

# It's Hard To Say Goodbye

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EDITOR**



This is probably one of the hardest articles I have had to write in my 17 1/2 years at the Campbellsport News and six years with the Kewaskum Statesman. I wanted to let all of our readers know that I am moving on and will no longer be working at the newspaper.

My last official day is this Friday, Oct. 8. You may still see me around once in a while at meetings and with my camera. I am planning to help out on a part-time basis as I can until they find a replacement for the Campbellsport/Eden area.

I will miss everyone from the area who I have worked with and have had the pleasure to get to know over the years. It has been a pleasure working in this area and helping to promote the area.

When I came to Campbellsport in January 2004, you welcomed me with open arms to the community and to the newspaper. I knew we had big shoes to fill in taking over the Campbellsport News from the Ninnemann family and I hope that I did a good job.

I have loved covering the events and activities in the area, the schools, and the villages and townships. Every school from the public to the private schools have been so great to work with and I will miss seeing all of you on a regular basis. I wish the best for your schools and will be cheering for the Cougars in

the future.

Covering the village and town boards has been an interesting and fun experience. There have been a few crazy meetings over the years, but your officials do a great job and put a lot of time and effort into making sure your

villages and towns are the best they can be.

Of course, there have been some difficult stories to write over the years and some sad events to cover. But in many of those, there has also been a light at the end of those dark tunnels.

For example, watching the chapel at Camp Vista burn down very early on a Wednesday morning was terrible. But watching the chapel be rebuilt into the beautiful structure that it is today has been so uplifting.

There is also the Wege family. Hearing about Josh's incident in Afghanistan was horrible, but watching him and his family persevere after this set back has been miraculous! The next time the USA Patriots are in the area to play softball, make sure you take the time to watch them play. It is inspiring and watching them work with the kids this summer at their amputee camp was wonderful.

Probably the hardest event to cover was the 2012 accident that killed three Campbellsport High School students and injured six others. It was heart-wrenching, but the scholarships, the Speak Up To Slow Down campaign and the way the area

pulled together for these families showed the strength of the area.

The longest two weeks of my years here came in 2006. I put in a lot of hours between time spent in Dundee and in the office to capture the excitement of the Extreme Home Makeover. It spanned two weeks of coverage in our newspaper and was an awesome experience. I never knew that many people could fit in the small town of Dundee at one time, well, I knew it could hold quite a few after many years of covering the St. Patrick's Day parade.

Of course, some of my favorite activities involved children and families. I have always said that I love covering Halloween and Christmas activities. To see the costumes that some families come up with and to see the excited kids running around town trick or treating is always fun.

Then there is the excitement and sometimes horror of meeting Santa Claus at Christmas time. To this day, one of my favorite photos is of twin girls sitting on Santa's lap in Eden, each one crying and reaching out for the parent who is on each side.

One of my favorite weeks of the year is always the week of the Fond du Lac County Fair. Being able to be at the fair taking photos of all the area youth showing animals has been great. These kids put a lot of work and pride into all of the projects showcased at the fair every year.

My son was born while I was working in Campbellsport. As I write this, it is his 14th birthday, wow, time sure does fly. I appreciated the gifts that

were sent to us when he was born and have always appreciated when someone would ask me about him. I loved being able to bring him along with me to many of the events I have covered and I know he enjoyed it too.

I could probably go on and on with stories and remembrances of my years here, but this is long enough! I just wanted to say goodbye to everyone and thank you for the warm welcome you gave me and all the help and encouragement you have given me and the newspaper over the years.

I hope you will continue to support the newspaper in the future. It really is a great honor to have a small-town weekly newspaper like this in your area and we do take pride in creating it for you every week.

It may be a rough transition while they are looking for a new reporter for the area, so please be patient. Anne Trautner, who has been our Kewaskum reporter, will be the only one covering the Campbellsport, Eden and Kewaskum areas for a while. If you can help in any way, I know she and the staff would appreciate it. Send in photos or articles on what is going on in the Campbellsport and Eden areas. Or, if you know of someone who would be a great reporter/photographer, have them contact the newspaper.

Again, I have really enjoyed my more than 17 years in Campbellsport and wish you all the best! I hope to see you around once in a while.