

A TALE OF TWO MATCHES

Tiger volleyball split against two rivals / A6

CELEBRATE BELONGING

Join a list of local events that recognize Welcoming Week / B1

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2021

Soaring into the wild blue yonder



PHOTO COURTESY OF PRESBYTERIAN HOMES & SERVICES

Otto “Woody” Anderberg gives a thumbs-up sign Tuesday indicating he was ready to go for his Dream Flight at Butler Field in Hutchinson. Anderberg, a 100-year-old resident at Harmony River in Hutchinson, is a World War II veteran.

Thanks to Dream Flights, WWII vet Otto ‘Woody’ Anderberg took a spin in the 1943 Spirit of Wisconsin

BY KAY JOHNSON
johnson@hutchinsonleader.com

Otto “Woody” Anderberg will long remember Aug. 31. It’s not every day you’re treated to a lights-flashing-and-horns-blasting escort by the Hutchinson police and fire departments. The 100-year-old World War II veteran who rode in a DAV-supplied van was on his way to Butler Field for the flight of a lifetime.

Anderberg, who lives at Harmony River, a Presbyterian Homes and Services senior living community in Hutchinson, was a participant in Operation September Freedom.

Sponsored by Dream Flights, the nonprofit organization launched Operation September Freedom Dec. 7, 2020, with a mission to locate and honor as many World War II veterans as possible with free Dream Flights. The coast-to-coast national tour began Aug. 1 and runs through September. Volunteer pilots are flying six restored Boeing Stearman biplanes and stopping in towns wherever WWII veterans live to fly them 1,000 feet into the air for a 15-20 minute ride. Since 2011,

Dream Flights has honored more than 4,200 seniors and veterans with biplane rides. Operation September Freedom is Dream Flights’ first tour with a mission of honoring veterans who served in a particular war.

After several speeches, the singing of “The Star-Spangled Banner” and thunderous applause by friends and family, Anderberg was assisted into the cockpit of The Spirit of Wisconsin, a restored bright yellow 1943 Boeing Stearman biplane, which used the same engine found in Gen. George S. Patton’s tanks.

“It was pretty smooth,” he said of the experience “They hoisted me in.”

When he was asked if he talked with the pilot via the headset he wore, Anderberg answered with a quick, “No.”

“I was too busy looking around,” he said. “I was surprised by how much water there is in McLeod County, how many lakes and streams.”

Darryl Fisher, founder and president of Dream Flights, was Anderberg’s pilot during Tuesday’s flight.

“Operation September Freedom is our last

“I was surprised by how much water there is in McLeod County, how many lakes and streams.”

Otto “Woody” Anderberg, WWII veteran

Anderberg to A2 ➤

‘It was the start of everything’

Twenty years later, Jane Schuette recalls her experience at Walter Reed Medical Center on 9/11

BY KAY JOHNSON
johnson@hutchinsonleader.com

There are definitive moments in life when you always remember where you were. For some it was the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. The death of Lady Di, or even Prince. For others, it was Sept. 11, 2001, the day the World Trade Center and Pentagon were attacked by terrorists.

This year marks the 20th anniversary of this life-altering event. Jane Schuette will never forget that date. The former Hutchinson teacher taught at Park Elementary in the 1980s. During the 1990s, she was director for high potential

services for the district. From there, she went on to work with Dave Conrad and Kirsten Kinzler at New Century Charter School. Today she consults with New Discoveries Montessori Academy in Hutchinson on its staff development initiatives. She lives in Watertown and is a self-improvement author, executive coach, team facilitator and motivational speaker.

Schuette will always remember where she was on 9/11 because she was teaching her first course as an independent contractor for a learning and development company headquartered in Scotland that was breaking into the U.S. market. The client: JMESI.

“(It was) a Joint Military Executive Skills Institute put in place by Congress to ensure the heads of our military hospital would have sound skills to lead the clinics and hospitals of our service men and women around the world,”



Jane Schuette

9/11 to A2 ➤

Big rigs ready to roll into Hutchinson

Big Toys for Little Kids Expo lets children explore combines, firetrucks, bomb vehicles and more

BY KAY JOHNSON
johnson@hutchinsonleader.com

If you’ve got a kid who loves big trucks, emergency vehicles and utility trucks, save the date — Saturday, Sept. 11 — for the Big Toys for Little Kids Expo, sponsored by the McLeod County Voiture 414, Forty & Eight Veterans Organization.

Start at 10 a.m. and going until 1 p.m., kids age kindergarten through fifth grade can experience

the thrill of sitting in a big rig in the parking lot at Hutchinson High School, 1200 Roberts Road S.W.

Jerry Block, coordinator of the event, got the idea when he saw it one time in Waconia.

“They had a small display at the high school,” he recalled. “I thought we could do that here. We tried it. The first year, it was helter-skelter. We didn’t know what we were doing. We got a bunch of guys out there with their stuff. After that it started picking up.”

For three hours, children can explore the big rigs to their heart’s content. The biggest draws? Block said probably the big fire truck, combine and tractors.

In addition, kids can check out Hutchinson Police Department’s mobile command center, plus

Big toys to A4 ➤



TSGT CEDRIC H. RUDISILL, USAF AF.MIL/NEWS/PHOTOS/IGPHOTO/2001289439/

Aerial view of the Pentagon Building in Washington, D.C., showing emergency crews responding to the destruction caused during the 9/11 terrorist attacks when a high-jacked commercial jetliner crashed into the southwest corner of the building.

Schuette said. “In the civilian world, typically hospitals and clinics are led by business-trained professionals, allowing the medical personnel to do what they have been trained to do — mend the sick and injured. To help with the skill gap in the military, JMESI was formed. Along with online training, they offered a weeklong capstone course where they brought the officers

who were trained medical nurses and doctors to Washington, D.C.”

Schuette’s course was on the campus of Walter Reed Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland — 18 miles from Washington, D.C. On that morning of Sept. 11, the session was interrupted by an



You can’t miss the bright yellow digger at the Big Toys for Little Kids Expo. After a two-year break, the event is back this Saturday.

SUBMITTED PHOTO



We break news at hutchinsonleader.com, facebook.com/hutchleader and twitter.com/hutchleader.



Honored for General Excellence by the National Newspaper Association in 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2016 and 2018

TO REACH US

PHONE: 320-753-3635 FAX: 320-753-3636
DELIVERY AND SUBSCRIPTIONS: 320-753-3657

MediaNews Group



7 92511 00050 0