

## The Kougar Column

Robert Lukens - MS/HS Principal

Hello,  
In the second installment of our fall sports meetings, we discuss football. This past week Coach Chad Eisenbraun had his opening meeting on Monday, August 1st, and will have started practice before this column's publication. The following Thursday, our middle school football meeting was held, and we have seen significant participation from the beginning of the year, and I look forward to seeing the younger students be successful on and off the field.

Coach Eisenbraun emphasized to his players that academics at KAHS comes first, even though he will stay focused on football in practice. We don't allow students to play unless they meet our school's specific eligibility guidelines. Therefore, the most crucial aspect of the student-athlete experience is the classroom. The crossover between the athletic field or any activity and the classroom is large. The meeting brought this connection to hydration and success in all areas. Throughout practice starting, we

may see 100-plus degree temperatures for the first two weeks of the team activities. Heat follows at the start of the school year, where many areas of the high school will need to be monitored as the temperature rises for those in the classroom. Coaches preached that hydration is essential to preparing for the day. Student-athletes must bring their water jugs to practice and get plenty of it. Like our hot classroom environment, a drink of nourishing fluids early and often is expected. All athletes should consider coming to practice fully hydrated by drinking liquids before they ever don their pads.

In all, we look forward to a successful football season for our whole school system, and we are excited about the possibility of seeing our boys in action. We cherish the work of our coaches and their ability to instill and enforce our expectations in the classroom and on the practice field as we start another great year at Kadoka High.

Sincerely,  
Mr. Lukens

## Sign Up for Prairie Dog Control Programs

*Deadline for enrollment is August 15*

The South Dakota departments of Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) and Agriculture and Natural Resources (DANR) want to remind South Dakota landowners to register for assistance with prairie dog encroachment from public lands. The deadline for enrollment is August 15.

The state's prairie dog control program is cooperatively operated by GFP and DANR. GFP manages encroachment issues for prairie dogs that move from public lands to adjacent private lands while

DANR verifies complaints between private landowners.

GFP will control prairie dogs that have encroached onto private land from adjacent public land, excluding municipalities and tribal lands. Landowners who have encroachment problems on their property from adjacent public land must be within one mile of the public land and have at least 10 acres of actual prairie dog colonies to be eligible for assistance. Eligibility will be verified for every control request.

Landowners must register online at [prairiedogcontrol.sd.gov](http://prairiedogcontrol.sd.gov) to request assistance with unwanted prairie dogs before August 15, 2022. If landowners have questions about the program, they can

contact GFP at 605.394.2391. Once eligibility is verified in the fall (Aug-Oct), GFP staff or a department representative will begin control measures on the private land. Timing can vary depending on several factors such as weather and location, thus control may not take place immediately following eligibility verification.

Landowners who are experiencing encroachment from adjoining private land should contact the DANR. If the colony is encroaching from private land, a signed written complaint must be completed in one of two ways:

The affected landowner must sign a letter of complaint and mail it to the local county's Weed and Pest Board.

The landowner must submit a formal written complaint to the DANR, as well as mail a copy to the neighboring landowner. DANR will verify if the statutory guidelines have been met and if necessary, refer the landowner to their local county weed and pest board for enforcement. Landowners can find the form on the DANR's website, [danr.sd.gov](http://danr.sd.gov), or by calling the DANR at 605.773.3623. Notices of private land encroachment may be sent to the DANR throughout the year.

The South Dakota Prairie Dog Management Plan is also available online [gfp.sd.gov/management-plans](http://gfp.sd.gov/management-plans).

## Writers and Writing

By Michael Tidemann

**Novel seamlessly weaves past and present**  
*Beneath the Polish Moon*  
By Jake Kaminski

Every once in a great while, a novel comes along that hits you where it really counts – straight in the heart.

That's the case with *Beneath the Polish Moon* by Guttenberg, Iowa, author Jake Kaminski. Kaminski brilliantly blends the quaint Milwaukee childhood memories of Luke Karpinski with his ascent as a courageous Miami narcotics cop.

Kaminski relates the story of Luke as he grows up with his friends Eugene, Stanley and Gus – normal boys in a close-knit ethnic Milwaukee neighborhood in the 1960s. We smile and laugh at their antics as they climb a trestle to acquire 'pet' pigeons and build a go-kart with all the trimmings – except brakes. We even see how they find themselves becoming heroes when faced with no alternative.

Kaminski tells another story, though, of how Luke rises from rookie cop to fighting Colombian drug cartels, something Kaminski actually did in Miami and Latin America. We experience firsthand Luke's struggle to maintain a normal family life as he risks his life daily as a member of a drug task force. We feel the strain between Luke and his wife Kate who is

deeply in love with him but dreads every day he goes to work, not knowing if he will return. We also feel the camaraderie between Luke and his fellow officers, especially Marco Romero, with whom he finds a nearly spiritual connection, both on and off the job.

The two stories mirror each other, eventually melding as we see Luke as an old man, returning to his old Milwaukee neighborhood in search of some forgotten pieces of his past. This is where Kaminski writes with the most poignance and power, drawing Luke into what seems like an inevitable collision of his two realities of past and present.

Kaminski's blending of the stories of Luke as a young boy and as a seasoned cop is absolutely flawless. There could have been no better way to write this novel. His impeccable sense of place brings us into locales we could hardly imagine. Undoubtedly, Kaminski's law-enforcement background gives him special insight into the human elements of Luke's life.

This book is impossible to put down. If you buy it, give yourself a solid day or two once you crack it open.

**Stone City a rewarding read**  
*Stone City*  
By Jeff Mitchell  
"Would you believe in love at

first sight?"

That's the question posed on the cover of Jeff Mitchell's heartwarming novel, *Stone City*, set in the iconic Grant Wood hill country of eastern Iowa. Mitchell, former dean of industrial technology at Kirkwood Community College in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and currently an educational consultant, has always lived in the Stone City area, the subject of a Wood painting.

Stone City tells how Ashley Morgan escaped a physically abusive relationship with her father only to find herself later struggling on her own, eventually entering a cold and loveless marriage. As she approaches middle age, Ashley virtually stumbles into Jaymes Fitzgerald, a talented graduate student, historian, artist and blues musician at a conference.

Despite a 14-year age difference, the sparks of romance begin. When she takes Jaymes up on a tour of Stone City and Grant Wood country on his 1942 Indian motorcycle, those sparks ignite into a flame.

It seems that everything is against them. Ashley is financially comfortable yet emotionally starved in her marriage. She has three children she could never leave. And Jaymes is financially insecure at best. Yet Jaymes' free-spiritedness warms Ashley's heart in no way that her husband ever could.

A strong comparison could be made to *Bridges of Madison County* by Robert James Waller, only on a motorcycle. Like Waller's characters, they meet in an iconic and scenic part of Iowa. However, such a comparison would be dismissive of the true depth of their characters.

Mitchell explores how Ashley and Jaymes overcome the pain that haunts them both. Jaymes shows Ashley the only true, unbridled love she has ever known, and Ashley inspires him to his greatest artistic accomplishment.

Telling more of their story would be a spoiler. Let's just say this is a very moving novel that would engage anyone interested in Iowa, Grant Wood or the incredible idea that such deep love between two people could actually happen. Stone City is more than a romance. It's a novel of hopeful possibilities meeting reality in a very meaningful way.

While the ending may be unexpected, it shows how the characters help each other reach their ultimate destiny, but in different ways. *Stone City* is a very satisfying story of indelibly memorable characters that will keep you thinking long afterward.

(Michael Tidemann writes from Estherville, Iowa. His Facebook page is Author Michael Tidemann.)

## Capital City Campus Opens Fall 2022 Scholarships

Capital City Campus (CCC) is excited to open applications for Fall 2022 scholarships. Applicants must be attending postsecondary education through CCC, enrolled in the DWU Learn & Earn program or LATIC Licensed Practical Nursing program. Over \$10,000 in scholarship dollars are available for the Fall 2022 semester.

Available scholarships include:  
• CCC Pathways Scholarship  
• James Schooler Rotary Scholarship  
• K.A. Manning Rotary Club Scholarship  
• Max Gors Memorial Scholarship  
• Ruth Karim Endowment Scholarship

Scholarship applications may be located at <https://www.capitalcity-campus.org/college-admissions-aid/scholarships/> and are due by August 24.

Anyone with questions regarding fall scholarships should contact Capital City Campus at [info@capitalcitycampus.org](mailto:info@capitalcitycampus.org) or 773.2160.

The Capital University Center dba Capital City Campus, established in 1982, is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization with a mission to meet post-secondary educational needs of students in central South Dakota. To learn more, visit [capitalcitycampus.org](http://capitalcitycampus.org) or follow us on Facebook (@pierreccc) and Instagram (@capitalcitycampus).

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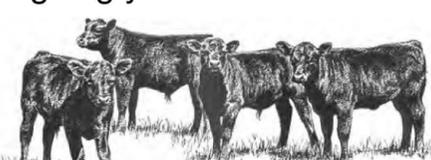


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