

THE NORRIS NEWS

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Hitting the Ice

Last winter, Bonnie wanted to learn how to ice skate. She had her hand-me-down skates from Annika and the Nowthen ice rink was cold and ready.

Arthur was able to squeeze into his old skates and they went out for some lessons on how to fall on the ice.

Warren even came along one time and ran around in his snow boots and didn't seem to have any issues staying on his feet and moving around on the ice.



Clubhouse

This spring, Barbara's brother was looking for someone to take his old camper off his hands. It seemed like it would be a fun thing to turn into a clubhouse.



With much help from our friend and neighbor Aaron, we were able to drag the '79 Jayco out of the woods and to our house.



Once it was in place, Bonnie and Arthur spent many hours scrubbing, scrapping, cleaning, removing old wasp nests, mouse nest, vacuuming, and painting. The end result is a nice place to play and have a camp out or play "hide The man" (a toy figurine).



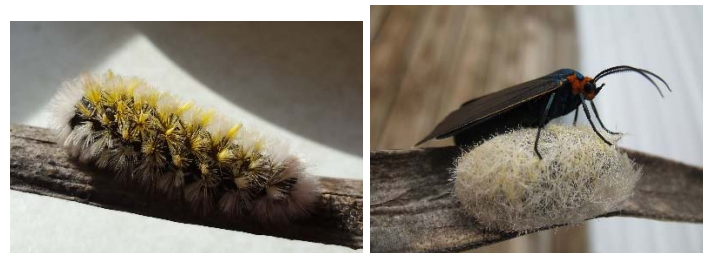
Bonnie



With Arthur's niece back in Minnesota, Bonnie has her first cousin (once removed) to play with. Not that it isn't fun playing with other cousins, but as the youngest cousin on both sides of the family, it is nice to finally have someone younger to play with.

Bonnie turned 9 this July and started third grade this fall. She is still taking piano lessons and seems to love practicing and figuring out how to play songs by ear.

Bonnie decided that piano just wasn't enough so she is taking violin lessons and had her first violin recital in December.



Bonnie loves animals of all kinds. She found this fuzzy caterpillar and helped it through one molting and one metamorphosis. The end result is this nice looking *Ctenucha virginica* moth.

There seems to be a somewhat endless supply of different creatures to be found in our yard for Bonnie to discover and learn about.



Sunshine is still Bonnie's favorite animal of all.



With all of the music and animal stuff going on, Bonnie still finds time to make things. She loves doing crafts and making things with what she can find; even if it is one of Warren's toys.

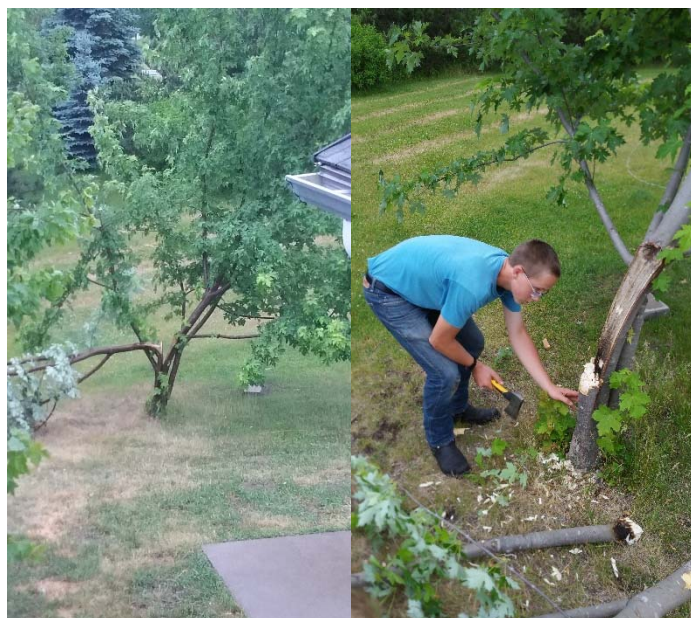


Warren

Warren turned 13 this year. He is in 7th grade at Spectrum High School. I know that may sound odd. Spectrum High School goes from grade 6 through 12. He is pushing 6 feet tall and has been told he looks like a 10th grader.

Next year they move across the street to a new area for 7th and 8th grade. Then back the year after that. It does seem odd and I am sure they will get it all figured out.

Warren's silver maple tree (that he started from a seed he found) decided to split in two this spring. Right down the trunk.



The plan is to cut the whole tree down and let one of the large suckers growing up from the roots become the main trunk of the tree. It should grow quickly with all of the energy and large root structure already in place.



Warren did well in 6th grade and as a reward, grandma and grandpa gave him a new tablet computer that he got to pick out. He has been glued to it ever since. Who knew that listening to country music on a tablet would be so much fun.



Warren's dog Buddy seems to have stopped growing. He is quite an armful to take care of. It seems border collies don't just sit around doing nothing all day. They like to be doing stuff all the time. And just when you think you have them worn out, they want to do more.

Buddy has over done it several times and doesn't seem to care if his pads are bleeding or his leg hurts. He just keeps on going and going and going...

Warren, Buddy, and Arthur spent a night up at their friend Paul's cabin this summer. They did some 4-wheeling, fishing, swimming, hiking, eating, and boating.

Not to be left out of any of the fun, Buddy climbed up to the loft sleeping area using the "stairs" shown in the picture. It is more of a vertical ladder. Once up, he wasn't sure how to get down so Arthur, after much coaxing, carried him down.



Warren has been helping out several neighbors with odd jobs and chores to earn money. He started by sending out letters letting people know he was available. He has taken care of horses and cats, cut/trimmed bushes, helped bail hay, build a house, landscaping. And with all of that, he also has some wood to split at home. How is that going Warren?



Warren was too old this year to play in the Upward basketball program. So he asked if he could help coach. He and his classmate Isabella ended up as assistant coaches for one of the teams.

Warren tried out for one of the basketball teams at his school. He was able to get on the "C" team and has

been practicing or playing a game almost every day of the week. His game keeps getting better. He still enjoys playing a pickup game with Arthur at church after his Wednesday youth stuff is done. He even surprised himself by jumping and touching the rim one night. (That is 10 feet high for those of you that don't know.)

SkyWarn

Arthur was able to get SkyWarn certified this spring. That means he is a weather spotter. It is a good thing he did that as to ward off any bad weather. They didn't need to activate spotters at all this summer. After the tornado this past February, the severe weather decided to stay clear of Arthur's new spotter powers.



Nowthen Threshing Show

Warren, Bonnie, and Arthur were able to spend some time again this year at the threshing show. At the black smith area, one of the smiths made a little spoon for Bonnie. We got to see the whole process.

There was a nice Mach1 Mustang back in the old car area. We had to get a picture to send Uncle Sterling as that was his favorite car growing up. I am sure he would like one like this so he could get around quickly.





In the small engine area, there was quite the display of old chainsaws. Some of them required two people to operate and had very long bars. We didn't get to see the demonstration but we did see the aftermath of one of these huge two-man saws after they had cut a ginormous log with it.



Knudson Gathering



Barbara's brother hosted a family gathering this summer at their house in Cambridge (Minnesota). All of Barbara's brothers, sisters, in-laws, nieces, and nephews were there. It was a great gathering. There was one niece that was not there as she was out of

state at National Guard training and for some reason they would not let her come home for the weekend.

Lots of food was eaten. Many games were played. There was even some talking going on. It was good to get caught up with everyone.

Apples

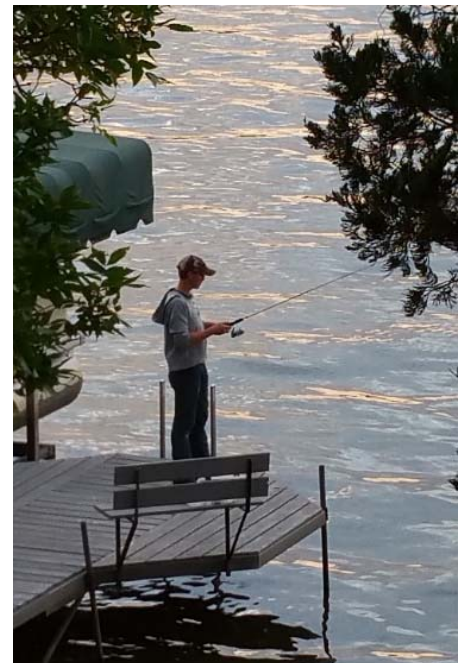


Our apple trees seem to have done well this year. I will let the picture of Cortland apples speak for themselves. There were even more apples that were harvested from the Gravenstein tree. We gave away many apples to family and friends. We were even able to get some people to come over and pick their own.

3rd of July?

Arthur's longtime friend Eric had a 3rd of July party at his house. They live on a lake and the lake association had a floating firework display that was scheduled for the 3rd. So Arthur and Warren went over to their house for that. Eric's son and Warren get along very well. We have a cute picture of them from several years go holding hands at the Threshing show as they walked down row after row of tractors. I will save that for when the boys are older.

The boys played baseball until they ran out of light. Warren took the opportunity to try catching some dinner off the dock but was unsuccessful. He has really taken to fishing this summer. His cousin Benjamin even came down one day and the two of them went fishing. He didn't leave with any fish but he did have a big bag of apples. I wonder where he got those.



We were able to have a nice 4th of July at our house. We cooked on the open fire, lit off some state approved sparkly smoke puffer things. During the heat of the day, we got out the water rockets and used them to stay cool and have fun at the same time.

Corner Ball

Last year of corner ball for Warren, at least as a player.

He is too old now to play.

He is old enough to be an assistant coach next year.

Coach Jill has already grilled him about helping out.

Arthur was a coach again this year. Since he already had a red shirt from another year, he was assigned as the red team coach. All of the other teams had two adult coaches and fewer players. It seems that Arthur is reliable at showing up so he gets more boys on his team and no help.



She scored many goals this season. She is having fun learning about teamwork and playing soccer.

Fun in Fargo

We made our annual pilgrimage to Fargo this summer to visit some of Barbara's family. She has two sisters (and their families) that live in Fargo. Other than celebrating Bonnie's birthday while we were there, the big event, set up by Aunt Wendy, was going to see *Beauty and The Beast* performed at an outdoor theater. Bonnie didn't like the wolves and to be



honest, they did look a bit creepy. Other than that, she liked it.

Even after we got home from that trip, she was reviewing the program and remembering the fun time we had.



It was a rare day that only 7 players showed up. It was even odder as it was picture day. There were 12 boys on the red team and several days they all showed up which meant having to triple up on one of the infield positions.

Bonnie played soccer again this year at Corner Ball. There were a few of the girls that she already knew and that made it even more fun.

Who is that?

Bonnie in one of her many disguises. I am sure nobody would have known it was her unless we had told you. Bonnie loves to try on different clothes and take on new personalities.

Sometimes she is a spy and other times she is a sort of short person with a horse head. It's always something and you never know what to expect.



Halloween



Any guess as to what Warren and Bonnie did for their Halloween costumes? You may think you know who Bonnie dressed as but you may be surprised to find out it is Dotty from The Great Wishy Woz! Or maybe you guessed.

Someone did make the comment about Warren's costume wanting to know why The Terminator was smiling. I thought that was a good question. You can ask him the next time you see him.

Four Generations

Arthur's brother Sterling and sister-in-law Lucy hosted Thanksgiving at their house this year. We had four generations there.



Grandpa Sterling, Izzy, Great Grandpa Brad

While Arthur and Barbara were out shopping those Black Friday specials, Bonnie kept busy with Grandma by building a gingerbread house. There was some crazy story about needing more candy for the

house and some trip to the store. You can ask Bonnie about that.



Winter is here

Winter seems to have come. Bonnie is especially happy about this. She loves the snow. She and Buddy go out for hours at a time doing all sorts of things in the snow. Sometimes papa can be talked into some crazy snow games. And Warren will come out without a coat or hat and ride his bike around in the snow.



Happy holidays to all!

*Arthur, Barbara,
Warren, & Bonnie*