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★ **ESTHERVILLE NEWS**

AUGUST 2024

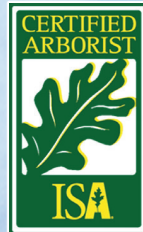
Inspiration for Our Day- "The Lord is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower." ~ Psalm 18:2

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ON THE COVER

Frelima Gaines is a granddaughter of the late Harold and Pearl Schnell. Harold was a Cessna pilot from Terril, and the Schnell family would attend the Flight Breakfast every year. Frelima brought her miniature Schnauzers, Leo and Lily, to enjoy the outdoors and sights and smells of Estherville's flight breakfast.

Photo by Amy H. Peterson



Linda LARSON of

A Sense of Sweetness takes inspiration from the farm, the beach, the basketball court and everywhere else for her home-baked cookies

BY AMY H. PETERSON

APETERSON@ESTHERVILLENEWS.NET

Linda Larson has been peddling sweets from her home and at Downtown Market. While cookies are her jam, Larson also bakes novelty cakes. Her chicken cake, complete with candy-coated eggs has become popular, as well as Caitlin Clark inspired basketball cookies, Hawaiian/tropical

themes, and inspiration from many different characters and shows. Cupcakes and cake pops also take shape in Larson's kitchen, where she often bakes late at night after her main job is done and her grandchildren are sleeping. Larson's grandchildren often serve as her helpers, both in the kitchen and at Downtown Market.



all photos
submitted by
Linda Larson

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 **ESTHERVILLE NEWS**

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For Father's Day, Larson dreamed up sugar cookies in the shape of beer steins, and a set that can be put together in the shape of a burger: bun, tomato, lettuce, cheese, and patty.

Larson said she sells out quickly at Downtown Market. On a recent Thursday night,

she spent 13 hours of mixing, rolling, cutting out, baking, packaging and freezing over 425 barnyard-themed cookies: barns, chickens, sheep, cows, pigs, and tractors. For Sweet Corn Days this weekend, Larson has baked over 400 sugar cookies.



Keep an eye on all the delicious creations Linda has to offer on her **A SENSE OF SWEETNESS** Facebook page!



This is

JOSE CELEBRATES A MILESTONE BIRTHDAY AMID THE DONKEY DAYS OF SUMMER

BY AMY H. PETERSON
APETERSON@ESTHERVILLENEWS.NET

Jose is 40. These days he eats soft hay and enjoys the easy life in the air-conditioned barn in the barn he shares with Max, his stablemate pony. Jose Allen has lived with Amy Allen on a farm ten miles north of Estherville for the last 15 years. Jose came to the Allen family in the spring of 1984 from a dentist, Dr. Christensen, who practiced south of Estherville. Jose is known as the famous donkey

of Petersburg. Allen said he loves children and meeting new people who come each day to the Mello-d Ranch and inviting visitors to pet him in his favorite spots.

Though it's the height of summer, Jose has a special gift at Christmas time. Allen said each Christmas Eve, Jose finds extra energy and becomes restless, almost as if he's recalling the footsteps of his ancestor who carried Mary to Bethlehem to give birth to



Jose, 40, recently celebrated his milestone with a tea party.

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baby Jesus, as it's depicted in the Nativity story of Christian tradition.

Jose has his own winter miracle. In 2022, he fell ill. Due to the cold, Allen had moved Jose into the heated garage and then brought Max, the pony, in for fellowship, which helped in his healing as donkeys need that connection.

"They need that camaraderie," Allen said.

He was very ill and Allen had decided to put him to rest, so he wouldn't experience the pain that had kept building in his hooves. A blizzard wound through rural Jackson County that night and Allen decided not to have the vet come out

in the weather. That saved Jose's life.

"Two times I was going to put him to rest, and two blizzards happened. Each one provided another chance for him to survive. Then I decided I'm just going to give it to my sweet Lord Jesus and stop worrying," Allen said.

Allen let Jose rest for six to eight hours at a time, and he healed.

"It was a miracle. Thank God those two blizzards came. It taught me to never give up," Allen said.

The community gathered recently for Jose's 40th birthday - a tea party with cake and more.



Amy Allen takes a stroll with her 40-year-old donkey, Jose.



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*Jose poses with a
cat on his farm*





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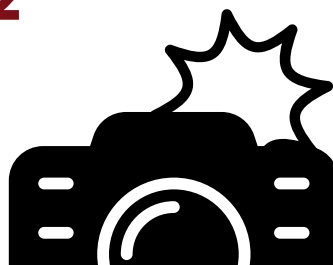


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DOG DAYS OF SUMMER

Beloved local
dogs become
STARS



Alexis watches as David throws the
ball for the family's dogs.

photo by Amy H. Peterson

LOCAL DOGS PLAY, CUDDLE, AND MUG FOR THE CAMERA

BY AMY H. PETERSON
APETERSON@ESTHERVILLENEWS.NET

August falls right in the heart of the Dog Days of Summer. A number of local dogs participated with their humans in an Estherville News photoshoot to ring in the Days. Traditionally the time of year is marked by heat, humidity, and drought. This year rain and mild temperatures have been the norm, and flood has ramped up the humidity. The Old Farmer's Almanac provided this rhyme to mark the occasion:

**Dog Days bright and clear
Indicate a happy year
But when accompanied by rain
For better times our hopes are vain**

The image of the dog came into play because the period of sweltering temperatures coincides with the rising of Sirius, the dog star. Sirius is part of the constellation Canis Majoris – “Great Dog” which is where Sirius gets the doggy nickname as well as its official name, Alpha Canis Majoris. Sirius is the brightest star in the sky, not including our galaxy's sun.



The Haburns bring their miniature Yorkies on a bike ride in Estherville. “They aren't quite big enough to run alongside us,” Suzan said.



THE HABURNS & THEIR YORKIES

Photos by Amy H. Peterson



Suzan Haburn takes a break with one of her two Yorkies during a bike ride near Spurgin Park in Estherville.



COOPER & SHEBA PETA

Photos by Amy H. Peterson

Cooper Peta's human didn't want to be in the newspaper, but Cooper took to posing like champ.



Cooper and Sheba Peta are siblings living their best life in Estherville. Sheba seemed to know her role and looked right into the camera.



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CAROL & SAMMY

Photo by Amy H. Peterson

Carol Cody and Sammy hang out on their deck.

DIOJIE & MILONNA

Photo submitted



Nevada Pyawasit sent this photo of Diojie and his favorite human, Milonna.

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THREE LOCAL DOGS WITH NAMES INSPIRED BY GREAT AMERICAN NOVEL

ATTICUS, JEM, & SCOUT CONDON

Photos submitted



Atticus cheered on Josie Condon when she played basketball for Briar Cliff University.



Jem is the youngest dog, affectionate and protective.

The Condon family of Estherville has three dogs: Atticus, Jem, and Scout, their names inspired by characters from the novel "To Kill a Mockingbird" by Harper Lee. Atticus is a purebred Golden Retriever who was the runt of the litter. The breeder in Montezuma, Iowa, had bot-

tle fed her and took care of her until she started on soft food. Atticus began having seizures several years ago. The Condons and their veterinarian treated her for epilepsy, with medication keeping the seizures under control. However, Attie was recently diagnosed with os-



Atticus is 10 years old and fighting osteosarcoma.



Atticus and Scout absorb some summer sun through the window.



teosacroma (bone cancer). Tumors have grown on her leg, on her ribcage, and in her brain. Jody Condon said, "She is living a regular life and isn't currently in pain, but our time is limited with her." Attie has a special relationship with Condon's mother, who lives with the family on hospice. When Josie Condon was playing basketball for Briar Cliff, Attie traveled with the family to her games.

Atticus has a younger half-sister, Scout. Scout makes a sound like Chewbacca from Star Wars when

she's excited, and rings a bell on the door when she's ready to go outside.

Two-year-old Jem came to the Condons from a shelter in Mason City. She's mostly husky and lab along with Great Pyrenees and Greyhound. Jem doesn't go to the dog park unless the Condons are the only family there as she's not fond of new dogs. At home, Jem is affectionate, comforting people when they are sad and protecting the family's home and yard.



THE KLETCH DACHSUND

Jason Kletch looks on proudly as his dachshund poses for a portrait in their home in Estherville. Jason's mother, Joanne said she is a Minnesota girl.

Photos by Amy H. Peterson





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DOG PARK FUN

Alexis helps Lilith throw a ball for Elvis.



Elvis waits excitedly for David to throw the ball.



David, part of a family who asked that his last name not be used, plays fetch with his dogs at the Estherville dog park.

**THANK
YOU**
TO ALL
PARTICIPANTS
IN THIS STORY

Lilith plays with her family's Great Pyrenees at the dog park.



EMPLOYEE PUPS

MEET THE
EMPLOYEES' PUPS
FROM THE

★ **ESTHERVILLE NEWS**



Our staff writer Amy's pup
Daisy Buchanan



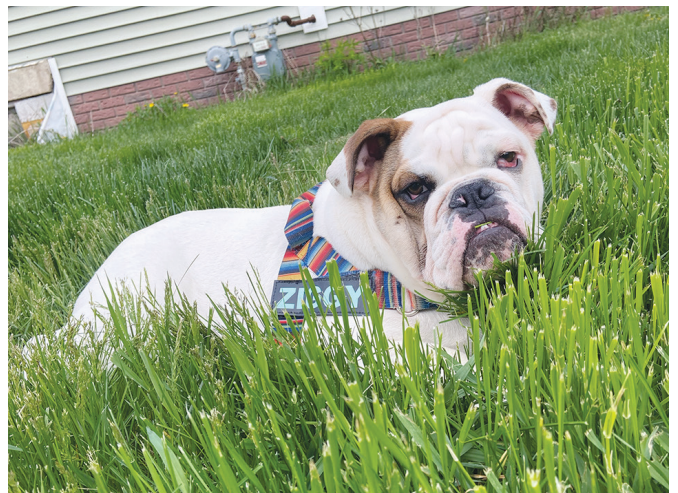
Our staff writer Amy's pup
Alexandra Hamilton



Our graphic designer Taylor's
English Bulldog, Juniper Berry



Our advertising manager Keri's
Pitbull, Ace



Our graphic designer Taylor's
English Bulldog, Ziggy Stardust



ESTHERVILLE SWEET CORN DAYS

AUGUST
1-4
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Full Listing of Events at
www.Estherville.org

CORN TO BE WILD



MY RINGSTED ROOTS



By DAVID SWARTZ

DSWARTZ@ESTHERVILLENEWS.NET

As Ringsted celebrates its quasiquintennial this year, that's 125 years for those unfamiliar with the word, it's time to tell some of my experiences with the southeast Emmet County community.

With my father Leonard Swartz marrying one of the Danish gals from the Ringsted area, Darlene Paulsen, much of my youth was spent traveling to Ringsted for church.

While my mother spent most of her schooling years at the neighboring school in Halfa, her final high school years were spent in Ringsted where

she graduated in 1951. My folks were married at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in 1963.

I attended St. Paul's in the 1970s and 1980s before the church merged with St. John's Lutheran Church to form the current United Lutheran Church.

An interesting note—I didn't know that those from St. John's were often called the "Happy Danes" while those at St. Paul's were the "Sad Danes" due to St. Paul's being more strict in their worship.

As with most youth, I regularly attended Sunday School and church.

During the Lenten sea-



Doug Wagner
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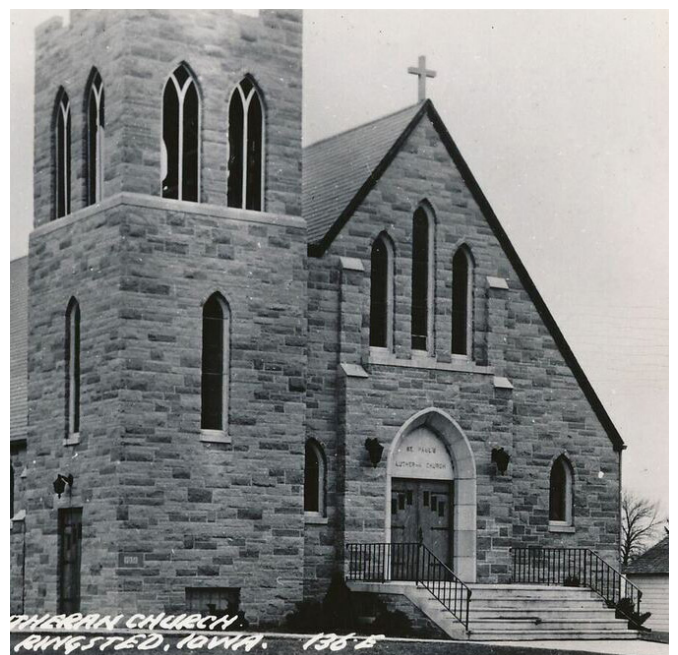


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Edward Jones

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St. Patrick's Church in Ringsted where the worshippers were known as "Sad Danes"



son, the two Lutheran churches and the First Presbyterian Church rotated the location of Wednesday services. It was always interesting to visit the other church.

Another joint venture of the three churches was Bible School.

I especially recall attending Bible School in the former Ringsted elementary building. School lasted through lunch

from early morning to after lunch. Discovering who could eat sandwiches the quickest between myself and Scott Manson was a daily routine. Hint: the key to success is small bites, not big bites.

From Sunday School, some of my teachers are still around and some are not. Those I remember are Lynn Ries, Evelyn Hansen, Delores Weisbrod, Faith Nielsen,

and Roger and Betty Christensen.

Pastor Fred Boyce and his wife Mardene were responsible for my confirmation teaching.

More recently, the former Ringsted Middle School was home to an area adult basketball league. When Armstrong-Ringsted merged with North Kossuth and Sentral of Fenton, that facility was

torn down as well.

The town of Ringsted still has a key corp of residents dedicated to serving the community and hosting events.

I attended the town's Diamond Jubilee (75th birthday) when I was very young. I was at the town's 100th year celebration in 1999. I plan to attend this year's 125th as well to pay homage to my youth.

SOME RINGSTED HISTORY

The southeast town of Ringsted celebrates its 125th birthday this year. As with many small towns in Iowa, Ringsted owes existence to a time when railroads were the quickest means of travel.

The Ringsted Post Office preceded the town when John Larsen applied for a post office for the area. He received approval for the post office Feb. 14, 1884. Mr. Larsen chose the name Ringsted because his wife was a name of Ringsted, Denmark. The location of the postoffice shifted five times before it was located in the town of Ringsted, after it was platted April 6, 1899. With the coming of the railroad, Ringsted moved for incorporation which came about on March 19, 1900.

The town owes its diagonal streets to the railroad, as many point northwest to southeast and northeast to southwest.

The store and post office located northeast of Ringsted, as well as most of the business places made up the town of Forsyth (which was southeast of Ringsted), were moved to the new town site and became a part of the community established on the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad.

Some dwelling places were also relocated but the creamery northeast of Ringsted continued to operate at its original location until 1915 when a new building was constructed in the town.

The Danish Lutheran Church was formed in 1884. However in 1897, the congregation became divided and split into two congregations which became known as St. John's and St. Paul's.

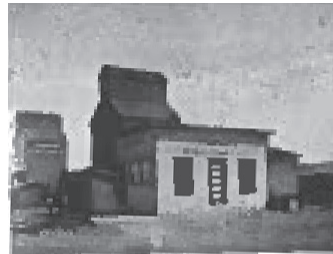
While St. John's sat outside the town limits to the east, St. Paul's built a church in town. The church St. Paul's built in town now is home to United Lutheran Church—a merger of St. John's and St. Paul's in the 1990s.

The First Presbyterian Church was incorporated June 23, 1903.

The Ringsted Dispatch still serves as the town's newspaper, but it is printed in Armstrong.

The Ringsted Telephone Company is one of the town's oldest businesses. Telephones were in use in the area starting in 1907. The name was changed to Ringtel Communications in 2009.

Editor's note: Information for this article was taken from the "history of Emmet County, Iowa, Vol. III.



Ringsted, Iowa
Farmers Grain & Product Co.
ca 1911



Creamery ca 1925



Residential and Town
ca 1909



Ringsted Business Section ca 1976

UPCOMING EVENTS

AUGUST & SEPTEMBER

August 1-4 Sweet Corn Days in Estherville – Parade starts at 10:30 a.m. Saturday followed by the serving of free sweet corn in Library Square – Check out the complete schedule at: www.esherville.org/sweet-corn-days.html



August 19 – Wesley's Kitchen at Estherville United Methodist Church with pork burgers,

pasta salad, ice cream and fellowship. A free meal served from 11-12:30 at the church – 102 S. 8th Street.

August 22 Fall Sports Showcase – ELC

August 27 First day of school at ELC

September 2 – Labor Day

September 20 – ELC Homecoming

Thursdays and Saturdays – Estherville Downtown Market is in Library Square from 4:30-6:30 p.m. Thursdays through September 26, 2024. The market includes fresh produce, canned goods, baked goods, food trucks, entertainment and more.



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Photo taken by

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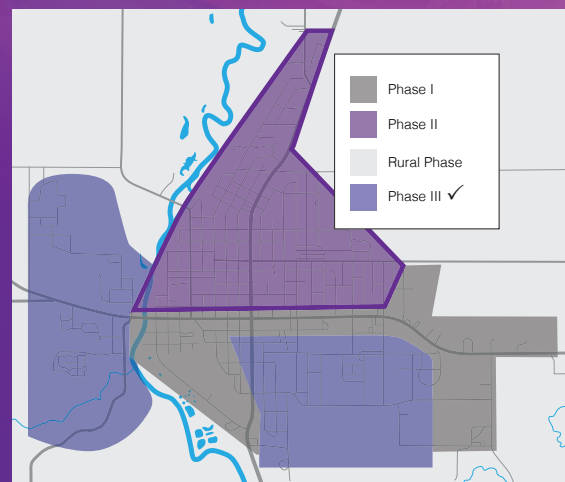
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