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The Weston Chronicle

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Bless Park - Back to Nature

Bless Park is being returned to its natural state after the Weston Park Board, Weston Board of Aldermen and Concessionaire Benthe Schwennessen agreed to terminate a contract allowing for a “Glamping,” gardening and event center.

The agreement was signed January 19, just nine months after Ms. Schwennessen signed a 20-year contract to build and operate a campground and associated businesses.

Under the termination agreement, the Concessionaire paid \$3,000 in earnest money and incurred \$20,000 in improvements, non-returnable equipment, consumables and other out of pocket expenses it expected to offset over the 20 year business. The parties agreed the Concessionaires will be repaid the half the cost of improvements and all the earnest money, for a total of \$13,000. The Park Board will \$6,500 immediately

“The Weston City Park Board and Bless Park Concessionaire have mutually agreed to terminate the Agreement on operations. The experimental project to develop the park with glamping sites, gardens, education and events proved infeasible. Bless Park will go back to its original state, and the Concessionaire will remove all developments. The Concessionaire wishes to thank the numerous community supporters and hopes that the park will find additional positive uses in future.”

Joint Statement of the Weston Park Board and Concessionaire Benthe Schwennessen, January 20, 2024

and the additional \$6,500 when the City certifies the completion of the removal of improvement and site cleanup by the Concessionaire.



In late December, the Yurt at Bless Park and tent in the background. Removal of the shelters and the platforms they were on began soon afterwards.

Total CLOSURE 45 at Weston Closes of Route 92 at I-29 Jan. 29 - Feb. 12

The Missouri Department of Transportation has closed Missouri Route 92 in both directions at I-29 after the bridge was struck on Monday afternoon. This closure will be in place indefinitely. The ramps at I-29 and Route 92 Interchange will remain open to right turns only. The suggested detour is to utilize I-29 to adjacent interchanges at Mexico City Ave, and at Main St/Route HH.

The Missouri Department of Transportation will close MO Highway 45 between MO Highway 273 and Route P for erosion repair operations starting at approximately 7 a.m. on Mon. Jan. 29 – Mon. Feb. 12 at 6 p.m. Motorists will need to seek alternate routes. Hwy. H to Dearborn or Hwy. P to Woodruff Road and 371 are possibilities. All work is weather permitting.

Briefs

Wednesday, January 24 (Postponed from January 10) - 9:30 - Cottage Gardeners of Weston - Visitors Welcome - Weston United Methodist Church - Members share experiences with their gardens. HS Basketball at North Platte Tourn. MMEA/All State Choir Tan-Tar-A Resort Marina Jan. 24-26

Thursday, January 25 HS Basketball at North Platte Tourn. MS Scholar Bowl vs Mid Buchanan 4:30PM to 6:00PM West Platte High School Library

Friday, January 26 HS Basketball at North Platte Tourn. Elem Stuffed Animal Clinic HS Girls Wrestling at Liberty - 4:30PM

Saturday, January 27 - Holocaust Remembrance Day. 7-10 a.m. Biscuit & Gravy + Pancakes Fundraiser Breakfast, Masonic Hall 507 Main St. National Seed Swap Day - 9-1 Free Seed Swap at the Weston Garden Center, 18275 Hwy. 45 N, Weston. Bring seed you don't want and pick up seed you do want! Bulbs and rhizomes also. See Page 8

Knights of Columbus Free Throw Competition - Noon - 2:00 p.m. West Platte Elementary Gym See Page 5.

HS Basketball at North Platte Tourn. HS Boys Wrestling at Benton - 9:00AM to 5:00PM

Monday, January 29 MS Scholar Bowl at Lathrop 4:30PM - 6:00PM HS Basketball vs South Holt 5:00PM

Tuesday, January 30 HS Boys Wrestling Scramble 5:00PM to 9:00 West Platte High Gym 5:00 HS Girls Basketball at Savannah

Holocaust Remembered Daily In the Netherlands

Dear people of the Weston Chronicle,

I thought that for International Holocaust Remembrance Day it would be a good idea to share my story on the Holocaust as a foreign Exchange Student. My name is Sieger (CJ) Dantuma, I live in the Netherlands and I'm here through the International Student Exchange (ISE).

On the 27th of January we commemorate the victims of the Holocaust on The International Holocaust Remembrance Day.

As a foreign exchange student the impact the Holocaust has had on my country differs greatly from the US. In my home country, the Netherlands, you hear and see traces of the Holocaust everywhere.



An image of a stumbling stone on the sidewalk. Translation: “Here lived, Gerhard Lodewijk Robertus Soesman, Born 1922, Murdered 21.1.1945, Auschwitz.”

Back in 2017 I had the honor to lay what we call in Dutch a “Struikelsteen”, which translates to stumbling stone. These stumbling stones indicate the houses where war victims, mostly Jewish, lived before they were forced out of their homes. They are laid on the sidewalk right in front of the houses.

The stones are concrete with a brass plate in which the name, birthdate, date and cause of death is mentioned. This way we commemorate the war victims in our communities who lost



The group with whom I discussed The Hiding Place by Corrie ten Boom at The First Baptist Church in Weston.

Standing Up: Angie Wahlenmaier, Mandi Phillips, Sarah Douglas, Courtney Falter, Katie Graves,

their lives during World War 2.

Every time you walk on the sidewalk you might stumble across one of these stones, which is our way of remembering the innocent victims of war. An applicable quote is “A person is only forgotten when their name is forgotten”.

With these stones the victims of systematic eradication will always be remembered. Currently there are stolpersteine in 26 European countries. Stolpersteine, or stumbling stones have gotten their name from the fact that you ‘stumble’ over them with your head and your heart.

Growing up I was raised with stories of grandparents who were born during the war. One made the biggest impact on me. It was of my grandfather's sister named Marjo. September 1942 a peaceful Jewish



Three stumbling stones, one of which I got the honor to lay in the ground in October of 2017.

Julie Hill, Debbie Slump, Jaci Vaughn, Kaelyn Head, Deb McDowell, Katie Heidtbrink.

Sitting Down: Bailee Giger, Sieger “CJ” Dantuma, Sharon Shouse

family in her neighborhood was taken out of their house by Nazi soldiers.

She remembered how she heard Doortje, the family's youngest daughter, passing by her house on her boots. Doortje and her family were first brought to Westerbork in the Netherlands and then to Auschwitz where they passed away.

The 18th of January I was invited to join First Baptist Church in Weston to discuss the book: “The Hiding Place” by Corrie Ten Boom. Corrie Ten Boom was part of the resistance movement in Holland, and she hid and helped multiple Jews.

Reading this book was extraordinary, especially to read about the Resistance but also forgiveness which played a big role in the book.

I'd like to thank the people at

the First Baptist Church for having me and allowing me to talk about my country and its role in WW2 and their interest in the subject. For me, to read and talk about a book on the Holocaust, like “The Hiding Place,” is the perfect way to honor The International Holocaust Remembrance Day here in America.

Thank you for allowing me to share my story!

Kind regards, Sieger Dantuma

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