

Editorial

Silverwood Park Blossoming into another area asset

By Diane Everson, Publisher

Hold on to your hat. Can you believe it was 20 years ago in 2002 that Irene Silverwood made her incredible donation to Dane County coupled with an extraordinary vision? To those of you who may be new to our area, Irene donated her farm of 300 acres to be used as a park, nature recreation center, facility for ag education and best practices. It is a beautiful place on the shore of Rice lake.



A little background, Irene and her husband, Russell, farmed for many years. Irene was also a business education teacher and class advisor at Edgerton High School. In the summer, Irene could be found volunteering at the Stoughton and Dane County fairs. Both fair administrators quickly found there was not a problem Irene couldn't handle.

Back to her vision and mission for her donation. Silverwood Park, as it came to be called, was to put agriculture education at the forefront along with nature awareness projects, organic and sustainability best practices as well as a park to be enjoyed for generations. It was slow going in the beginning as the park department needed to figure out how to deal with a farm. They were aided by the creation of the Friends of Silverwood Park. This is an all volunteer organization that has a board of directors and many members who have generously given their time and talents to develop an amazing place.

- Here are a few of their accomplishments to date:
- After COVID, the return of the winter Candlelight Hike through the woods and the Barn dance. This dance has a band and a square dance caller and is a big hit.
 - The Freshman Summit has spent its ninth year of giving volunteer hours to paint, mulch, tend to Irene's orchard, garden and on building maintenance.
 - Public presentations by nine grower partners educating people on soil and improving their gardens.
 - Edgerton Summer School Day camp was held in June, July and August with 50 campers.
 - Silverwood is host to the Savanna Institute agroforestry and a fruit and nut tasting orchard.
 - Renovation of Irene's home to be a visitors center. Replacement windows have been donated by Dave Nelson and a fundraising effort is underway for the installation.
 - Discussion with athletic groups to use the park for races.
 - Dan Bussey is creating a Heritage Apple Orchard which will cover 15 acres with 300 different varieties.

This is very impressive and yet, like other causes, it takes money to continue the work. As we have asked you to consider donating to Edgerton Outreach and the Edgerton Athletic field, please also consider how you can help continue the exciting activities at Silverwood. They need financial contributions, in-kind donations and volunteer hours. Participate if you are able. All help is welcome.

We believe over the course of time, Silverwood Park will become an international destination for visitors from around the world.

The Edgerton Reporter editorial reflects the opinion of publisher, Diane Everson and the legacy perspective and worldview of Harland and Helen Everson.

THE EDGERTON REPORTER Letters to the Editor Policy

The Reporter welcomes Letters to the Editor, however, letters must have a written signature, address and telephone number in order to be published.

Letters must be submitted by 5 p.m. Monday for Wednesday's publication. We will run as many letters as possible each week, but space is limited. For that reason, letters must not exceed 350 words. Letters will be run as soon as possible. We give priority to letters from area residents. We reserve the right to edit letters as necessary. Letters submitted to The Reporter should not be personal attacks, but should concern issues.

Letters on political issues will not be run in the publication the week prior to an election of candidates or referendum. This will prohibit someone from raising a question about a candidate or issue without allowing time for a response.

The Edgerton Reporter

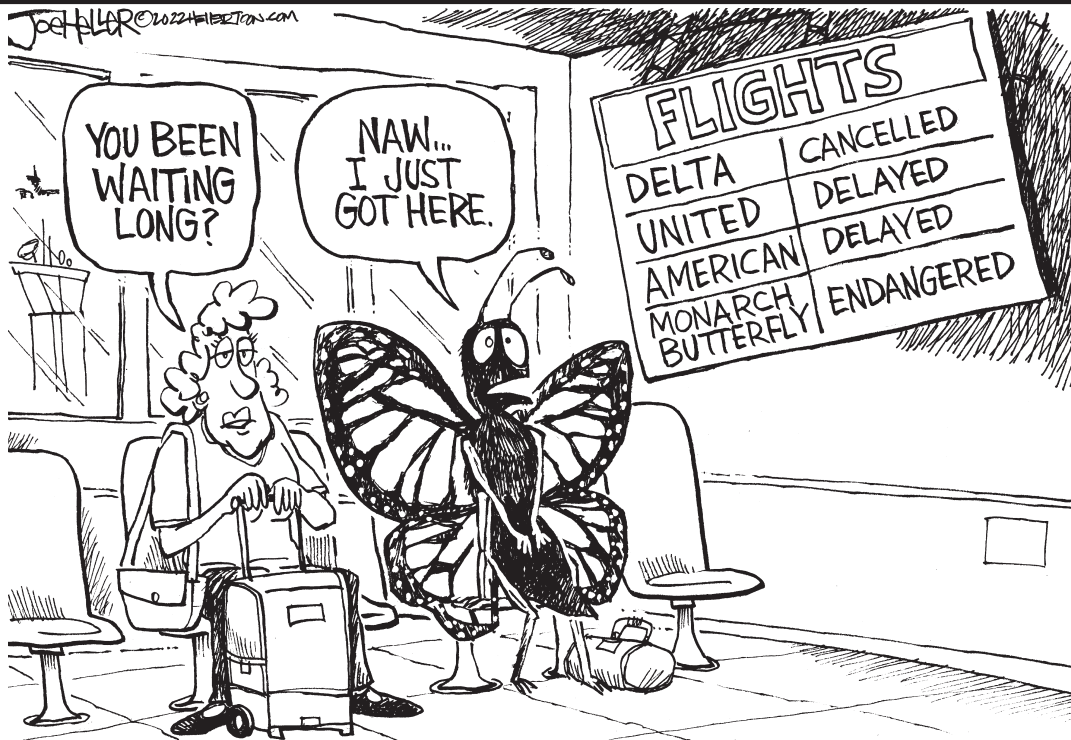
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THE GRAMMAR GUY

by Curtis Honeycutt

Fewer fervor

In a classic episode of "Saturday Night Live," Christopher Walken confidently declares, "I've got a fever, and the only prescription is more cowbell!" Today I'm not sure if I have a fever or a fervor (or both), but it's about "fewer" and "less."

Let's delve into this widespread grammar debacle currently plaguing the English-speaking world at an alarming pace. When should you say less and when should you say fewer? You've probably heard to use less for things you don't count and fewer for things you do count. As a general rule, this is true, but sooner than later you'll run into a slew of exceptions.

Instead, think about it this way: use less for something singular and fewer for something plural. For example: I noticed less pulp in this orange juice this morning. You could also say: I found 55 fewer palpable pulp particles in this orange juice this morning. On its own, pulp is singular, so less is correct. Because you have plural pulp particles, fewer is correct.

Here's where it gets tricky: when referring to time, distance or money, use less because we think of these types of things as singular amounts. For example: The distance from Earth to the moon is (on average) 238,855 miles. You wouldn't say the distance from Earth to the moon are 238,855 miles. So, when you apply the singular or plural rule here, you could correctly say: This rocket we built in our garage is really fast; we're already less than 100 miles away from the moon!

Now, what about the express lane at the grocery store? Is "10 items or less" correct, or should it be "10 items or fewer?" Although technically it should be 10 items or fewer, many argue that if a rule makes a phrase or sentence too cumbersome, drop it.

Both the IKEA store and Meijer grocery store near me have "10 items or fewer" express checkout lanes, which I appreciate. I have a hard time declaring my allegiance to either side, so I'm going to offer a third option: up to 10 items. This way, grammar grouches don't get all grumpy and people who don't care never cared in the first place. Just as long as people don't try to sneak 13 bottles of pulpy orange juice in the express lane.

-Curtis Honeycutt is an award-winning syndicated humor columnist and author. Connect with him at curtishoneycutt.com.

Letter to Editor

Dear Editor,

I am writing in support of the plans for building a synthetic athletic turf field to replace the existing grass field. Seldom is there a situation where virtually all of the options point in one direction, but in this case...I believe they do.

1. Financial: We put fertilizer, chemicals and irrigation on the existing football field and it looks good but that hides the fact that we have to limit play to about 40 activities per year to keep that look. We are projected to save approximately \$20,000 per year with a Turf field that will not need water, chemicals, lines painted, or mowing. Over the projected 15 year life of the field, that is \$300,000.

2. Financial again: Replacement of the existing grass field is projected at approximately \$500,000 that could be directed towards the cost of a turf field costing \$950,000.

3. Safety: Turf fields have approximately 2 inches of tiny rubberized pellets that cushion the fall of athletes more than grass fields. Consideration is being given to adding an additional shock cushion to this construction as well.

4. Drainage: We have

fought water issues in the school campus for decades. Turf fields have drainage systems under the permeable turf which allows the storm water to be drained directly to Saunders Creek. The football coach at UW-Whitewater says "We can have a 2 inch rain and be on the field 30 minutes later".

5. Green Space: This should almost be number one... we have very limited "green space" on the school campus. We are boxed in by Saunders Creek on the North. East and West. The city is on the South. A turf field will allow us 250 plus activities on the field when we currently limit them to about 40 per year.

6. Benefits for many students: This opens up the field for use using the school day for our students. We would now have space for outdoor activities during gym classes; Band can practice on the field; youth football and soccer can have games and practices on the field; softball and baseball can practice on the field in March; and the primary users would be the Soccer and football programs.

7. Financial a third time... Replacement Costs: After 13 years of use, UW-Whitewater replaced their turf field with

a new turf field last year and did it for \$500,000. Why so cheap? The expensive part is in the under layer of drainage. You just replace the turf cover and you get an entirely new field.

8. Pride in the community: This field will serve as an expression of the pride Edgerton has in our community. Families choose to live in communities based on available amenities like a swimming pool, a Performing Arts Center, a modern library, green space facilities like Racetrack Park and a multi-use athletic Turf Field. I'd be proud to live in a community that has all of these.

While it is expected that the Edgerton School District will invest in this facility at least up to the cost of what we will pay to refurbish the grass field, a project this size requires many community players. A fund raising effort will begin shortly. This is a one time gift opportunity. Consider giving at a level that will allow us to add a few "bells and whistles" like an entrance that matches the beauty of the new field and an additional shock cushion. We want people to know how proud we are to live in this fine community.

Edgerton native and former sports editor for the Janesville Gazette, Dave Wedeward is going to be writing a series of more detailed articles in the Edgerton Reporter in the coming weeks. Please take a moment to read this information. We think you will agree with Dave when he says "Some may say artificial turf is a thing of the future. Truth is, the future is now!"

Jim Raymond

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"In recognition of the fact that a representative government of the American type is dependent upon an informed electorate, it is declared to be the public policy of this state that all persons are entitled to the greatest possible information regarding the affairs of government and the official acts of those officers and employees who represent them.

Further, providing persons with such information is declared to be an essential function of representative government and an integral part of the routine duties of officers and employees whose responsibility it is to provide such information."

The Edgerton Reporter supports this policy.

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