

**BOOTS BERRY: A LIFETIME OF SERVICE TO LAFAYETTE**

By The Editor

Boots Berry died in late September of 2023. For those of you who know the history of Lafayette, Boots volunteered for 35+ years before having to retire due to illness. She and her friend, Julie, worked alongside our employees all that time. They learned all about their lives, and in the process, the employees got to know what a phenomenal human being Boots was. In October of 2008 the newsletter continued with a series of articles called "In The Spotlight". We introduced folks to various facets of the workshop through different people's eyes. We are running that article in honor of Boots in its entirety. Here it is:

**"IN THE SPOTLIGHT: BOOTS BERRY - THE FACE OF VOLUNTEERING"**

Last month Lafayette Industries celebrated 30 years of service to its community. During that time Lafayette has moved twice, expanded with Lafayette North, and has undergone lots of changes. Lafayette has been so successful due in large part to its extraordinary volunteers who give freely of their time. Boots Berry is one of these dedicated people who recently celebrated her birthday. She is a former Board member and has been a volunteer at Lafayette since its beginnings. Boots has been married for 59 years to her husband, Bob. She had two children – Becky and Bob, Jr., both of whom are married. She has four grand -daughters – Abigail, Sarah, Caitlin and Jill – who are the joys of her life. I asked her to write her story for us:

'I got involved with LWC because of Kenny McLuen. Kenny became a special friend of my family and me when I helped "pattern" him until he went to Special School. About this time different groups from West County, including St. Mark Presbyterian Church, began working to get a Sheltered Workshop started. Kenny always told me that when he became 21 and could no longer go to Special School, there would be a workshop. He turned 21 on August 19, 1976, and early the next month on a Monday morning, LWC opened in a very small rented building in Valley Park with 12 workers. The next day I was there volunteering and for 30 years, Tuesday has been LWC day. I met Julie Simpson that day and what a good friend she has become, plus being my Tuesday buddy.

We had two locations in Valley Park, and a flood which brings back memories of getting a tetanus shot and hosing down lockers and other equipment. What a cleanup. But we survived.

I have been blessed to be a small part of this organization which has grown from 12 to serving over 200 productive special people. I was on a committee working to get a sheltered workshop going, served on the Board, but volunteering in the plant with the workers is where my heart is. I would like to think I've helped in production and in "quality control," but I guess my biggest contribution has been in giving and receiving hugs, listening to what is going on in their lives – and just being their friend.

What a rewarding 30 years it's been! I'm not through yet – Julie and I have a lot more birthday cards to hand out! Thanks, Kenny!"

✍️ Written by Boots Berry

Rest in peace, Boots, we will miss you greatly.



Rob Libera  
CEO & Executive Director  
[rlibera@lafayetteindustries.com](mailto:rlibera@lafayetteindustries.com)

**Mission:** The mission of Lafayette Industries is to provide employment opportunities to persons with developmental disabilities and to persons with other disabilities who are 18 years or older.

**Goals:** • To provide a meaningful and productive work experience to persons who are disabled • To maintain a safe and pleasant work environment • To teach and to train persons with disabilities to acquire better work habits • To enhance self-worth and dignity through employment • To provide high-quality business service through packaging, light assembly and commercial mailings • To operate the center in a professional, fiscally responsible manner • To provide fair wages and good benefits

## **VNA FLU CLINICS AT NORTH AND WEST**

We hope that everyone had the opportunity to get in their flu shot forms to either North or West. Be sure to sign your forms before turning them in and, be sure to attach a copy of your insurance card(s) to the form. The flu clinic for West is scheduled for Thursday, October 19<sup>th</sup>, from 9:00-11:30a. We have several family members who signed up to get their shot here. The flu clinic for North is scheduled for Thursday, October 26<sup>th</sup>, from 8:00-10:30a. North – if you have family members who signed up, please remind them of the date as well. The Visiting Nurse Association (VNA) is conducting the clinics. We have used them for the past couple of years, and they are very reliable and efficient. It will be during the morning hours, and you will be called up to get your shot. Thanks, everyone!

## **TOOTSIE ROLL DRIVES STILL HAVE OPENINGS**

West staff, employees and families – there is still time to sign up for a 2-hour shift with either St. Joseph or St. Clement. We appreciate the ones who have already signed up. One of the organizations that they help is Lafayette, and we are grateful for their faithfulness to us. We thank you in advance for considering helping us out. The Knights who we've dealt with over the years are some of the nicest people that you'd hope to meet. You'll find them at Walmart's, Dierberg's, Schnuck's, The Daily Bread and Sam's Club to name some of the places they'll be. St. Clement will be out collecting over October 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> and again over October 13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>. St. Joseph's will be out over October 13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> as well at Schnuck's down in Twin Oaks and Schnuck's at Town & Country. Come join us, and we can give / send you the information about where to sign up to help St. Clement. St. Joseph needs help as well. We can get their information to you. So give a hand to an organization and its Councils that help Lafayette.

## **WEST – CAUGHT BEING RESPECTFUL AND CAUGHT BEING SAFE – AUGUST 2023**



**CAUGHT BEING RESPECTFUL AND CAUGHT BEING SAFE:** Kim Lamb (staff), Grace Quinn (Respectful), Tim Sitek (Safe), Loretta Jackson (Respectful), Zach Adams (Safe), Rob Libera (staff)



## **I BECAME A GREAT AUNT FOR THE 8<sup>TH</sup> TIME**

By Pam Gardner (Proud Aunt and Great-Aunt)

On Monday, August 28<sup>th</sup>, at 2:34a, my niece, Amanda, welcomed her second child into the world. Janson Jakob Drum weighed 9 pounds and measured 20 inches long. Janson joins excited big sister, Rayna, who is 20 months old.

## WEST - ART CLASS - WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 10<sup>TH</sup>, 2023 – 3:00-3:45P



Register today for October. You have to register each month for each Art Class!!

Volunteers will give personal instruction for each project. Everyone attending the Art Class will have the chance to participate in each Art Station. **Please turn in your registration to Becky S. by Friday, November 10<sup>th</sup>.**

Questions: Call or email Vicky James [vjames@lafayetteindustries.com](mailto:vjames@lafayetteindustries.com) 636-227-5666, ext.1118

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## WEST - ART CLASS – WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 15<sup>TH</sup> – 3:00-3:45P

Name of Participant \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred Email \_\_\_\_\_

Contact name/phone number of person picking up art student at 3:45p.

\_\_\_\_\_



**We have one more Art Class left in 2023. That will take place in November. The next event after that will be the Art Concert where the Glee Club and Art Class present a program to our families, our staff and other supporters who come and see what we've done and learned during the course of the year. Be a part of it – it's lots of holiday fun.**





# SGT. MEREDITH ABSOLON FUNDRAISER

## SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14

225 Old Sulphur Spring Rd, Manchester, MO 63021



April 2023, Sgt. Absolon, a mother of two (5&7) was diagnosed with stage 3 breast cancer. To help assist with Sgt. Absolon's future medical and living expenses, the Walter Le Pere American Legion POST 208 will be hosting a full day of fundraising. All donations will go to Sgt. Absolon.



### G.I. BREAKFAST \$10

7AM - 10AM

EGGS, BACON, SAUSAGE, PANCAKES

### BBQ

11AM - 4PM

### PORK STEAKS \$21

PORKSTEAK, BEANS & POTATO SALAD

### BURGERS & CHIPS \$7

### DAISY RED RIDER B.B. GUN

### MARKSMANSHIP COMPETITION \$5

6 SHOTS - EARN A PINK MARKSMANSHIP RIBBON

11AM - 3PM

### ENTERTAINMENT BY

### THE WHISKEY DRIFTERS BAND \$10

PINK WRISTBAND - COVER CHARGE

7PM - 11PM

### EXPECT MUCH, MUCH, MORE!

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO OUR OCTOBERITES

### NORTH

Dahnyel	Walters	4
Veronica	Quinn	5
Georgia	Ross	9
Anita	Hightower	10
Krystle	Conroy	19
Frederick	Williams	20
John	Hope	22
Videll	Killiebrew	22
Steven	Johnson	29
Joey	West	30
Darrius	Roberts	31

Joseph	Farinella	2	Andrew	Zivnуска	13
Michael	Siddle	2	Kathleen	Moore	19
Stacie	Waller	2	Dana	Thebeau	19
Dennis	Owen	4	Colleen	Kelly	21
Doug	Miller	5	Daniel	Rechtien	22
Alicia	Rutherford	6	Ashley	Stroyan	22
James	Riester	7	Harlan	Stuart	23
Jesse	Brooks	8	Mark	Kohler	24
Mark	Kinney	8	Rob	Libera	25
Adam	Birdsong	9	Cary	Bankendorf	27
Jamie	Bovyn	9	Valerie	DeClue	29
Kelly	Baker	10	Stephen	Keller	29
Jenelle	Winders	12	Crystal	Vail	31
Rebecca	Crump	13			

### WEST



### ADAM BIRDSONG'S 2023 ROADTRIP

By Cindy Birdsong (Proud Mother)

We began by flying into Las Vegas, then visiting Lake Mead and Hoover Dam. Really pretty country but shocking due to water loss in the lake.



Then we drove to Utah and our first of 4 National Parks. First we went to Zion National Park and did several hikes then rode the trams back to base.



Next we headed off to Bryce Canyon National Park. This was ½ day to explore and was an absolutely beautiful drive up to and through the Canyon. We hiked the sunrise / sunset trail.



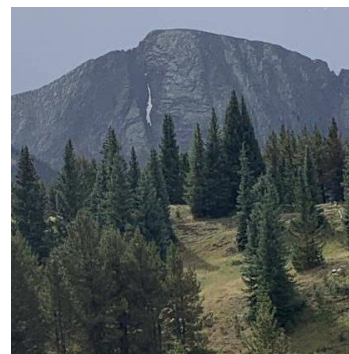
Next we drove across the state of Utah to Moab. We hit Arches National Park next. It was really hot, but we still managed to do 3 different hikes. Our socks were red when we finished up the day due to the sand and dust off the red rocks.

**Adam Birdsong's 2023 Road Trip – Continued on next page**



## Adam Birdsong's 2023 Road Trip – Continued:

Next stop was Southern Colorado and Durango / Silverton. We drove the scenic byway, went up to Silverton and saw the steam train, spent a couple hours in the hot springs. We finally saw our first peek of snow over the lakes up around 12,500 feet.



Next stop was the Great Sand Dunes National Park north of Alamosa, Colorado. It was 56 degrees with a wind chill of around 50! We were a little cold, but it was really cool!

Last stop was Colorado Springs, Pikes Peak and the Garden of the Gods. We rode the train up to the top of Pikes Peak (one of Colorado's Fourteeners). It was covered with snow and fogged in for the most part. 20 degrees up on top and 78 where we started.



All in all we drove about 1,600 miles, found all but 7 state license plates represented in our travels and flew home from Denver. All parks were wonderful, contained charts showing the types of hikes, difficulty, type of terrain, etc. Best summary we've seen, and allowed us to get to trails easily to match up with Adam's ability.

## LAFAYETTE'S GOLF TOURNAMENT – SEPTEMBER 11, 2023

On September 11<sup>th</sup> Lafayette had a golf tournament as a fundraiser at the Sunset Country Club. The event was filled to the brim with golfers. The Editor decided she needed more time to devote to this worthwhile event. After checking with Vicky James, I told her of my decision to postpone the pictures and article. Due to a lack of time, I cannot give it the proper attention. So please look for the November newsletter, and we will have pictures and information in that newsletter. To the folks who took part in the golf tournament, please know that Lafayette truly appreciates your participation in this event, and we hope that everyone enjoyed themselves. Have a great October, and we'll "see you" in November!



## FLOATING THE CURRENT

By Kate Gregor (Proud Lafayette Staff)



One of me and my husband's favorite activities is an overnight float with a night of primitive camping. We haven't been able to go for the last two years but this year we made it happen and this year we brought our dog, Penny, along for her first float trip (pic 1).

*She* hated it! She spent the whole time in the boat on Matt's lap (pic 2), trying to get to my lap or trying to kill the biting flies that were, unfortunately, abundant this year. The river was really low, so every time we scraped the bottom she tried to jump out of the boat. When we found the perfect place to camp, we realized our little princess wouldn't sleep on gravel, so she became an uncharacteristic lap dog (pic 3) until we put a towel down on the ground for her. While enduring all that, she worked hard keeping guard and keeping us safe (pic 4).

We loved it! The forecasted heat was not bad at all, and the Current River was clear and ice cold (pic 5). We cooked steaks over a fire and drank French press coffee at sunrise (pic 6). The Current/Jack's Forks River is, in my opinion, one of the most beautiful places in Missouri and I love revisiting it (pic 7).

*IF YOU VISITED SOME PLACE "COOL" THIS SUMMER,  
PLEASE BE SURE TO SEND US YOUR PICTURES AND A  
BRIEF ARTICLE. WE'D LOVE TO SEE WHERE YOU'VE BEEN.*



## JOHN WOERNER'S TRIP TO SWITZERLAND

By Allison Woerner (Proud Mother)



John Woerner and our family traveled to Switzerland this August! While St. Louis was having record-breaking heat, so was Switzerland. The mountains reached 80 degrees, which is unheard of, as well as Geneva logging a whopping 100 degrees for three days!

John explored castles, wineries, and even hiked the highest mountain in all of Europe - the Jungfrau! Planes, trains, boats, cable cars and even an electric car were fun ways to explore both Switzerland and France. John's favorite things about the trip were swimming in Oeschinen Lake, staying in a mountain village chalet and trying all the Swiss cheeses and chocolates! But John is also very happy to be back at Lafayette Industries with all his friends!

## CORY OWEN'S PARKS ADVENTURE

By Carolyn Owen (Proud Mother)

1



2



(Continued on next page)



## Cory Owen's Parks Adventure – continued:

3



4



5



Cory Owen, with his dad and I, went on vacation to Theodore Roosevelt National Park in North Dakota, Glacier National Park in Montana, Yellowstone National Park in Wyoming, Grand Teton National Park in Wyoming and to Scottsbluff National Monument in Nebraska.

Carolyn Owen

**What pictures are by number:** 1) Cory and Dennis at Jenny Lake in Grand Teton National Park. 2) Carolyn, Dennis and Cory at Scottsbluff National Monument (it's a landmark on the Oregon Trail). 3) Cory looking at the Dragon's Mouth in Yellowstone National Park. 4) Cory at Badlands of North Dakota in Theodore Roosevelt National Parks. 5) Cory, Dennis and Carolyn on a red bus tour at Logans Pass / Continental Divide in Glacier National Park.

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO OUR OCTOBERITES

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Veronica	Quinn	5
Georgia	Ross	9
Anita	Hightower	10
Krystle	Conroy	19
Frederick	Williams	20
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Videll	Killiebrew	22
Steven	Johnson	29
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Darrius	Roberts	31

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Stacie	Waller	2	Dana	Thebeau	19
Dennis	Owen	4	Colleen	Kelly	21
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### WEST



## NORTH – CAUGHT BEING RESPECTFUL AND CAUGHT BEING SAFE – SEPTEMBER 2023



### RESPECTFUL

Far left: Thile Bryant

Middle: Keith Muldrew

Immediate left: Cameron Bransford



### RESPECTFUL:

Immediate left:  
Jeremiah Braisier

### SAFE:

Immediate right:  
Dalana Graves



## SAFETY THOUGHTS FOR OCTOBER 2023

by Tom Heitert (The Safety Guru)

### DOING THE RIGHT THING

This month I bring to you one of Lafayette's finest employees and his never-ending legacy. Several years back our production team in Area 2 had a safety talk about tripping hazards, with a focus on "tucking your chair in" when leaving your seat. The hazard grows as the aisles grow narrower. So the first test of the team's response was the break bell. Not many remembered, so we repeated the safety talk when the team came back. The lunch bell came with a similar result. This was going to take a while.

The bad habit of leaving one's chair out continued with some improvement, but hardly what was necessary. The truth is I was neglecting to put my chair in as well! What to do?

Then one day after all had gone to break, the unforgettable Brian Bradshaw had stayed behind, and he was pushing in all the chairs of employees who had forgotten. I thanked him. At lunchtime the same thing happened. When it was time to go home, you guessed it - he did the same thing. After a while, the Safety Committee at Lafayette West decided to name a rule after him. During the Safety Second, from time to time, we would remind the shop of the BRIAN BRADSHAW RULE.

Brian, of course, never stopped pushing the chairs in at every break, lunch and departure time. Brian was not some rah-rah guy as you might imagine. He was REALLY quiet. Brian did it because he had been taught, and he felt it was just the right thing to do.

Falls continue to plague the workplaces of America. Thanks to Brian and others like him, not so much at Lafayette. We will never know how many trips and falls Brian helped others avoid. A shout-out goes to Brian's staff at the time as well. Brian moved very slowly and cautiously. Many a day his staff frustratedly watched as Brian completed his mission of tucking chairs in at the end of a workday. Brian did it because it was the right thing to do. So should we.

**SAFETY IS NO ACCIDENT** - **MORE LATER!**



## OCTOBER 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6 St. Clement Tootsie Roll Drive	7 St. Clement Tootsie Roll Drive
8 St. Clement Tootsie Roll Drive	9	10 PAY DAY	11 Art Class – 3:00- 3:45p – West only	12	13 St. Joseph and St. Clement Tootsie Roll Drives  WEST HOT DOG DAY (serves as October's Free Lunch)	14 K of C Dance – St. Clare of Assisi School Cafeteria - 7:00–10:00p – Halloween Party – wear your costume  St. Joseph and St. Clement Tootsie Roll Drives
15 St. Joseph and St. Clement Tootsie Roll Drives	16	17	18 Board meeting 5:30p at North	19 Flu Vaccination Clinic – West Location – 9:00- 11:30a	20 NORTH HOT DOG DAY (serves as October's Free Lunch)	21 10:30-12:00 – Combined Life at Lafayette at North
22	23	24	25 PAY DAY	26 Flu Vaccination Clinic – North Location – 8:00- 10:30a	27	28
29	30	31 Halloween				