter of parents Henry and Ruby Sunde and sibling of Leonora, Duane, and Merina. When she was six, the family moved to the farm where she lives now, north of the Vinje bar/store. At eight months old, she fell between the bed she was laying on and the wall, and almost died. When her mother found her, she was able to resuscitate her and they took her to have her checked out in Forest City.

Throne went from country school in the eighth grade to the Scarville School where she graduated in 1957—one of a class of five. During her high school years she was a cheerleader, in chorus, and pretty much all the activities. She is a member of Bethel Lutheran Church, and has been all her life. She married Richard (Dickie) Throne from Emmons.

"In 1961, at our picnic in the park, our daughter, Carol, and my Dad won prizes



City of Scarville

mer, Harvey Anderson was showing how to churn butter and she got to try it.

For a number of years, the firemen grilled beefalo burgers, using beefalo raised by local farmers, Harris and Rachel Bye.

For Scarville's Centennial Celebration, Friday, July 2 through Sunday, July 4, 1998, both Sharon Rosen and Throne were on the committee which sold belt buckles, crockery, T-shirts, buttons, watches, post cards and prints, as well as raffle tickets for a framed print. The Humble Beginnings history book sold for \$10.

On Friday evening there was a program of several varieties of groups of music, and an outdoor free movie on Cybersmith property. Saturday began

community was served by a rural school. Then, school was held in the Immanuel Church basement. In 1906, a two-room schoolhouse was erected on the north block of East Main St. on the north edge of town. In 1920, a frame building was built on West Main St. and a high school was organized. In 1935, all 12 grades moved into the new brick building which was built on the same block as the 1906 two-story building, which had been demolished for the new building. In 1952, an addition was built. The class of 1958, was the last class to graduate from SHS. The building was demolished in 1997.

Scarville boasted of all of these buildings or businesses at one time or the other:

Scarville Hotel, South Hotel or

Besides helping to put on the Fourth of July celebration, she was involved in the town in various capacities, such as being Scarville city clerk for 32 years. Her favorite memory of Scarville Fourth parades, was when they made floats. Her favorite was the Whistlers A Go Go, where Parnell Brackey and Ron and Allan Pederson were dressed in an outfit with their bellies painted as a face, with the lips painted over the belly button, and then wore a large top hat covering their arms, neck and head, whistling the "Bridge On the River Kwai" theme by making their stomachs go in and out.

Her husband, Ole, was a major contributor to Scarville as well. In his younger years, he was in charge of doing an egg run. He would go to every-

Area briefs

### Concert at Our Savior's Lutheran Church, July 15

Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Leland, is hosting a concert by Luke Yates, Monday, July 15, at 7 p.m. Everyone is welcome.

### Shooting incident near Britt

On June 21, the Hancock Co. Sheriff's Office arrested Alexander M. Padilla, 36, Britt. Padilla was charged with Attempted Murder, a Class B felony, and Willful Inury Causing Serious Injury, a Class C felony. Padilla was arrested for his role in the shooting of a male subject in the 1100 block of 270th St., near Britt.

The Hancock Co. Sheriff's Office was assisted by the Iowa Division of Criminal Investigation, Iowa State Patrol, police departments from Britt, Kanawha, Garner and Clear Lake, and sheriff's offices from Wright, Winnebago and Kossuth counties, and the West Hancock Ambulance Service. This is an ongoing investigation.



men's burger lunch, or enjoy pizza at the Scarville Bar. The Kids Pedal Tractor Pull will be held at 11:30 a.m. near the Community Center. Topping off the morning and early afternoon, will be music by the local group 'Something Country', in the park. After lunch, an egg toss will take place. Enjoy FREE ice cream and homemade bars served in the shelterhouse at 2 p.m. The Water Ball Competition with area fire departments will start at 2:30 p.m., followed by a DJ After Party at 3 p.m. Fireworks will start at dusk on the north side of town.

Weather

THURSDAY	
Partly Cloudy	74° 63°
FRIDAY	
Mostly Cloudy	77° 60°
SATURDAY	
T-Storms, 70%	69° 49°
SUNDAY	
Mostly Sunny	71° 55°
MONDAY	
Scattered T-Storms, 50%	74° 66°
TUESDAY	
AM T-Storms, 40%	84° 63°
WEDNESDAY	
Mostly Sunny	81° 59°

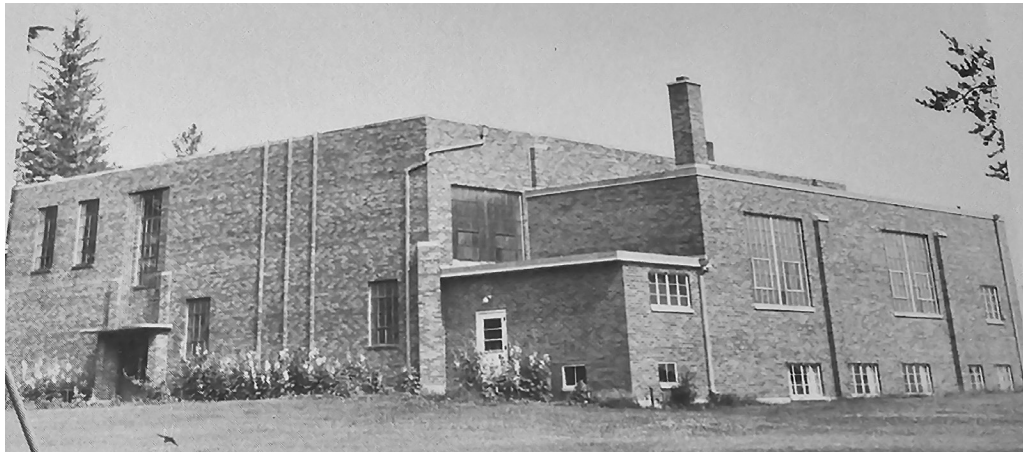
Markets

Prices reported as of Tuesday. Prices subject to change.

Five Star	2023	2024
Corn	\$ 6.05	\$ 4.28
Soybeans	\$14.13	\$11.24
Viterra	2023	2024
Corn	\$ 6.24	\$ 4.43
Soybeans	\$14.29	\$11.19

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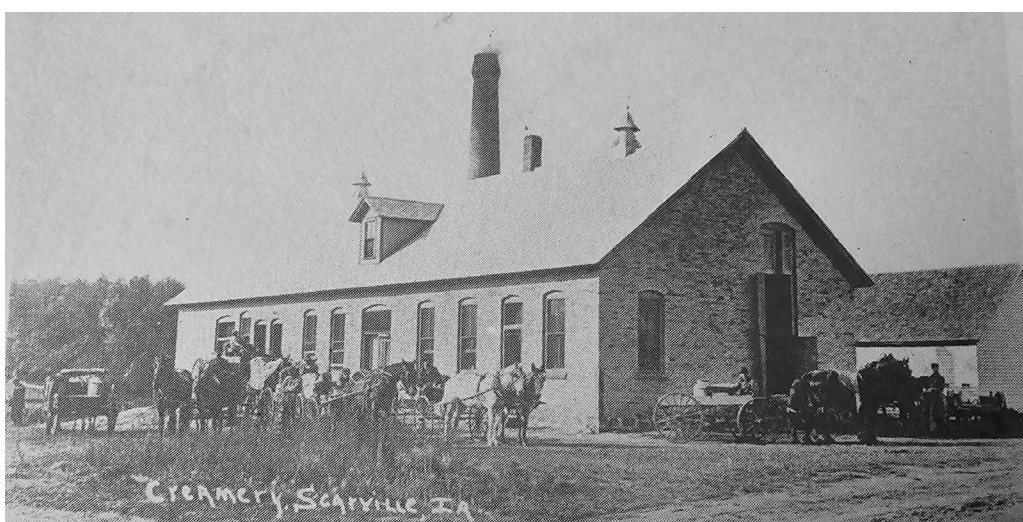
Scarville Schoolhouse

Tidbits of history taken from the Centennial Book follow . . .

Scarville was established in 1899 and named after a Norwegian immigrant, Ole Scar, who founded one of the leading mer-

for being the youngest and the oldest in attendance. What are the chances of both being in the same family?" she chuckled.

"I remember my kids rode their bikes in the parades, and my grandson drove



Scarville Creamery

cantile establishments of the county. He purchased the business of Wadsworth and Company, renaming it Scar-Nelson Mercantile Company. Scar was very active and influential in the affairs of the town and surrounding communities. In February of 1909, he retired due to ill health.

Another influential gentleman was Severt E. Reiso, who owned the Scarville

his go-cart that he raced in Forest City," recalled Throne, "and serving bars for the booster club, flea markets, slow pitch softball games, water ball fights by the fire department, and fireworks until someone got hurt; oh, and then Shriner cars too."

There was always lots of activities like bed races, Throne said. On an especially interesting note, she recalled that one sum-

with a parade, martial arts demonstration, antiques and quilts were shown at Immanuel Lutheran Church, school and town history at the Community Center, and crafts and flea market in the park. All the annual events plus kid's activities by 4H. An all-school reunion took place in Albert Lea. Sunday there was a community worship service, catered lunch, a dedication at the Synod Lutheran Church, culminating with the drawing of the winner of the Centennial Framed Print.

Although it happened in February, 1934, most residents have heard of the big fire in Scarville, where three buildings were destroyed by fire—Jensen Hardware, Reiso's general merchandise and Torgerson merchandise store/Bea's Lunch Room. Reiso's was the only business rebuilt.

According to the Humble Beginnings history book, the new Scarville School Building was dedicated on May 16, 1936, but the school was founded in 1904. Prior to 1904, the

Scarville Tavern, the Opera House, livery stable, Severson Cafe, A.A. Saxerud's Lumber yard, Torgerson's Market, Scarville Bank, old Post Office and new Post Office, Scarville Creamery, Yineman and Wuerflein Garage and filling station, blacksmith shop, Community Center and Town Hall, Scarville Station and Cafe, Service Oil Company, the Jail, Scarville Depot, Scarville Elevator, Volunteer Fire Department, Telephone Company, Cybersmith, Winnebago County and Road Shed, and more not mentioned.

"Scarville has always been a nice, clean, little town," said Sharon Rosen. The residents were proud of their town. "When we first had our kiddie parades, the roads were still gravel, but later when they were paved, the Scarville Booster Club (women) would pull all the weeds out of the cracks in the road and sidewalk, and the guys would clean up and down Main street."

one who raised chickens and pick up their eggs, taking them to Albert Lea and selling them to a produce business. He worked at the elevator in town, was on the Scarville Fire Department, butchered pigs and cows for the meat market, and many other things. He graduated with the class of 16 in 1955. One remarkable memory he brought up, was when most people had only one or two changes of clothes when times were hard.

"This small town has been successful in so many ways, due to all the people who stepped up when needed—wherever there was a need, in a time when you could really count on one another, where you knew your neighbors, and people were kind," explained Ole Rosen. "A community that made their churches and faith a priority, and counted their congregational members as family: North Prairie Lutheran, Immanuel Lutheran, Bethel Lutheran and Scarville and Center Lutheran Churches, were essential entities in and around Scarville."



A colorful float in the 2006 Scarville Fourth of July parade.