

July 20, 2019 (better late than never)

Dear Family,

Ben here. I'm sorry my letter is a little (a lot) late. Currently, I am sitting in Rochester visiting the Sammans. They've inspired me to write my letter. We come up annually the weekend before we drop Sophia off in Minneapolis for camp.

I am 13 years and will be an 8th grader at Gilbert Middle School this fall. I am looking forward to playing football and wrestling this year. During football I played center, guard, kicker, punter, outside linebacker, and inside linebacker. I wrestled at 150. I really liked my wrestling coach and will miss him since I'm not going to Ames Middle School in the fall.

I am also involved in Boy Scouts. My favorite trip was going skiing. I've recently started golfing. It's fun but frustrating. I golf in a league with my dad and play in a kids' league. Dad and I try to go out a couple times a week.

Next weekend I am participating in the Iowa Games. I'm looking to take the power lifting title away from Uncle Wayne. I'm actually playing singles in pickleball. For those of you who've never heard of pickleball, it's a cross between tennis and pingpong. Pickleball is played on a modified tennis court. You use a paddle and a wiffleball. Mom and I play several times a week.

This summer we are busy getting our house ready to sell. Mom and dad bought a new house in Ames but it's in the Gilbert School District. Sophia will still go to Ames High. We will put our old house on the market in a couple of weeks. I've learned how to paint, put flooring in, and how to change light fixtures. Our new house is only 1 mile from our old house. We will move August 8.

I know my neighbors will miss me. I mow and snowblow for a couple of our neighbors.

I'm looking forward to the upcoming Iowa football season. Last December, my dad and I took a trip to Florida to watch Iowa play Mississippi State in the Outback Bowl. We went to Clearwater Beach. I saw a dolphin while kayaking in the ocean. We also went to Busch Gardens. On our way back to Iowa we stopped at several football stadiums: Alabama, Auburn, and Mississippi State. While at Alabama's stadium, someone left a gate open and we got to go onto the field. Someone there thought I was a high schooler being recruited by Alabama. We got pictures in all of the stadiums. Hoping to see you at the family picnic.

Love,

Ben



