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Local News
Local Journalists
Local Ownership

The Denison Free Press

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TAKE ONE!

Vol. 1 | No. 32

SERVING DENISON & CRAWFORD COUNTY, IOWA

February 08, 2024

City of Denison looks at allowing out-of-town member on P&Z Commission

BY GORDON WOLF

Similar to some of the other boards under the City of Denison umbrella, the city council is moving forward to allow one out-of-town resident to serve on the Planning & Zoning Commission.

The proposal was introduced by Mayor Pam Soseman at Tuesday's council meeting.

She said she had been trying to appoint more women to boards, commissions and agencies and appointed the first women on the Planning & Zoning Commission a number of years ago. Now she has identified another woman she said would be a good addition to Planning & Zoning.

The issue is that this person's address is Denison, but her residence lies just

CITY COUNCIL, PAGE 3

Language arts, Shark Tank episode inspire technology showcase

BY GORDON WOLF

A language arts project and a third-grader's presentation on the television show Shark Tank served as inspiration for a technology showcase last Friday at Denison Elementary School.

The school's third graders used language art skills and technology know-how to create room-cleaning robots and develop sales pitches for their creations.

The lesson also incorporated the character trait of perseverance that students are learning about.

On Friday, teams of third graders were stationed around their classrooms to demonstrate how their robot creations worked to visiting parents and school staff.

While technology skills were used, the assignment started with language arts.

Third grade teacher Katie Pick said the teachers decided to incorporate the technology the students have been learning, using a variety of robots called

TECHNOLOGY SHOWCASE, PAGE 10



PHOTO BY GORDON WOLF

Mae Lally and Yordi Ramos, students in Kimberly Aguilera's class, demonstrate how their robot floor cleaner works.

Denison St. Patrick's Day parade is March 16

Nominations for Irish Mother and grand marshal needed

BY DAN MUNDT

Denison's St. Patrick's Day parade will take place on Saturday, March 16, in Uptown Denison.

Nominations for the parade's Irish Mother and grand marshal will be taken through Wednesday, February 14, by St. Patrick's Day Parade organizer Susan Grau.

"The only thing that I require is that they're Irish," she said. "It helps if they have roots in the Denison area or are active in the community."

Grau said she keeps the nomination/selection process the way the late Brian O'Neill handled it. Whoever gets the most votes wins; ties are drawn from a hat.

PARADE, PAGE 3

Helping students navigate the college experience

Puga is new WITCC Campus Services Coordinator

BY DAN MUNDT

Denison resident Alma Puga is the new campus services coordinator at Western Iowa Tech Community College (WITCC) in Denison.

She started the job last week. Puga follows Sandy Velasquez in the position; Velasquez was campus services coordinator from 2018 until she took the WITCC Denison Campus director position in November.

"I'll be coordinating student services and activities, assisting with admissions, advising students and helping with financial aid like FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)," Puga said.

"I'll also be overseeing the use of technology on campus and providing technical support for students."

Puga is a 2015 Denison High School graduate and received a Master's Degree in Philanthropy and Nonprofit Development from the University of Northern Iowa in August 2023.

She is guided in her new role by her experience as the first member of her family to attend college.

"I did my graduate research paper on first-generation students; it's a topic I'm very passionate about because I'm a first-generation graduate," Puga said. "I understand that first-generation students face additional obstacles pursuing higher education. My purpose and experiences motivate me to want to help others through their educational journeys."

After high school, she worked for a time as a social worker, spent a year at Iowa Legal (formerly Norelius Nelson Law Firm), three years with the Nepper Law Firm, and also became closely involved with the Denison chapter of LULAC (League of United Latin American Citizens).

"I knew that I wanted to help others and with LULAC I fell in love with the work—especially giving out scholarships



Alma Puga

to students," Puga said. "In my graduate research paper, I investigated the specific factors of academic success, the sense of belonging, and overall well-being of Latino first-generation college students, specifically; through this research, I found first-generation college students face tremendous challenges because they have fewer resources and connections."

She plans to use that knowledge in her new role.

"Western Iowa Tech has a great mission. It's very student-centered and they're always advancing in technology,"

PUGA, PAGE 3

Caitlin Michelle Photography

Vail resident turns hobby into a business

BY DAN MUNDT

"Ever since I was a little girl, I liked taking pictures with my mom's old camera and my little LeapPad Explorer (a children's toy)," said Vail resident Caitlin Nelson. "I've always been really intrigued with it."

Her fascination with photography led her to launch a business while she was still in high school.

The 2023 Ar-We-Va High School graduate started Caitlin Michelle Photography when she was just 15.

Caitlin grew up in a rural area a few miles outside of Vail, where she took pictures of her cats and dogs, the trees, flowers and anything else she found interesting.

She moved on to cows, sunsets and agriculture subjects as a member of the Denison Diamonds 4-H Club.

In 2019, when she was a high school freshman, Caitlin was given a Canon Digital Rebel T6 camera for Christmas; the T6 is a consumer camera that has professional-grade qualities.

The COVID pandemic hit a few months later, and she picked up the camera as a way to help alleviate her boredom.

"I started taking pictures of my friends, and I loved it," she said.

Some of her friends suggested that she should start charging for her services.

"I thought, well ... maybe, but I didn't know if I wanted to do it for the rest of my life," Caitlin said.

"But then I continued to do it, and I've grown from there."

As an Ar-We-Va student, she went to Carroll High School for the first four periods of the day.

"I had a lot of Carroll students that I took pictures of—mostly seniors and couples and young kids," Caitlin said.

She launched a Facebook page for Caitlin Michelle

PHOTOGRAPHER, PAGE 4



Caitlin Nelson and her camera.

Three DHS band musicians perform in Cyclone Honor Band Festival

Denison High School band musicians Jayden Bradley, Nallely Rivera and Rylan Ipsen performed in the 2024 Cyclone Honor Band Festival on the campus of Iowa State University this past weekend.

Bradley, a sophomore who plays euphonium, participated in the Gold Honor Band. Rivera, a junior who plays flute, and Ipsen, a sophomore who plays clarinet, were members of the Cardinal Honor Band.

The honor band festival also featured a concert by the Iowa State University Wind Ensemble, ISU's top concert band. James Garcia, a 2022 Denison High School graduate, was a featured soloist. Garcia and the ISU Wind Ensemble, under the direction of Dr. Michael Golemo, will be in Denison for a shared concert with the Denison High School Concert Bands on March 4.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Pictured from left are Jayden Bradley, Rylan Ipsen and Nallely Rivera on the stage of C.Y. Stephens Auditorium before the Cyclone Honor Band Festival on Saturday.

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Crawford County Cattlemen's Association

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ANSWERING THE CALL

Annual Celebration of Life & Fundraising Event

March 12, 2024

Location: The Stables at Copper Ridge, Denison

Speaker: Brandon J. McDermott

Meal: Staley's Catering Program Begins at 6:30 p.m.



\$50 per ticket, \$400/table of 8

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New campus services coordinator will visit other WITCC campuses

PUGA, FROM PAGE 1

Puga said. "It's a great community resource, not just for those who attend college here, but they're doing a lot of things for the community, too."

She noted that WITCC presented a Latino family night - camino al colegio - on Tuesday night this week.

The event was for community members, high school students and their parents; information about financial options and college resources was presented completely in Spanish.

"Not only are they serving the students who are currently enrolled, but they're also trying to get other students to learn about college, even if they're not going to attend Western Iowa Tech," Puga said.

She is still learning the ropes at her new job.

"Luckily for me, Sandy was in this role for six years, so I have her to rely on," Puga said. "I have a lot to learn when it comes to advising and doing events and student activities. I'll be making trips to Sioux City to get acquainted a little bit more with their campus. I'll meet other advisors at the Sioux City campus and also the Cherokee campus to learn from what they're doing."

Puga said she feels she has found the perfect place to use her skills.

"I want to be a mentor and resource for students. Both my siblings are in high school, right now," she said. "I think of them and wanting to help them through FAFSA or any college questions that they have. I know how difficult it may be to go to college and try to cover the costs for tuition and the other issues students may face. I'll do my best to be a mentor for my students."

Grau is always looking to make the parade bigger and better

PARADE, FROM PAGE 1

"I've stuck with that," she said.

As of Monday, she had four nominations for grand marshal and three for Irish Mother.

"I'm always looking for more," Grau said. "I just ask people to send me a little explanation why a person should be considered."

She said she appreciates nominations of individuals who have gone above and beyond in the community.

"It looks like we'll have a little warmer weather than we did last year," Grau said. "I'm not sure yet who is going to be carrying the colors; if it's too cold, then the fire department will do that again."

Anyone is welcome to join the parade. She said she is looking for scouts and any kind of school group that would like to take part.

"We do have some floats in the parade that I know of and we may have a bagpipe player this year," she said.

"We're always trying to make it bigger and better."

She encourages anyone with an old car or any kind of interesting vehicle to join the parade.

"We'd love to have members of our Hispanic population participate," Grau said. "Last year, we had four or five businesses in the parade."

The event is a good way for new area businesses to promote themselves, she said.

"It's free and it gets lots of eyes on their business name," Grau said.

The parade will line up between noon and 12:30 p.m. in front of the Denison Post Office.

"I do have some costumes, as well," Grau said. "If someone needs a costume, I could get it to them before and pick it up after the parade."

Grau may be contacted at 712-253-0725 or susangrau@msn.com.

For Irish Mother/grand marshal nominations, she requests an email that includes an explanation of why each individual should be considered.

A celebration in the Middle of Nowhere

Ricketts 125th coming up in June



BY DAN MUNDT

"We started talking about the 125th two years ago and it really took off about a year and a half ago when we ran into Bruce Paulson up in Albert City at the Thresherman show," said Verdean Gierstorf, treasurer of the Ricketts Community Club, which is organizing the town's 125th anniversary celebration this summer.

He said Paulson, who was involved with Western Iowa Pullers in the 1990s, agreed to organize a tractor pull for the Ricketts event.

Tractor pulls have been popular events in Ricketts in past years.

The town, which promotes itself as "The Middle of Nowhere," was established in 1899.

The Ricketts Quasiquicentennial will take place on June 29 and 30.

"The biggest day is the 29th and that's Saturday," said Jan Wessel, Ricketts Community Club secretary. "We're starting off with a parade."

"Just show up that morning," Gierstorf said. "We'll line up on the west side of town. The parade will start about 10 and whoever wants to come can come."

The tractor pull will take place at noon on the length of the Ricketts Community Club grounds along Railroad Street on the south end of town.

Bouncy houses will be on hand for kids and a cornhole contest will take place during the day on Saturday.

Other activities will be set up at the town park, where the DJ and a beer garden will be set up.

Rick Keating will be our DJ for a street dance at night," Wessel said.

Other activities will take place on the corner just north of the post office.

The Ricketts Community Building, on Third Street, three blocks north of the tractor pull, will play host to a craft show and exhibits.

"On Sunday morning, we're having church service at the park, weather permitting, followed by a catered Staley's dinner up at the Community Building," Wessel said.

Interest has been strong for the 125th anniversary celebration, she said.

"We have t-shirts that we've been selling for a good year and a half," Wessel said. "So many people have been reflecting back on the last one and can't wait."

The Ricketts Community Club played host for a pancake brunch fundraiser for the event in January.

"I heard from my nephew in Denver, yesterday," Gierstorf said. "He's all fired up about coming back and wants to be in the parade."

The Ricketts Community Club will need more volunteers to make the event happen.

"We always need more volunteers," Wessel said.

"The cattlemen will be grilling burgers on Saturday afternoon at the tractor pull," Gierstorf said. "We need help wrapping them and selling them."

CITY COUNCIL, FROM PAGE 1

outside the city limits, along Highway 59 south.

"I'm asking for an amendment to the ordinance that says they have to live in Denison," Soseman said.

She added that one out-of-town member has been allowed on many of the city's other boards and commissions, including the housing agency, airport board, and parks and recreation.

Councilman Corey Curnyn said the council should make sure that a distance limit from the city boundaries should be specified, adding that the planning and zoning commission is different from other boards and agencies.

City staff will review the specifications on out-of-town members of other boards and commissions and bring a recommendation back to the council.

At that point, the council can pass the first reading of the ordinance amendment or waive the second and third readings of the amendment and immediately pass it.

The new member of planning and zoning can't be appointed until after the amended ordinance is published in a newspaper.

Soseman said the planning and zoning commission hasn't had a lot of meetings, "but again you have a predominant male board and before I came in (to office) it was all male."

Councilwoman Jennifer Zupp-Smith, who is an attorney, said her issue is that a person shouldn't be appointed to a board or commission based on gender.

"I don't care if it's male, female, all male, all female or other, that shouldn't be a criteria at all," she said. "I would just say if you're finding the most qualified

School gives update on superintendent hiring process

Local stakeholders to be contacted for interview teams

A total of 13 candidates have applied for the position of superintendent for the Denison and Schleswig community school districts.

The district provided an update on the hiring process on February 2 after the school board had met with the search firm Grundmeyer Leader Services to review the candidate pool.

Of the candidates, three are from outside Iowa. Five hold a terminal degree (Ed.D. or Ph.D.) and eight hold specialist/six-year degrees.

All 13 candidates were presented to the board in closed session on February 1.

After the review of the candidate application materials, references, licensure verification, and social media, six candidates were selected for screening interviews that will take place February 12.

The screening process will allow the board to further evaluate the candidate qualifications for the position and narrow the process to a smaller number of finalists.

The search consultants will organize and facilitate the screening interviews, and finalists will be publicly named shortly after the screening interviews take place. The desired qualifications identified by the districts and school boards will continue to drive the hiring process. These include a leader who demonstrates a commitment to student, staff, and community relationships.

In addition, the district desires a superintendent who promotes positive student behavior to enhance school pride, builds a positive climate, has a strong understanding of and experience with students social and emotional needs, is a strong written and verbal communicator, and is capable of having difficult conversations and facing challenging situations.

Stakeholders will soon be contacted to serve on the formal interview teams. These groups will include students, staff, teachers, administrators, and community members. Each person will provide the board with feedback on the finalists after the interviews.

Formal interviews with the finalists will be on February 26.

The new superintendent will officially begin leading the Denison and Schleswig Community School Districts on July 1.

person and you want to expand the ordinance for that, fine. If we're changing the ordinance to accommodate sex, that wouldn't be fine."

City Clerk Jodie Flaherty said Soseman was probably working off the time when the state changed to gender neutral boards, which encourages gender equity.

"That is the law now; it says to do that," added Zupp-Smith. "I've always thought that law was unconstitutional myself. I would just ask that we not choose anybody based on sex or race or religion."

Soseman assured that the woman she has in mind for planning and zoning is very well qualified.

Meyer honored on retirement from Public Works

Charlie Meyer, who was a Denison Public Works Department worker for more than 34 years, was presented with a plaque on Tuesday to recognize his service to the city. Meyer recently retired from the department and is pictured with his grandchildren along with Mayor Pam Soseman. The plaque says "In recognition of your 34 years of dedicated service to the City of Denison, October 1989 to January 2024. Your commitment to the city will always be remembered."



PHOTO BY GORDON WOLF

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Local Calendar

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 10, 2024

Valentine Storytime at Norelius Community Library, 10-11 a.m.; Games, craft-making, treats, and stories celebrating love.

Legislative Coffee with Iowa District 18 Representative Steve Holt, 10-11 a.m. at Chamber & Development Council of Crawford County office, 109 N Main St. Denison.

Prime Rib Dinner at Historic Klondike Hotel in Manilla, 5:30-7:30 p.m. \$30 per person; all seats reserved, takeout-only available. Call Sandi Gruhn at 712-654-6767 or Doris Gross at 712-571-0018 for information.

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 11, 2024

COU PTO Fundraiser for Charter Oak-Ute School/teacher support, 11 a.m.-12 noon at Charter Oak Community Building. Freewill donation for an omelet breakfast. Concurrent COU staff bake sale will support library and scholarship programs.

School Supply Fundraiser for the Schleswig Community School, 8 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at Schleswig Community Building. Freewill donation for omelets, biscuits and gravy.

MONDAY FEBRUARY 12, 2024

American Legion Post 8, Denison, monthly meeting, 7 p.m. at ISU Extension Office basement.

TUESDAY FEBRUARY 13, 2024

Cards & Coffee at Norelius Community Library, 5:30-7:30 p.m. Coffee (or tea), cards and chatter. Ages 19 and up.

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 FEBRUARY 14, 2024

Storytime at Norelius Community Library, 2-3 p.m. Stories, songs and special activities for children up to 5 years of age.

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

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 15, 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 Swertzic at 712-269-6689 for more information.

Game night at Norelius Community Library, 5:30-6:30 p.m. Pizza, snacks and games. Ages 12-18.



A new camera brings new possibilities

PHOTOGRAPHER, FROM PAGE 1

Photography in the summer of 2020. By that fall, she started charging \$30 per session.

Caitlin said the transition from photographing cats to photographing people wasn't too difficult.

"I've always been kind of a people person, so it was just something new to try," she said. "I've been told by my previous clients that they forget they're even in front of a camera. I don't want to have it seem posed; I just try to make them feel comfortable and do what they would normally do when they're not in front of a camera."

Over the last four years, she has worked to learn more about cameras and grow her knowledge of the art of photography.

"When I started, I had no idea how to work my camera; I just used whatever setting it was on and just shot with that," Caitlin said. "I've watched a ton of videos and I've done mentorships. I definitely know the right way to do things, now. I've dedicated a lot of time and effort, but it's all been worth it."

Her featured services have grown along with her skills.

"A lot has changed, and I've expanded myself through the kinds of pictures I take and what I offer," she said.

"I do anything from seniors to families to couples. I've done a few weddings, and I've started to dabble in newborns and maternity photography."

Caitlin has created new bonds

and friendships with her clients along the way; she said she gets the most enjoyment out of meeting and photographing couples.

Last fall, she purchased a Canon EOS R6 Mark II, which is a professional-grade camera with modern features.

"It was a lot of money, but it was worth the investment," Caitlin said.

The R6 was a major improvement over the T6, which was no longer up to date.

With the new camera came new techniques to learn and new possibilities for her photographs.

Her new puppy is one of her favorite subjects.

"Everyone loves seeing those kinds of pictures," she said.

In recent weeks, Caitlin has started to offer a free service to local businesses.

"I've been reaching out and asking them if I can take pictures of all the ins and outs of their business for free," she said. "And then, in return, I tag their Facebook page and they tag mine; it's kind of a cooperative marketing system."

She started taking classes last fall toward a degree in marketplace design at Western Iowa Tech Community College, but decided to switch her major to business management, which she thinks will be of more value to her photography business.

"I'm hoping this year to expand my clientele a little bit and venture out into other counties," Caitlin said. "I want to push myself out of my comfort zone a little bit and try doing new things."

She plans to make a career out of photography.

"I don't ever plan on stopping," she said.



Featured here is a selection of photographs by Caitlin Nelson, including Alexis Gruhn and her cattle, and Nolan Simons and Reagan Irlbeck sharing a moment. Visit denisonfreepress.com to see these pictures in color.

NEWS BRIEFS

Boy Scout paper drive on Saturday

The Boy Scouts of Troop 55 in Denison will conduct their February paper drive on Saturday, February 10, at the Pronto parking lot. The Scouts will be there from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. to help unload tied, bundled or sacked newspapers. Acceptable can be bought in paper bags or cardboard boxes but not in plastic bags. People are asked to limit the amount of cardboard they bring.

Schleswig VFW Auxiliary to meet Monday

The Schleswig VFW Auxiliary 3930 will conduct its regular monthly meeting at 7 p.m. on Monday, February 12, at the Schleswig Golf Course. Items on the agenda include Bakeless Bake Sale results, dues, Valentines for veterans, and veterans' brunch. Anyone who qualifies to be a VFW Auxiliary member is invited to join.

The Denison Free Press is possible in part thanks to the Western Iowa Journalism Foundation



BECAUSE COMMUNITY JOURNALISM MATTERS.



The Denison Municipal Utilities is seeking Competitive Quotes on a replacement building for DMU Well No. 2. The new building shall include the following:

Roof drain/gutters, floor drain, 36"x 80" Insulated steel door, Exhaust fan, control damper, outside air louver, lighting, convenience outlets as agreed upon with owner, all pertinent electrical as needed that includes an owner provided SCADA control panel and a 3 phase 15 HP submersible pump, concrete roof with barrier and rock, Roof hatch, block or poured walls, 14'x14'x 8' building dimensions. A new foundation for the building may be necessary.

Sealed quotes will be accepted until 2:00pm CST, February 20,2024 at the Denison Municipal Utilities Business Office, 721 Broadway, Denison, IA. Please mark envelope: Well No. 2 Quote

Quotes may be submitted electronically to: rvarry@dmuonline.com until 2:00 PM CST, February 20, 2024. The subject line should indicate Competitive Quote. DMU Well No. 2 Building

Contact: Luke Gillmor with the Denison Municipal Utilities for additional information at 712-269-0557 or lgillmor@dmuonline.com

COURTHOUSE NEWS

January 26-February 1, 2024

NON-SCHEDULED TRAFFIC

• Rudy Thomas Holguin, Denison. Driving while license under suspension, \$491.25.

SCHEDULED TRAFFIC

- Levi James Moore Sr., Fort Dodge. Operation without registration card or plate, \$175.75.
- Justin Kingston, Denison. No valid driver's license, \$503.50.
- Alex Sandoval Sandoval, Sioux City. No valid driver's license, \$503.50.
- Isaias Jose Ortega Escobar, Sioux City. No valid driver's license, \$503.50.
- Angel Alejandro A. Montiel, Dow City. Dark window or windshield, \$175.75.
- Manuel Garcia Jr., Denison. Person under 21 years of age using tobacco/vapor product, first offense, \$70.
- Jesus Xavier Garcia, Denison. Person under 21 years of age using tobacco/vapor product, first offense, \$70.
- Michael J. Nelson, Enders, NE. Failure to obey stop or yield sign, \$210.25.

SPEEDING (21 MPH AND OVER)

• Alex Sandoval Sandoval, Sioux City, \$408.63.

SPEEDING (11-15 MPH OVER)

• Rudy Thomas Holguin, Denison, \$236.13.

SPEEDING (6-10 MPH OVER)

- Alexis Hannah Free, Glidden, \$149.88.
- Isaias Jose Ortega Escobar, Sioux City, \$149.88.
- Casey John Frazier, Ankeny, \$149.88.
- Jose Alberto Salas, Denison, \$118.25.

SPEEDING (1-5 MPH OVER)

- Makayla Hull, Denison, \$89.50.
- John James Wango, Harlan, \$89.50.
- Joel William Shanahan, Ute, \$89.50.

SMALL CLAIMS

• Against: Janelle Ann Lewis, Schleswig. In favor of: Midland Credit Management Inc. Amount: \$849.73 plus \$95 costs.

LAND TRANSACTIONS

January 26-February 1, 2024

Warranty Deeds

- Kragel Farm Corporation to K3 Farm Corporation: NW1/4 Section 9, Morgan Township; SW1/4 NE1/4 Section 9, Morgan Township; SW1/4 Section 9, Morgan Township; S1/2 SE1/4 Section 9, Morgan Township; NW1/4 SE1/4 Section 9, Morgan Township.
- Birds Nest LLC to Kahl & Durbin LLC: Lot 5 and 6, Block 86, City of Denison; \$400,000.
- Robert D. Ehlers and Brenda K. Ehlers to Robert D. Ehlers Living Trust, Robert D. Ehlers and Brenda K. Ehlers, Trustees: S1/2 NW1/4 Section 35, Iowa Township.
- Kragel Farm Corporation to K4 Farm Corporation: W1/2 SW1/4 Section 8, Morgan Township; E1/2 SW1/4 Section 8, Morgan Township; SW1/4 SW1/4 Section 3, Willow Township; SE1/4 Section 4, Willow Township; S1/2 NW1/4 Section 23, Charter Oak Township.
- Healthy Efficient Homes LLC to James M. Johnson and Patricia A. Johnson: Lot 6, Northwood Fourth Addition, City of Denison; \$228,591.
- Holly Namanny to Rafael Hernandez Rosa and Julia Tranquilina Santamaria De Hernandez: Lot 2, Block 118, City of Denison; \$110,000.
- Taylor Heese and Lisette Heese to Otoniel Hernandez: Lot 11, Block 15, City of Manilla; \$25,000.
- James T. Day and Alexandra BC Day to Jose Ricardo Zalana Linares and Araceli Esmeralda Chicas De Zalana: Lot 7, Block 13, City of Manilla; \$56,000.
- Chad Blasey and Kari Blasey to Kurt Kastner and Lonnie Kastner, LE: E1/2 NW1/4 Section 32, Otter Creek Township; \$120,000.
- Jose Montiel to Ezequiel Lopez Lopez and Virginia Martin Morales: Lot 1, Block 141, City of Denison; \$22,000.
- Patricia R. Plagge, Patricia Rae Plagge Jorgensen and Mark J. Jorgensen to Chad Thomas Muff, Jeremy Lee Muff and Kathryn Ann Muff: SW1/4 Section 4, Washington Township; \$1,279,800.
- Lance Bromert to Brandon J. Koch: Lot 4, Block 6, City of Dow City; \$75,000.
- 2007 Marcia Jean Lindquist Trust, Marcia Jean Lindquist, Trustee to 2007 Marcia Jean Lindquist Trust, Marcia Jean Lindquist, Trustee: S1/2 NE1/4 Section 18, Westside Township; SE1/4 Section 18, Westside Township; E1/2 NE1/4 Section 19, Westside Township; SW1/4 NE1/4 Section 19, Westside Township; \$1.00.

- W1/2 NE1/4 Section 33, Milford Township; \$628,402.
- Howard A. McMinimee Estate, Rex McCollough, Executor to Steven Kasperbauer: N1/2 NW1/4 Section 9, East Boyer Township; SE1/4 SW1/4 Section 4, East Boyer Township; SE1/4 SW1/4 Section 4, East Boyer Township; W1/2 SE1/4 Section 4, East Boyer Township; \$1,578,692.
- John T. Shields Estate, Joseph L. Shields, Executor to Joseph L. Shields: NE1/4 Section 2, Washington Township; S1/2 NW1/4 Section 2, Washington Township; SE1/4 SW1/4 Section 35, Denison Township; N1/2 NW1/4 Section 2, Washington Township; W1/2 SE1/4 Section 35, Denison Township.

Quit Claim Deeds

- Ralph E. Giesman and Roseanne P. Giesman to Roseanne P. Giesman: Lot 13 and Lot 14, Block 4, City of Denison.
- United Church of Manilla to Otoniel Hernandez: Lot 11, Block 15, City of Manilla.
- ACC33 LLC to Tyler Hennings: Lot 1, Block 12, City of Ricketts; \$5,500.
- Larry Dettbarn and Mary Dettbarn to Larry and Mary Dettbarn Family Trust, Larry Dettbarn and Mary L. Dettbarn, Co-Trustees: E1/2 NW1/4 Section 21, Jackson Township; W1/2 SW1/4 Section 15, Jackson Township.
- Larry Dettbarn and Mary Dettbarn to Mitchell Dettbarn: NE1/4 SE1/4 Section 16, Jackson Township; N1/2 S1/4 SE1/4 Section 16, Jackson Township; SE1/4 NE1/4 Section 21, Jackson Township.
- Jorge Lupian and Lizeth Lupian to Lizeth Lupian: Lot 18, Ridgeway Fifth Addition, City of Denison.
- Grant Clausen and Janette Clausen to Grant Clausen and Janette Clausen Joint Revocable Living Trust: W1/2 NE1/4 Section 19, Otter Creek Township.
- Grant Clausen and Janette Clausen to Grant Clausen and Janette Clausen Joint Revocable Living Trust: Lot 7, Block 20, City of Schleswig.
- Chad Blasey and Kari Blasey to Kurt Kastner and Angela Kastner: NW1/4 NW1/4 Section 15, Otter Creek Township; SW1/4 Section 10, Otter Creek Township.

State Tax Liens

• Iowa Department of Revenue against Todd L. Ahrenholtz: \$32,049.48.

Contracts

• Mark R. Biedrzycki Revocable Trust, Mark R. Biedrzycki, Trustee to Chris R. Graeve and Julie L. Graeve; SE1/4 Section 30, Washington Township; SW1/4 Section 30, Washington Township; \$2,305,840.

ON THE SCANNER

January 27, 3:55 p.m.: Diana Negrete, 27, of Denison, was arrested for violation of a no-contact order. The same report says that the next day, Jason Robert Haptonstall, 33, was arrested for violation of a no-contact order.

January 30, 8:32 p.m.: Marlina Marie Araujo, 45, of Denison, was arrested and charged with operating while under the influence, 3rd offense. A lesser charge is driving while license denied or revoked.

January 31, 11:41 a.m.: Alexa Emalee Rowedder, 26, of Denison, was driving a blue 2015 Chrysler Town & Country van and was making a left turn from Highway 30 onto South 11th Street. Her vehicle collided with a blue 2005 Chevrolet Silverado pickup being driven east on the highway by Brain Walter Vetter, 58, of Vail. Rowedder stated that another vehicle was making a left turn onto 11th Street from the eastbound inside lane of Highway 30, which blocked the Vetter vehicle from her line of sight. The Vetter vehicle received \$300 damage. The Rowedder

vehicle received \$800 damage. No one was injured. Rowedder was cited for failing to yield upon making a left turn.

January 31, 7:55 p.m.: Kevin Alexis Ramirez, 18, of Denison, was arrested on a warrant for failing to appear for a plea taking and sentencing on the original charge of possession of a controlled substance – marijuana, 1st offense.

February 1, 2:16 a.m.: Guillermo Dominic Hernandez, 24, of Denison, was arrested on a warrant for failing to appear for a plea taking and sentencing on the original charge of OWI, 1st offense.

February 1, 1:45 p.m.: Miguel Romario Martinez Cid, 19, of Denison, was driving a gray 2018 Jeep Grand Cherokee and was in the drive-through lane at Burger King. In response to a vehicle in front of his that was backing, Martinez Cid backed up and struck a white 2020 Chevrolet Equinox being driven by Lynette Kay Mohr, 62, of Vail. Mohr's vehicle received \$500 damage. The Martinez Cid vehicle was not damaged.



Letters

TO THE EDITOR

To submit a letter visit,
denisonefreepress.com

The Denison Free Press is not responsible for the content in the Letters to the Editor section. The Denison Free Press reserves the right to choose not to publish submissions. Letters not be more than 300 words.

Senior Lunch Menu

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

Friday, February 9: goulash, whole wheat bread, broccoli, peaches

Monday, February 12: ground beef Stroganoff, egg noodles, green beans, whole wheat bread, mandarin oranges

Tuesday, February 13: chicken and mushrooms, roasted red potatoes, whole wheat bread, apple crisp

Wednesday, February 14: ham, sweet potatoes, California blend, whole wheat roll, pears

Thursday, February 15: Salisbury patty with mushroom gravy, boiled red potatoes, green beans, whole wheat bread, pineapple upside-down cake

Friday, February 16: cook's choice

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING - AMENDMENT OF CURRENT BUDGET CRAWFORD COUNTY AG EXTENSION Fiscal Year July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024							
The CRAWFORD COUNTY AG EXTENSION will conduct a public hearing for the purpose of amending the current budget for fiscal year ending June 30, 2024							
Meeting Date/Time: 2/22/2024 05:30 PM		Contact: Collette Huntely		Phone: (712) 263-4697			
Meeting Location: 35 South Main St, Denison							
There will be no increase in taxes. Any residents or taxpayers will be heard for or against the proposed amendment at the time and place specified above. A detailed statement of: additional receipts, cash balances on hand at the close of the preceding fiscal year, and proposed disbursements, both past and anticipated, will be available at the hearing. Budget amendments are subject to protest. If protest petition requirements are met, the State Appeal Board will hold a local hearing. For more information, consult https://dom.iowa.gov/local-gov-appeals .							
EXPENDITURES	Total Budget as Certified or Last Amended	Amendment Increase	Total Budget After Current Amendment	Reason			
County Agricultural Extension Education	314,943	80,000	394,943	Increase in expenditures due to increased grant funding revenue.			
Unemployment Compensation	0	0	0				
Tort Liability	0	0	0				
Total	314,943	80,000	394,943				
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING --- PROPOSED BUDGET Fiscal Year July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025 CRAWFORD COUNTY AG EXTENSION							
The Extension Council of the above named County will conduct a PUBLIC HEARING on the proposed fiscal year 2024/2025 budget as follows: Meeting Date: 2/22/2024 Meeting Time: 05:30 PM Meeting Location: 35 South Main St, Denison							
At the public hearing, any resident or taxpayer may present their objections to, or arguments in favor of, any part of the proposed budget. This notice represents a summary of the supporting detail of receipts and expenditures on file with the Extension Council Secretary. Copies of the Supplemental Budget Detail (Schedule 674-A) will be furnished upon request.							
Contact Name: Collette Huntely Contact Telephone Number: (712) 263-4697							
FUND	FYE June 30, 2023 Actual Expenditures	FYE June 30, 2024 Re-estimated Expenditures	FYE June 30, 2025 Budget Expenditures	Estimated Ending Fund Balance FY 2025	Estimated FY 2025 Beg. Balance	Estimated Amount To Be Raised By Taxation	Estimated Utility Tax Replacement and Property Tax Dollars
1. County Agricultural Extension Education	286,906	370,442	444,667	106,417	128,234	276,450	279,000
2. Unemployment Compensation	0	0	2,500	500	0	2,978	3,000
3. Tort Liability	0	0	5,500	1,500	0	6,935	7,000
4. TOTAL	286,906	370,442	452,667	108,417	128,234	286,363	289,000
Proposed taxation rate per \$1,000 valuation: \$							0.2077

Monarchs

DENISON-SCHLESWIG MONARCHS GIRLS WRESTLING

Wrestlers bring home great experiences and memories from state

BY GORDON WOLF

Denison High School sophomore Angie Rivera and senior Taya Adams said they will long remember their experiences from the state wrestling tournament last week at the Xstream Arena in Coralville.

It was the first state wrestling experience for Adams and the second for Rivera.

Adams was the 28 seed in the 130-pound division and Rivera was the 25 seed in the 140-pound division.

"We're very proud of our two girls for earning the chance to compete at the state tournament," said Jacob Brawner, the head coach. "Once again, the buzz in the building during the Thursday morning session was incredible and we're glad our girls got to experience that."

He said he knew it would be an uphill battle with both girls facing the top eight seeds in their brackets in round one.

"Our main focus for the girls was that anything could happen at the state tournament, and you'd rather empty your gas tank and let the chips fall where they may rather hold something back. And they did exactly as we told them," Brawner added. "We wrestled tough and let a couple upset opportunities slip away, but we gave ourselves chances - we just couldn't quite finish. Regardless, watching them compete one last time this season was fun."

Adams lost by fall in two matches. Rivera lost by fall in her first match, won by fall in her second match and lost by fall in her third match.

Brawner had the following to say about each wrestler.

Taya Adams: The senior joined wrestling during her junior year - the first year it was sanctioned in Iowa. She has improved so much. As a junior, she was 12-16 and went 0-2 at regionals. Taya finished this season 25-15, finished third at regionals, and was voted a captain by her teammates at the start of the season. We simply can't say enough good things about the type of competitor and person she is. She's smart, tough, and coachable - all things that will serve her well in any endeavor she chooses moving forward.

Angie Rivera: The sophomore wrapped up her season with a record of 29-13 while being voted a team captain and is now a two-time state qualifier. Angie works her tail off, plain and simple. They don't make them much tougher than her and she has

become the girl that others on the team follow. She was able to match her state performance from last year, and I know that drives her for the future. There is another level that she can jump to where she can start to challenge some of those top dogs in her weight class. Some of that will come with age, but a lot of it will come with more mat time and continued hard work to improve - particularly on the technique side of things. She will be a leader in our room for years to come.

Last year Claire Miller, a senior, qualified for the state tournament, along with Rivera. Miller won two matches and lost two, which placed her among the top 15 in the 155-pound division.

Comparing last year's experience at state with this year, Rivera said the sport was harder because more girls know about it.

She said it was very exciting to qualify for state again this year.

"It was intense. I didn't know whether I was going to lose a match or when (at the regional tournament) and I ended up winning, and it was an amazing feeling," she said.

To prepare for the state meet, Rivera said she kept thinking about what she should do.

"My coaches telling me that there's nothing to lose made me feel so much better, and the support from them on the side, knowing that I'm not going to be out there alone," she said.

She also had support from her mother, her aunts and her siblings at the state tournament, along with support from Adams.

Rivera said the first match at the state tournament was really challenging.

"The girl was strong, she was tough, and the with second girl, I didn't want to lose that match and I tried my best. The third match, I had her (the opponent) for a second, but she still beat me," she said.

Adams said she was surprised she qualified for state.

"I was actually seeded sixth in my weight class, so I wasn't necessarily expected (to qualify) but I ended up placing third, and it was very exciting to go to experience this (the state tournament)," she said.

The matches at the regional tournament were tough.

"There were girls that definitely wanted it, but I was willing to fight and



PHOTO BY JACOB BRAWNER

Taya Adams and Angie Rivera pose on the floor of Xstream Arena in Coralville prior to last week Thursday before the start of the state wrestling tournament.

wanted it more," Adams said.

To prepare for the state meet, Adams said, "I always stick to my routine. At the end of the day, it's just another tournament. You've got to go wrestle your best, and you've got your teammates and coaches and your family behind you to support you."

Rivera said she went out for wrestling because she likes how physical the sport is.

"It's more of a you thing, not a team thing," she said, adding that it allows for a lot of individual growth.

"You compete against yourself to see if you get better, and see how you

develop, and how much you can focus on the mat," she explained.

She said wrestling has helped her grow as a person.

"You feel more confident about yourself and you're not afraid to just stick yourself out there," Rivera explained.

She added her siblings look up to her a lot and tell her how someday they want to be like her, or better.

Rivera has six siblings, all younger.

She looks forward to improving her wrestling technique, how she moves around on the mat, how she prepares for a match - improving on what she did

RIVERA AND ADAMS, PAGE 9



PHOTO BY SOPHIA BITTER, DUBUQUE TELEGRAPH HERALD

Angie Rivera (right) from Denison-Schleswig wrestles Jolee Strohmeyer from Dubuque Senior in a first-round match at the Iowa Girls High School Athletic Union state wrestling tournament last week Thursday.



PHOTO BY NEAVE LUNA-RUIZ, SPENCER REPORTER

Taya Adams (right) from Denison-Schleswig shakes hands with Kylah Loagan from Spencer. Adams wrestled against Loagan in her second match at the state tournament.

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Sports

DENISON-SCHLESWIG MONARCHS BOYS WRESTLING

Monarch wrestlers top East Sac and MVAO in duals

The Monarch boys' wrestling team traveled to Schaller February 1, to compete in four duals against Ridge

View, East Sac, MVAO-COU, and Storm Lake.

The Monarchs wrestled well throughout the night, said Assistant Coach Parker Preul.

Highlights were senior Plagge going 4-0 on the night and showing some major improvements.

"This is great to see as we move

into crunch time with the district tournament next weekend," said Preul.

Other highlights were that some of the younger wrestlers stepped up into the varsity lineup. Victor Arroyo, Richard Cruz-Nieto and Eric Flores all did a great job wrestling throughout the night with some of them seeing their first light of varsity this season, Preul said.

The Monarchs have one dual left on the season in Creston on Thursday and then will compete in the districts in Ames on Saturday.

The Monarchs lost their dual against Ridge View 49-18, won against East Sac 43-18, won over MVAO 48-24 and fell to Storm Lake 51-27.

DENISON-SCHLESWIG MONARCHS BASKETBALL

Monarch varsity girls fall in three road games

The Monarch girls played even with the Carroll girls in the first half of a basketball game on Saturday but could not match Carroll's scoring in the second half. Carroll came out on top 48-35.

The Denison-Schleswig girls led 12-9 after one quarter and 20-18 at the half. Then Carroll went on a 12-5 run in the third quarter and an 18-10 run in the final period.

Kiana Schulz tallied 14 for the Monarchs followed by 13 by Whitlee Auen. Mayah Slater added five points, Addison Inman scored two points and Gaby Cardenas had one.

Inman led the Monarchs in rebounding with six, followed by Schulz with five, Auen with four and Cardenas with three.

The night before, February 2, the Monarch girls fell to Atlantic 49-39. Denison-Schleswig led 12-11 after one quarter and then fell four points behind, 21-17. The Monarch girls scored 10 points in the third quarter to 12 points

for Atlantic. Atlantic pulled farther ahead with a 16-12 fourth quarter.

Schulz again led the Monarchs in scoring with 20 points. Cardenas scored six, Auen added five and Slater scored five. Inman and Samantha Chandler each scored two points.

On Tuesday, Kuemper held the upper hand with a 47-30 win over the Monarchs. The Monarchs outscored Kuemper 13-11 in the second quarter and 11-7 in the fourth quarter but could not overcome a 12-2 first quarter and a 17-4 third quarter in favor of Kuemper.

Inman, Schulz and Auen each scored five points for the Monarchs. Slater and Cardenas each added four. The scoring was rounded out with two each for Claire Leinen, Lola Mendlik and Lauryn Turin, and one for Chandler.

In junior varsity action, the Monarchs topped Atlantic 36-27 on Friday, registered a 37-30 win over Carroll on Saturday and defeated Kuemper 33-29 on Tuesday.

Monarch boys win back-to-back-to-back road games

The Monarch varsity boys' basketball team took home victories in two road games this weekend and another one on Tuesday. They won 57-51 over Atlantic on Friday and topped Carroll 57-50 on Saturday and won over Kuemper 63-61 Tuesday.

The Kuemper game was the third of five road games.

In the Atlantic game, quarter scores were 18-11 Monarchs, 28-25 Monarchs and 45-39 Monarchs.

Head Coach Derek Fink talked about the challenge of having the five road straight road games.

"We talked about things, that it won't be perfect and teams will shoot a better percentage at home, and that we needed to make sure we got off on the right foot," he said.

He gave Atlantic credit for keeping the game close when the Monarchs built a double-digit lead in the first half and even grabbing the lead.

"Finally, towards the end of the third and the start of the fourth quarter, we were able to extend the lead to 12 to 15 points for most of the fourth quarter until the very end," Fink said.

He said it was a good, solid win but thinks his team can play even better.

"We were able to keep (Colton) Rasmussen to eight points below his season average, so a really good defensive effort for a team to hold a team averaging in the upper 60s to 51 points," Fink said.

Rasmussen ended up scoring 20 points.

For the Monarchs, Luke Wiebers and Lance Arkfeld each poured in 21 points. Jake Fink added 10, Easton Emery scored three and Kole Towne scored two points.

Fink said he knew when the season's schedule came out that the Monarchs would be facing a tough battle on a short rest to play Carroll on the road the night after the Atlantic game.

Jake Fink sparked the Monarchs in the first half of the Carroll game by scoring 15 of his game-high 17 points.

In the second half, Carroll closed

the gap by giving the Monarchs half-court pressure. But Lance Arkfeld came through, scoring all 15 of his points in the third and fourth quarters.

"Defensively, we did really good in guarding the three-point line and made some big stops at the end of the game," Fink said.

Quarter scores were 17-14 Monarchs, 28-24 Monarchs and 41-37 Carroll. The Monarchs outscored Carroll 20-4 in the fourth quarter.

Along with Fink's 17 and Arkfeld's 15 points, Luke Wiebers was also in double-digits with 14.

On Tuesday the Monarchs led Kuemper 23-17 after one quarter and 41-36 at the half. Carroll took a 52-51 lead going into the fourth quarter where the Monarchs outscored their opponent 12-9.

The win put the Monarchs' overall record at 10-7. Their conference record was 8-2 - a tie for second place.

Coach Derek Fink said he knew Kuemper would be a tough place to play.

"I don't think Kuemper had lost at home all year, against a team playing for a share of the conference, and frankly a team that beat us pretty good at our place early this year," he said. "Give our guys credit for coming out of the gate from the word go and playing really well on both ends."

He saw his team's performance in the first half as probably the best it had been offensively all year.

"Defensively we held a team averaging almost 75 a game to 61 points, and the nine-point fourth quarter was the difference in the game," Fink said. "Congrats to our kids for a great performance."

Arkfeld scored 23 points and Wiebers added 21 for the Monarchs. Scoring was rounded out with seven each for Emery and Grady, three for Jake Fink and two for Towne.

The Monarchs have another road game on Thursday, against AHSTW, and on Friday the team will be on the road again against Glenwood. The Monarchs will play their final home game on Tuesday against Atlantic again.

In junior varsity action, the Monarchs topped Atlantic 54-47 and lost to Carroll 62-32.

DENISON-SCHLESWIG MONARCHS BOWLING

Monarch bowlers win at home bakers tournament

The Denison-Schleswig varsity boys won their first Monarch Baker Tournament at Lucky Lanes in Denison on February 1.

Teams they competed against were Greene County, Harlan, Lewis Central, OABCIG, and Sioux City East.

The boys began the tournament on lanes 11 and 12. It took a few games for the boys to find their groove, but they got locked in by the fourth game. Their first set of baker games were 195, 154, 161, and 257. This put the varsity boys in third place as Lewis Central and OABCIG had totals of over 1000 pins.

Their second set of bakers were on lanes 7 and 8. This was by far their best set, said Head Coach Shelby Brawner. They bowled games of 190, 199, 221, 200, and 170.

After the second set of bakers, the boys were in second place behind Lewis Central by nine pins. They managed to jump ahead of OABCIG and were ahead of them by 97 pins. In the third set of bakers, the boys moved to lanes 9 and 10. These lanes were their most challenging. They threw games of 206, 179, 148, 247, and 161. They ended with a score of 2884 and placed first in the tournament.

The varsity girls won their first Monarch Baker Tournament. Teams they competed against were Greene County, Harlan, Lewis Central,

OABCIG, and Sioux City East.

The girls began the tournament on lanes 3 and 4. Brawner said they started off really strong this set, had a few weak games in the middle, but were able to bring it back the last two games.

Their first set of baker games were 195, 132, 139, 166, and 202. This put the varsity girls in 1st place with Lewis Central behind them. Their second set of bakers were on lanes 5 and 6. They bowled games of 172, 158, 156, 138, and 171.

After the second set of bakers, the girls were still in first place behind Lewis Central by 99 pins.

The third set of bakers, the girls moved to lanes 1 and 2. They threw games of 165, 160, 152, 158, and 173.

They ended with a score of 2437 and placing first in the tournament.

On February 5, the varsity boys lost their meet against host Clarinda. High games were Jett Paulsen with a 287, Jackson Steinkuehler with a 215, Gavin Schmadeke with a 198, Jake Fink with a 192, and Grant Fink with a 192.

Paulsen had 10 strikes in a row in his first game and ended with a seven spare for his 287 game.

Paulsen had the high series of 466 with games of 287 and 179.

The varsity boys were down 44 pins going into bakers. Their first three games were 164, 213, and 160. At this point, it was very obvious that the boys favored one lane over the other. They finished their baker round with games of 172 and 182.

The boys ended up losing to Clarinda 2968 to 2833.

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CONGRATULATIONS

Taya Adams and Angie Rivera, for your courage during the season, and Thank you for representing us in the State Tournament!



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Don't fix what's not broken Planning underway for Tri City BBQ Fest 2024

BY DAN MUNDT

Planning is underway for the 2024 Tri City BBQ Fest, which will take over uptown Denison on September 20 and 21.

The event will celebrate its 10th anniversary this year.

Paul Plumb, executive director of the Chamber & Development Council (CDC) of Crawford County, said the CDC team plans to continue the traditions established in past Tri City BBQ Fest events.

"We don't want to fix something that's not broken," Plumb said. "It won't be a huge reset, but we want to bring in some new ideas. We're looking at new street vendors and other options that would add a little bit to the things we're already doing."

"We've had good feedback from the public and we're thinking about some enhancements," said Crawford County Tourism Coordinator Drew Perrien.

Mariah Nutt, CDC office manager, said the bands, the Kids Zone and food vendors have been the most common areas for which she has received feedback.

Plumb said this year's 10th anniversary may play into which bands are invited.

"We may want to bring back some of the bands that were very popular and maybe haven't been here in a while," he said.

The BBQ fest's growth over the years is a selling point for bands that haven't been to the event in the past.

"When they go on the website and see the crowds, that's always a plus for them," Plumb said. "If you're in a band, you love to play in front of a good crowd."

"We have a lot of bands that we've had before that reach out to us," Nutt said. "They played here once or twice and want to come back. That's always a good sign when the bands want to come back."

Plumb said the CDC will continue to push for the BBQ Fest to be profitable and sustainable.

"We want to make sure it's profitable so we can continue having it," he said. "We are a nonprofit organization and we want to be mindful of that and also

make sure we're fiscally responsible in that we see a return."

"It only takes one bad year," Nutt said. "It would be detrimental if we don't have some reserve funds."

She said a CDC goal is to make sure enough funds are always on hand to sustain the festival if a bad year were to happen.

The weather in September is never guaranteed, Plumb noted.

"Knock on wood," he added.

Nutt said the next big effort will be to sign sponsors.

Many of the past sponsors have shown interest in signing on for the 10th anniversary event, she said.

Another task will be to reach out to individuals interested in being volunteer managers for the various areas of the event.

"They're the foundation this was built on," Perrien said.

"A lot of different things happen at the BBQ fest that the general public might not even know about," Nutt said. "We're only a staff of three, so we can only be so many places at the same time. We're thankful for the volunteers every year. We can't say it enough."

"One of the main reasons this has been so successful is the system that was set up," Plumb said. "Those folks have stepped in year after year; they got to know the process pretty well, and have done a great job with it."

Plumb pointed out that the past employees of the CDC were the ones who created the Tri City BBQ Fest and made it into the county's signature event.

"We're lucky to have it for economic development," Nutt said. "It puts dollars into the local economy when people come here and shop and get gas at the gas stations. The local stores say they get a lot of people who come back to shop at Christmastime because they visited during BBQ Fest."

For the 2024 event, the CDC will be at full strength for the first time in two years following changes to all the staff positions.

This year's event will be Nutt's third as office manager, Plumb's second as executive director, and Perrien's first as tourism coordinator.

Nutt pointed out that even though the CDC is now kicking off the planning for this year's BBQ Fest, planning never really stops.

"When the last one ends, the next one starts," she said.

Denison Middle School brings Roald Dahl classic to life on stage

The Denison High School Fine Arts Center will be filled by the smell of rebellion when the Denison Middle School Vocal Department presents Roald Dahl's "Matilda The Musical JR." on Thursday, February 15, at 7 p.m.

The musical tells the story of an extraordinary girl who, armed with a vivid imagination and a sharp mind, dares to take a stand and change her own destiny.

Through the process of putting on this musical, the students are doing just that: they are joining together and working hard to create an extraordinary event for their community.

"Matilda The Musical JR." is adapted from the full-length musical which was based on the book by Roald Dahl and features a book by Dennis Kelly and music and lyrics by Tim Minchin. The show opened on the West End in New York City in 2011 and made its Broadway premiere in 2013. It earned seven Olivier Awards, including "Best New Musical," and five Tony

awards, including The Tony for "Best Book of a Musical."

Matilda, a little girl with astonishing wit, intelligence and psychokinetic powers, lives with cruel parents who find her to be a nuisance, a lousy little worm, and a bore. When Matilda enters her first term at school, she captures the attention of Miss Honey, a kind teacher, and the two form a wonderful friendship. Unfortunately, the school is ruled by a tempestuous and mean headmistress named Miss Trunchbull, who hates children and delivers cruel and unjust punishments to all her charges. Matilda is determined to change her story, but will her cleverness and courage be enough to withstand the reign of Miss Trunchbull?

"Matilda The Musical JR." is presented through special arrangement with and all authorized materials are supplied by Music Theatre International 423 West 55th Street, New York, New York.

Tickets are only available at the door and will be \$2 for students and \$5 for adults.



PHOTOS BY GORDON WOLF

Claire Olsen (as Miss Honey) and Olivia DeVore (as Matilda) plan how to navigate an unfair life while singing about a better tomorrow during a rehearsal for the Denison Middle School Vocal Department performance of Roald Dahl's "Matilda The Musical Jr." The musical will be performed on February 15 at the Denison High School Fine Arts Center.



In front, from left, Jessie Schmidt and Ella Bahnsen and in back, Jaylin Koch, Scarlet Torrey and Nyadaang Koang sing the song "When I Grow Up," dreaming about what it would be like to be a grownup.



Lauren Lambert, as Miss Trunchbull, headmistress of the school, putting the students through a workout to stop any chance of a student revolt.



PHOTO BY DAN MUNDT

Adam Doleac, the final act on Saturday night of the 2023 Tri City BBQ Fest, played to a big crowd at the intersection of Broadway and Main Streets in Denison.

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RIVERA AND ADAMS, FROM PAGE 6

this year. Wrestling was ingrained in Adams at an early age. Her older brother wrestled, as did her father and her uncle. "It was always kind of there in the back of my head and I really wanted to try it for myself," she said. "I wanted to go out for wrestling when I was in middle school and my early high school years, but my parents would never, ever let that happen."

Then girls' wrestling was sanctioned last year, opening the path for Adams to join the sport.

Adams commented on the discipline and dedication it takes to wrestle and to qualify for the state tournament.

"Wrestling is more of an individual sport. It is definitely also a mental game," she said. "You have to get physically strong enough and also mentally strong enough to push yourself past your breaking point so you can become a better wrestler."

"Even though your body is tired, and your mind tells you you're tired, your body can always go further. You have to push past that mental block so you can go further," she added.

She said wrestling has helped her grow as a person.

"Wrestling is a sport that you carry with you your whole life. It makes you stronger as a person. You can push past

things mentally. You understand how things work," Adams said.

She said the mental toughness has carried on to other sports she participates in.

"My coach always says wrestle when you're tired," Adams said. "Whenever I want to give up, I always say that, and then you just push through."

As Rivera looks back on this year and last year, she will remember the experiences of the matches.

"And the people I went with last year and this year," she added, "and meeting new people and wrestling new people as well."

Adams said she will always remember the car rides to the state tournament and what it was like when she and Rivera were warming up, and in addition, seeing all the other teams there with their coaches that they had wrestled before.

Brawner commented on the season and the future of girls' wrestling. He was an assistant coach for boys' wrestling for five years and then switched to girls wrestling when it was sanctioned last year.

"The biggest thing for Taya, I feel we really kind of maximized what she had in the time we had (two years). Kind of like Claire Miller from last year, if we only had two more years, but that's just

where the sport is at right now," he said. There will be more Claires and more Tayas. We just have to identify those girls and get them out (for the sport) younger, get them out in youth clubs. That's going to be a big push because programs around the state will keep getting tougher and tougher, no doubt."

He added, "This year, especially, we had a stronger team overall. We were a lot more competitive throughout the season, from a team perspective, and to me that's the biggest shift. I know wrestling is an individual sport but it's also a team sport, and once we can get that more competitive lineup, girls start wrestling for each other. That's where you see some of these big upsets at state."

Brawner pointed out that there are still a lot of beginners in girls' wrestling, and it's important for them to have a game plan when they get on the mat.

"Have your go-to moves because that's what you're always going fall back on," he explained. "We don't want to revert to just rolling around with no plan. That's where Taya really excelled."

He said from a physical perspective, a goal is to get stronger, but the biggest thing most girls need is more mat time.

"We work on what we call chain wrestling – not just one move at a time," Brawner added. "There's a lot of things going on at the same time in a wrestling match. Mat awareness is probably the biggest thing."

In Remembrance



Mary H. (Zeimen) Lally
October 13, 1929 - January 23, 2024

Mary H. (Zeimen) Lally was born on October 13, 1929, on a farm near Mapleton, Iowa, the daughter of Nicholas and Sarah (Uhl) Zeimen. Mary passed away peacefully, surrounded by her family, on Tuesday, January 23, 2024 at the Crawford County Memorial Hospital in Denison, attaining the age of 94 years.

Mary attended the country school near their home when they moved to a farm in Paradise Township, west of Denison. On September 14, 1950, Mary married the love of her life, Martin Lally, at St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church in Denison. Their union was blessed with eight children. They moved to the family farm in 1962 to present.

Mary's life was filled with love and compassion and was a beautiful and kind person. She dedicated herself to her family and found true joy in the simple things in life. Time with her grandchildren brought her immense happiness and each visit to her farm was an unforgettable adventure. She was a loving wife, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother.

She loved nature walks, collecting pretty rocks, gardening, baking, reading, and she loved to write. In retirement, Mary and Marty loved to travel with their many friends. Mary lived life by the sentiment, if you get the choice to sit it out or dance, I hope you dance.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Martin; son, Kenny; sisters: Lucille (Johnny) Uhl, Sister Marci Zeimen, and Rita (Wes) Freml; brothers: Maurice Zeimen, and Gilbert (Irma and Virginia) Zeimen; sister-in-law, Jan Zeimen; brother-in-law, Dewey Whited; sons-in-law: Randy Williams and Roger Wyant; In-laws: Jane Marie, Elmer Thompson, John and Regina Lally, Joe and Rita Lally, Catherine and Johnny Lawler, Genevieve and Ed Pribyl, Helen and Bob Dieter, Theresa and Jim Haney, and Francis Paul.

Survivors include her children: David (Bill), Terry (DeeDee), Carolyn Wyant, Tim (Juan), Martina Turner (Scott), Don Lally, and Maria (Greg); daughter-in-law, Rosie Lally; 8 grandchildren: Jeremy Lally, Stephanie Bunyan, Kari Boyens, Marty Williams, Trent Lally, Trevor Lally, Tessa Genners, and Jessica Riva; 19 great-grandchildren; siblings: Ann Whited, Sister Maria Zeimen, Joe Zeimen, Ray (Bev) Zeimen, and Robert Zeimen; many nieces, nephews, many other relatives and friends.

Mass of Christian Burial was held 11:00 AM, Saturday, February 3, 2024 at St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church in Denison, Iowa. Rev. Shinoj Jose served as Celebrant of the Mass with interment in the St. Rose of Lima Cemetery. Organist Judy Thams provided accompaniment for soloist EveVonne Muff who sang "Here I Am, Lord," "Prayer of St. Francis," "Ave Maria" and "On Eagle's Wings." Grace and Tricia Collins served as mass servers, Sister Maria Zeimen and Trevor Lally served as lectors, offertory gift bearers were Mary's Great-great-grandchildren, and Sister Maria Zeimen served as Eucharistic Minister. Serving as pallbearers were Jeremy Lally, Stephanie Bunyan, Kari Boyens, Marty Williams, Trent Lally, Trevor Lally, Tessa Genners and Jessica Riva. Immediately following Mass, the family invited everyone to the Zion Fellowship Hall for a time of fellowship and lunch. Services were entrusted to the Huebner Funeral Home.

CDC welcomes Cronk's Café

The Chamber & Development Council (CDC) of Crawford County made a presentation to Omar Patino, owner of Cronk's Café, and conducted a ribbon cutting ceremony at the restaurant last week Wednesday.

Cronk's Café reopened under Patino's ownership in late November after being closed a few months shy of four years.

Omar said his father, Ramon Patino, wanted to open the restaurant after seeing it empty for so many years because he knew that people had many memories of eating at Cronk's.

Omar said Cronk's has added daily lunch specials, and he is open to any suggestions for menu items.

The restaurant features the well-known Sunday brunch. A crab leg buffet is offered on Thursday nights.

He added he is thinking of starting deliveries.

Omar said he appreciates the support of the community and the support of people from nearby towns.



PHOTO BY GORDON WOLF

The Chamber & Development Council of Crawford County conducted a ribbon cutting ceremony at Cronk's Café last week Wednesday. Omar Patino, the owner, cuts the ribbon. With him are his siblings, Ramon Patino Jr. and Patricia Patino.

Denison FFA members participate in FFA Day at the Capitol

FFA members from across Iowa converged on the Iowa State Capitol in Des Moines to build character and promote citizenship, volunteerism, and patriotism. More than 700 high school students wearing blue corduroy from 118 schools visited the Iowa State Capitol Building in Des Moines on January 30.

The students visited with legislators, exhibited skills learned in the agriculture classroom and learned the importance of citizenship. It was all part of the 39th Annual Iowa FFA Legislative Symposium and FFA Day at the Capitol.

In the morning, FFA members gathered at the Downtown Embassy Suites and enjoyed a brief message from Lt. Governor Adam Gregg, who then presented the FFA Week Proclamation. The proclamation officially declares February 17-24, the week of President George Washington's Birthday, as FFA Week in Iowa.

The morning program provided opportunities for FFA members to hear from Mike Naig, Iowa Secretary of Agriculture, about the importance of agriculture in Iowa and abroad. Iowa

Farm Bureau Federation President Brent Johnson then delivered a message about the importance young agriculturalists can play in the agriculture industry.

Jake Swanson from High Yield Strategies spoke about the importance of advocating for the agricultural

industry.

The 39th Annual Iowa FFA Legislative Symposium and FFA Day at the Capitol was made possible with support from Iowa Farm Bureau Federation through the Iowa FFA Foundation.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Denison FFA members and their advisor met with Rep. Steve Holt during a visit to the Iowa Capitol on Iowa FFA Day on January 30. From left are Holt, Jaxson Henningsen, Calli Korner (in chair), Brittany Musgrave, Mylie Kaub, Alex Von Tersch and Advisor Rebecca Dresen.

The eagle has landed

Jackie Thomsen, of Woodbine, captured this picture of a bald eagle in Denison on Sunday. The eagle landed on one of the ponds on the south side of Highway 30 near the Chamberlin Drive on the west side of the city.



TECHNOLOGY SHOWCASE, FROM PAGE 1



PHOTOS BY GORDON WOLF

Ivy Salinas and Brysen Point, students in Jamie Nelson's class, show how their Bee-Bot robot works as Principal Chris Schulz and reading teacher Colleen Martin watch.

Beebots, Finch robots, Dash robots and Ozobots.

These robots were outfitted with attachments made of paper, cardboard and other materials designed to sweep away "trash" and deposit it in an imaginary bin.

Before powering up their robots, using code, the teams of students gave presentations, using their speaking skills and computer skills. Similar to a sales pitch seen on television, each team's presentation explained how the robot operates and highlighted its main selling points. In addition, students put a price on their robot.

The idea for robot floor cleaners came about because it was a relatable problem for the kids to understand, said Pick.

"As we were learning about the innovation of technology, we wanted to find something that kids would understand," she explained in an email. "Also, many of the teachers are taking a class from New-Bo-Co. This class is teaching us more ways to infuse technology into our classroom lessons."

Darin Johnson, technology integrationist at the school, added that the computer science professional development through NewBoCo takes place for a couple of hours on in-service days.

The programming skills used by the students were previously learned in Stephanie Prussing's Ed Tech classes on coding robots.

To prepare their robots and their presentations, the students were given a rubric and a Google Slide presentation with expectations.

"During class every day we worked on a plan with the students that had various steps for them to complete," Pick said. "The presentation was based on a third grader that was on Shark Tank and thus the prototype idea was brought about."

The idea for the third graders giving

sales pitches, also derived from the Shark Tank program, allowed teachers to incorporate more standards into the presentations.

"We really wanted to incorporate the 4C's - Collaboration, Creativity, Critical Thinking and Communication - into the program, along with perseverance practice and language skills," Pick said.

"The kids are excited," she said on Friday. "They are thinking outside the box and showing perseverance."

She added that the teachers were pleased that so many parents showed up to watch their kids' presentations.



Amanda Evers, a kindergarten teacher, looks at the robot that Adrian Magana is holding. Adrian is a student in Megan Nahnsen's class.



Daniela Mayen, Anthony Vargas and Nathaly Perez, students in Carrie Gunderson's class, give a presentation of their product to Jaqueline Scheuring, a reading teacher at Denison Elementary School.



Ashley Salazar, Gimenna Lopez and Jasmine So, students in Megan Nahnsen class, talk about their robot, which they named Ruby.



Daniel Marquez, Joselyn Navarro, Richard Hernandez and Brisa Reynolds, students in Katie Pick's class, pose with their robot floor cleaner. They chose a Finch Robot for their project.



Isabella Duysen, Brinley Fink and Alizmary Medrano, students in Erin Plagge's class, show their robot floor cleaner.



This Finch Robot uses long arms to sweep up trash. It is a project of Daniel Marquez, Joselyn Navarro, Richard Hernandez and Brisa Reynolds.



Edryk Corona, Akok Anei and Chesney Head give their presentation using their speaking skills accompanied by images on their computer. They are students in Jamie Nelson's class.



Kayla Wieman, Sofia Valdez and Diego Lopez show their robot. They are students in Katie Pick's classroom. Names of students in these photos are not necessarily in order.

Monday Funday activities



PHOTOS BY GORDON WOLF

Youngsters in grades TK through fifth enjoyed a day off of school on Monday by participating in Monday Funday in the afternoon at First United Methodist Church in Denison. Pictured, Chesney Head, Arlynn Gonzalez and Sheyla Pineda play with the artificial snow they made. Also pictured, Julian Gonzalez shows the result of a craft-making session – a stained glass mosaic using tissue paper.



Our news is also published online!

Featured stories and more at DENISONFREEPRESS.COM

HELLO! I'M
Angela Isabella
BORN JANUARY 12, 2024
4:30 PM • 6 LB 14 OZ • 20.5 IN
WELCOMED WITH LOVE BY:
YADIRA
CRAWFORD COUNTY MEMORIAL HOSPITAL
WWW.CCMHIA.COM/ONLINE-NURSERY
WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/CCMHDENISON



HELLO! I'M
Soren Allen
BORN JANUARY 13, 2024
2:32 PM • 5 LB 13 OZ • 18 IN
WELCOMED WITH LOVE BY:
TIFFANY & JOSH
CRAWFORD COUNTY MEMORIAL HOSPITAL
WWW.CCMHIA.COM/ONLINE-NURSERY
WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/CCMHDENISON



HELLO! I'M
Victoria Rose
BORN JANUARY 20, 2024
3:50 PM • 7 LB 10 OZ • 19 IN
WELCOMED WITH LOVE BY:
JENNIFER & ASH
CRAWFORD COUNTY MEMORIAL HOSPITAL
WWW.CCMHIA.COM/ONLINE-NURSERY
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PHOTOS BY GORDON WOLF

One of the on-the-spot jobs at Sunday's "Scouting for Food Chili Supper," is the grilled cheese sandwich assembly line, demonstrated in the photos by members of Boy Scout Troop 55. In the first picture, Reed Meseck (left) and Charlie Logan butter the bread and slap on the cheese. Second, Bently Brown, Cooper Gehlsen and Noah Hilpiper (from front to back) handle the grilling. Finally, Greyson Henningson (left) and Jasper Christensen wrap the sandwiches in foil. The 18th annual "Scouting for Food Chili Supper," was organized by Boy Scout Troop 55, Cub Scout Pack 49, and Girl Scout Troop 274 and took place at the First United Methodist Church in Denison. The supper provided funds and supplies for T.A.P., the Woodbine Community Food Pantry, and the Emergency Food Pantry at First United Methodist Church.



Pictured, Kinnick Slechta organizes the donated items for the food pantries on a table.

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Mario Kart at St. Rose

Students at St. Rose of Lima Catholic School in Denison had a fun time in physical education on Thursday, playing a live version of Mario Kart Cleanup. Physical education teacher, Tracey Schechinger,

set up the Mario Kart course in the gym to give students a fun way to exercise. The students had to push or pull each other around on scooters and pick up items representing trash to put in the correct buckets. This is the third year the students have enjoyed Mario Kart Cleanup.



PHOTOS BY GORDON WOLF

Pictured, Vanessa, Addie, Jessica and Keven run the course.



Sierra, Arianna, Jonathan and Alekxavier end up in a traffic jam at one of the turning points in the course.

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