

EDGERTON REPORTER

Vol. 152, No. 49 Edgerton, Wisconsin Proudly Serving the Community Since 1874 \$1.50 July 10, 2019

Fire guts home, but spares family

By *Tristan McGough*
Special to the Reporter

The fire that devastated the structure of the home at 933 E. Meadow Circle in the Woodlands Subdivision just north of Newville during the early morning hours of Friday, July 5, 2019, was not a total loss and was in many respects a triumphant story.

Triumphant because not a soul was injured, including firefighters, with every one of the five family members in the house being saved, plus the two dogs.

Triumphant because even though all five were fast asleep while the fire grew in intensity without any smoke detector going off, a fortunate combination of four citizens made heroic intervention victorious.

And triumphant because though the structure was a total loss, the lion's share of a valuable historical collection of civil war literature and memorabilia appears to be salvageable, at least according to Mark Boeche, who owns the home with his wife Stephanie.

On Saturday, July 6, the day after the conflagration, sitting in his truck in their driveway, looking a bit dazed after the day's long night, Boeche said, "I think, it could have turned out much worse. I'm thankful to the people who helped us in our time of need."

Those four people could well have been the difference between the relatively enduring disaster of a home fire and the unendurable tragedy of loved ones lost.

Edgerton Fire Protection District (EFPD) Fire Chief Randall Pickering, who was

on-scene fighting the blaze, disclosed, "Two young women were driving along Maple Beach Road when they noticed flames over the rooftops of some of the homes in the subdivision and they went to see what was happening.

"When they got to where the fire was, they didn't see anyone in front of the house, or coming out. In fact, they didn't see anyone around. So, they laid on the horn and called 911 at 12:08 a.m.

"They were the original callers to 911."

Pickering said he was having the Dane County 911 Center track-down the caller because he wishes to recognize their critical help, along with the other two citizen responders, at a future EFPD meeting, as well as, he surmised, certain state firefighter conventions down the road.

"It just so happens," Pickering picks-up the thread again, "that two off-duty officers were relaxing on their decks at their homes. This was just after midnight. They went to find out who was honking the horn at that hour, saw the flames and responded. Meanwhile, other neighbors also called 911."

Boeche clarified, "Travis, who is with the state patrol, lives across the street and he kicked-in the front door. Andrew lives over on the corner of Prairieview and is with the state corrections department. He came in from the backyard and kicked-in the back door."

Fortunately, EFPD Deputy Chief Jason Russ also lives nearby, sharing, "I do live in that subdivision two blocks away and was on scene within a minute. I was incident com-

mand until Chief Pickering arrived."

Russ describes the eerie nocturnal scene, "When I opened up my garage door that night to respond, I was able to

see the orange glow and a very heavy smoke column already forming in the air.

"Upon arrival, the garage was well enveloped in fire and appeared to have been burning

for some time before we had been alerted. Prior to fire vehicles arriving on-scene the fire was able to breach the walls in

See **HOUSE FIRE**, 6



Just before 1 a.m. on June 5, the fire at 933 E. Meadow Circle was in full conflagration. Photo courtesy of Heather Clevenger



A total structural loss, Boeche plans to rebuild his new home on the same site with the original architectural design. Photo by Tristan McGough

Teacher investigated for texts resigns

By *Jeff Brown*
Special to The Reporter

A male teacher at Edgerton High School who was investigated in April for sending text messages to a female high school student has resigned. The teacher's resignation was noted in a staffing report approved by the board of education at its June 3 meeting.

The following information comes from two police reports filed by Edgerton Police Officer Chilson on April 10 and 11, 2019. The Reporter has not named the teacher because he was not arrested or cited and has not named the student because she's a juvenile.

Dr. Mark Coombs, the high school principal, called the police on April 10. Coombs asked the police to participate in an investigation he was conducting into the behavior of a male teacher who worked at the high school.

Chilson went to the high school and meet with Coombs and Craig Lodahl, the athletic director/associate principal. They told Chilson that the male teacher had been suspended for three days pending an investigation into communications he'd sent to a female student.

Coombs and Lodahl had spoken to the student, several other students, and the teacher. The teacher signed a "Garrity agreement," waiving his rights against self-incrimination (a school district employee being investigated by his or her employer has the same right against compelled self-incrimination as a suspect arrested by the police does, because for purposes of the Fifth Amendment both a school district and a police officer are agents of the government).

"The ranch is the goat"

Coombs told Chilson the female student said that she and the teacher had engaged in a conversation using the messaging function on Instagram. The student became uncomfortable

See **TEACHER RESIGNS**, 3



Above: Steve Stricker hoists the championship trophy after winning the U.S. Senior Open on Sunday, June 30, at Notre Dame's Warren Golf Course. Below: Stricker hugs his daughters Izzy, 13, and Bobbi, 20, following the win. With wife Nicki on the bag, Stricker's entire family has been present for his last two tournaments.

Photos by John Mersits (above) and Michael Caterina (below) courtesy of South Bend Tribune



Golf is family affair for Stricker

By *Steven T. Slack*
Special to the Reporter

Steve Stricker is having a career year with his family at his side. Nicki Stricker, Steve's wife, caddied for him at the American Family Championship where Steve finished second and the U.S. Senior Open which he won. Steve's daughters, 20-year-old Bobbi and 13-year-old Izzy, were also at both events.

"It's really become a family affair," Steve told the Golf Digest podcast. At the AmFam Championship weekend Steve said, "We love golf and we all play it. I enjoy having them out here. It brings us all together."

All the women in the Stricker household have firsthand experience with competitive golf. Nicki played collegiate golf for the University of Wisconsin and caddied for Steve on the PGA Tour from 1994-97. Since 2015 when Steve's caddie Jimmy Johnson left for Justin Thomas' bag, Nicki has been accompanying her husband "off and on."

"I think we would all come together regardless, but my family happens to center around golf," Nicki told thecaddienetwork.com a few weeks ago. "It started out not just with my grandfather but my uncle, my brother, my aunts."

Nicki can now add "daughters" to that list of golf-enthusiast relatives. Bobbi is a 20-year-old red-shirt junior at the University of Wisconsin averaging 78.2 per round in four

events this season. Bobbi shot a 3-over 150 at the Big Ten Championships earning her a share of 38th place, a career best finish.

Making those accomplishments all the more impressive is that Bobbi has only recently begun taking golf seriously. After playing tennis throughout high school, Bobbi suddenly switched focus.

"After her last tennis match she said, 'I want to play college golf.' I almost choked," Steve

laughed on the Golf Digest podcast. "I didn't know how to respond to that."

The 2020 Ryder Cup Captain noted that although Bobbi had barely played in any junior tournaments, she already shot in the mid-80s without practicing. Bobbi has been continually improving her game, putting that Stricker work ethic to use.

"It's kind of mind-boggling to think about just three years

See **STRICKER**, 3

Edgerton will soon be celebrating its 48th Tobacco Heritage Days!

The Edgerton Reporter will mark the occasion with a **Super Edition on July 17, 2019**

We'd like to include your stories and/or photos of Edgerton's history.

Please bring your items to the Reporter office at **21 N. Henry St.** or call **884-3367** by **July 12**

Gas Watch	
Nat. Average.....	\$2.755
WI Average.....	\$2.650
WI lowest - Sun Prairie/Windsor.....	\$2.470
Janesville.....	\$2.590
Milton.....	\$2.590
Newville.....	\$2.590
Edgerton	\$2.540
Evansville.....	\$2.570
Fort Atkinson.....	\$2.560
Stoughton.....	\$2.650
Cambridge.....	\$2.590
Madison.....	\$2.550
Milwaukee - range.....	\$2.580 - \$2.990
Latest prices reported for one gallon of unleaded gasoline according to local observations and GasBuddy.com as of 5:00 p.m., Monday, July 8, 2019. Prices listed are the lowest in each city, which may be one or more stations	