The Journal

June 2022 Volume 26, Issue 6

Western Home
Communities is a
charitable Christian
service organization
that assertively creates
fulfilling lifestyles
for those we serve,
their families
and our employees.

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CEO receives prestigious honor

Hansen to be inducted into Business Hall of Fame

Junior Achievement of Eastern Iowa has named Western Home Communities CEO Kris Hansen as one of three laureates to be

inducted into the Cedar Valley Business Hall of Fame in 2022.



- making an impact on their industry or organization
- showing integrity as an ethical business leader
- bettering their community as a whole
- displaying leadership that allows them to be exemplary role models
- exhibiting an entrepreneurial spirit in starting or significantly advancing local business

"I'm very humbled and honored to be selected, and I want to share this recognition with everyone who has been part of my journey. I'm so fortunate to have been surrounded by supportive family, great friends, teammates, peers, board members, strategic advisors and friends more commonly called the residents of Western Home Communities," Hansen says. "Even though this award is based on past initiatives, I'm still excited about creating the future. There's the way things are and they way they ought to be, and that is what I continue to work toward."

Hansen joined Western Home Communities in 1995 as vice president and became CEO in 2009.

Within the senior living profession, he serves as board chair of Innovators Alliance and received the national award for outstanding advocacy from LeadingAge in 2012. Locally, he has been board chair of Grow Cedar Valley and chaired Future Forward 2025, the Cedar Falls strategic planning initiative.

Hansen and fellow laureates will be inducted at a black-tie gala in October.

Congratulations, Kris!

Governor signs staffing agency reform bill into law

A state law goes into effect July 1 that puts new requirements on health care staffing agencies.

They will now have to register with the

lowa Department of Inspections and Appeals (DIA), ensure that employees comply with requirements and qualifications for health care workers, maintain liability insurance,

disclose certain wage data to DIA and no longer use

non-compete clauses in contracts.

Western Home Communities CEO Kris Hansen lobbied legislators for the bill's passage; he also wrote an opinion editorial that was published in both the Des Moines Register and Waterloo Courier, outlining how some staffing agencies

have been essentially price gouging assisted living and nursing homes across lowa.

The bill passed unanimously with bipartisan

support. Hansen attended the bill signing in Des Moines on May 17.

"I was honored to be there and I'm very pleased that both the lowa House and Senate, along with the governor, listened to our concerns regarding

the questionable practices of some staffing agencies," said Hansen. "Hopefully we'll now get data that will be helpful to curb these behaviors in the future if needed. I also appreciate all the support and comments we received after the op-ed was published."



Governor Reynolds at the bill signing. CEO Kris Hansen is third from the left in the back row.

Lois Wishmeyer with the mayors of Cedar Falls and Waterloo. Photo: Courtesy of Cedar Falls Tourism & Visitors Bureau.

Three residents among Eight over 80

Courier Communications recognizes eight accomplished individuals over the age of 80 at a luncheon later this month. Among the honorees are Windcove resident Louise McGinnis and villa residents Marlene Behn and Lois Wishmeyer.

We congratulate each of them on being recognized for a lifetime of achievement and leadership, the ability to inspire and motivate others, and a commitment to the community.

Wishmeyer also received recognition on May 12 at the Mayors' Volunteer Awards luncheon for her service to Gallagher Bluedorn Performing Arts Center, the Cedar Falls Tourism & Visitors Bureau, MercyOne and Western Home Communities.

Correction

Our apologies to the family of Lee VerMulm, whose picture was omitted from the May 15 remembrance service slideshow.



Lee VerMulm 12/18/1941 - 1/15/2021



International intern arrival delayed

The processing of J-1 visas has taken longer than expected. The arrival of 34 interns from Jamaica who will work at Western Home Communities for one year will likely not occur until the first or second week of June.

The interns must be fully vaccinated to travel to the United States and they will quarantine for five days after arriving in Cedar Falls, and be tested, for additional protection against COVID-19. Orientation to the organization and their positions will occur over two weeks.

Watch for further updates online at westernhomecommunities.org/J-1.

Villa resident awaits book debut this month

Cherie Dargan made good use of down time during the pandemic. She has always been a storyteller and decided to bring to life a series of books she'd had in mind for a decade, inspired by a dozen vintage guilts she inherited.

Each of the four books in "Grandmother's Treasures" focuses on an antique quilt and American war and is set in a fictional lowa town called Jubilee Junction.



Cherie's Rustic Rose quilt that was inspiration for book two, "The Legacy."

The first book, "The Gift," follows the story of Grace Nelson Walters in the 1940s and Grace's granddaughter, Gracie, in the present day as she receives a large wicker basket from her aunt filled with

the California quilt, some aprons, a photo album, scrapbook and a shoebox filled with tapes. "Together, they listen to Grace's tapes and Gracie, in time, decides to accomplish what her family

failed to do 60 years earlier," Cherie explains.

"I describe my writing as women's fiction set in the Midwest with a twist of history, mystery, faith and love," Cherie shared. She is editing book two, "The Legacy,"



Cherie stands with a draft of her book marked with notes.



Cherie sits next to her mother's vintage basket, the same as appears in her first book, containing a quilt, scrapbook, aprons and cassette tapes of stories.

and "The Promise" and "The Sacrifice" are in the works. Cherie is also working on a holiday novella, "The Recollection," which takes place in the Depression era and focuses on a crazy quilt.

"Writing is easy, it's the revision that's hard," according to Cherie, who found her villa sunroom the perfect place to research and write. "I don't think I would have been as productive if I weren't able to swing around in my chair to see our vegetable garden, trees and flowers. This has become the perfect place for me."

Once "The Gift" is released early this summer, The Market in Jorgensen Plaza will host a book signing. If you'd like to follow news of Cherie's work, find her on Facebook at @CherieDarganAuthor or visit www.cheriedargan.com.



Gardening and the view from her villa was a welcomed break from hours of writing and revisions.

Windhaven author's textbook stands the test of time

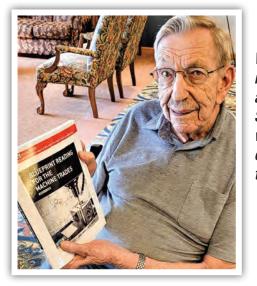
8th edition in 42 years just released

Russ Schultz first co-authored the textbook, "Blueprint Reading for the Machine Trades," back in 1980 – and just received a copy of its 8th edition, hot off the press.

What's even more impressive than the book's longevity is how Russ acquired his knowledge: He is a self-taught engineer with a high school diploma. Russ served in the Air Force from 1950-54, working in radio/communication repair, then became a senior engineer and program manager at Thomas Industries in Wisconsin. During his work there, he was granted two U. S. patents.

In 1967, with no formal teaching training or experience, Russ accepted a mechanical drafting teaching position at what is now Hawkeye Community College and stayed until retiring in 1991.

In the late 1970s, a sales representative for Prentice Hall Publishing recommended Russ's classroom teaching materials to become a textbook because they were considered thorough yet easy to understand. He and wife



Windhaven resident and author Russ Schultz, posing with the 8th edition of his textbook.

Pat's two sons, Dann and Scott, graduated from the course in the early 80s and helped proof the first edition. Co-authors who taught from the book assisted with the fourth through eighth editions.

The book provides manufacturing trades students the practical knowledge needed to read and correctly interpret blueprints. The Windhaven resident's work continues to teach students via hands-on problem solving and quizzes to test their knowledge as they go.

Windcove author launches website

Author and poet Mary Hornback, profiled in the October 2020 issue of The Journal, recently launched a website: www.maryhornback.com.

The site includes a blog where Mary offers hope to those who are questioning their faith due to difficult circumstances.

Website visitors can also purchase the book, "God, Are You Really There?" which was republished in 2020 after initially debuting in 2003. Mary's book shares the stories of ordinary people who have walked through dark valleys, then discovered hope and peace.







Chaplain's Corner: The wind in our sails

by Director of Spiritual Care Enrique "Q" Ochoa

Several years ago, during a summer family vacation, I had the opportunity to become a certified sailor. It was a thrill to be trained and trusted to "captain" one of the Sunfish sailboats that belonged to the resort.

What a feeling of exhilaration as I adjusted the boom to my liking, then positioned the sail to catch a gust of wind that would carry me out across beautiful Lake George in upstate New York. The sail became full and tight; with a perfect measure of steadiness, I shot out on the water with a joyful glee I

barely know how to describe. I felt so alive as the wind in my sail was taking me toward fun and adventure.

Until it didn't. As I approached the far end of the lake, the conditions changed. The wind died down and couldn't carry me even a few feet forward. In sailing terms this is called being "in irons." I quickly understood the meaning of the phrase: I had no emergency plan, no back-up

motor, no oar, and not even a cell phone to call for help. To say that I was beginning to panic is an understatement.

And then, the wind came up again - but from the opposite direction; a head wind. It doesn't make sense that a head wind can carry you forward on the water, right? I wouldn't have recognized this if not for my sailing lessons. I was able to get the Sunfish moving again and make the most of my day on the lake.

"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose." Romans 8:28.



I find this to be an astonishingly important verse for the Christian life. I pray, dear reader, that we all might learn to be grateful for the promised wind of the Holy Spirit, as it is gifted to every believer in Christ. God will never leave us permanently "in irons," yet God

does allow for head winds on our journey. Where would we be without the important lessons we have learned even in the most difficult times of our life?

God can bring about this miracle: Even in the head winds of challenge and suffering, God promises we can discover a full sail of good to move us forward on the sweet adventure of following and living for him.

Schedule for in-person worship services

Fresh Wind Worship is currently held at Diamond Event Center on the first and third Sundays of each month. Upcoming services will be June 5, June 19, July 3 and July 17.

Each independent living community will also host an in-person worship service during the first and third weeks of each month. Each IL community will host a Bible study during the second and fourth weeks of each month.

Check community calendars for specific times and locations.

Western Home Foundation and Western Home Communities appreciate being honored through estate gifts, memorials and other donations. We list donor names each month as one

WesternHome foundation

way of thanking donors for their generosity. This list reflects gifts received through May 11, 2022. For information on supporting Western Home Foundation, contact Director of Administrative Services Susan Steffy at susan.steffy@westernhome.org or 319-222-2022.

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Darrell Wright Dione Young

In full bloom

A trip to Mennonite greenhouses near Ionia the first week of May helped residents get ready for the eventual arrival of sun and warmth. Skies may have been gloomy but a hearty breakfast at Klunder's Kafe and greenhouses full of colorful blooms put a spring in everyone's steps.





Resident coordinators Stephanie Berky, left, and Brandy Berky select colorful blooms for their buildings.



Each hanging basket seems more beautiful than the next to Hazel Messer.



Rich and Martha Stanford look happy with their haul of hanging plants.



Rowena Hardinger heads down another row, followed by Lorraine Tonn.



You can expect these flowers to beautify Margie Polacek's patio at Prairie Wind.

George Michaels soaks up some sun while helping with garden planting at Windhaven on a lovely spring day.

Laretta Husome digs in the dirt at Windhaven, helping plant flowers in the raised beds on the patio.



Resident coordinator Teresa Gronowski captured this image of a hawk after it flew to a fence near the round barn after hovering around Windgrace.

Residents from Thalman Square visit the Prairie Parkway Community Garden on May 18.





Scenes of Spring



It's a happy sight to see a WHC bus transporting residents to social activities once again!



Independent living residents enjoyed an outing to Barn Happy. Clockwise from left: Ginnie Garrison, Mary Gerholdt, Karilyn Wood and Shirley Cain.



The Big Kids Bike Klub rides again! From left, Jerry Kramer, Mervin Carnahan, Roy Justis, Donna Brown and Lyle Brim head out on local trails.

Windhaven residents Margaret Wiebke, Connie Wrage, Virginia Loveless and Wendy Schmitt enjoy a ladies social in May.



Wellness happenings in June

by Director of Wellness Morgan Lehmann

Line Dancing

Join us for a fun workout while challenging your balance and engaging your mind.

Mondays at 1:30 p.m. at the Windcove wellness room

Walk & Talk

Join Morgan and Jenna for a "Walk & Talk" in each independent living community.

Each Wednesday in June – check your calendar for time and location

Campus Walk

Get outside to move your body and socialize with neighbors. *Thursday, June 16 at 10 a.m. at the NW entrance of Jorgensen Plaza*

Yoga myths and facts

- Myth: You have to be flexible to participate.
 Fact: Not at all that will come with practice.
 Yoga increases strength & flexibility.
- Myth: You have to be young.
 Fact: It's for all ages and body types.
- Myth: Yoga is just for women.
 Fact: Wrong. About 35% of yogis are men.
- Myth: All yoga is the same.
 Fact: Yoga is a multiplicity of movements, using props, modifications and encouragement to go at your own pace.



Try yoga at Western Home Communities on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. in the Grosse Wellness Center classroom. Or ask for a Zoom link.

Fellow residents say this about yoga:

"WHC's yoga instructor is gentle, accommodating, with no judgment. After we retired, our physical therapist daughter told us to take yoga. That was 14 years ago and we are so glad we did. We are stronger, more limber, with a lot fewer aches and pains because of it. Try it. It is never too late to start."

- Christine and Del Carpenter

"I love our yoga classes! I had tried yoga years before and was discouraged, but not with our instructor, Jessie. She is always inspiring. She gives great options for every ability and skill level. It's a great way to celebrate what your body can learn and do."

- Bonnie Bickett

Volunteers thanked in person

It was smiles all around at the first in-person Volunteer Appreciation Event in three years!





in the background.

Busy travel schedule commences

Trips to Nebraska's Lied Lodge at the Arbor Day Farm and to the Ark Encounter in Kentucky were highlights of April and May.



Ready to ride!
Travelers head
south in the
morning sun
for an April
trip to the Ark
Encounter
and Creation
Museum.

The trip to Nebraska began with a stop at RVP-1875 in Jefferson, lowa, a historical furniture shop.

Gary and Jan Rosauer enjoy Blue Bunny ice cream for breakfast in LeMars, the last leg of the trip home from Nebraska.







Happy June birthday!



John Mountain	MS	June 1	Margaret Bettis	WHAL	June 16
Stella Epps	MS	June 1	June Niedert	WR	June 16
Kathy Albrecht	MS	June 1	Larry Cardamon	VTH	June 16
Norma Emmert	WM	June 1	Donna Brown	VTH	June 18
Jerry Dumke	VTH	June 1	Marlene Rasmussen	WR	June 19
Julia Batchelder	MS	June 3	Cheryl Gerdes	VTH	June 19
Denny Stoneman	VTH	June 3	Richard Batchelder	MS	June 20
Rex Pershing	VTH	June 5	Roberta Simmons	WHAL	June 20
Shirley McGinnis	PW	June 6	Jeanne Thuesen	WR	June 20
Rachelle Yousefi	PW	June 6	Allen Jacobson	WR	June 20
Robert Hayes	WHAL	June 6	Harris Jorgensen	PW	June 21
Mary Jardine	WG	June 6	Mary Franken	PW	June 21
Jerry Purcell	VTH	June 6	Stephen Fortgang	PW	June 21
Barb Jacobson	VTH	June 6	Darrel Flater	VTH	June 21
Larry Tonn	VTH	June 6	Gaylen Brocka	PW	June 22
Suzie Schmitt	VTH	June 6	Delma Schares	DS	June 22
Juanita Rekers	WC	June 6	Joan Rogers	VTH	June 22
Jan Burnett	WC	June 6	Jenny Allen	WW	June 23
Marjorie Nielsen	TS	June 7	Juanita Ruby	VTH	June 23
Marion Richards	CTG	June 7	Harry Black	PW	June 24
Nell Wilson	VTH	June 7	James Anderson	PW	June 24
Sharon Petersen	WC	June 7	Betty LaCoste	VTH	June 24
Lorna Blohn	WHAL	June 8	Jan Rosauer	VTH	June 24
Carol Morlan	WR	June 8	Nancy Versluis	WM	June 25
Karen Sund	VTH	June 8	Bob Nelson	WG	June 25
Jane Jackson	WW	June 9	Ronald King	WR	June 25
George Glenn	VTH	June 9	Donald Pruisner	WHAL	June 26
Gayle Wood	WR	June 10	Donna Thompson	WHAL	June 26
Cheryl Hudson	VTH	June 10	Patricia Anders	MS	June 27
Marsha Bock	WC	June 10	Darrel J. Brandt	VTH	June 27
Mary Hudwalker	WHAL	June 11	Connie Wrage	WHAL	June 28
Marcia Hansen	VTH	June 11	Eldon Hayes	WHAL	June 28
Marvel Gerjerts	TS	June 12	Galen Peckham	WR	June 28
Treva Nicks	DS	June 12	Linda Schrader	VTH	June 28
Freddie Holmes	WG	June 12	Bertie Jepsen	WC	June 28
Linda Ochsner	VTH	June 13	Barb Moss	DS	June 29
Norma Leibold	VTH	June 13	Merle Larkin	WM	June 29
Anita Altenbaumer	VTH	June 13	Donna J. Brown	VTH	June 29
Al Yakish	VTH	June 13	Frances Putnam	WC	June 29
Velma Wessel	PW	June 14	Bob Panther	PW	June 30
Bob Beener	WG	June 14	Marjorie Harned	WM	June 30
Barb Hutchison	VTH	June 14	Virginia Loveless	WHAL	June 30
Cal Geiger	WC	June 15			
_					



We're on @westernhomecommunities is where you'll find content on our newest social media page. Check it out! Facebook users, we're still busy on that page – just adding Instagram to reach another audience. Engage with us on your favorite platform!

Nurses Week, Skilled Nursing Care Week celebrated

Two observances overlapped the second week of May, so employees and residents marked the occasion with several theme dress-up days – resulting in a lot of fun and creativity on display!



Flashing back to the 80s at Thuesen Cottage are, from left, Torkelle Sumerall, Jim Bowman, Nataya Bakare and Felicia Shumpert.



Deery Suites goes Hawaiian! Front row from left: Jacob Rozendaal, Rachel Maloy, Haley Broten, Beth Hines, Jessica Runyan, and Prisca Ngalula. Back row from left: Bryan Allen, Nicole Jolley, Ciera Gunderson, Lisa Ridder, Tabitha Tjaden, Cheryl Dreyer, Dr. Richard Frankhauser, McKenzie Paulsen and Bri Wagner.



From left, Shay Cobb, Dorla Hill and Erica Rath "go red" on their assigned color day at Thuesen Cottage.



Martin Suites Director of Nursing Emily Billman clowns around on Carnival Day.



Showing off their allegiances on Sports Day were Raeanne Burke, Nichole Wollmuth and Brody Goos at Gilmore's Pub.





Nurses Amy Frost, left, and Kisma Gronemeyer observe Hawaiian Day at Martin Suites with Tom Fuller.

They're stoked for 80s Day at Nation Cottage! Shirley Harris looks cool along with employees Ryan Spragle, Meghan Joens and Emily Roeder.

40-year employment anniversary celebrated this month

A Cedar Falls High School co-op student never thought her first job would become a 40-year career – but that's what happened for Teresa Gronowski, who found a lifelong calling at Western Home Communities.

The Windgrace resident coordinator, known for her hard work and selfless nature, celebrates her 40th employment anniversary on June 17. She started in 1982, when The Western Home was the original building downtown.

"Back in the day, the dishwasher came in at 5 p.m. then stayed after everyone left to take out garbage and clean up," Teresa recalls. "That's a pretty big kitchen to mop!"

After graduating, Teresa thought about joining the military. Then a supervisor asked if she wanted to become a full-time cook.

"I thought I'd do that for now, and it just kept going!" Teresa laughs. She moved to

Willowwood when it opened in 1989, then Walnut Court Apartments in Waterloo for 17 years and finally to south campus.

"I really love cooking and I just think this is a great place to work," Teresa says. "It's flexible and family-friendly and feels like my second home."

She took the resident coordinator role almost three years ago and, happily, still gets to cook for socials and birthday lunches. Her favorite thing to do now is drive the bus.

"I love getting to take the residents out and help them have normalcy in their lives with activities and shopping," she explains.

That might even be a retirement gig for Teresa, IF she retires – she's not thinking about it right now, we're happy to report.

Thanks for forty years of dedication and service, Teresa! Congratulations!

Congratulations!

These six employees in Cedar Falls celebrate milestone anniversaries with Western Home Communities in June. We appreciate their service and dedication.

Teresa Gronowski
Windgrace resident
coordinator
40 years
June 17



Jamie Schake, CNA-CMA Thuesen Cottage 5 years June 12 James Lopez
Technology automation
coordinator
5 years
June 19

Susan Steffy
Director of
Administrative Services
5 years
June 5



Lyn Smith, CNA-CMA atHome with Western Home 5 years June 19

Paul Knapp
Transportation driver
5 years
June 26

Notes of appreciation

Thank you for all your prayers and kind words. Nancy enjoyed our short time here, and I am glad we came. Thank you for the flower. *Bob Meinders & family*

Thank you for the flowers and your help to allow WHC residents to attend Mom's funeral service. Also thanks to the WHC employees who attended. Mom loved her time at WHC especially the people. *Mary Olsen and the family of Terri Tobin*

During a time like this we realize how much our family and friends mean to us. Thank you for being there for us. *The family of Merriem D. Lane*

In sympathy

Ken Earnest, WC	May 7
Marilyn Boysen, DS	May 7
Stan Larsen, TS	May 3
Nona Christopher, DS	Apr. 30
Karl Schwaab, DS	Apr. 29
Mary Fischbach, DS	Apr. 28
Susan Jacobsen, WHAL	Apr. 26
Dick Casey, DS	Apr. 25
Art McGovern	Apr. 24

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Building Abbreviations

Martin Suites MS Windhaven Assisted Living WHAL Thalman Square Memory Support TS Willowwood ww WG Windgrace Windermere WM WC Windcove Windridge WR Windcrest Villas & Townhomes **VTH** Nation Cottage and Thuesen Cottage **CTG Prairie Wind** PW DS The Deery Suites

The Journal is a monthly publication of the WHC office of communications and public relations. To subscribe, ask questions, offer content suggestions or unsubscribe, please contact Linda Hudwalker Bowman, editor, at **(319) 859-9337** or **linda.bowman@westernhome.org**.



Meet the Employee of the Month, Kisma Gronemeyer

Kisma joined the Western Home Communities family in September 2021. She's an RN at Martin Suites. Here are a few things that were said about Kisma:

- Kisma is always willing to help the CNAs when she is able to.
- She goes above and beyond to make sure residents are comfortable, safe and happy.
- Kisma visits with residents and is always friendly. If a resident needs something she makes sure it is done.
- She is willing to pick up shifts in different roles such as CNA or hospitality.
- Kisma is spontaneous and eager to do activities, grill outs, group activities, etc.
 We are lucky to have her.

Your Western Home Communities family congratulates you, Kisma, on being named our employee of the month for May 2022!





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