

Make sure they know

Last week, my boss and his family said goodbye to very special person in their family, Carl Bender, who had been a rock and compass for them for decades.

As I was going through the procession of people in the community paying their respects, I thought to myself who in my life have I not let really know what they meant to me?

Those people who shape our lives, they can be gone in an instant, or we can get to say goodbye, but it may also be during their last battle.

I was watching a sitcom Monday night, and one of the characters said something corny, but also very sincere. They said "I want to savor every moment"

How often do we sleepwalk through a day, not savoring the moment, or savoring the people in our lives?

We tell ourselves 'they know we care.' And yeah, they do know we care, but we should take the extra moment, more than once or twice a year, and let them know.

So please, take this opportunity to call up that friend you haven't talked to in awhile, and talk with them.

After all that we have been through these past couple of years, the one thing we should do is embrace the love in our lives.

DAVID TIMMERMAN - EDITOR

Southeast Wisconsin remains fertile ground for tech business expansion

MADISON - Intel's decision to build two semiconductor factories northeast of Columbus, Ohio, was disappointing news for Racine County and southeast Wisconsin in the short run but perhaps reassuring for the region in the longer term.

It's also a tangible, \$20-billion sign that the "onshoring" of semiconductor production - critical to all kinds of digital products as well as national defense - is under way.

Observers suspected Intel had all but made up its mind to expand in Ohio when Wisconsin entered the picture with sites in Racine and Kenosha counties, where ample land, utility access, water and sewer infrastructure and transportation options were available.

Foxconn is a growing factor in southeast Wisconsin. The Taiwan-based company qualified for about \$30 million state tax credits in December 2021 due a combination of jobs created (579) and capital investment during the year.

That brings the conversation back to semiconductor chips, which are used in central processing units that run personal computers as well as automobiles, mobile phones, televisions, washing machines, refrigerators, solar cells and much more.

INSIDE WISCONSIN

BY TOM STILL

and gallium arsenide are the most common materials used to manufacture chips, which conduct electricity more than an insulator but less than a pure conductor.

Why? Demand grew 17% between 2019 and 2021 alone, existing factories are running at capacity, inventories are low and the leading producers are mostly outside the United States, with China, Taiwan, South Korea, Singapore, Malaysia and the Philippines high on the list.

Meanwhile, vehicle producers and their suppliers are shifting to electric models and the batteries that power them while scrambling to find semiconductors to power traditional vehicles.

"It's alarming, really, the situation we're in as a country, and how urgently we need to move to increase our domestic capacity," U.S. Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo told reporters this week.

What does it mean for southeast Wisconsin? Some of the auxiliary jobs planned by Intel could still wind up there; other chip producers may take

notice of regional assets; Foxconn will likely need a more reliable supply over time; the Chicago-to-Milwaukee corridor eases transport to and from manufacturing sites; there are strong engineering and computer science schools in the region; and local governments have demonstrated their willingness to work with inquiring companies.

Racine County and Mount Pleasant are a leading example, but so is the city of Kenosha, where the Kenosha Innovation Neighborhood would transform 107 acres that were once the site of a Chrysler Motors engine plant.

As of the fall of 2021, Kenosha had 6.6 million square feet of high-bay, industrial space under construction - including 2.2 million square feet of "spec" space.

The United States has long been a leader in the design of semiconductor chips, but ceded its production capacity over time, in part because it was tough to compete with low-cost countries.

Intel's decision to build in Columbus, within reach of automotive producers in all directions, makes sense in many ways. Still, the company's long look at southeast Wisconsin may pay dividends over time.

Still is president of the Wisconsin Technology Council. He can be reached at tstill@wisconsinstechnologycouncil.com.

Closing the digital divide

I want to make sure all Wisconsinites are aware that the Affordable Connectivity Program is open for applications. This program, which was launched through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, is aimed at lowering the cost of internet service and closing the digital divide.

Now more than ever, having broadband is essential to ensuring families can connect to jobs, health care, learning opportunities, and more. The Affordable Connectivity Program will help more households across Wisconsin and the nation access the internet they need.

Through this program, eligible households can receive up to \$30 per month off their internet bill. For households on qualifying Tribal lands, the discount is up to \$75 per month. Additionally, eligible households can receive a one-time discount of up to \$100 to help purchase a laptop, desktop computer, or tablet from participating providers.

I know how important it is to ensure all Wisconsinites have access to the internet, and as a member of the House Rural Broadband Task Force I'll keep working to close the digital divide once and for all.

Visit FCC.gov/ACP to learn more about the Affordable Connectivity Program and apply today.

Also, A record-setting 14.5 million people signed up for health care coverage through the Marketplaces during the recent Open Enrollment

Period, including over 212,000 Wisconsinites.

I was glad to see the American Rescue Plan - which I voted for last year - working to lower health care costs for most people and increase enrollment to these historic levels.

Quality coverage is key to the wellbeing and health of our communities, especially as the COVID-19 pandemic continues. That's why I'm committed to continuing to take action to ensure all Wisconsinites can access affordable health care.

While the Open Enrollment Period has ended, Wisconsinites may still qualify for a special enrollment period if they have certain life changes or if they qualify for Medicaid or the Children's Health Insurance Program.

To see if you qualify for a special enrollment period, call (877) 947-2211 or visit CoveringWI.org/enroll to find free assistance. You can also call my office at 1-608-782-2558 or send me an email at Kind.house.gov if you have questions about how to access resources.

REP. RON KIND WISCONSIN THIRD CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT



"IT'S YOUR SISTER DOWN SOUTH CALLING TO COMPLAIN THAT IT'S ONLY 50 DEGREES THERE."

BACK HOME BY CHRIS HARDIE

The sound of winter

If below-zero temperatures had a sound, it would be this: the clang of an iron maul striking the frozen apron of a manure spreader.

Our recent cold snap - we dipped close to 30 below zero in my neck of the woods - made me reflect on memories of milking cows and doing chores during the bitter weather. It seemed like every routine task became much harder in the cold temperatures.

Chores - which included feeding calves and washing the milking machines - were sandwiched in between the daily milking at 5 a.m. and 5 p.m.

Cleaning the barn - the term that we used when we hauled manure - is an essential daily task in a stanchion barn like we had. The cows would be turned out to the outdoor feed bunk for a couple of hours, and we would try to clean the barn and bed the stalls as quickly as possible.

Step 1 was to start the tractor, which had a block heater to keep it warm. Somedays a little extra help was needed from a blast heater and a battery charger. Step 2 was to crawl into the manure spreader with an iron bar or maul and pound on the aprons to make sure they were not frozen.

create a miserable repair job.

The same process was repeated to the links of chain exposed to the outside on the barn cleaner - a long system of chain and paddles that pulls manure through the gutter and dumps it into the manure spreader.

For many years our primary tractor did not have a cab, but rather a flimsy canvas apron with a plastic windshield that was installed each winter. Huddling down behind the windshield helped avoid freezing your face as you drove to the field to spread the manure.

Running the spreader completely empty and scraping the sides was a critical step for the next day's use. Any manure left in the spreader would freeze and create even more labor when pounding on the frozen chain.

The manure spreader would also be used to haul wood, as we often would drive into the woods during the winter seeking dead trees that could be cut, split and burned right away without seasoning.

Usually, one person would clean the barn while a second scraped and bedded the calf pens. Bales of hay were thrown down chutes and spread out for feeding and stacked for a nightly feeding as well.

be ready for the cows to come back inside within a couple of hours. There was a break for lunch and then it was time to cut and split wood or fill the wood box.

The cows would be turned back outside to the feed bunk in the later afternoon and then brought back inside for the evening milking. We were usually done by 7 p.m.

The days of milking cows are long gone, but I still have a few animals to tend. And the weather struggle continued when our heated waterer froze - even though I made sure it was still working during the coldest of temperatures.

So, it's back to carrying 5-gallon pails - 182 steps uphill - for the foreseeable future or until it warms enough to thaw the waterer. And the well has been acting up, so I've been making a few more trips to the bottom of the cold cistern.

There is a bright side. Meteorological winter is now two-thirds complete.

The days are growing longer. As my memory recalls, it could be worse.

Chris Hardie spent more than 30 years as a reporter, editor and publisher. He was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize and won dozens of state and national journalism awards. He is a former president of the Wisconsin Newspaper Association. Contact him at chardie1963@gmail.com.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR POLICY

- All letters must be signed by one person - letters not signed will not be published
Letters must be a reasonable length. There is no specific word limit, but if a letter is seen as "too long," the writer will be contacted to reduce it
Letters can be emailed, but must have a telephone number for confirmation
No letters will be printed that disparage or openly slander others in the community
Letters cannot be a "thank you," selling items or solicitation

for any service
Only one letter per person, per month will be printed, unless the following letters are answering a response letter published in the paper

PLEASE SEND LETTERS TO: GRANT COUNTY HERALD INDEPENDENT P.O. BOX 310 LANCASTER WI 53813 OR EMAIL: NEWSEDITOR@TDS.NET (PLEASE INCLUDE TELEPHONE NUMBER)

JOHN INGEBRITSEN PUBLISHER JINGE@TDS.NET
DAVID TIMMERMAN EDITOR NEWSEDITOR@TDS.NET
A.J. GATES SPORTS EDITOR HISPORTS@TDS.NET
KEVIN KELLY DIRECTOR OF SALES KKADS@TDS.NET
JODI WHITE ADVERTISING SALES REP. JWWHITE@WNEWS4U.COM
GLORIA LONDON BILLING CLERK MNCBILLING@YAHOO.COM
JESSICA BROWNELL AD DESIGN HERALDADS@TDS.NET
EMILY KOCH AD DESIGN LEGALS LANNEWS@TDS.NET
AMY LAUFENBERG AD DESIGN DESIGN@SWNEWS4U.COM
SANDY TAYLOR CIRCULATION MNCIRCULATION@YAHOO.COM

GRANT COUNTY Herald Independent USPS 226-380
PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY MORRIS NEWSPAPER CORPORATION OF WISCONSIN, 208 W. CHERRY STREET, LANCASTER, WI 53813. TELEPHONE (608) 723-2151. PERIODICALS POSTAGE PAID AT LANCASTER, WI. CONTENTS © MMVIII BY MORRIS NEWSPAPER CORPORATION OF WISCONSIN. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Volume 179 - Issue 5
MORRIS NEWSPAPERS OF WISCONSIN

SUBSCRIPTION RATES IN GRANT COUNTY \$43 (2 YRS. \$79) IN WISCONSIN \$46 (2 YRS. \$84) OUT-OF-STATE \$59 (2 YRS. \$110)
POSTMASTER SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO: CIRCULATION DEPT. GRANT COUNTY HERALD INDEPENDENT P.O. BOX 310, LANCASTER, WI 53813-0310.

WNA RECOGNIZED ANNUALLY BY THE WISCONSIN NEWSPAPER AND INLAND PRESS ASSOCIATIONS FOR EXCELLENCE