



We Wan To Go WANDERER



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We-Wan-To-Gos Dine South Of The Border

The first luncheon of the 2016 Winter season was held November 19 at the Los Altos Mexican Restaurant in Story City. Mike and Cathy Isebrand were the hosts.

The We-Wan-To-Gos had 15 units there out of 29 for 52%. Those attending were:

1. Gary and Donna Adams
2. Lyle and Marrlee Airey
3. Reggie and Carolyn Andersen
4. Dale and DeAnn Barnhill
5. Bill and Pat Consolver and granddaughter Hannah
6. Randy and Karen Corning
7. Myrna Elliott and son Dave
8. Mike and Carol Gammon
9. Dave and Cathy Good
10. Julie Hanel
11. Stan and Stella Huber
12. Mike and Kathy Isebrand
13. Richard and Paula Nichols
14. Dick and Linda Pawlowski
15. Wanda Wendt

During the luncheon, Marrlee Airey and Myrna Elliott, as members and on behalf of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), made a special presentation. This year, the DAR is recognizing Vietnam era veterans. The two recognized U.S. Navy veteran Gary Adams for his service during the Vietnam War. Gary briefly summarized his service locations and duties.

Also, as a reminder of our responsibilities reaffirmed at the October meeting, Sheriff Pat Consolver was in top form collecting tributes for those

members found not wearing name badges. Because of Pat's vigilance, the We-Wan-To-Go treasury is richer by \$1.50.

December Birthday Wishes Go Out To:

Mike Gammon	2 nd
Richard Nichols	11 th
Stan Huber	15 th
Donna Adams.....	19 th
Karen Pearce	19 th
Roger Cox	24 th
Elaine Ballhagen.....	31 st



December Anniversary Wishes Go Out To:

Bill and Karen Pearce	3 rd
Chet and Pat Mower	12 th
Terry and Sherry Smay	31 st



December Luncheon At Ames' Pizza Ranch

The December 3 Noon luncheon will be at the Pizza Ranch in Ames, IA. It's located at **1404 Boston Avenue**. To get there:

- I-35 exit 113 (13th Street)
- West on 13th Street (220th Street)
- North on Dayton Avenue
- West on Plymouth Drive

- Left staying on Plymouth
- Destination is on the right

Your hosts will be Mike and Carol Gammon. Please RSVP to Carol at (515) 232-5052 or Cell: (515) 291-2385 or e-mail at megammon54@hotmail.com.



Rauenhorsts Conclude 22 Years Of Membership

In a private ceremony in their home on November 22, Bob and Connie Rauenhorst were presented with their WIT Honorary Membership Certificate by We-Wan-To-Go Secretary Kathy Cox. Bob and Connie had joined the Chapter in November of 1994 and were Wings Members.



**Bob & Connie Rauenhorst-
22 Year WWTG members**

Winter Texans To Meet December 11

Sonia Page wants to let everyone know who will be in the Texas Rio Grande Valley in December that there will be a 'gathering' on Sunday, December 11 at 2:00 p.m. at Pat and Chet Mower's home. They stay at Winter Ranch RV Resort, 600 State Highway 495, Alamo, TX. Please bring a small dessert to share.

Please let Sonia know if you can attend at: (515) 360-1031 or dspage41@gmail.com.

Meet The Harberts of Grundy Center

Paul and Shari Harberts became We-Wan-To-Go members in September of 2016. Though both from Grundy Center, Paul grew up on the north of town while Shari grew up on the south side. They first met at a drive-in restaurant Shari worked at and which Paul frequented. However, Shari said that when they were married, Paul moved to the "right side of the tracks" - the south of Grundy Center!

Shari's family had camped a little in tents, then pop-ups, and finally in pick-up campers. Paul started camping in a pick-up camper then a lot of fifth wheels - an Excel, Jayco, King of the Road, and Landmark. Paul and Shari started together in the SportsCoach which they still own. Their Redwood is their current fifth wheel which they also still own but they're really loving their Winnebago Tour. Shari commented they seemed to



Paul and Shari Harberts from Grundy Center

be in a pattern of purchasing five-year old units, refurbishing them, and then using them for five years. Shari is really enjoying the fact their Landmark, Redwood, and now Tour have been new so no rehabilitation has been needed leaving more time to play!

The two have camped all around Iowa and into Illinois, Wisconsin, Missouri, and Colorado including Estes Park. In addition, they have spent portions of the last five winters in Florida and have made several early springtime trips to the Las Vegas Glass Craft and Bead Exposition, the premier such trade Show and educational conference. One of their most memorable trips was to Durango where they were meeting Shari's brother and his wife returning their nieces to her brother after a month-long visit to Iowa. Part way across Nebraska, the

bathroom door fell off its track on their Excel trailer. Shari comments that "we all know how 10 and 12 year old girls are but they had to have an "open door" policy until that evening when we were able to get it fixed and back on track." On that same trip, they nicknamed the youngest niece 'Pokey Piddles' for obvious reasons!

Previously, they felt the most fun events they participated in were Shari's "Wiener family campouts" around Illinois and Iowa. But then they were exposed to WIT events which they feel are a lot like the Wiener family reunions. They say it's because WIT Club members are a fun-loving caring group of people with a FEW pranksters!

Paul and Shari have no children but do travel with the dumbest cat ever born named Tubby, again for reasons obvious!

Winnebago Ramps Up Junction City Production

Winnebago intends to employ as many as 200 people in Junction City, OR company spokesman Sam Jefson said, although “the number of employees who work on site will depend on market conditions.”

About a decade ago, Lane County was a nationwide center for luxury motor home production, with Country Coach, Monaco, and Marathon all located here.

In 2005, transportation equipment manufacturing, an industry dominated by RV makers, was so robust it employed 4,500 county residents, including 1,800 at Country Coach.

But slammed by the recession and downturn in RV sales, Country Coach and Monaco Coach in Coburg closed, laying off thousands of workers.

Today, with 260 employees between them, Marathon Coach in Coburg and Winnebago are the only manufacturers of motor homes in Lane County.

Winnebago won't disclose how much it pays its workers, but observers say the firm's wages match or exceed those that were paid by Country Coach, and that Winnebago has better health insurance and retirement benefits than Country Coach did.

“The community is real happy they are here providing living-wage jobs,” Junction City Mayor Mike Cahill said. “We also are happy they are still on track to have more than 200 people in their manufacturing plant and running the service center.”

The first Oregon-made Winnebago, a Grand Tour 45RL, rolled out of the plant in July and was sent to Guaranty RV in Junction City, one of the nation's largest RV dealers. The 45' motor home is a mini-luxury home on wheels, featuring cherry or maple cabinets, porcelain tile floors, kitchens and bathrooms with quartz countertops, shower-equipped bathrooms and multiple televisions.

Nill said the first Junction City-produced Winnebago was taken to an RV resort in Newport and quickly sold for about \$500,000 to a couple from Las Vegas.

Winnebago bought the mostly shuttered plant and an adjacent property from RV executive Ron Lee and other members of the Lee family in two transactions for a combined \$8.95 million. Winnebago made the purchase so it could move production of its large diesel-powered motor homes from its headquarters in Forest City, Iowa, to Oregon.

The 45-foot diesel models are the largest motor homes Winnebago makes, and the Iowa facility is better suited to building smaller, gas-powered coaches, said John Millis, general manager of the Junction City plant.

Winnebago also wanted a West Coast service center, Millis said. Midwest weather can make it difficult for Winnebago customers to get their RVs serviced in Forest City during the winter, but “here we can basically operate year-round,” he said.

Harrisburg City Administrator Brian Latta, who oversees the enterprise zone that includes Junction City, said Winnebago's

initial application said the firm expected to invest \$6 million in the plant this year. However, the firm can wait until next April before disclosing how much it invested, Latta said. That amount will help determine the size of the tax break for Winnebago for the following tax year.

Even with a waiver, Winnebago will continue to pay property taxes on the value of the buildings and land before the investments. Winnebago is being billed \$186,656 for the 2016-17 property tax year, Lane County Assessor Mike Cowles said.

Earlier this year, the Lane County Board of Commissioners approved a \$100,000 grant to Winnebago the firm used to increase electrical service for welding purposes and to install copper and fiber optic cable in its buildings, said Sarah Means, the county's community and economic development manager.

Winnebago also received a \$77,000 training grant from Lane Workforce Partnership, a mainly federally funded nonprofit agency that works with local leaders on job creation. The money was used to help train 28 employees who still were working in the Country Coach service center so they could become Winnebago employees after the purchase.

Many Lane County employers are having difficulty finding qualified employees in the current labor market, which has relatively few job seekers. But plant manager Glen Barton said the pool of former Country Coach employees made it relatively easy to find workers.

Barton, a former Country Coach plant manager, was asked to return by another former manager, Dave Diamond, who had joined Winnebago. When he got the call, Barton, was working at an RV dealer in Albany.

“We are getting a lot of our employees from word-of-mouth and from former employees,” Barton said. “There is so much talent here.”

Sally Williams, 52, worked at Country Coach but left in 2009 after the company shut down. She worked at RV Glass Solutions in Coburg, OR, but she said she was happy to return to a manufacturing job in Junction City, OR where she lives. “It’s really nice to see something come back to Junction City,” Williams said.

2017 - 2018 Chapter Leadership

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Upcoming We-Wan-To Go Events

* Indicates a change

December 3Noon Luncheon

Location:Pizza Ranch, Ames, IA

Host:Gammon

January 21Noon Luncheon

Location:The Iowa Stater Restaurant, Ames, IA

Host:Elliott

February 18Noon Luncheon (Pie Potluck)

Location:Berwick Congregational Church
Berwick, IA

Hosts:Pearce

March 18Noon Luncheon

Location:The Fletcher, Ankeny, IA

Hosts:Cox

April 28-30Campout

Location:Outback Campground and Resort
Tama, IA

Wagonmasters:Barnhill, Gammon, Munoz, Page, Winn

May 19-21Iowa Winnie Hawk Spring Meeting

Location:Antique Acres, Cedar Falls, IA

Assignments:Parking, registration, and greeters

Theme: "Remember When"

June 16-18Campout

Location:Little Wall Lake State Park
Jewell, IA

Wagonmasters:Airey, Elliott, Farni, Harberts, Pearce

July 7-9Iowa Winnie Hawk State Rally

Location:Franklin County Fairgrounds, Hampton, IA

Assignments:Breakfast, meals, and beverages

Theme: " Fabulous Winnebago "

July 17-23Grand National Rally (GNR)

Location:WIT Rally Grounds, Forest City, IA

Assignments:Row party tables and table covers

Theme: "Welcome to Fabulous Winnebago"

August 18-20Campout

Location:Diamond Lake Park, Montezuma, IA

Wagonmasters:Cox, Good, Nichols, Rasmussen. Sheeder

**The Nichols Celebrate
50 Years Of Marriage**

On Saturday, November 26, 2016, Richard and Paula Nichols held a golden wedding anniversary celebration at their church, the Grace Baptist Church, near the Des Moines zoo.

In addition to Richard and Paula, several other We-Wan-To-Go members came to help the happy couple celebrate such an accomplishment. They included:

1. Lyle and Marrlee Airey
2. Bill and Pat Consolver
3. Roger and Kathy Cox
4. Myrna Elliott
5. Mike and Kathy Isebrand
6. Butch and Val Peters



Richard and Paula Nichols celebrate 50 Years of bliss

*Please help us celebrate
the 50th wedding
anniversary of*

***Richard & Paula
Nichols***

***Saturday, November 26, 2016
1 P.M. to 3 P.M.
Grace Baptist Church
112 County Line Road
Des Moines, Iowa
Kindly RSVP to
Paula at 515-250-2990
Richard at rich75n@aol.com
No gifts please***



Light Lunch Will Be Served

