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Local News
Local Journalists
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The Denison Free Press

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TAKE ONE!

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SERVING DENISON & CRAWFORD COUNTY, IOWA

January 25, 2024

City seeking proposals on operation of Boulders Conference Center

BY GORDON WOLF

The City of Denison is sending out requests for qualifications on options to operate the Boulders Conference Center.

The conference center's former lessee was given a notice to vacate on December 28 for non-payment of rent.

Since that time, the bookings have been handled by city hall. An employee of Majestic Hills Golf Course has been running the events. The employee is being paid by the golf course for this work, and in exchange, the city is forgiving the golf course's rent payment and utilities for the lower level of the conference center for January and February.

At a special Boulders Commission meeting on Monday, City Manager Jessica Garcia presented a draft of the request for qualifications, and the commissioners suggested making the options for operating the conference center open to any number of possibilities.

Language in the request for qualifications mentions options of paid management, leasing, a combination of management and leasing, or any other alternatives. Purchasing the conference center from the city is also an option.

In the past, Boulders has been operated by a city employee, has operated under a management contract and then operated under a lease agreement.

The request for qualifications includes legal information. Commissioners wanted to have the most pertinent information at the front of the document with the legal language at the end.

The request for qualifications will be posted on the city's website and the Iowa League of Cities website. City Manager Jessica Garcia said she would send the request for qualifications to entities that have already reached out with an interest in the conference center. Copies can also be requested by calling city hall.

BOULDERS, PAGE 3

Fun and games at the Izaak Walton dinner



PHOTO BY GORDON WOLF

Fun and games and food were on the menu Saturday night for the annual Izaak Walton League Family Dinner at the Schleswig Community Building. People could play games to earn tickets for drawings of firearms and could bid on silent and live auction items. The auction included the sale of a shorthair pointer/black lab mix owned by the Heiden family of Schleswig. Pictured, Nash Heiden holds the dog while Kyle Bruhn stands by. See more photos inside this issue.

2024 Hot Summer Nights schedule announced

Event expands to six nights



PHOTO BY DAN MUNDT

The last Hot Summer Nights event of 2023, which took place in August, drew a huge crowd to Uptown Denison.

NIGHTS, PAGE 10

Summit rep discusses CO2 pipeline project with supervisors

Informational meeting with emergency personnel to be conducted



PHOTO BY DAN MUNDT

Riley Gibson, representing Summit Carbon Solutions, gave the Crawford County Board of Supervisors an update on the project on Tuesday morning.

BY DAN MUNDT

Riley Gibson, representing Summit Carbon Solutions, visited the Crawford County Board of Supervisors meeting on Tuesday to give an update on the status of the project.

The following is a condensed account of the discussion.

Summit is planning to build a pipeline to carry carbon dioxide (CO2) from Midwestern ethanol plants to North Dakota, where it will be permanently buried underground.

Gibson said he has not had much to update recently about the project because company resources have been dedicated to South Dakota and North Dakota, where permits were denied to the company last fall.

The issues in the Dakotas could push out by a year, to 2025, the start of Summit's construction schedule, Gibson said.

He said a lot of bridges would have to be crossed before construction

PIPELINE, PAGE 3

Sci Bots team wins best robot design in first competition

Kids learn coding – and troubleshooting

BY DAN MUNDT

SCI Bots, a team of students from Sac, Crawford, and Ida counties, won the best robot design award at the January 6 First Robotics competition at Kingsley High School.

The competition was the first for the SCI Bots team.

The "SCI" in the team's name stands for Sac, Crawford, and Ida counties.

The students on the team are Elwood and Francina Burns, homeschooled students from Odebolt; Eithan Alcorn, a Schleswig Elementary School student from Kiron; and Tucker Greenwald, an

Ida Grove Elementary School student from Ida Grove.

SCI Bots placed sixth out of 12 teams in the regional qualifier and narrowly missed a chance to go to the next level; the top five teams will go on to the Iowa FIRST LEGO League State Championship this weekend, January 27 and 28.

FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) is an international youth organization that operates

BOTS, PAGE 14



The SCI Bots team with their award-winning robot. From left, Eithan Alcorn of Kiron; Elwood Burns of Odebolt; Tucker Greenwald of Ida Grove; and Francina Burns of Odebolt.

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PIPELINE, FROM PAGE 1

could start.

Supervisor Craig Dozark asked if the company would have to get approval from North Dakota, South Dakota and Iowa before the project would proceed.

"I believe so," Gibson said.

He said it wouldn't make much sense to put resources into construction before knowing if it can go into North Dakota and South Dakota.

Summit's goal is to be operational by 2026, Gibson said, but noted that thousands of permits for state and local road crossings still have to be taken care of.

He said Summit has spent something like \$350 million on easements for the project, with north of \$158 million spent on easements in Iowa.

Gibson said about \$4.5 billion would be needed to get the project operational.

Board of Supervisors Chairperson Jean Heiden asked if the project could get too expensive.

The Navigator project may have come up against becoming more expensive than anticipated, he said.

Last October, Navigator CO2 Ventures canceled a similar pipeline, citing unpredictable state regulatory processes.

Gibson said Summit's current push in Iowa is to set meetings with county emergency officials to discuss "dispersion models" that show how the CO2 in the pipeline would disperse if the pipeline were ruptured at different points along the route.

He said the meetings would be an open forum for emergency personnel to go over county-specific maps and ask questions.

Gibson said the information would be provided to emergency personnel in a continuing conversation before the pipeline would go into operation.

He said the presentation offers a lot of good information about dispersion modeling that he found to be very useful.

Cindy Kruthoff, who owns land in the path of the pipeline and joined the meeting via Zoom, asked if landowners would be invited to the dispersion modeling meetings.

"At this time, no," Gibson said.

He said there was a security aspect to not inviting everyone to the meetings, but said the company definitely wants to get the information into the hands of county representatives.

"Maybe sometime down the road we'll be able to (share with landowners)," he said.

"... with all the information that leads up to how we got our dispersion modeling, I think it would be a little bit irresponsible just to throw a bunch of maps out into the public without very extensive, front-end this is how we got

our information," Gibson said.

Kruthoff asked if emergency management personnel would be sworn to secrecy or asked to sign nondisclosure agreements (NDAs).

Gibson said emergency personnel would not be required to sign NDAs and that he thought they could do with the information as they please.

"I would hope just our supervisors would see the unethical method that would be not to include the people who are most at risk - the landowners," Kruthoff said.

"The supervisors are more than welcome to be a part of it, as well," Gibson said. "That will be information that at the end of the day if the supervisors want to discuss it at a meeting, that will be the county's prerogative."

Gibson said the company would go over all the information again when the route is permitted and the project is moving into construction.

Kruthoff said she wanted to compare Summit's information about the "danger zone" with the information Navigator had provided to see if Summit's analysis is the same.

Heiden asked if Kruthoff could attend the meeting.

Gibson said it might be possible in the future but not now.

Crawford County Emergency Management Coordinator Greg Miller said the point of the dispersion modeling meeting would be for emergency responders to learn about how to respond to an incident; he said it would be easier to do the meeting with just emergency personnel, and the company could have a separate meeting with landowners, which he said would be important.

Kruthoff said she would not be satisfied with that arrangement.

"It's a closed meeting - that just means it's secretive ..." she said.

Someone should represent the landowners at the meeting, Kruthoff said.

Miller said he would accept one landowner representative, but "I just don't want this to turn into a political nightmare."

Gibson said he would have to clear it through Summit and said their stance from the beginning has been to give information on a "need to know basis first."

He said the presentations are about emergency personnel in a "worst case scenario" responding to a breach of the pipeline.

Miller or someone else at the meeting could sit down with the supervisors at a board meeting and share their takeaway about the information, Gibson said.

He said at this point the information can't be shared with the public.

Read more in next week's Denison Free Press.

LULAC Denison launches raffle fundraiser for wellness center

Winners to be announced February 10

BY DAN MUNDT

The Denison chapter of LULAC (League of United Latin American Citizens) is running a raffle fundraiser in support of the proposed Crawford County Recreation & Wellness Center.

"This raffle is an opportunity for us to contribute to the wellness center," said LULAC Denison President Alma Puga.

The wellness center will be a positive asset for the community at large and for the Latino population, she said.

"Part of our mission is to advance the health of Latinos," Puga said. "It will be a fantastic way to promote wellbeing by getting students, adults and kids to be active."

One of two main prizes for the raffle is a King's Pointe Resort bundle of \$200 in gift cards and four water park tickets.

King's Pointe Resort is a 100-room resort/waterpark located on the lakefront in Storm Lake.

Puga reached out to King's Pointe, which donated the four tickets and a \$50 gift certificate.

An anonymous donor provided a gift certificate for \$150, bringing the total to \$200.

"King's Pointe Resort has an indoor water park; during the winter, it would be a great way to get away from the cold for a bit and go on a mini family vacation," Puga said. "If you want to stay at the hotel, the gift cards could be used for that or they could be used to buy more tickets if you have a larger family."

The prize bundle could be used to go to the resort in the summer when the outdoor facilities are open, as well, she said.

The second of the two main prizes is a box of ribs from Smithfield Foods.

"Our plan was to get tickets for Adventureland, but Smithfield no

longer has that ability to donate tickets to Adventureland, so they donated ribs for us, instead; we got two boxes," Puga said.

Tickets are \$10 for one, and \$20 for three.

"All you have to do to enter is either comment on the original post we put on our LULAC Denison Facebook page or send us a text message to my phone number, 712-267-4891," she said. "People can pay through the GoFundMe that Jennifer Smith set up for the wellness center or they can send a check to city hall."

The GoFundMe address is bit.ly/CrawfordCountyWellnessCenter.

Payments may also be given to LULAC Denison members or to wellness center committee members.

"As soon as we confirm the payment is received, we send you a message on Facebook or a text message with a ticket number or numbers, depending on how many tickets you pay for," Puga said. "On February 10, we're going to announce the winners live on our LULAC Denison Facebook page."

All proceeds will go to the wellness center.

The Crawford County Recreation & Wellness Center will be a great asset for the community and for LULAC Denison, she said.

"We do a lot of community and cultural events and we'll be able to meet there in the wintertime," Puga said. "For our Immigrant Heritage Festival, we've been very lucky with the weather the past two years but it could be a backup for us if there's rain in the forecast."

She encourages everyone to consider entering the raffle.

"It's a great way to spend a few bucks to do something fantastic for our community," Puga said.

"Swatting" call at Denison High School apparently one of 13 made on January 17

BY GORDON WOLF

The "swatting" call that was directed toward Denison High School last week Wednesday (January 17), was apparently one of 13 such calls that were made the same day.

A release from the Iowa Governor's School Safety Bureau says that approximately 13 school districts throughout Iowa received the anonymous "swatting" calls that afternoon.

The release said that local, state and federal law enforcement agencies are working together on an investigation, and that notifications were made to school districts throughout Iowa to advise of these calls.

The Iowa Department of Public Safety and the Iowa Governor's School Safety Bureau will continue to monitor and report any future threats facing Iowa schools, the release added.

On January 17, Denison Police Chief Tony Trejo issued the following statement regarding the call made to Denison High School.

"On January 17 at approximately 1:50 p.m., Denison High School received a call from an unknown caller, but the caller had an identifiable phone number. The caller stated that he was enroute to the school and planning to 'blow up the whole school.' When questioned about who was calling, the caller hung up the phone. The administration stated this

person had a very distinct accent, which was all the information that could be provided.

"Officers arrived on scene, met with the school administration who advised the entire school was on lockdown. Officers set up a perimeter around the school and blocked all routes into the high school area.

"The Iowa Division of Criminal Investigations and Crawford County Attorney's Office were called to begin a location track for this phone number. During this time, it was determined by the Iowa DCI that this phone number had been used to place multiple calls to other schools across the state of Iowa during the day.

"After receiving the information of this being a possible swatting call, officers remained at the high school for the dismissal and security of the students. Officers with administration staff conducted a room to room search of the entire high school to verify no threats were present in the building."

Trejo thanked the Denison High School administration and staff for remaining calm during this high stress event and their great assistance keeping the students safe.

Agencies involved were the Denison Police Department, Crawford County Sheriff's Office, Denison Fire Department, Crawford County Emergency Management, and the Iowa Fire Marshals Office.

Legal firm hired to help secure NMTC funding for wellness center

BY GORDON WOLF

The Denison City Council finalized its 28E agreement with the Nishna Valley YMCA by passing a resolution at a special meeting on Friday.

Approval of the resolution was requested by the city attorney.

The council also approved the hiring of the Lothrop GPM firm to serve as legal counsel to help in the city's quest to secure New Markets Tax Credit (NMTC) funding for the Crawford County Wellness Center.

The special meeting was needed to put these agreements in place prior to this week's 24th annual NMTC conference. Representing the city's interests at the conference will be consultants from Steadfast City, an economic development, community development and non-profit consulting firm.

Having the management of the wellness center and legal representation decided upon will help Steadfast City sell the wellness center project to Community Development Entities.

The NMTC program was

established in 2000 and is designed to encourage investment in operating business and real estate projects in low-income communities. Individuals and corporations can make equity investments in Community Development Entities and receive a tax credit against their federal income tax.

Lothrop GPM was selected from the firms that responded to the city's request for proposals. The top three that responded were interviewed by Councilwoman Jennifer Zupp-Smith, City Manager Jessica Garcia, Wes Nordquist with Availa Bank and Allison Gray-Gunsten from Steadfast City.

Zupp-Smith said all three firms that were interviewed were excellent.

Lothrop GPM was recommended by Ahlers & Cooney, a law firm that has the Denison School District as a client, said Garcia.

Both Lothrop GPM and Steadfast City have offices in the St. Louis area.

Fees for Lothrop GPM would be part of the New Markets Tax Credit award. The city is looking for a net benefit of \$3.6 million for the wellness center project.

BOULDERS, FROM PAGE 1

According to the discussion at the Boulders Commission meeting, the requests for qualifications would go out on January 26. Those interested can submit questions to Garcia by a February 5 deadline. Garcia will

respond to the questions by February 7 and the proposals are due at city hall by February 12.

The Boulders Commission scheduled a special meeting on February 13 to review the proposals. At their regular meeting on February 27, the commissioners will hear presentations from those that submitted proposals.

Local Calendar

**THURSDAY,
JANUARY 25, 2024**

Denison Rotary Club Meet & Greet, 5:30 p.m. at the Bake Shop and Café in Uptown Denison. Learn about what Rotary has to offer and how Rotary serves the community. Appetizers and drinks will be available.

**FRIDAY
JANUARY 26, 2024**

Schleswig Fire Department men's annual stag fundraiser; doors open at 6 p.m. at the Schleswig Community Building. Catered by Staley's. Tickets are \$75 in advance from any fireman, \$100 at the door.

**SATURDAY
JANUARY 27, 2024**

Read & Play at Norelius Community Library, 10-11 a.m.; This storytime is aimed at children ages 2-4, but any child is welcome.



Submit events at denisonfreepress.com

**TUESDAY
JANUARY 30, 2024**

Euchre Night at the Community Building in Ricketts starting at 7 p.m. Entry fee is \$5 and there is no need to bring a partner.

**WEDNESDAY
JANUARY 31, 2024**

Read & Play at Norelius Community Library, 10-11 a.m. This storytime is aimed at children ages 2-4, but any child is welcome to attend.

Euchre Night at the Charter Oak Community Building; games begin at 7 p.m. No partners needed.

**THURSDAY
FEBRUARY 1, 2024**

Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) meets on Thursdays at United Presbyterian Church in Denison. Doors open at 7:30 a.m.; meeting begins at 8:30 a.m. Coffee provided. Call Carmen Swertzig at 712-269-6689 for more information.

Anime Club at Norelius Community Library, 5:30-7:30 p.m. Games, snacks and anime.

DHS students get high scores at District Large Group Speech Contest

The Iowa High School Speech Association (IHSSA) District Large Group Speech Contest took place at Denison High School (DHS) on Saturday, January 20.

All but one of the DHS groups received a 1 rating from the judges.

The following are the results:
UFO Radio (Radio Broadcasting), Camila Ramirez, Cooper Gehlsen, Darlyn Orellana, Harmoni Osmanski, Mindy Thongvanh, Santiago Lopez, Taven Adams; 1

The Nightmare Before Christmas (Choral Reading), Abimeris Perez, Abraham Pauley, Adriana Aldana, Alan Rivera, Andrea Alcaraz, Ashlyn Dionicio, Beatriz Zamago, Derek Jepsen, Guadalupe Ramos, Isabel Jepsen, Ivette Lopez, Leila Jaime, Neylis Cardona, Samuel Salazar; 1

Last Minute Adjustments (Ensemble Acting), Chloe Koch, Danny Saldana, Gavin Schmadeke, Jordyn Lynn, Roman Bygness; 1

Pan! (One Act Play), Adonay Arellano, Aiden Medrano, Celeste Gomez, Chloe Koch, Dianne Castillo, Diego Cid, Grant Olsen, Isabel Jepsen, Isadora Gutierrez, Jasmyn Ahrens, John Parr, Jorge Romualdo, Jp Montano, Karla Sanchez, Karnita Villareal, Landon Seebeck, Leila Jaime, Lita Thao, Maite Arreola, Oscar Corona, Roman Bygness, Samuel Salazar, Shelby Kastner, Xochitl Arellano; 1, 1, 1 (three judges)

Killer Crush (Short Film), Abraham Pauley, Adrian Acevedo-Cid, Alexa Tremblay, Arturo Marquez, Belinda

Garcia, Cesar Cardona, Diego Cid, Dyshawna Haberberger, Heidi Duarte-Valdez, John Parr, Lual Dojiok, Magdalen Murillo, Nicole Aviles, Poe Htoo; 1

Disconnected (Short Film), Adam Xiong, Adonay Arellano, Alex Henningsen, Ana Rios, Christell Salazar, Estela Lupian, Ethan Olsen, Jorge Romualdo, Kimberly Ramirez, Landon Seebeck, Leo Moreno, Miranda Estrada, Xochitl Arellano; 1

It Started with a Twister (Group Mime), JP Montano, Lazaro Rivera Acosta, Paige Ewoldt, Valerie Alcantar, Vanessa Flores, Violet Christensen; 1

West Side Story (Musical Theatre), Shelby Kastner, Stephanie Patino; 1

Get Ready with Me: Homecoming (Solo Mime), Taya Adams; 1

Under the Big Top (Solo Mime), Isabel Gutierrez; 1

Schmadeke Team (Group Improv), Brigid Bonner, Gavin Schmadeke, Lual Dojiok, Oscar Corona, Whitlee Auen; 2

Sanchez Team (Group Improv), Grant Olsen, Karla Sanchez, Lazaro Rivera Acosta, Lita Thao, Wilson Riphin; 1

Everyone Gets Eaten by Sharks (Readers Theatre), Aaliyah Buter, Alan Rivera, Angela Cruz, Brigid Bonner, Charlye Cervantes, Cody Schulte, Danny Saldana, Ethan Olsen, Maite Arreola, Mindy Thongvanh, Poe Htoo, Rhya Varner, Stephanie Patino, Violet Christensen; 1

Gutierrez Team (Group Improv), Autumn Helkenn, Cooper Gehlsen, Isabel Gutierrez, Jasmyne Ahrens; 1

WIBIO Galentine's Day event on February 1

Women working to make the county a better place

BY DAN MUNDT

The Crawford County Women in Business Impact Organization (WIBIO) will meet for the second annual "Galentine's Day" event on Thursday, February 1.

"The WIBIO Galentine's Day event has a dual purpose," said Mariah Nutt, WIBIO member and office manager at the Chamber & Development Council (CDC) of Crawford County. "It's not only a little appreciation for our current members, but it's also an open invitation to anyone who wants to be involved or just wants to learn more about the organization."

WIBIO is sponsored by the CDC. Galentine's Day is a play on Valentine's Day, but just for women, Nutt said.

"Last year was the first year and it went over really well," she said. "All of our members said we should do it again."

The Galentine's Day event will take place at the CDC office at 109 N Main Street in Denison.

"From 5 to 5:30 (p.m.), there will be a chance for networking and meeting other women," Nutt said. "There will be hors d'oeuvres and drinks for people to enjoy, and we'll also have a slide show playing all the projects and events WIBIO puts on."

The main meeting will begin at 5:30 p.m.

Members and nonmembers are encouraged to take a friend to the meeting.

Nutt said WIBIO is a group of women from various backgrounds who want to make Crawford County a great place to live, work and play.

"They don't have to own a business, they don't have to be in a business, and we have some members who are retired," Nutt said. "It's a wide variety of women and what they have in common is they want to improve Crawford County in some way. That's who we're seeking and what our group is about."

WIBIO has a Facebook page called Crawford County Women in Business.

The organization started out as a

coffee club.

"Then the members decided they wanted it to be more impactful than a coffee club, so it turned into a service group," she said.

Community parks have benefitted from the group's interest in serving the community.

"Every spring, we do a beautification project," Nutt said. "We've painted and spruced up almost all of the parks."

WIBIO members also installed an art project on Highway 30 on the north side of the 20th Street intersection in Denison.

"Last year, we spruced up our Santa House that is uptown," she said. "It kind of depends what we feel needs a little work."

The group also does smaller projects throughout the year, such as providing "period packs" for girls at the local schools.

"Last year, we did a pay it forward project on National Pay It Forward Day," Nutt said. "We also put on events like the Santa visits in the Santa house uptown. Last year, we did an Easter Bunny visit and we plan on doing it again this year because it went over really well."


WIBIO is always looking for fresh viewpoints and new faces.

"We want women with ideas about any ways we can make the county better," she said. "I would really love some more members to join not just from Denison; I would love to have more outreach to all of the Crawford County towns."

Regular WIBIO meetings take place at 5 p.m. on the first Thursday of each month at the CDC office.

"Any woman is welcome any time and membership is free," Nutt said. "They don't have to come to Galentine's Day event to join. They're welcome to come to any meeting and see what it's about."

For more information about the WIBIO Galentine's Day event, contact Nutt at mnuttd@cdcia.org or 712-263-5621.



CRAWFORD COUNTY MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

FEBRUARY SPECIALTY CLINICS

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
29	30	31	01 AUDIOLOGY B. PEARSON, HIS COSMETICS S. LUFT, ARNP ENT P. SHERRERD, MD PODIATRY M. KELLEY, DPM	02 CARDIOLOGY A. RAMACHANDRAN, MD OPHTHALMOLOGY J. LIU, MD
05 CARDIOLOGY R. ARMBRUSTER, MD	06 CARDIOLOGY J. PANDYA, MD UROLOGY R. LUEBBERT, PA-C	07 CARDIOLOGY A. RAMACHANDRAN, MD DERMATOLOGY K. SHULL, DNP ENDOCRINOLOGY S. BLOUNT, MD NEUROSURGERY R. JENSEN, MD	08 AUDIOLOGY B. PEARSON, HIS PODIATRY M. KELLEY, DPM	09 CARDIOLOGY A. KANMANATHA REDDY, MD
12 NEPHROLOGY J. ERLANDSON, MD	13 VASCULAR J. COOK, MD	14 HEMATOLOGY A. NESTER, MD	15 AUDIOLOGY B. PEARSON, HIS DERMATOLOGY/PLASTICS D. RAMOS, MD ENT P. SHERRERD, MD PODIATRY M. KELLEY, DPM	16 CARDIOLOGY A. KANMANATHA REDDY, MD OPHTHALMOLOGY J. LIU, MD
19 CARDIOLOGY R. ARMBRUSTER, MD	20 CARDIOLOGY J. PANDYA, MD UROLOGY A. BOURNE, MD VASCULAR T. RAMOS, MD	21 CARDIOLOGY A. KANMANATHA REDDY, MD DERMATOLOGY K. SHULL, DNP ENDOCRINOLOGY L. EILAND, MD S. BLOUNT, MD	22 OPHTHALMOLOGY WM. THOMAS, MD PODIATRY M. KELLEY, DPM	23 AUDIOLOGY B. PEARSON, HIS CARDIOLOGY A. RAMACHANDRAN, MD NEUROLOGY/EMG W. ANDREWS, MD
26 PODIATRY M. KELLEY, DPM	27 CARDIOLOGY A. RAMACHANDRAN, MD PULMONOLOGY	28 AUDIOLOGY B. PEARSON, HIS PODIATRY M. KELLEY, DPM	29	01

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Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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Ike's hosts annual family dinner



PHOTOS BY GORDON WOLF

Games were a popular attraction at the Izaak Walton League Family Dinner on Saturday. Above, Jayden Schiernbeck, of Ida Grove, plays the shell game. Numbers on the bottom of the shells determined the number of tickets won. The tickets were entered into a drawing for a firearm. Pictured with Jayden are Dustin and Julie Schiernbeck.



Sue Boland, of Schleswig, plays the Pay-As-You-Go game to win tickets for a drawing. The number on the ticket determined how much you had to pay.



Ezden Hargens, of Schleswig, spins the wheel of fortune to win tickets to enter into a drawing.



Coen Bruck watches as Melvin Totten plays Plinko to win tickets for a drawing for a handgun.



Among the items auctioned at the Izaak Walton League Family Dinner was a Jacksonville Jaguars football autographed by Brandon Scherff, of Denison. The young man with his arm in the air, Nash Heiden, was the winning bidder.

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ON THE SCANNER

ARRESTS

January 13, 8:37 p.m.: Diana Negrete, 27, of Denison, was charged with possession of drug paraphernalia and violation of a protective order.

January 16, 12:54 p.m.: Katie Marie Johnson, 38, of Denison, was arrested and charged with possession of a controlled substance – methamphetamine, and possession of drug paraphernalia.

ACCIDENTS

January 8, 4:54 p.m.: Martin Nicholas Talley, 19, of Clarissa, Minnesota, was driving a blue 2015 Chevrolet Silverado pickup, traveling east through the Cobblestone Inn and Suites parking lot. He drove under and struck the overhang/canopy causing damage to the east and west sides with the cargo in the bed of his pickup. About \$7,500 damage was done to the canopy, and about \$3,000 damage was done to the cargo in the pickup bed. Talley was not injured.

January 9, 4:01 p.m.: Michael Shane Henson Jr., 18, of Denison, was driving a bronze 2005 Pontiac west in the Walmart parking lot. Reyner Rosales Espinosa, 39, of Panama City, Florida, was driving a silver 2001 Chevrolet Silverado pickup and was pulling out of a parking stall when Henson's vehicle struck her vehicle. The Rosales Espinosa vehicle was not damaged. The Henson vehicle received \$1,000 damage to the front driver side corner.

January 11, 1:44 p.m.: Sally Joanne Quandt, 69, of Denison, was driving a gray 2023 Toyota RAV 4 and Roxxy Maria Nieto Pelayo, 43, of Denison was driving a brown 2015 Nissan Murano. Quandt stated she was parked in front of the post office on 1st Avenue North and began to back out of her parking stall. She did not see Nieto Pelayo driving behind her. Nieto Pelayo stated she was traveling west on 1st Avenue North when Quandt's vehicle collided with her vehicle. No one was injured. The Quandt vehicle received \$3,000 damage to the rear driver side corner. The Nieto Pelayo vehicle received \$3,000 damage to the front passenger side corner. No citations were issued.

January 11, 2:47 p.m.: Michael Geslicki, 59, of Denison, was driving a red 2007 Buick north on Avenue C in Denison, and Sarah Nicole Hillgartner, 41, of Harlan, was driving a red 2020 Ford F35 pickup, also going north on Avenue C. Geslicki's vehicle rear-ended the pickup. No one was injured. Geslicki's vehicle received \$3,500 damage to the front middle and could be driven away. Hillgartner's vehicle received \$3,500 damage to the rear driver side corner and could be driven away. No citations were issued. The surface of the road had snow on it at the time.

January 11, 3:13 p.m.: The owner of a white 1993 Buick Park Avenue stated she had just pulled her car out of the driveway and parked it next

to the curb of the 2100 block of 9th Avenue North in Denison while her driveway was being cleared. While parked there, a red 2005 Chevrolet Impala being driven by Xander Rigoberto Sandoval, 14, of Denison, ran into the rear of her vehicle. Sandoval stated he was traveling east and was approaching the Park Avenue. He said he thought another vehicle was coming in his direction so he veered to the right. He tried to stop but his vehicle slid on the snow and collided with the Park Avenue. Sandoval was not injured. He was cited for failure to maintain control and violation of an instruction permit. His vehicle received \$4,000 damage to the front middle and was disabled. A tow was privately arranged. The Park Avenue received \$2,000 damage to the rear driver side corner.

January 11, 3:58 p.m.: Jorge Alberto Rodriguez, 18, of Denison, was driving a silver 2004 Chrysler Town & Country north on Avenue C and Patricia Denise Merriman, 34, of Denison, was driving a white 2017 Dodge Journey, also heading north on Avenue C. The Rodriguez vehicle struck the Merriman vehicle in the rear. No one was injured. The Rodriguez vehicle received \$2,500 damage to the front middle and the Merriman vehicle received \$3,000 damage to the rear middle. No citations were issued. The road had snow on it at the time.

January 12, 5:12 p.m.: Guadalupe Hernandez Reyes, 51, of Denison, was driving a bronze 2001 Ford F150 pickup and Jon Rob Zenk, 61, of Denison, was driving a white 2011 Ford F250 pickup. Both were traveling in the 100 block of South 14th Street. The vehicles met in the middle of the road and hit each other's mirrors, causing \$200 damage to each vehicle.

January 14, 10:53 a.m.: Adrian Victor Palmer, 20, of Earling, was driving a white 2011 Chevrolet HHR LT east on Highway 30 and was traveling behind a red 2009 Cadillac CTS being driven by Espinosa Efren Gomez, 63, of Tampa, Florida. Efren Gomez slowed for a stoplight. Palmer attempted to slow down and his vehicle slid. He attempted to evade the Efren Gomez vehicle but struck it. No one was injured. The Efren Gomez vehicle received \$3,000 damage to the rear driver side corner and could be driven away. The Palmer vehicle received \$4,500 damage to the front passenger side corner and was disabled. No citations were issued.

January 15, 1:35 p.m.: Rex Reese Burk, 61, of Denison, was driving a black 2014 Chrysler Town & Country north on North Main Street, and Ignacio Negrete-Zaragoza, 53, of Denison, was driving a white 2015 Chevrolet Avalanche pickup south on North Main Street. Burk stated that when he accelerated, his vehicle slid into the oncoming lane due to surface conditions. The two vehicles struck. Negrete-Zaragoza stated it appeared that Burk was attempting to

turn left in front of him. The roadway was snow covered. No citations were issued at the time. No one was injured. Each vehicle received \$500 damage to the front driver side.

January 16, 4:30 p.m.: Sebastian Contreras Gonzalez, 16, of Denison, was driving a red 2017 Chevrolet Impala south on 20th Street and was attempting to turn left onto 7th Avenue North. Salvador Ornelas, 17, of Denison, was driving a red 2013 Jeep Grand Cherokee, also traveling south on 20th Street. Contreras Gonzalez stated he was turning left to go east onto 7th Avenue North and that he had his turn signal on. Ornelas stated he did not see the turn signal and failed to stop due to road surface conditions and collided with the front driver's side of the Contreras Gonzalez vehicle. No injuries were reported. The Contreras Gonzalez vehicle received \$1,500 damage and the Ornelas vehicle received \$2,000 damage.

January 17: Sometime between 5:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. a red 2011 Ford Explorer parked near Industrial Drive was hit by an unknown vehicle. The Explorer received \$500 damage to the middle passenger side.

January 18, 1:40 p.m.: Alma Dayami Lima Lima, 20, of Denison, was driving a black 2014 Honda Civic. She failed to yield from a stop sign on South 7th Street while making a left turn onto Highway 30. Her vehicle collided with a maroon 2008 Chevrolet Colorado pickup being driven by Stuart Randy Beam, 58, of Defiance. Both advised that a semi turning onto 7th Street contributed to the accident. No one was injured. The Beam vehicle received \$1,200 damage to the front passenger side corner. The Lima Lima vehicle received \$1,200 damage to the front driver side corner. Both vehicles could be driven away.

January 18, 3:10 p.m.: Francisca Tercero Rafael, 29, of Denison, was driving a red 2014 Ford Explorer south on South 15th Street and Jose Manuel Hernandez Perez, 18, of Denison, was driving a silver 2007 Chevrolet Trailblazer west on Highway 30. Tercero Rafael was unable to come to a stop at the stop sign due to the snowy and icy road conditions. Her vehicle collided with Hernandez Perez's vehicle. Tercero Rafael and an 11-year-old passenger in her vehicle received possible injuries (complaint of pain). The passenger and Tercero Rafael were checked out by ambulance personnel. Hernandez Perez was not injured. The Tercero Rafael vehicle received \$15,000 damage and the Hernandez Perez vehicle received \$5,000 damage; both were disabled and tows were privately arranged. Tercero Rafael was cited for failing to secure a seatbelt on a minor.

January 18, 3:30 p.m.: Shitu Idowu Ayo, 35, of Denver, Colorado, was driving a white 2022 Freightliner tractor and trailer, and Patrick Jon Oxendale, 39, of Denison, was driving a white 2017 Ford F150 pickup. Both

were traveling north on Highway 59 and were approaching the area of the Highway 59/141 and Highway 30 interchange. Ayo's vehicle collided with the rear of the Oxendale vehicle, possibly due to sliding on the snowy roadway. Oxendale's pickup received \$1,000 damage to the rear middle and Ayo's vehicle was not damaged. No one was injured.

January 19, 3:38 p.m.: Jesus Aguilar Morales, 44, of Denison, was driving a black 2004 Honda CRV east on Avenue C and Patricia Denise Merriman, 34, of Denison, was driving a white 2017 Dodge Journey east on Avenue C. Merriman stated she was stopped in traffic on the top of the hill on the Avenue C bridge and her vehicle was rear-ended by the Morales vehicle. No one was injured. Merriman's vehicle received \$500 damage to the rear middle. The Aguilar Morales vehicle received \$500 damage to the front middle. Aguilar Morales was cited for not having a valid driver's license.

January 20, 11:40 a.m.: Aiden Joseph March, 17, of Schleswig, was driving a white 2015 Ford F150 pickup and Darrin Lee Rooney, 58, of Manilla, was driving a blue 1990 GMC Sierra pickup. Both were traveling north on Highway 39 when Rooney attempted to turn west onto Avenue C. March was unable to stop due to the icy conditions of the road. No one was injured. March stated he took responsibility for the accident. The March vehicle received \$1,800 damage to the front middle and the Rooney vehicle received \$500 damage to the rear middle.

January 21, 1:15 p.m.: Jacob Ajith Lual reported a possible hit-and-run accident that happened sometime in the morning of January 21. He showed the investigating officer a very minor scratch on the front bumper of his gray 2024 Kia. The officer checked the snow on the driveway at 1415 1st Avenue South and didn't see any tracks that appeared to show that a vehicle had backed into the front of Lual's vehicle. Lual showed the officer a vehicle that he thought might have caused the damage. The officer noticed several vehicles in the driveway that were damaged. It is unknown if the damage was done earlier and was just noticed or it happened in the driveway. Damage to the Kia was estimated at \$200.

January 23, 7 a.m.: The Crawford County Sheriff's Office investigated a single-vehicle accident that happened along Highway 30. Jessica Michelle Willis, 20, of Vail, was driving a red 2004 Jeep Grand Cherokee and was traveling home from work in Carroll. A light mist and below-freezing temperatures caused the roads to be slick. Willis lost control of her vehicle. It went into the south ditch, rolled, and came to rest about 10 to 12 feet from the railroad tracks. Willis was taken by a family member for medical treatment. The vehicle received \$9,000 damage.



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DMU Board selects consultant for BRIC grant, looks at well levels

BY GORDON WOLF

The Denison Municipal Utilities (DMU) Board of Trustees last week approved the hiring of DGR, an engineering firm based in Rock Rapids, to provide consulting services that will help the utility pursue a FEMA BRIC (Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities) grant.

BRIC supports states, local communities, tribes, and territories as they undertake hazard mitigation projects to reduce the risks faced from disasters and natural hazards.

An advantage of the BRIC program is that the federal government provides 90% of the project cost funding and the state provides 10%.

DMU began working with Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management staff in November on the BRIC grant application.

DMU General Manager Rory Weis said that DMU is pursuing a BRIC grant for electric grid resilience and electric grid hardening (hazard/disaster mitigation).

"We are proposing to convert four of our high voltage circuits from overhead to underground and are also looking at onsite generation at the DMU Service Center, at the DMU Water Treatment Plant and at the DMU Wastewater Treatment Plant," he said.

The City of Denison has also worked with Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management and plans to submit a project in a future application period.

The DMU Board again reviewed the water table levels in the wells, something that is done at every meeting because of the drought, which has now surpassed four years. The DMU Board and staff are also looking at ways to improve the well levels.

One of the methods being explored is the placement of a rock riffle dam downstream from the well field north of the fairgrounds. The dam will help to back up water along the well field. Weis explained that when the river level is higher, the water level in the wells rises.

The exact location for the rock riffle dam has not been determined. Weis

said the rock riffle dam will be on the DMU Board agendas in the next two or three months.

In other action, the DMU Board approved a three-year agreement for generator maintenance.

DMU currently has one generator, located at the West Receiving Substation. The three-year agreement is with Interstate Power Systems, of Altoona. The cost per year is \$4,801.79 plus a one-time radiator flush and coolant during the three-year period of \$3,111.36. That puts the total three-year cost at \$17,516.73.

The board's action reversed a decision it had made at its December meeting to go with Ziegler Cat, pending the cost to flush the radiator on the generator. That information, received between the December and January board meetings, showed that Ziegler's cost for the radiator flush was more than twice Interstate Power's price.

DMU has been using Interstate Power for generator maintenance for the past number of years.

The DMU Board also approved the Electric Reliability Plan, which must be done annually.

Weis explained the Electric Reliability Plan came about after Winter Storm Uri, commonly referred to as The Polar Vortex, a major winter storm that affected the United States coast to coast February 12-16, 2021.

The winter storm left millions without power for varying lengths of time.

The Southwest Power Pool (SPP) ordered controlled rolling blackouts of power in 14 states due to the extreme demand for power during the bitterly cold weather.

Denison was without electric transmission services for well over two hours, said Weis.

He explained the Iowa Utilities Board (IUB) requires that all electric utilities file a reliability plan with them, and it's also required that the governing bodies of the electric utilities, in this case the DMU Board, approve the plan annually.

LAND TRANSACTIONS

January 14-18, 2024

Warranty Deeds

• Marjorie E. Henrich, Justin J. Henrich, Jay W. Henrich, Jacob P. Henrich and Jonathan J. Henrich to Henrich Brothers Holdings LLC: W1/2 NE1/4 Section 3, Stockholm Township.

Court Officer Deeds

• Jessica I. Campbell Estate, Jane Herbers, Executor to Lourdes Sanchez Castillo and Samuel Franco: Lot 8 and Lot 9, Block 75, City of Denison; \$185,000.

• Dustin Alan Pope Estate, Zachary Bielenberg, Administrator to Cody Thomas Malone: SE1/4 SE 1/4 Section 2, Hanover Township; \$294,000.

• Kay Ronald McComb Estate, Sandra Grage and Michael McComb, Executors to Jared Kropf and Tammy Kropf: SW1/4 SW1/4 Section 30, City of Westside; \$1,000.

Quit Claim Deeds

• Karen A. Mohn, Harley Mohn, Harley F. Mohn, Atty. to Harley F. Mohn: Lot 1, Block 6, City of Dow City.

• Jeannie Wood to Jeanetta M. Wood Trust, Jeanetta M. Wood, Trustee: SW1/4 Section 13, Denison Township.

• Donald K. Carstens, Don K. Carstens, Don Carstens to Donald K. Carstens Trust, Donald K. Carstens, Trustee: SW1/4 Section 13, Denison Township; Lot 3, Block 2, Springhill Second Addition, City of Dow City; SE1/4 NE1/4 Section 16, Washington Township.

State Tax Lien

• Iowa Department of Revenue against Backwoods Restaurant & Saloon LLC and Penni M. Coenen: \$5,123.21.

COURTHOUSE NEWS

January 14-18, 2024

SCHEDULED TRAFFIC FINES

• Logan Isaiah Douglas, Lohrville, failure to maintain or use safety belts, adult, \$175.75.

• Jenny Amy Chavez, Denison, dark window or windshield, \$175.75.

• Amy Estrada, Denison, failure to maintain control, \$210.25.

• Uriel Vega, Audubon, no valid driver's license, \$354.

• Miguel A. Ramirez Marrero, Denison, failure to have a valid license or permit for operation of motor vehicle, \$285.

• Amel Brito, Denison, failure to obey stop or yield sign, \$210.25.

• Hilario Garcia Sanchez, Denison, failure to prove security against liability, non-accident, \$342.50.

• Erik De La Cruz, Denison, operating non-registered vehicle, \$175.75.

• Erik De La Cruz, Denison, failure to have a valid license or permit for operation of motor vehicle, \$400.

• Erik De La Cruz, Denison, failure to prove security against liability, non-accident, \$486.25.

SPEEDING (11-15 MPH OVER)

• Amelia Santamaria Velazquez, Denison, \$236.13.

• Joaquin Martinez Sandoval, Denison, \$175.75.

• Omar Campa, Denison, \$175.75.

• Nick J. Thelen, Elkhorn, NE, \$175.75.

SPEEDING (6-10 MPH OVER)

• Megan Rene Peek, Dunlap, \$118.25.

• Sai Kyaw, Denison, \$118.25.

SPEEDING (1-5 MPH OVER)

• Beau Randall Peine, Hastings, MN, \$89.50.

• Josue Rosario Quiles, Omaha, NE, \$106.75.

• Angel Manuel Delgadillo Ramirez, Lincoln, NE, \$89.50.

• Philip Samuel Sharon, Denison, \$89.50.

• Cornelis Calvin Bouma, Leadville, CO, \$89.50.

• Alonzo Owen Mitchell, Newell, \$89.50.

• Jane Michelle Edsen, Denison, \$89.50.

• Bailey Joan Moeller, Denison, \$89.50.

SMALL CLAIMS

• Against: Sara Renee Duysen, Denison. In favor of: LVNV Funding LLC. Amount: \$1,434.59 plus \$95 costs.

St. Rose gifts for Baby Boutique



PHOTOS BY GORDON WOLF

On Friday, students at St. Rose Catholic School presented gifts for the Baby Boutique, a program of Crawford County Community Health. Members of the student council – Kendra, Evolette, Isaac and Allyson – are pictured with Amy Trucke and Maryam Rodriguez with the Baby Boutique program.



Also pictured, kindergarteners Aliyah, Abigail, Viviani and Ella enjoy opening the gifts.

NORELIUS COMMUNITY LIBRARY NEWS

Denison Library Friends to meet

The Denison Library Friends will meet Monday, January 29, at 5:30 p.m. in the Carnegie Meeting Room at Norelius Community Library. The agenda includes the results of the Recycled Christmas sale, preparation for the White Elephant Sale in April, regular business reports, and the library director's report. The public is invited to attend. The next meeting will be March 11.



Senior Lunch Menu

Served at the Senior Center on South Main in Denison
Call 712-263-4950 before 9:30 a.m.

Friday, January 26:

BBQ baked chicken, potato wedges, coleslaw, blueberry crisp

Monday, January 29:

baked potato bar, corn, oatmeal raisin cookie

Tuesday, January 30:

fajita chicken over brown rice, strawberries and bananas

Wednesday, January 31:

salisbury steak, roasted red potatoes with gravy, beets, whole wheat dinner roll, mandarin oranges

Monarchs

DENISON-SCHLESWIG MONARCHS BASKETBALL

D-S boys start out quick against Harlan

After getting a quick start and taking an eight-point lead on Tuesday, the Monarch boys fell in a back-and-forth battle against Harlan's cagers, 48-37.

Head Coach Derek Fink said his team transitioned well and shared the basketball, and then Harlan made a run at the end of the second quarter that continued into the third period.

"From there it was really a back-and-forth game until about two minutes to go," said Fink. "It was 38-37 and we missed a put-back at the rim."

At Harlan's end of the gym there was a scramble for a loose ball. Harlan got it and kicked it out to the corner for a three-point goal and a four-point lead, he added.

"We had a few chances at the free throw line but didn't convert," Fink said. "And unfortunately, in a low-scoring tight game, the free throw line proved to be a back breaker."

The Monarchs sank three free throws in 16 tries on the night.

"We really did a lot of good things but just didn't convert from the free throw line," said Fink.

Quarter scores were 14-8 Denison-Schleswig, 20-18 Denison-Schleswig and 33-31 Harlan. Harlan scored 15 points to six for the Monarchs in the final quarter.

Lance Arkfeld scored 10 points, followed closely by Luke Wiebers with nine. Chandler Perrien added six and Jake Fink and Blaine Grady each scored five. Kole Towne had two points.

The game was a non-conference contest. The loss put the Monarchs' overall record at 4-7. The Monarchs' conference record is 4-2.

The junior varsity boys fell in their contest against Harlan 51-45. Camdyn Nemitz and Roman Bygness each scored nine points to pace the Monarchs.



PHOTOS BY RHONDA RAUCH

Jake Fink with the Denison-Schleswig Monarchs drives to the hoop in Tuesday's game against the Harlan Cyclones.



Lance Arkfeld scores two of his 10 points on Tuesday.



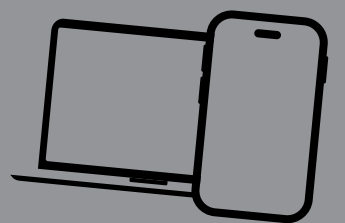
Luke Wiebers pulls up in the lane for a shot over Harlan defenders.

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Sports

DENISON-SCHLESWIG MONARCHS BASKETBALL

Monarch girls fall to Harlan

The Denison-Schleswig Monarch girls fell 62-36 in a home game on Tuesday.

Harlan led 18-11 after one quarter, 38-19 at the half and 51-25 after three periods.

Kiana Schulz paced the Monarchs

with 10 points, followed by Quinlan Bygness with nine. Whitlee Auen scored seven points, Mayah Slater had five, Lola Mendlik scored three points and Addison Inman scored two points.

Slater led the team in rebounding with 10, followed by Schulz with eight.



Addison Inman fights for a rebound against a Harlan player.

PHOTOS BY RHONDA RAUCH



Claire Leinen attempts a drive to the basket against Harlan on Tuesday.



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DENISON-SCHLESWIG MONARCHS WRESTLING

Monarch girls register wins in triangular wrestling meet

The Monarch girls' wrestling team registered wins over Glenwood and Kuemper in a triangular meet on Tuesday.

The Monarchs topped Kuemper 42-30 and won 42-39 over Glenwood.

Head Coach Jacob Brawner said the action was a little sparse as wrestlers are looking to get healthy for the regional matches on Friday.

All the wins against Kuemper were due to open weight classes.

Against Glenwood, Addison Ransom at 110 won by a fall in 1:38 against Lilian Yenser, and Giana Garcia at 145 won by a fall in 3:11 against Kristina Fisher. All other wins were by forfeit.

Brawner said the Monarchs will keep Kuemper and Glenwood on the schedule but will change the date in the future, so it doesn't take place during the week of postseason competition.

A top four finish at the regional meet earns a ticket to the state meet.

On January 20, the Monarch girl wrestlers competed in a meet in Atlantic following two weeks off from live wrestling.

"We were a little shorthanded with four starters not able to make the trip, and it was a tough meet," said Brawner.

The highlights were Giana Garcia placing fourth at 145 pounds and Angie Rivera placing sixth at 135 pounds.

On Monday the Monarchs were a little closer to full strength in a triangular at Missouri Valley.

The girls fell to Missouri Valley 42-37 and narrowly lost to ATU with a score of 36-36. ATU got the win on the basis of number of falls.

The triangular had a number of open weight classes, resulting in forfeits for all teams.

The Monarchs went 3-1 in matches wrestled against ATU and 3-2 in matches wrestled against Missouri Valley.

Giana Garcia and Taya Adams both wrestled twice and went 2-0 on the night. Taylor Totten and

Alexa Tremblay were also able to pick up wins.

Monarch boys face tough wrestling competition

Over the weekend, the Monarch boys' wrestling team traveled to Corning for a two-day tournament at Southwest Valley High School. Assistant Coach Parker Preul said it was an extremely tough tournament.

The Monarchs wrestlers did not place but they wrestled better than the results show, he said.

Following were the highlights for the Monarchs.

James Lemon made it to Day 2 and wrestled well to do so.

Jackson Graeve made many little improvements that he had been working on all year.

Garret Plagge showed some improvement on his feet.

"This tournament on paper may have not turned out the way we would have liked," said Preul. "On the flip side, there were a lot of highlights for individuals that were great to see as we edge closer to the Hawkeye 10 tournament and the districts."

The Monarch boys had another tough meet on Tuesday at Glenwood.

"We gave up several positions that we had been handling well," said Head Coach Nick Bradley. "We allowed Glenwood and Kuemper to control our wrists in neutral. We have to do a better job of making a move in neutral to truly take someone down. On bottom, we still limit ourselves to one move. We have to string two and three moves together to create scramble situations."

He added that the wrestlers did a better job on top of looking for wrists and knowing the various turns.

Glenwood topped the Monarchs 58-18 and Kuemper won 57-18.

Against Glenwood, Trae Hartwig at 113 pounds won a 7-3 decision. James Lemon at 150 and Javier Medina at 157 won by falls at 5:47 and 3:15 respectively.

Against Kuemper, Lemon won by fall in 1:26 and Garret Plagge won by fall in 4:25.

In junior varsity action, Victor Arroyo won by fall in his matches against Glenwood and Kuemper. Alex Arita and Aidan Eggeling won by falls against Kuemper opponents, and Alex Correa won by a 10-6 decision over a Kuemper opponent.

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Bigger and better is always Borkowski's goal

NIGHTS, FROM PAGE 1

BY DAN MUNDT

Taylor Borkowski, organizer of Denison's Hot Summer Nights street parties, released the schedule and lineup for the 2024 edition of the event on Friday of last week.

"I was really trying to be a master marketer by getting you to think about Hot Summer Nights in uptown Denison when it was -20°," Borkowski said.

Hot Summer Nights will expand from five nights to six in 2024.

"I worked hard on securing all the bands and making sure we had a good variety of genres," she said. "We've pulled in two Latino bands this year, which is exciting."

The event schedule/band lineup is as follows:

- May 4, Nick Hermann and Latin combo Parranderos
- May 24, Renegade Soul
- June 21, The Schmidt Brothers
- July 11, Boyer River Band
- August 3, Salty Views
- August 17, Blynd Ambysion and El Nuevo Imperio

Borkowski said the response to the band lineup has been overwhelmingly positive.

"People were excited to see a couple bands coming back from last year, and the new bands that have never played in Denison," she said. "At last year's encore event, we had an overwhelming response to El Nuevo Imperio, so I knew I wanted to ask them back, and adding that second Latino band I think will be really great."

She has also worked hard to get food trucks signed up.

"We just need a couple more spots filled for the food court," Borkowski said.

This year's Hot Summer Nights events will also be a fundraiser for Washington Park.

"Last year, we were able to donate \$12,000 to the wellness center, and while the wellness center is still important, there are lots of other projects going on," she said. "Something that's really in people's minds right now is Washington Park and what's going to happen there. While the city has intentions to go forward with the new playground right way, they're also working on a master plan for years to come on how to utilize the entire space. This summer, any money left over, any profit we make, will be going to the Washington Park master plan."

Borkowski said Washington Park has become something of a focal point for the community.

"When you look on Facebook, especially when the playground came down, there was so much conversation about what it used to be and what it could be and the memories people had," she said. "It's a place that people of all ages can use, and it's also important to me that my kids have somewhere safe to go play. It was pretty easy this year to make that decision."

Her most pressing task at present is to land the sponsorships and raise the funds that will make Hot Summer Nights possible.

"I just started sending out information for sponsorships, and Huebner Funeral Home came back right away and said they'd take the biggest position, so they're in for \$10,000," Borkowski said.



PHOTO BY DAN MUNDT

People crowded Broadway to dance along with El Nuevo Imperio at the August 2023 Hot Summer Nights event.

"That's pretty amazing."

Her overall fundraising goal is \$45,000.

"Fundraising starts at \$100," she said. "Last year, we had a lot of individuals and families who said they really liked what we were doing and said, 'Hey, Taylor, here's my donation of \$100.' There is a lot of room between \$100 and our top sponsor, Huebner's, at \$10,000. We're asking individuals or businesses or families to make a donation of whatever they're comfortable with."

Though she was happy with how last year's events turned out, Borkowski said she may never be completely satisfied with Hot Summer Nights.

"I set goals for myself and when I reach those goals, I keep moving the goalposts," she said. "We've definitely learned things along the way. After the

first event last summer, we ended up having to expand across Main Street into Avenue C and flipfopped the Kids Zone. You kind of learn as you go. I don't think we'll have many hiccups this summer because by the end of last year, everything was working pretty easily. But there's always room for improvement."

She will always feel that the event could be bigger and better, however.

"I don't know at what point I will think that it's good enough," Borkowski said. "Sometimes I think when you say 1,800 people were up here, that sounds kind of impressive, but then sometimes it's discouraging. If 10,000 people live here, why are they not all coming? Each year, I hope to grow it, take feedback and work to make it so 10,000 people show up."

Report shows DMU's impact, benefits of municipal power

BY GORDON WOLF

At its meeting last week, the board for Denison Municipal Utilities received the Municipal Power Advantage report, provided by Missouri River Energy Services to each of its member communities.

The report is individualized for each community.

Missouri River Energy Services is a joint action agency of 61 member communities located in Iowa, Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota.

The executive summary lists the following benefits of a municipal electric utility.

- More affordable: The report says the DMU electric rates are 33% to 50% lower than the average rates of investor-owned and rural electric cooperative utilities.

- More reliable: Based on nationally recognized measurements, DMU customers can expect power 99.98% of the time. For its level of reliability, DMU received Excellence in Reliability awards in 2018 and 2022 from the American Public Power Association.

- Community and economic impact: DMU offers economic development discounted rates for qualifying loads, provides energy efficiency rebates, extends utility services for potential development, and makes contributions to the Denison Economic Development Fund.

- Local control and service: As a community-owned utility, the customers are also the owners. Local citizens are employed to operate the utilities, and a local board of trustees makes decisions using information provided by staff. "We make decisions based on what is best for the community, not on what is best for stockholders, like an investor-owned utility does," said Rory Weis, DMU general manager.

Following are other details of the report.

- DMU, which will celebrate its 110th anniversary this year, has 3,615 electric customers. In 2022, the electric utility brought in \$10.1 million in electric revenue and sold 159.1 million kilowatt hours of power.

- DMU's blended power supply and transmission cost in 2022 was 4.6 cents per kilowatt-hour, the lowest rate among 20 area power suppliers, while the average wholesale composite rate of the 20 area power suppliers was 7.2 cent per kilowatt hour. Based on DMU's purchase of 159,141,073 kilowatt-hours in 2022 from the Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) and MRES, the total wholesale power

supply savings was \$4.2 million, and the savings were passed on to the residential and business customers.

- DMU provided an annual average of \$262,000 in free electric utilities to the City of Denison in years 2019 through 2022. In 2022, the amount was \$267,823, which represents 2.6% of the DMU electric department operating revenues.

- Community and economic impact information in the report says that the total amount of salaries for electric utility staff average about \$640,000, and on average, DMU spends \$90,000 on local supplies each year.

- DMU established the Economic Development Fund that has provided \$425,000 between 2019-2022.

- It offers the Housing Assistance Discount Program that provides a maximum of \$2,000 per new residential home. Since 2019, five customers have received the discount.

- DMU adopted the MRES Economic Discount Program for qualifying businesses to encourage expansion of existing businesses or to attract new businesses.

- DMU also contributed \$25,000 to revitalize the old fire department building into new office space for the Chamber & Development Corporation, helped attract GCC Concrete to Denison as a new business customer, extended water and wastewater infrastructure to Continental Carbonic Products even though it was outside of DMU's electric service territory, reimbursed \$200,000 to cover renovation costs of the old power plant building, and installed electric service to nearly 60 lots in Hilldale Estates and on Oak Ridge Drive.

A summary of DMU's power supply

The power supply for Denison Municipal Utilities (DMU) is provided by the Western Area Power Administration and Missouri River Energy Services (MRES). Of the total power supply, 81% is carbon-free and 53% is from renewable sources.

The following percentages of power supply reflect a three-year average from 2020 through 2023.

- 49% is hydropower from the dams on the Missouri River, purchased from the Western Area Power Administration
- 23% is purchased from the power supply market
- 17% is coal
- 5% is nuclear
- 4% is wind generated
- 2% is natural gas
- Less than 1% is solar
- Less than 1% is diesel generated

All hands on deck for the Kiron 125th

August event will take over town

BY DAN MUNDT

After several years of raising funds for the event, planning for the Kiron 125th Anniversary celebration is now in full swing.

"We have started the process of organizing the event," said Jen Hoaglund, a Kiron City Council member and Kiron Community Club secretary. "We're at the point where we need to figure out what activities we would like to have, figure out the kind of manpower we need and start getting estimates for the events and the materials."

The Kiron 125th Anniversary celebration is scheduled for the weekend of August 23, 24 and 25.

"Some of the things that we will be having for sure are a tractor show, a car show and shine, a children's pedal pull, a bake sale and cake walk. We'll have bouncy houses and possibly a dunk tank, a volleyball tournament and a bags tournament, food vendors and we're hoping for a vendor show," Hoaglund said.

Movie nights at Kiron South Park, a pancake breakfast and the popular Kiron Haunted Trail all acted as fundraisers for the anniversary celebration.

The event will begin on Friday, August 23, with an alumni supper.

"On Saturday night, we'll have a concert and a beer garden, as well," she said. "We're still working on entertainment for the beer garden, but we will for sure have the Boyer River Band."

The various events will be located around Kiron.

"Some of the activities will be at the South Park," Hoaglund said. "We are thinking about having the car show and shine and maybe the tractor show on Main Street. We also have a North Park that we would like to utilize for events."

We would like to spread out the events throughout town."

Most of the activities will take place on Saturday, August 24, with a few on Sunday, August 25.

"We won't be quite sure until we get the full list of events and figure out when and where will be the best time or place for each," she said.

A community club planning meeting on Monday night drew about 10 people.

"We're still looking for more people to volunteer," Hoaglund said. "They don't have to be community club members and they don't have to join the community club. We just need all hands on deck."

Planners lost a whole year due to the pandemic.

"We got a late start on it and 2024 has crept up on us," she said. "So, now is the time we're figuring out who we can grab for help. To have a big event of this size, it does take a village. Right now, we need more hands to help and volunteer for events."

The community club is looking for someone to organize a parade.

"We would really like to have a parade in town, but right now we are finding it kind of hard to find someone to take that role and plan it," Hoaglund said. "We're hoping someone steps forward and is able to take that event and run with it."

Other ideas for events and activities will depend on how many additional volunteers join the effort, she said.

"That is our biggest concern, right now," she said.

Planning meetings are currently taking place once per month.

The next meeting for the Kiron 125th Anniversary celebration will be at 7 p.m. on February 26 at Kiron City Hall.



DMU Board takes a look back at 2023

BY GORDON WOLF

At the first meeting of each new year, Denison Municipal Utilities (DMU) General Manager Rory Weis recaps the previous year for the Board of Trustees. The review looks at major projects, purchases, and any other major developments.

Following are some of the highlights from the DMU year in review.

- DMU replaced a power transformer at its West Receiving Substation. The two receiving substations each have two power transformers for reliability purposes. If one of the transformers fails, the other one must have enough capacity to handle the entire load that the two of them carried.

- The DMU Board adopts two budgets during the year – the capital improvements budget in November and the operational budget in February. Finance Manager Renee Vary along with the general manager and department managers are working on the budget to present to the board for its approval at the next meeting, which will be on Tuesday, February 20.

- Included in the year in review were slides of staff in each of the four departments – electric, water, wastewater and office. DMU is fully staffed with 30 employees. “We’re fortunate to have the quality staff that we do,” said Weis. “They’re dedicate and very good at what they do.”

- DMU participated with Crawford County and the City of Denison in the GIS mapping and aerial imagery project conducted by EagleView. This is done once every three years.

- The filter gallery in the lower level of the water treatment plant was painted in 2023. The painting is done when water flow demand is down and there is less condensation from water moving through the pipes.

- The year in review took a look at DMU’s participation in safety programs. DMU contracts with the Iowa Association of Municipal Utilities for safety meetings in six months of the year. DMU’s purchasing agent, Justin Gibbons, is responsible for providing safety meetings in the other six months. Staff from the City of Denison Public Works Department participated in at least one of the safety meetings in 2023. DMU staff also take advantage of continuing job training throughout the year. The Iowa Association of Municipal Utilities, Missouri River Energy Services and the Iowa Rural Water Association are among the entities that offer continuing training.

- Through Missouri River Energy Services, DMU has representation in state and federal legislative activity. Weis has attended the American Public Power Association (APPA) legislative rally a number of times throughout the years. Both he and board member Dane Dammen are registered for the Iowa Municipal Utilities energy conference scheduled for February 21, and Weis will attend the APPA legislative rally the following week. Weis said that the

topic of protecting the federal power grid, including the Western Area Power Administration (WAPA), is frequently a topic at legislative rallies. WAPA provides hydropower and accounts for about 50% of DMU’s power supply. Weis explained that with each new presidential administration there is some concern that attempts will be made to privatize and sell the federal power administrations. Along with WAPA, the federal government operates three other regional power marketing administrations.

- In July, a water rate increase went into effect. The amount of the increase varied by class of customers. Weis explained that with the water distribution improvement project taking place, DMU is required to examine its rates to make sure they will be adequate to pay off the state revolving fund loan that is helping to finance the improvements. “Nobody likes increases, but this was small compared to some we’ve seen,” he said.

- In May, DMU was able to award \$1,000 Missouri River Energy Services (MRES) scholarships to two Denison High School seniors – Anna Wiges and Jazmine Iglesias. A limited number of MRES scholarships are available every year, and DMU does not have a recipient each year.

- DMU purchased a new trailer-mounted vacuum excavator during 2023 to replace an older model. The new piece of equipment cost \$96,970. The old vacuum excavator was sold for \$35,000.

- The year in review also included a slide of a three-phase high voltage underground circuit that was struck by a company doing work near the entrance to Smithfield Foods. Weis explained that directional (horizontal) boring is a great tool, and contractors are responsible for finding all utility lines that they are going to cross. Contractors are supposed to excavate (pothole, in industry terminology) to determine the exact depth of the existing utility that is going to be crossed.

- DMU worked with the City of Denison to determine the source of water that resulted in some additional work on the Safe Routes to School Trail located along North 20th Street. Testing was done to determine if it was potable water leaking from the DMU water distribution system or if it was groundwater. Weis said tests showed that it was groundwater.

- DMU annually celebrates Public Power Week – the first full week of October – with some type of activity. This year Weis and Isela Acosta, an administrative secretary/customer service representative, provided activities for DMU’s business partner classroom at Denison Elementary School. Students from the business partner classroom also paid a visit to the DMU service center where Aaron Coret, DMU line foreman, spoke



PHOTO BY GORDON WOLF

Installation of new water pipe was among the major projects in 2023 for Denison Municipal Utilities. Pictured, workers from Max Smith, of Corning, install new pipe along North 20th Street in July.

about safety and showed students the safety equipment linemen use and the personal protective equipment (PPE) they wear when doing hotline work.

- DMU purchased and replaced one service vehicle each for the electric department and the water department. Weis explained the replacement of vehicles is based on the vehicle maintenance costs and the frequency of maintenance issues. He said the replacement timeline averages from 10 to 12 years. “We want a reliable fleet, especially with the vehicles that have the potential to go on the road, for example, for our mutual aid program for electric utilities,” said Weis. “We’re fortunate that the board has allowed us to keep the fleet upgraded.”

- One of the more highly visible DMU projects was a water distribution improvement project. The project was split into three divisions – the installation of water main, a pumping station and the construction of a new water tower. The water main installation involved directional boring plus open trenching beginning at the water tower near North 18th

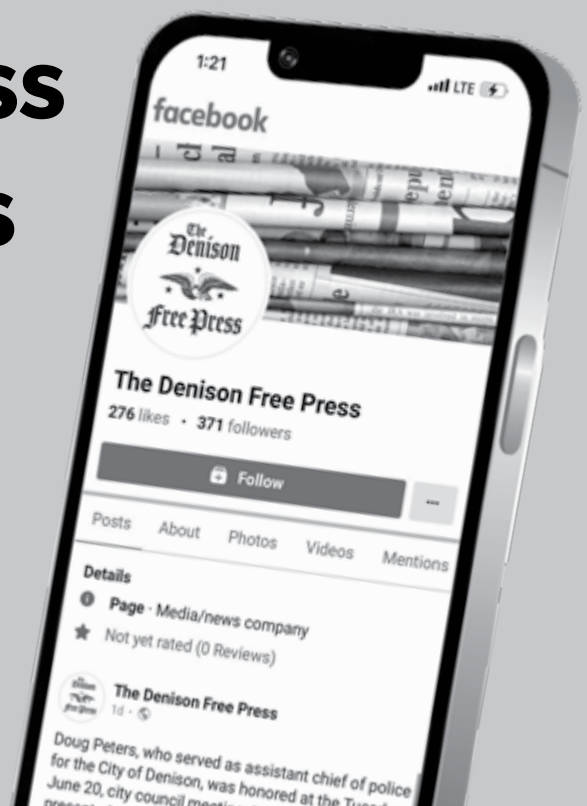
Street, proceeding east to 20th Street and then further east along 9th Avenue North to the site of the new water tower by the Little League ball complex along North 24th Street. The pumping station for the water project will be set on the east side of the North 18th Street water tower, likely this spring. It will pump water from the 18th Street water tower to the new tower. The old pumping station that is south of the Catholic cemetery will be demolished, as well as the old water tower near North 24th Street, this fall. The construction of the new water tower was completed by the end of December. Seams were welded, and a radar inspection of each weld was done. The radar inspection will start back up in the spring. DMU anticipates that the new tower will be painted this summer and that it will be put into service this fall. The purpose of the project, which is Phase 1 of a three-phase project, is to improve water pressure, primarily in the northeast area of Denison but also extending to the southeast as far south as the Western Iowa Tech campus.

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Denison High School First Semester Honor Roll

9th Grade "A" Honor Roll: Adrian Acevedo Cid, Andrea Alcaraz, Adriana Aldana, Leonardo Alvarado Manzo, Briam Aragon, Nicole Aviles, Aurik Banda, Luis Bautista Arriaga, Perla Bautista Arriaga, Marley Boettger, Landen Cadwell, Amy Caldwell, Neylis Cardona, Gerardo Cervantes, Grace Collins, Kyler Desy, Samantha Espinoza, Brissa Estrada, Grant Fink, Evelin Franco, Hailey Galvin, Belinda Garcia, Justin Garcia, Daniel Garcia-Paz, Malana Gillmor, Marisol Granados, Elliott Green, Angelina Gutierrez, Isadora Gutierrez, Logan Harper, Lydia Hennings, Dairy Hernandez, Derek Jepsen, Jacee Jepsen, Daisy Koch, Carly Ledesma, Ivette Lopez, Eah Ka Lu, Yessica Lucas, Haley Lutz, Lily March, Melanie Martinez, Eduardo Mena, Kelli Meyers, Nikko Miller, Angel Morales Sandoval, Grant Olsen, Harmoni Osmanski, Jose Ozuna, Briana Perez, Abigail Ratliff, Owen Reisz, Wilson Riphin II, Wilmi Riphin, Naomi Rivera, Lazaro Rivera-Acosta, Oscar Salazar, Xander Santamaria, Ashley Saravia, Myah Schwarte, Clayton Stoppel, Alejandro Tercero Paiz, Elizabeth Terlisner, Kara Thao, Alisyn Ullrich, Rhya Varner, Jaslyn Vazquez, Mirian Vega, Martin Velazquez, Daniel Villalobos, Ann Wessel, Kylee Wight, Morgan Wood, Yehuan Yan, Beatriz Zamago

9th Grade "B" Honor Roll: Mayra Acosta, Taven Adams, Akon Anei, Wrynn Auen, Trenten Boettger, Alejandra Cardenas, David Cardona Jr., Heidi Duarte Valdez, Owen Fink, Vanessa Flores, Cooper Gehlsen, Jose Gonzalez, Noah Hilpipre, Nyalad Koang, Fidel Lopez Chavez, Elizabeth Lopez Perez, Andrea Lupian, Kimberly Martinez, Jenna Meadows, Montzerrath Morales Magana, Carter Nielsen, Darlyn Orellana, Matilde Pantoja, Camila Ramirez, Cristian Ramirez, Guadalupe Ramos, Ingrid Rangel, Jaime Reyes, Jessie Saldana, Kevin

Sanchez, Jackson Steinkuehler, Aaron Valentine, Kinley Wiebers, Andrea Zaragoza

10th Grade "A" Honor Roll: Jasmyne Aherns, Xochitl Arellano, Krystal Barroso, Vannesa Barroso, Azucena Bartolon, Linkin Beeck, Aspen Bigley, Avery Bock, Brigid Bonner, Lillian Boomershine, Jayden Bradley, Aailyah Buter, Roman Bygness, Cesar Cardona Jr., Yareli Carrizales, Alejandra Carrizalez, Charlye Cervantes, Kyia Clark, Richard Cruz-Nieto, Jayden Denker, Ashlyn Dionicio-Baran, Aden Esquerra, Nadia Figueroa, Andrea Flores, Anna Galvin, Rocael Garcia Perez, Giana Garcia, Emily Gehlsen, Chelsi Gonazalez, Joanna Gonzalez, Nessa Hedstrom, Ryan Hennings, Addison Houston, Poe Htoo, Rylan Ipsen, Leila Jaime, Cole Kastner, Mylie Kaub, Josie Koenig, Yaretsy Landeros, Derek Lobaugh, Ricardo Lopez, Christopher LoVan, Nadia Medina, Kenia Moreno, Lylia Morgan, Kysa Neddermeyer, Julie Neumayer, McKennon Olson, Awilda Pablo Lucas, Abraham Pauley, Tanna Petersen, Gracen Plagge, Addison Ransom, Katerin Rodriguez, Elijah Safarian, Carina Sartun, Gracie Schillerberg, Charlotte Schrum, Annah Schwarte, Brody Skarin, Ryan Slechta, Sawyer Sonnichsen, Tyson Stoppel, Jenny Thao, Edison Vail Lucas, Kiara Vallecillo, Alexis Vaquerano, Isabelle Westphalen

10th Grade "B" Honor Roll: Valeria Acosta, Maria Alfaro, Donna Alvarado, Sophia Arellanes, Izak Argotsinger, Victor Arroyo, Javin Baker, Juan Barroso Perez, Yameli Bello, Samantha Cadwell, Gavin Campbell, Cristian Cervantes, Antony Colop Garcia, Eduardo Cruz, Aidan Eggeling, Malachi Esteves, Owen Galvin, Carlos Garnica, Blaine Grady, Jackson Graeve, Rihanna Haygood, Adilynn Herbert, Dulce Hernandez, Ryder Lee, Santiago Lopez, Jaxx Luetje, Leo Martin,

Javier Medina, Sara Mun, Melys Munoz, Camdyn Nemitz, Betania Ochoa, Piomojowack Okwer, Edgar Ortiz, Belinda Pancho, John Parr, Heidi Ramirez, Joshua Ramos, Ashton Randeris, Angie Rivera, Samuel Salazar, Gavin Schmadeke, Brock Schneider, Alexander Segoviano, Jocelyn Serrato, Brenden Sieren, Ywar Tha, Jose Torres Jr., Ethan Totten, Lexie Wiese, Chase Williams

11th Grade "A" Honor Roll: Atong Agang, Miriam Alvarez, Maite Arreola, Christian Ayala, Emily Bahnsen, Savanna Beam, Tayla Brodersen, Kamden Bruhn, Gaby Cardenas, Leilany Carrazco, Janet Castillo, Samantha Chandler, Violet Christensen, Michael Collins, Oscar Corona, Francisco Escalante, Hally Escobar, Miranda Estrada Erick Flores, Ashley Fuentes, Esmeralda Galdamez, Dominik Garcia, Justin Garduno, Celeste Gomez, Richard Gonzalez, Mitzy Guinto Chavez, Isabel Gutierrez, Alexis Hartwig, Gabriel Henningsen, Jaxson Henningsen, Isabel Jepsen, Nash Langenfeld, Genesis Lopez, Jimena Lupian, Aiden March, Logan McMullen, Lola Mendlik, Yadira Menendez Anaya, Abbey Meseck, Magdalen Murillo, Ethan Olsen, Kimberly Ramirez, Maria Ramos, Christopher Rangel, Ana Rios, Janelly Rivas, Nallely Rivera, Karla Sanchez, Pablo Sanchez, Jackson Saravia, Brody Scheuring, Cody Schulte, Landon Seebeck, Rosy Segoviano, Mayah Slater, Wendy Tercero, Alexa Tremblay, Lauryn Turin, Christopher Valle, Maite Vargas

11th Grade "B" Honor Roll: Hazell Agurcia, Valerie Alcantar, Ismael Alfaro, Achol Anyar, Anthony Arambula, Adonay Arellano, Diego Cid, Sebastian Contreras, Alexander Correa, Ingrid Fuentes, Jonel Garcia, Hannah Harris, Giovanni Hernandez, Norah Huebert, Joslyn

Jepsen, Lynnae Johnson, Alfredo Lara, Chris Lara, Vanessa Lara, James Lemon, Edgar Lopez Martin, Brady Lutz, Tanya Monge, Joel Murillo, Axel Neumann, Salvador Ornelas, Mia Oropeza, Cristian Paz, Abimeris Perez, Tiffany Ramirez, Francisco Jr. Rodriguez, Daniela Salinas, Cindy Sanchez, Caleb Schweers, Savannah Steinkuehler, Lita Thao, Myo Thu, Eryn Wilson, Rosalynn Zaragoza, Angel Zuniga

12th Grade "A" Honor Roll: Breeanna Adams, Taya Adams, Whitlee Auen, Kaylie Baker, Quinlan Bygness, Montserrat Chavez, Nadya Cortez, Angela Cruz, Analuisa Cruz-Nieto, Magali Cuate Gallegos, Easton Emery, Ty Fink, Ellen Gonzalez, Johnathan Graeve, Nathan Green, Abigail Gutierrez, Sadie Haberberger, Elli Heiden, Autumn Helkenn, Maggie Hennings, Addison Inman, Shelby Kastner, Chloe Koch, Claire Leinen, Estela Lupian, Jennifer Moreno, Brianna Musgrave, Brittany Musgrave, Gracie Outhouse, Stephanie Patino, Osbin Reynosa, Karla Rodriguez, Lomeli Sanchez, Bradyn Schillerberg, Kiana Schulz, Juan Segoviano, Morgan Winey

12th Grade "B" Honor Roll: David Aldana, Steven Alvarado, Karen Bautista, Zoey Beery, Blaine Brodsky, Austin Burk, Jessica Cabrera, Natasha Castillo, Luis Chan, Alan Corona, Braden Curnyn, Jimmy Escalante-Salazar, Mariana Espinosa Garcia, Marissa Galvin, Jennifer Garcia, Zoey Gonzales, Harmony Holt, Haley Huebert, Calli Korner, Gipsy Lima, Jordyn Linn, Adilene Lopez Palmer, Quincy Mahrt, John Paul Montano, Leonel Moreno, Jorge Ocampo, Ashley Perez, Angel Pineda, Garret Plagge, Allyson Reisz, Pamela Rivas, Rafael Rodriguez, Christell Salazar, Danny Saldana, Brody Schneider, Kylee Skarin, Kole Towne, Isabella Zamago, Fernando Zaragoza Jr., Jorge Zuniga

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Schleswig Basic fund grants over \$15,000 to community causes



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The board of the Schleswig Basic Fund met January 9 at the Schleswig Library to distribute \$15,510.76 in grants. Pictured are the organizations (and their representatives) that received grants. Front, from left: Under the Son Childcare (Stacy Jepsen), \$993.18; Schleswig Pool (Sarah Fineran), \$988.24. Second row: Trinity Lutheran Grant Township Cemetery Board (Anne Abbe), \$970.55; Schleswig Golf Course (Jeff Thompson), \$1,000; VFW Auxiliary #3930 (Pam Gronau), \$1,000; The Flower Girls (Patti Miller), \$1,000. Back row: Schleswig Public Library (Bonnie Schroeder), \$1,000; Immanuel Lutheran Preschool (Amy Hoffmeier), \$970.55; VFW Post 3930 (Brandon Wigg), \$800; American Legion Post 645 (Dennis Gierstorff), \$800; Schleswig Business Club (Amanda Bruhn), \$1,000; Christmas Cheer Committee (Sue Boland), \$1,000; Schleswig Community Building (Tim Bubke), \$1,000; Morgan Township Cemetery Board (Glenn Wigg), \$1,000. Missing: Schleswig Community Club – 125th Anniversary (Shannon Cose), \$1,000; and Schleswig Community School (Wade Gurney), \$988.24. The Basic Fund board thanks everyone that supports the community organization. The goal of the organization is to help the town grow by funding projects.

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Funeral Notices

Elaine Nemitz

Funeral services for Elaine Nemitz, 88, of Charter Oak, were conducted at 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, January 23, at St. John Lutheran Church in Charter Oak with burial at the parish cemetery.

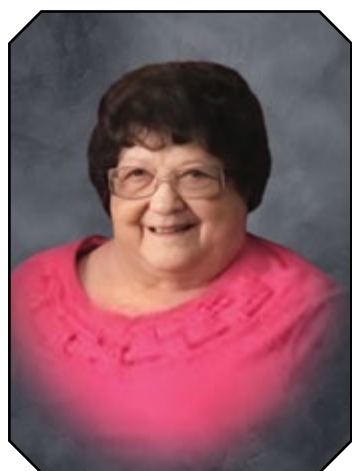
She passed away Wednesday, January 17, at the Crawford County Memorial Hospital in Denison.

Survivors include her children, Roger (Brenda) Nemitz, of Charter Oak, Mark (Susan) Nemitz, of Dunlap, and Linda (Rev. Adrian Sherrill), of Colorado; 17 grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; two brothers, Lester (Frieda) Stehr, of Odebolt, and Wayne (Nell) Stehr, of Oklahoma; and many other relatives and friends.

Services were entrusted to the Huebner Funeral Home in Charter Oak.



In Remembrance



Mae Hennings

May 22, 1937 - January 14, 2024

Mae, daughter of Harold and Selma (Boger) Lafrentz, was born May 22, 1937, in Denison, Iowa. She grew up in Schleswig and graduated from Schleswig High School with the class of 1955.

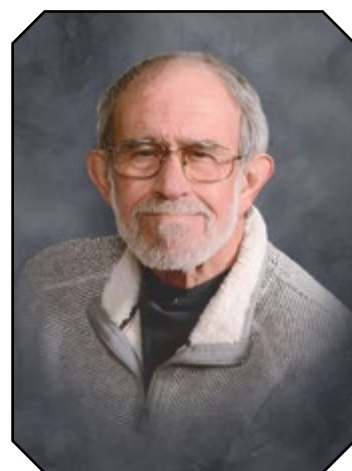
On November 17, 1956, Mae was united in marriage with Valgene Hennings, and they were blessed with two daughters. Mae and Valgene farmed near Schleswig until the early 1980s. They then moved to Denison where they owned and operated Eat More/Play More/Stay More for several years. Lastly, Mae worked at the Ampride Plaza Restaurant, retiring after many years.

Mae was a lifelong member of the Lutheran faith. She enjoyed helping her family show horses, serving on the Crawford County Fair Board, going to Calf Show Days, watching Green Bay Packers football and keeping busy. Mae was a hard worker, and she was loved in her community and cherished spending time with her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

On Sunday, January 14, 2024, Mae passed away at Crawford County Memorial Hospital in Denison, Iowa, at the age of 86 years, seven months 23 days.

Mae is survived by two daughters: Jeri (Tim) Laubscher of Maryville, Missouri and Kelly (Troy) Rosburg of Denison; granddaughter, Louise (Tanner) Walker of Maryville, Missouri; four great-grandchildren: Audrey, Harlee, William and Luke Walker; brother, Don (Joy) Lafrentz of Oklahoma; and many nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Valgene Hennings in 2005; infant brother, Harold John Jr., and sister, Connie Teut.

Graveside Services were held 10:30 AM, Thursday, January 18, 2024 at the Morgan Cemetery in Schleswig, Iowa with Rev. Ted Torreson officiating. Serving as honorary pallbearers were Audrey Walker, Harlee Walker, William Walker and Luke Walker. Serving as pallbearers were Troy Rosburg, Carter Brodersen, Tanner Walker, Parker Preul, Tyson Preul and Zach Preul. Services were entrusted to the Huebner Funeral Home.



Kenneth Eugene Huntley

December 15, 1945 - January 20, 2024

Surrounded by his loving family, Kenneth Eugene Huntley passed away on January 20, 2024, following a lengthy battle with health issues.

Born on December 15, 1945, to parents Fred and Phyllis (Watson) Huntley in Ames, Iowa, Ken attended Iowa State University and studied botany and forestry. This background contributed to his lifelong love of plants, trees, and all animal species.

In 1970, Ken became the devoted husband of Collette (Fineran) Huntley and in the years that followed, Ken and Collette welcomed six children into their family. With the increasing size of this family, Ken left his position with the Iowa DOT Bridge Construction Crew in order to be home more often. He then accepted employment at WESCO in Denison and served as assistant director. Eventually, Ken moved to full-time management of the Huntley real estate portfolio, where his handyman and "fix anything" skills were constantly being utilized.

Ken completed twenty years serving on the Crawford County Conservation Board, overseeing the improvement and operation of all county parks and conservation areas, in addition to contributing to the preservation of the Dow House in Dow City. Ken and Collette were charter members of the Crawford County Garden Club and were inducted into the Iowa 4-H Hall of Fame in 2016. Starting in 1996, Ken and Collette welcomed into their home dozens of foster children in need of a safe and nurturing environment.

Ken is survived by his wife of 53 years, Collette, and his children: Jason Huntley (Heather), Danielle Huntley (Robert Wilke), Paige Lee (Tim), Bridgette Uhlemann (Joe), Ian Huntley, and Saul Huntley; his three grandchildren: Aidan, Cora, and Margot; his in-laws: Terry and Carole (Fineran) Looft; and his nephews, cousins, and other relatives and friends. Ken is preceded in death by his parents and his sister, Maureen Dunn.

Mass of Christian Burial was held 10:30 AM, Wednesday, January 24, 2024 at St. Ann Catholic Church in Vail, Iowa with Fr. Michael Cronin serving as Celebrant of the Mass. Irene Feilmeier provided accompaniment for the St. Ann Choir, Rose Miller served as lector, Oliver & Evie Vonnahme served as altar servers, and Dustin Miller & Mike Schulte served as Eucharistic Ministers. Following Mass, the family invited everyone to the Vail Community Building for a time of fellowship and lunch. Services were entrusted to the Huebner Funeral Home.



Roseann Jean Olson

July 31, 1945 - January 15, 2024

Roseann Jean Olson was born on July 31, 1945 in Denison, Iowa, the daughter of Meinhardt and Hilda (Jepsen) Jaacks. She was baptized and confirmed into the Lutheran faith. Roseann graduated from Denison High School with the class of 1963.

On November 7, 1965, Roseann married the love of her life, Robert Olson at the Zion Lutheran Church in Denison. To this union, four children were born: Rodney, Regina, Ronnie and Rashelle and they made their home in Deloit, Iowa.

After finishing High School Roseann moved to Omaha, Nebraska and worked for Mutual of Omaha. When Bob was discharged from the Iowa Army National Guard, Roseann moved to Denison and worked at IBP until the office closed. For many years, Roseann dedicated herself to her role as a customer service representative at Centel Telephone Company, which changed ownership to Vista and ultimately to Frontier Telephone, until the office downsized. For many years until she retired, she worked for the Denison Livestock Auction where she enjoyed banter with friends who became beloved family. Roseann was a woman of faith and a long-time member of the Zion Lutheran Church. She found solace and strength in her relationship with God, and her dedication to her faith was unwavering.

With a passion for nature, Roseann's green thumb allowed her to cultivate stunning gardens full of vibrant flowers. She had a unique affection for collecting chickens, and her home displayed a charming assortment of these treasures. She had a special place in her heart for her beloved kitties, who were often strays that she would care for and name. Reluctant shopping trips turned into treasured outings with her dear friends where they created many memories. Roseann also loved embarking on girl trips with her sister Rhonda and her dear friends Joann, Rhonda Rae, Wendy and Joan. For many years Bob and Roseann spent many summer vacations fishing in Minnesota with family and special friends. Recently she started traveling to Branson, Missouri with her sisters and brothers-in-law and additional trips with her children and grandchildren.

Family meant everything to Roseann, and she found immense joy in caring for her beloved grandchildren. She delighted in their laughter, their accomplishments, and the opportunity to be an active presence in their lives. She also had a special bond with her classmates, with whom she enjoyed countless coffee dates and reminisced about their youthful days. Roseann maintained lifelong connections with her former coworkers, cherishing their continued friendship and support.

Roseann was a woman of unwavering strength and resilience, with an ability to find joy in even the smallest moments. Despite facing personal health challenges, she always had a smile on her face, never letting others see the pain she may have been enduring. Roseann's unfailing optimism and positive spirit were an inspiration to all who crossed her path.

Roseann passed away peacefully, surrounded by her family on January 15, 2024, at Denison Care Center attaining the age of 78. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Bob Olson; brothers: Robert, Ronald (Patricia), Richard, and Roger (Courtney) Jaacks; sister, Ruth Bell (Bob); parents-in-law Oluf and Helen, brothers-in-law: Lyle, Eugene, and Gordon Olson, Rex Siemer.

She is survived by her children: Rodney Olson and his wife Erin of Denison; Regina and her husband Darin Schau of Ida Grove; Ronnie Olson and his wife Staci of Avoca; and Rashelle and her husband Bill Rickers of Decatur, NE; 8 grandchildren: Dustin (Maggie), Austin, Kailey, Emma, Jordan, Alex, McKennon, and River; 1 great-grandchild, Noah; 4 step-grandchildren: Colton (Morgan), Lincoln, Matt, and Alissa; 4 step-great-grandchildren: Delilah, Jack, Joanna, and Weston; sister, Rhonda and her husband Doug Wessel of Denison; sisters-in-law: Norma Jaacks of Webster City, Iowa; LeAnn Jaacks of Spirit Lake, Iowa; Dona Siemer of Spickard, MO; Diana and her husband Lonnie Blunk of Princeton, MO; Debbie and her husband Creston Schubert of Galva, IA; and Cindy and her husband Ron Hoffmeier of Denison; brother-in-law, Wayne Olson of Princeton, MO; other relatives and friends.

Funeral Services were held 10:00 AM, Friday, January 19, 2024 at Zion Lutheran Church in Denison, Iowa. Rev. Kurt Kaiser officiated the service with interment in the Morgan Cemetery in Schleswig, Iowa. Organist Karen Kahl provided accompaniment for congregational hymns "In the Garden," "The Old Rugged Cross" and "On Eagle's Wings." Soloist Felisha Bertrand performed "Amazing Grace." Serving as honorary pallbearers were Dustin Schau, Kailey Olson, Austin Schau, Emma Mortensen, Jordan VonTersch, Alex VonTersch, McKennon Olson and River Olson. Serving as pallbearers were Tom Pauley, JR Pauley, John Pauley, Tim Curnyn, Harry Riessen and Rick Vogt. Following the burial, the family invited everyone to return to the church for a time of fellowship and lunch. Services were entrusted to the Huebner Funeral Home.

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Robotics team would welcome new members

BOTS, FROM PAGE 1

the FIRST Robotics Competition, the FIRST LEGO League Challenge and several other competitions.

The SCI Bots team's adult leaders are coaches Josh and Rachel Burns, of Odebolt, and mentor Beth Greenwald of Ida Grove.

Kiron Speech Path, the company Rachel Burns operates in Kiron, sponsored the team and purchased the necessary materials.

The team was formed in the fall of 2022.

"We found some kids in the area who were interested in trying it out, so we ran a season with all the materials last year," Burns said. "We met for 12 Sundays – not necessarily consecutive – and ran through some lessons, some teambuilding activities, coding, building the robot."

The team didn't go to any competitions last year.

"This season started in August, and we started the season this time with the goal of attending one competition," she said. "We started with a bigger group of kids from Sac, Ida and Crawford counties and we actually had a kid from Harrison County, as well."

Not all of the kids were involved in the First Robotics event.

"Towards the end of the season, we identified the kids who had attended 80% of our sessions, as well as were able to code and understand the missions the robot had to complete," Burns said. "Those are the four kids we ended up taking to competition."

The SCI Bots robot design was singled out by the judges for its unique design.

"The kids came up with a system to have interchangeable arms, so the different arms could interact with different mission models for the best results," Burns said.

Each team's robot was judged on a rubric by a panel of three judges.

"The kids needed to explain to the judges how they built their robot, why they chose to build it in the way they did, and what different attachments they were using," she said.

The students were required to build a functioning, drivable robot with a choice of sensors.

"We have a color sensor, a light sensor, and we have a distance sensor," Burns said.

"They (the robots) go on a big mat that has different colors and different tracks where the color or light sensors can be used. The goal is to get the robot to complete different missions by interacting with these models. All teams address it differently. We built a table to put the mat on and then the kids try to get the robot to complete these missions to earn points."

For kids in the SCI Bots team's age range, which is 9 to 12 years, "block coding" is used to program the robot's actions.

In block coding, text-based computer commands are grouped in pre-programmed blocks that the students drag and drop to build computer programs.

"They basically drag blocks that have different language on them that make the robot do different things,"

Burns said. "It sounds really easy, but it ends up being quite challenging and requires a ton of troubleshooting."

The team members have to explain to the judges how they went about coding, what went well and what didn't go well.

"They needed to have participation from all team members, which was really cool because two of our team members are only nine years old and they were able to get up and speak in front of these judges, as well," Burns said. "It was essentially judged on teamwork and inclusion, on the design of the robot, the approach to coding, whether the coding was successful, and whether they could convey all this information to the judges."

She said she was interested to watch the interactions of the team members, who had different personality types and different abilities.

"From our larger group, we had some kids who maybe didn't have the best fine motor skills, so actually building those models or assembling the robot was hard and they had to figure out a way to stick with it," Burns said. "For all of the kids, the coding was a challenge, depending on the personalities of the kids. Really working as a true team, given their ages, was very challenging but we were able to show improvement in that. It was interesting for me to see this kid has improved over our sessions in his ability to socialize with other kids, or this kid went from not knowing how to code to understanding coding and being able to do it, or this kid, who didn't want to be on a team, now knows how to work on a team. That part was surprising."

The First Robotics challenge for next season will be revealed in August.

"We would welcome some new kids to the program," she said.



After one of three robot matches, the SCI Bots team members wait for their score from the judge.

Burns noted that sometimes kids find that robotics just isn't their thing.

"What we're finding is while a lot of kids like showing up and checking it out, it's been a smaller percentage of those kids who can really get their brain around coding or are really interested in coding," Burns said. "Being kids, they have to try out different interests and prioritize those. We've been meeting on Sunday afternoons, so for some kids that conflicted with football in the fall. Sometimes, they chose that event over ours but that's OK because now they've had an introduction to coding and they can see if it's something they want to continue with or not."

For more information about SCI Bots, contact Burns at 712-371-3566.



Tucker Greenwald, of Ida Grove, shows off the team's award.



The SCI Bots crew, from left, Josh Burns (coach), Rachel Burns (coach), Elwood Burns, Eithan Alcorn, Francina Burns, Tucker Greenwald, and Beth Greenwald (mentor).

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