

FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
LOW 64 HIGH 84	LOW 66 HIGH 88	LOW 59 HIGH 79	LOW 55 HIGH 79	LOW 59 HIGH 82	LOW 63 HIGH 86	LOW 63 HIGH 82

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ONE ACT PLAY *remembers* **9-11** *as the* 20TH-ANNIVERSARY APPROACHES



By SARAH WEBER
Co-Editor

ORANGE CITY — When the world was reeling after the events of September 11, the people on the ground in New York clung to hope as they figured out a way forward.

Two worlds collided when Northwestern College professor Jeff Barker visited with Mary Clark, a friend who works for the RCA, and from their meeting, a simple story found its way across the country with a message of hope.

"In the summer of 2002, Northwestern College hosted the General Synod for the RCA, and Mary Clark was visiting with that," Barker said. She lives in Long Island, and "I asked her, tell me what the last year has been like for you." And from that, she shared a marvelous little story about her church and a project they began.

Her church, the Manhasset Community Reformed Church on Long Island, became the home base for an organization that was eventually named Hugs Across America. Another church member, Sue Lucarelli, was a grade-school teacher in Manhattan, and as students returned to school, she searched for a way to give them comfort. "She shared the children were terrified every day, the sounds of jets overhead, just saying good-bye to parents in the morning, was traumatizing," Barker said. She taught at a school with many children with

learning disabilities and small classrooms, some with children with high anxiety and high energy. "Sue said she would find a way to bring each child in her classroom a bear to hold on to during the day and asked her church to help out. A member of her church bought 350 bears, enough for every child in her school."

As word spread, their little church received thousands of bears and distributed them to schools in Manhattan to provide comfort to the children. They handed out 60,000 bears to children in New York.

The organization now sends bears all over the world and has for the last 20 years.

When Barker heard of this unique, beautiful story, he put pen to paper.

He wrote a one-act play entitled "September Bears," and the production has made its way across the country.

"I wrote it back in the fall of 2002 and first performed it with the Northwestern traveling team on tour at the St. Paul chapel in New York, a little church in the shadows of the towers," he said. The church also has a history. "The church was not damaged, and it became a quiet place for workers to come," he said. The group performed there in March, and the play was featured in Fox News Magazine. They also performed it

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Sports:

SCHOONHOVEN RETIRES AFTER 28 YEARS OF COACHING

See page 4 for more details

TRAIL WORK CONTINUES THANKS TO DONATION

By SARAH WEBER
Co-Editor



ORANGE CITY — Friday, Aug. 20, Brian Van Engen accepted a check on behalf of the Sioux County Trails Commission from the Orange City Area Health Systems. Presenting the check, in the amount of \$2500 was CEO Marty Guthmiller.

Donation
Marty Guthmiller presents a check for \$2500 to Brian Van Engen for the Sioux County Trails Commission. (Photo by Sarah Weber)

The donation will help with surveying costs for the new biking and walking trail that will eventually connect Orange City to Sandy Hollow in Sioux Center.

The new trails system is projected to be completed in three phases. Phase one is approximately 1.5 miles long and runs along Indian Avenue for about a quarter mile then runs south and east through fields until it reaches Ironwood Avenue a quarter mile south of the Sheriff's office. Phase two

is approximately 1.75 miles and travels south from Sandy Hollow to the intersection of 410th and Ibex road, then follows 410th to the east for approximately one mile to the 410th and Indian intersection. Phase three is approximately two miles long, and runs along Indian southerly from 410th avenue to 430th avenue.

The funds donated will allow the Sioux County Trails Commission to complete survey work so phase one can begin.

LOCAL PAINTER FEATURED IN PUBLISHED CHILDRENS BOOK

By SHARON VERMEER
Correspondent

PEOPLE OF
Sioux County

ORANGE CITY — Duha Lee became a book illustrator thanks to her connection with Northwestern College. Former NWC student Yal-wen of Taiwan hung out with Lee and her husband, Han-Yen Kao, an NWC economics professor. After graduating, Yal-wen moved to Vancouver, Canada, to study special effects film editing. Her teacher, Andrew Zeller, was an American who had married a Taiwanese woman. As he started his family, he looked for children's books with mixed family cultures. Not finding much, he wanted to create his own. After writing the story, he asked Yal-wen if she knew of any artists. She showed him Lee's Instagram account. He liked the style but wanted to see other artists' work. He posted on Freelancer.com, and over eighty people submitted illustrations based on a scene he described. He chose a few and then asked his friends for their opinions. They all agreed on Lee. Lee had been to Japan and had been astonished by how beautiful the cherry blossoms were. She drew the blossoms in the shape of hearts as they fell over little Yuma for her illustration. That small detail was one of the reasons she was chosen as an illustrator.

Duha Lee is proud to note that everyone in her Taiwanese family paints or teaches art. "My father painted and taught traditional Chinese painting using inks," she proudly explained. "My mother is a watercolor artist, painting landscapes and people, and had her first exhibition in 2018. And my sister teaches art in an elementary school." Lee's mother has a picture of Lee herself, drawing small characters when she was two or three. She has always loved art, and in college, she majored in advertising. That was where she discovered Digital Art, drawing, and painting on an Ipad or computer, which was how the illustrations for this

book were created.

Lee married Kao in 2011, and two weeks later, he moved to the United States to work on his Ph.D. at Rutgers. In 2017 Kao got the job at NWC, and they have been here ever since. Daughter Nini was born in 2015, and son Ezra in 2019. "It has been a lot of culture shock!" Lee laughed. "I went from crowded Taiwan to not quite as crowded New Jersey to Orange City! New Jersey has the second biggest Mandarin-speaking population, behind California. I speak mostly English here. Fortunately, the neighbors across the street are from China! We also make sure our children speak Mandarin. We try to go back to Taiwan about every other year, and the children must understand what is said to them."

When Lee was chosen to illustrate Sleepy Baby Samurai, Zeller sent her the story. "I was quite surprised with every page I read," she marveled. "I love it! I started making a storyboard. He explained his idea of the story pictures, and I compared mine with his. We were very close."

Zeller requested that the characters be based on one of his friends' families. The husband is from India, and the wife is from Japan. They own two cats, and they made the book as well. The

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