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Local News  
Local Journalists  
Local Ownership

# The Denison Free Press

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TAKE ONE!

Vol. 1 | No. 33

SERVING DENISON & CRAWFORD COUNTY, IOWA

February 15, 2024

## Giving hands-on experience Desy proposes paid JCS internships

BY DAN MUNDT

Nate Desy, Juvenile Court Services (JCS) officer for the Third Judicial District in Iowa, visited the Crawford County Board of Supervisors meeting on Tuesday, February 13, to discuss the possibility of creating a paid internship program for college students interested in working in Juvenile Court Services.

"What we're seeing in juvenile court is the new JCOs (juvenile court officers) coming in from college not having that hands-on experience," Desy said.

Unpaid internships are available, but Desy noted that unpaid internships are difficult for college students.

A paid internship would be for individuals who intend to pursue JCS as a career, he said.

"I wouldn't request this if I didn't think that we were investing in the future," Desy said.

He said he envisions providing a paid internship for college students who have already been through an unpaid internship and show initiative and motivation for a career related to JCS.

At that stage, the students may be considering making a choice between the Iowa Department of Human Services (DHS) or JCS.

He said he had inquired with JCS multiple times about creating a paid internship but had been turned down due to budget issues – but said he completely understands that perspective.

"I've been around long enough to know that it's very rare for that to even happen," Desy said.

Another possibility would be for the county to provide help with a similar internship for the county attorney's office; Desy pointed out that he works often with Assistant County Attorney Martha Sibbel on DHS and JCS cases.

Desy said he is proposing a summer-only paid internship that would work with his office and the county attorney's office; it would start with a formal interview process to determine what his office and the county attorney's office need and what the student needs from the internship.

"What we do understand though is they (the students) benefit so much from those internships that when they do apply for those positions ...

INTERNSHIPS, PAGE 3

## Presenting a playground



PHOTO BY GORDON WOLF

Tara Wareham, program coordinator for Denison Parks & Rec, talks about the new Washington Park playground with St. Rose students Mateo Contreras, Camilla Andrade, Enaiyrah Lemus and Alondra Lara (with back towards the camera).

BY GORDON WOLF

Late last week and on Monday of this week, the eventual users of the new Washington Park playground were clued in on what is coming.

Presentations were made at Unity Ridge, Denison Elementary, Broadway Elementary and St. Rose.

Denison Mayor Pam Soseman

and Tara Wareham, the new program coordinator for Denison Parks & Rec, spoke about a zip line, a trampoline that can be accessed by wheelchairs, music-making features and other equipment that will be part of the playground.

PLAYGROUND, PAGE 10

## From the town to the country

Renee VonGlan honored by cattlemen



PHOTO BY GORDON WOLF

Renee VonGlan is pictured with her family. She is pictured in front with Cody's girlfriend, Hannah Kraus. In back are Cody, Tyson, Clint and Ben VonGlan.

BY GORDON WOLF

A person who is well known behind the scenes with the Crawford County Cattlemen's Association received the annual Service Award at the organization's annual banquet Saturday

at Boulders Conference Center. Nick Anderson, an officer with the cattlemen's group, presented the plaque

VONGLAN, PAGE 4

## Immigrant Heritage Festival 2024 is set for June

Sponsors, cultural performers sought



PHOTO BY GORDON WOLF

Individuals from the Gurkulam Center for Indian Arts performed at the 2023 Immigrant Heritage Festival.

BY DAN MUNDT

Planning is underway for this summer's Immigrant Heritage Festival, which is now in its third year.

The event will take place from 3 to 8 p.m. on June 29 at Washington Park in Denison.

The Denison chapter of the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) created the Immigrant Heritage Festival.

"The festival committee met in January for the first time and we decided we love the theme that we've had for the past two years – 'Immigration is Beautiful,'" said LULAC Denison President Alma Puga.

"We think that's fitting as our community theme for the festival, because it's a celebration of the various groups here in Denison. We need to embrace that cultural diversity because immigrants make our communities strong, especially rural communities."

The festival celebrates immigrants of all eras, she noted.

"We're embracing the immigrants of today but we're also embracing the immigrants of yesterday," she said. "We have large German and Irish communities here, too."

The purpose of the event is to bring all cultural communities together, Puga said.

"Back in the day, there was Cinco de Mayo and Fiesta del Pueblo that celebrated Latinos, but our goal with

HERITAGE, PAGE 3



PHOTO BY DAN MUNDT

Pinewood derby cars may be decorated in any way an entrant chooses. This example was made by Doug Soseman.

## A Pinewood Derby for everyone

Scouts event is open to the public

BY DAN MUNDT

Each spring, scouts in Denison's Cub Scout Pack 49 compete in a pinewood derby, for which the kids build small, unpowered racing cars.

This year, the event has been reimagined to open the race to anyone and everyone in the community.

"It will be a good way to get the public involved in a scouting event, and we're hoping that it will help with recruiting for Cub Scout Pack 49," said Troy Gehlsen, Denison Boy Scout Troop 55 leader. "It's a way to let the public know that scouting is still alive and well in Denison."

Gehlsen and Calista Earl, Cub Scout Pack 49 leader, are working together on the new version of the event.

"When Pack 49 and Troop 55 got together, we were just trying to brainstorm what we could do together for a public event. We thought about the pinewood derby, because the scouts are always known for pinewood derbies," Gehlsen said. "If a former scout has really good memories of scouting, one of them has to be the pinewood derby."

Gehlsen encourages everyone to consider entering the contest.

"It doesn't matter if you're a student who's not a scout or a high school kid or a business owner or a parent or anybody," he said. "We will get you a kit, you can

DERBY, PAGE 3

# Billy McGuigan to bring Pop Rock Orchestra to Denison on February 20

Crawford County Arts and Broadway Dental will present Billy McGuigan's Pop Rock Orchestra in concert on Tuesday, February 20, at the Denison High School Fine Arts Center.

The concert, which is part of the Crawford County Arts series, will begin at 7:30 p.m.

Billy McGuigan's Pop Rock Orchestra will present a high-energy mixture of rock 'n' roll mega hits in symphonic arrangements.

Highlights of the program are "Evil Woman" by ELO, "These Boots Are Made For Walking" by Nancy Sinatra, "After Midnight" by Eric Clapton, "Saturday Night's All Right For Fighting" by Elton John, "Got My Mind Set On You" by George Harrison, "Everybody Wants To Rule

The World" by Tears for Fears, "Don't Let The Sun Catch You Crying" by Gerry and the Pacemakers, "That's All Right Mama" by Elvis, "Tequila" by The Champs, "My Girl" by the Temptations, "Dancing Queen" by ABBA, "Movin' Out" by Billy Joel, "Gimme Some Lovin'" by the Spencer Davis Group, "Mr Blue Sky" by ELO, and "Johnny Be Goode" by Chuck Berry.

McGuigan has a number of other touring shows. "Rave On! The Buddy Holly Experience" and "Yesterday and Today: The Interactive Beatles Experience" have been performed in Denison in the past.

On September 10 last year, McGuigan was inducted into the Nebraska Music Hall of Fame.



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# It is time to End Abortion in Iowa!

## Representative Steven Holt

Chair of the House Judiciary Committee is **REFUSING** to give HF2256 a public hearing.

HF2256 gives equal protection under the law for **ALL LIFE FROM CONCEPTION.**



# Pro Life Protects All Life

## It is time for Iowans to speak up!

Call and Email Representative Steven Holt NOW

Steven.holt@legis.iowa.gov | (515) 281-3221  
before the bill dies at the end of day Friday 16, 2024.

Ask Rep Holt to give HF2256 a public hearing

EndAbortionIowa.com

The Iowa Right to Life has registered in SUPPORT of HF2256

## Cars can't weigh more than five ounces on race day

DERBY, FROM PAGE 1

build it and show up on race day and we can have some fun."

For a \$25 entry fee, participants will receive a kit for making a car for the race.

"The kit has a block of (pine) wood, four wheels and the axles; basically, anything you need to build the car is right there," he said. "If you need sandpaper and graphite (to be used as an axle lubricant) or anything like that, it's up to the individual who is building the car. You can paint it any color you want, or you can wrap it. One year, one of our scouts made it look like a shark. It looked pretty cool."

Others have decorated their cars to look like race cars or added logos from their favorite football or baseball teams.

"You can get creative with them," Gehlsen said. "You can shape it any way you want; there's a science to this stuff and some people really get into it."

The one rule that can't be changed is that the car must not weigh more than five ounces on race day.

"We have a really good scale," he said. "If it comes in a little too heavy, we can take weights off or drill holes in the bottom to lighten the load, but it cannot be over five ounces."

The entry fee covers the cost of the kit and will pay for the awards given on race day.

"It's also a small fundraiser for Pack 49 for taking their time to put on the event," Gehlsen said.

The scouts have a four-lane aluminum racetrack with an electronic scoreboard that will be used for the derby.

"It's a pretty nice track," he said.

To enter or for more information, contact Gehlsen at 712-269-0597 or Earl at 712-269-9616.

Kits will be available by the end of February.

The pinewood derby will take place from 2-4 p.m. on March 10 at Boulders Conference Center.

"We have several boy scouts that have not raced for a while; they really want to race their cars," Gehlsen said.

"It's going to be a fun community event and a way to have a little fun with scouts, and if it helps do a little recruiting, that would be fantastic."



## Senior Lunch Menu

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

**Friday, February 16:**  
cook's choice

**Monday, February 19:**  
ham slice, roasted sweet potatoes, scalloped corn, whole wheat bread, pears

**Tuesday, February 20:**  
cheeseburger on whole wheat bun, potato salad, peas, strawberries

**Wednesday, February 21:**  
baked chicken parmesan with noodles, lettuce salad, frozen fruit cup, ice box cookie

**Thursday, February 22:**  
taco casserole, Mexican rice, banana

**Friday, February 23:**  
cook's choice

## MRES/DMU electric industry scholarships available

Application deadline is March 15

BY DAN MUNDT

Two types of scholarships related to education in the electric industry are available to students in the local area: lineworker/powerline and college/undergrad scholarships.

"One is specifically for line workers – powerline scholarships – and the other is for college or undergrad scholarships for a number of things in study related to the electric industry," said Rory Weis, Denison Municipal Utilities (DMU) general manager.

"The scholarships are a great way to encourage high school graduates to look at utility trades as something they might want to do for the rest of their lives. Now more than ever, in every trade you keep hearing there's a shortage of everybody from plumbers to electricians to linemen to certified water and wastewater operators. We hope this helps people possibly consider that as a future option."

The scholarships are provided annually by Missouri River Energy Services (MRES), of which DMU is a member.

"We are one of 61 member communities in the four states they serve," Weis said.

The first type of scholarship is a one-time \$2,000 scholarship for students enrolling in a full-time electrical lineworker or powerline program in one of seven technical colleges in the upper Midwest in the fall of 2024.

For this scholarship, applicants do not need to reside in a household receiving electric service from an MRES member utility.

Eligible technical colleges include Bismarck State College, Bismarck, North Dakota; Dakota County Technical College, Rosemount, Minnesota; Minnesota West Community and Technical College (Granite Falls, Jackson and Wadena, Minnesota, campuses); Mitchell Technical College, Mitchell, South Dakota; and Northwest Iowa Community College, Sheldon, Iowa.

The second type of scholarship is a \$1,000 scholarship for students pursuing a course of study related to the electric industry.

Qualified fields of study include electrical technician training, engineering, math, science, energy management, accounting, communications, economics and other areas.

This scholarship is renewable for up to three years at \$1,000 per year.

To be eligible, a graduating high school senior must live in a home powered by an MRES member utility and enroll in a full-time undergraduate program at an accredited two- or four-year college, university or technical school.

Weis noted that Manilla and Woodbine are also members of MRES, so students in those towns are also eligible for this scholarship.

Anna Wiges and Jazmine Iglesias, of Denison, received \$1,000 MRES scholarships last May.

Weis said employment in the electric industry can be very rewarding.

"I'm now looking at about 45 years in the industry, and it's been nothing but good for me," he said. "I would encourage young adults to definitely take a look at it."

Scan the QR code on this page for more information about the scholarships.



## Silent auction donations sought

HERITAGE, FROM PAGE 1

the Immigrant Heritage Festival is to embrace all the different groups," she said. "LULAC's mission focuses on Latinos, but with this festival we want to include everyone."

The event is a fundraiser for scholarships LULAC Denison provides annually and for the organization's endowment fund.

"Last year, we raised almost \$9,000," Puga said. "The festival is one of our biggest fundraisers for the scholarship program."

The number of scholarships LULAC Denison is able to provide will depend on the amount raised at the festival.

The national LULAC organization provides a 60% match for funds raised locally.

"If we spend \$100, they send \$160 back," she said. "I think it's a great program."

LULAC Denison is just beginning the process of seeking sponsors for the Immigrant Heritage Festival.

"Every year, we're raising more and more money and we have to thank all of our sponsors, of course," Puga said. "We are working on getting our sponsorship letters out to the businesses."

The top sponsor levels are Marquee, \$3,000, for all rights to the events stage;

Champion, \$2,000; Advocate, \$1,500; Partner, \$1,000; and Supporter, \$500 and under.

"Of course, a lot of groups are asking for donations this time of year, so we are also asking for in-kind donations for our silent auction," she said.

New and diverse cultural performers are also being sought.

"Performers from any cultural tradition are welcome to join in," Puga said. "We are always looking for more. We want people to perform here that are local but we are also reaching out to surrounding communities."

In past years, performers from Lincoln, Omaha and Storm Lake have made the trek to Denison to join in the festival.

LULAC Denison is also seeking new and returning vendors for the event.

The festival will begin with a parade that will make its way from Uptown Denison to Washington Park.

"We encourage everyone, including businesses, to participate in the parade to show their culture and their heritage," Puga said.

The organizational effort for the Immigrant Heritage Festival will ramp up over the next few months.

"It takes a lot to do the festival," she said. "We appreciate anybody who is willing to help out."

Sponsors, volunteers and individuals or groups interested in performing at the event are encouraged to contact Puga at 712-267-4891 or LULAC.Denison@gmail.com.

## Schultz: Money well spent if youth kept out of adult courts or mental health system

INTERNSHIPS, FROM PAGE 1



PHOTO BY DAN MUNDT

Juvenile Court Services Officer Nate Desy, at far right, spoke to the Crawford County Board of Supervisors on Tuesday of this week.

they're behind the eight ball and they understand exactly what's going on," he said.

He said the position would be for 20 to 25 hours per week at \$11 or \$12 per hour; he said there would not be an intern every summer.

Supervisor Craig Dozark asked if JCOs are required to take internships.

Desy said internships are not required, but he benefited enormously from his internship with former JCS officer Glen Barngrover when Desy was in college.

The supervisors and Crawford County Auditor Terri Martens had a brief discussion of whether a paid intern would work for the county (Desy works for the state) or if the intern might be hired under the county attorney's office.

Supervisor Kyle Schultz said he could see the benefit of providing a paid internship.

Chairperson Jean Heiden said some red tape would have to be worked through.

Twelve weeks would work out to \$3,600 under Desy's proposal, Dozark said.

Supervisor Dave Muhlbauer said the dollar amount was not a lot for something that could help Desy and the county attorney.

"If we can figure out how to make it work correctly according to Iowa Code," he said.

Desy said he understood if the answer is no, but he wanted to run the idea by the supervisors to see what they thought.

It would be money well spent if it helps keep younger citizens from ending up in the adult court system or in the mental health system, Schultz said.

Desy said it would be an investment in services, workers and the kids they serve.

Muhlbauer asked if other JCOs provide paid internships.

Desy said the JCOs he has talked to do not; the only paid internships are through the judicial branch.

## ON THE SCANNER

**February 12, 11:38 a.m.:** The Crawford County Sheriff's Office investigated a single-vehicle accident that happened on county road E59. Donna Marie Kahl was driving a silver 2001 Dodge Caravan and ran off the road to the south. The report said she acted very confused and stated she swerved to miss a rabbit in the road. Her vehicle received \$2,500 damage.



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VONGLAN, FROM PAGE 1



PHOTO BY GORDON WOLF

Renee VonGlan is presented with the Crawford County Cattlemen's Association Service Award by Nick Anderson.

to Renee VonGlan, of rural Vail. He said the award was past due.

Although not a formal board member, VonGlan has volunteered on countless boards and helped the youth, he added.

"This person makes this event (the annual banquet) and the cattlemen's kind of tick and is there to help us in time of need," said Anderson.

VonGlan thanked the cattlemen's association for the award.

She and her husband, Clint, have three sons, Ben, Cody and Tyson. This August they will mark their 25th wedding anniversary.

"Who would have known a town girl from Cherokee County who went to school and didn't even set foot in the cattle barn at the county fair would be presented with the Crawford County Service Award," she said.

VonGlan grew up in Meriden. She was in kindergarten when her family moved off the farm and into town.

"First when Clint and I met, I helped him with the pigs and cattle doing chores. He would call that date night," she joked.

She said when her sons came along

and wanted to be outside with the cattle, she would go out and watch over them.

"That transitioned to where we are today, a family operation where we all contribute," she added.

VonGlan said she was dating Clint when she was attending AIB College of Business in Des Moines. After school she worked at American Home Shield in Carroll for six months and then took a job at Farmers Cooperative Elevator in Arcadia, where she met and talked with farmers and learned more about farming. She has worked there now for 26 years.

"Many years ago Clint came home from the cattlemen's banquet and said, 'I got elected for the treasurer position.' Well, we all know how that ended up. Clint being the spokesman, me doing the stuff behind the scenes," VonGlan said.

"From there it just became natural to help the cattlemen out in any way I can to promote the beef industry. It's been a pleasure to work with the guys. It is group effort to get everything done," she added. "Thanks again to whoever thought I deserve this award."

Cattlemen's scholarships boosted by memorials

At the Crawford County Cattlemen's annual banquet on Saturday, Dale Collins, the scholarship coordinator, announced that the scholarships had increased from \$1,000 to \$1,200 due to a sponsorship.

"This year, the Dustin Pope Memorial has sponsored two \$1,200 Crawford County Cattlemen's Association scholarships. Thank you to Tarin Clausen for choosing the cattlemen's scholarship program, Collins announced.

He said Pope was a farm hand for many years. He started Pope Trucking and custom fed cattle. He was a trophy buyer in the past. He passed away in May.

Another scholarship was given in memory of Colin Garrett.

"Colin had a deep passion for ranching and animals. He managed Ettlmen's Town & Country. He started to run the family business, GLC meat and was a director of the Crawford County Cattlemen's Association," said Collins. "He passed in an accident in July."

Following are this year's scholarship recipients.

John Graeve, who plans to attend Iowa State University and major in agronomy, received a \$1,200 scholarship sponsored by the Crawford County Cattlemen's Association (CCCA) in memory of Colin Garrett.

Alexis Gruhn plans to attend Western Iowa Tech and major in ag business management. She received a \$1,200 scholarship sponsored by the CCCA.

Jodee Kruse plans to attend Western

Iowa Tech and major in agriculture management. She received a \$1,200 scholarship sponsored by the Dustin Pope Memorial.

Calli Korner plans to attend Concordia University and major in Agriculture Education. She received a \$1,200 scholarship sponsored by the CCCA.

John Gorden plans to attend Iowa Western Community College and major in the mechanic program. He received a \$1,200 scholarship sponsored by Kunze Trucking and the CCCA.

Kennedy Goslar plans to attend Iowa Western Community College and major in nail school. She received a \$1,200 scholarship sponsored by the CCCA.

Garret Plagge plans to attend Des Moines Area Community College and major in welding. He received a \$1,200 scholarship sponsored by the Dustin Pope Memorial.

Thomas Fitzsimmons plans to attend Morningside University and major in business. He received a \$1,200 scholarship sponsored by Dunlap Livestock Auction and the CCCA.

This was the 24th year the CCCA awarded scholarships. To be eligible for a scholarship, a person must be a senior in high school, must plan to further their education and they, their parents or guardians must be a producer or associate member of the CCCA.

The scholarship money is awarded at the following year's annual banquet upon successful completion of the first semester of post-secondary education.

The scholarship payments are made in two parts. A recipient automatically is awarded 50% of the money. To receive the other half they, a family member or a friend must work a shift at the Cattlemen's Beef Quarters at the Iowa State Fair. This year's shift for the CCCA will be Sunday, August 11, from 8:45 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.



PHOTOS BY GORDON WOLF

This year's scholarship recipients were announced at the Crawford County Cattlemen's Association annual banquet. From left are John Graeve, Alexis Gruhn, Jodee Kruse, Calli Korner, John Gorden and Kennedy Goslar. Not pictured: Garret Plagge and Thomas Fitzsimmons.



Pictured above from left, last year's scholarship recipients receive their money at Saturday's annual banquet of the Crawford County Cattlemen's Association: Emma Ahrenholtz, Maggie Ragaller, Kallie Bromert, Mabel Langel, Payton Henningsen, Abby Maynard and Conner Collins.

Funeral Notices

Wanda Moeller

Funeral services for Wanda Moeller, 73, will be conducted at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, February 17, at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Charter Oak with burial at the St. Paul Cemetery, Ricketts Road, Charter Oak.

The Huebner Funeral Home in Denison is in charge of arrangements where friends may call from 5 to 7 p.m. Friday, February 16.

She passed away Monday, February 12, at Bryan Medical Center in Lincoln, Nebraska.

Survivors include two daughters, Nikki and her husband, Paul, of Colorado, and Allison and her husband, Dustin, of Kansas; one son, John and his wife, Sarah, of Nebraska; seven grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; six sisters, Ernestine and her husband, Darrell, of Adel, Becky and her husband, Allen, of Omaha, Bobbie of Denison, Nancy and her husband, Burton, of Cherokee, Julie and her husband, Tim, of Georgia, and Lori and her husband, Jerry, of Denison; and other relatives



and friends.

Services are entrusted to the Huebner Funeral Home.

Milton Morrison

Funeral services for Milton Morrison, 92, formerly of Denison, will be conducted at 11 a.m. Friday, February 16, at the Huebner Funeral Home in Denison with visitation one hour prior to the service.

Burial will be at Crawford Heights Memory Gardens in Denison.

He passed away Monday, February 12, at Maple Heights Nursing Home in Mapleton.

Survivors include his son, Michael (Diane) Morrison; daughters, Jolene Strom and Janet Rogers; 11 grandchildren; 20 great grandchildren; eight great-great-grandchildren; sister-in-law, Jeannie Knapp; special friend, Nancy Kuehl; and many other family and friends.

Services are entrusted to the Huebner Funeral Home.



Three finalists announced for superintendent

The Denison School Board announced three finalists in its search for the next shared superintendent for the Denison and Schleswig Community School Districts. The finalists are Dr. Kim Buryanek, Joe Erickson, and Trevor Urich.

Currently serving as a PK-12 learning division administrator for the Iowa Department of Education, Buryanek oversees one of three divisions. In this role, she has provided leadership and supervised staff within seven bureaus and worked with bureau chiefs to support schools, school districts, and area education agencies. Buryanek holds a doctoral degree in educational leadership and policy studies from Iowa State University. Prior to her current role, she served as

associate superintendent of the Sioux City Community School District (CSD).

As superintendent of the North Iowa CSD, Erickson has directed use of a \$6 million general fund budget and \$900,000 in facilities funds annually. Additionally, he has developed and implemented a strategic plan to provide curriculum materials, technology, transportation fleet, and facilities for the district. Erickson holds an education specialist degree from Drake University and a master's degree in educational leadership from Iowa State University. Previously, he served as elementary principal in the Eagle Grove CSD.

Urich is the current elementary principal and TK-5 special education director in the Denison CSD. In this

position, he has provided instructional leadership for a building with 24 certified staff, 21 support staff, and 300 students, as well as coordinated all aspects of special education programming and human and material resources. Urich holds two education specialist degrees from the University of South Dakota. He previously served as elementary dean of students in Denison.

As a next step, the board and stakeholder interview teams will conduct final interviews with each of the three finalists on February 26. The board then plans to discuss the candidates and reach a final decision soon after the formal interviews.

The next superintendent will begin leading the Denison and Schleswig Community School Districts effective July 1.

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## Trophy auction raises nearly \$33,000

The auction of the beef show trophies at the Crawford County Cattlemen's annual banquet on Saturday raised a total of \$32,700.

Auctioneers from Denison Livestock called the bidding.

Following is a list of the trophies, the amount paid and the business that purchased the trophy.

- Grand Champion Steer: \$2,600, United Bank of Iowa
  - Reserve Champion Steer: \$1,500, Crawford County Bank
  - Grand Champion Market Heifer: \$2,200, Christenson Agri Services
  - Reserve Champion Market Heifer: \$2,000, in Memory of Dustin Pope
  - Champion Breeding Heifer: \$2,000, United Bank of Iowa
  - Reserve Champion Breeding Heifer: \$1,200, Seaton Vet Clinic
  - Champion Feeder Calf Bull/Steer: \$1,200, Hawley Insurance
  - Champion Feeder Calf Heifer: \$1,300, Dustin Pope Memorial
  - Champion Lightweight Steer: \$1,300, Community Bank
  - Champion Mediumweight Steer: \$1,400, Bohlman Inc.
  - Champion Heavyweight Steer: \$2,000, Farm Service Coop
  - Champion County Born Steer: \$1,200, Denison Merchants
  - Champion County Born Market Heifer: \$1,800, Kurt Kastner, Hoegemeyer Seed
  - Champion Performance Judges Choice: \$1,300, Bank Iowa
  - Champion Performance Carcass Choice: \$1,300, Boyer Valley
  - Champion County Born Breeding Heifer: \$1,500, RAM Trucking
  - Champion Cow/Calf: \$1,500, Anderson's Denison Ethanol
  - Champion Rate of Gain Steer: \$1,400, Otter Creek Hydroseeding
  - Champion Rate of Gain Heifer: \$1,300, Westside State Bank
  - Senior Showmanship: \$1,400, Bank Iowa
  - Intermediate Showmanship: \$1,300, Chris Thelen, Goshorn Seed
- D&S Sales donated toward the trophies.



PHOTOS BY GORDON WOLF

Front, from left: Justin Bromert, Boyer Valley Enterprises/Dick Bromert, Champion Performance Class Carcass Choice; Tarin Clausen, Otter Creek Veterinary Clinic, Reserve Champion Market Heifer and Champion Feeder Calf Heifer, both purchased in memory of Dustin Pope; Denim Schechinger, Bank Iowa, Champion Performance Judges' Choice; K'Lynn Harm, Bank Iowa, Senior Showmanship; Whitney Reimers, United Bank of Iowa, Grand Champion Steer; Ashley Hanke, United Bank of Iowa, Champion Breeding Heifer, and Otter Creek Hydroseeding, Champion Rate of Gain Steer; Jennifer Grote, The Andersons Denison Ethanol, Champion Cow/Calf; Kurt Kastner, Hoegemeyer Seed, Champion County Born Market Heifer; and Nick Anderson, Crawford County Bank, Reserve Champion Steer.

Back: Michael Christenson, Christenson Agri Services, Grand Champion Market Heifer; Marshall Owen, Seaton Veterinary Clinic, Reserve Champion Breeding Heifer; Kelsea Hawley, Hawley Insurance, Champion Feeder Calf Bull/Steer; Krista Adams, Westside State Bank, Champion Rate of Gain Heifer; Brittany Rosauer, Farm Service Co-op, Champion Heavyweight Steer; Chris Thelen, Goshorn Seed, Intermediate Showmanship; Brandon Ranniger, Bohlmann Inc., Champion Mediumweight Steer; Tom Pauley, Denison Merchants, Champion County Born Steer; Tim Grote, Community Bank, Champion Lightweight Steer; and Louie Maack, RAM Trucking, Champion County Born Breeding Heifer.



Crawford County Cattlemen's Association (CCCA) Board of Directors members are pictured above. Front, from right: Jason Kuhlmann, Joe Thelen, Nick Anderson (membership coordinator), Don Healy, Craig Miller (president), Dean Staley, Joel Kuhlmann, Clint VonGlan, Travis Fink (treasurer), and Jared Muhlbauer. Back: Matt Riessen (vice president), Pat Corey, Chris Thelen (secretary), Ryan Healy, Alex Dorale (public relations), Jim Staley, Nolan Staley, Brandon Vogt, Keaten Miller, Dale Collins (scholarship coordinator), Craig Harm, and Dean Henningsen. Not pictured: Lee Kuhlmann, Tyson Heistand, Mike Vogt, Rick Vetter, Tyler Roberts, Dennis Denker, and Fred Jepsen.

Keagan Eischeid, an eighth grader at IKM-Manning, spoke about her experiences of having Lt. Gov. Adam Gregg show her steer at the annual Governor's Charity Steer Show at the Iowa State Fair last August. The auction after the steer show raises money for the Ronald McDonald Houses of Iowa. To date, nearly \$5.5 has been raised. This year just over \$500,000 was raised. Keagan said the Ronald McDonald House is very special to her family, as her older sister, Kennedy, had to have a major surgery when she was about 10 years old; the surgery required a long stay. "The Ronald McDonald House was a lifesaver for my family," Keagan said, "as it provided a place to relax, get away from the stress, and also provided meals." As part of the experience, she and other youth with calves in the steer show worked at the Ronald McDonald House in Des Moines.



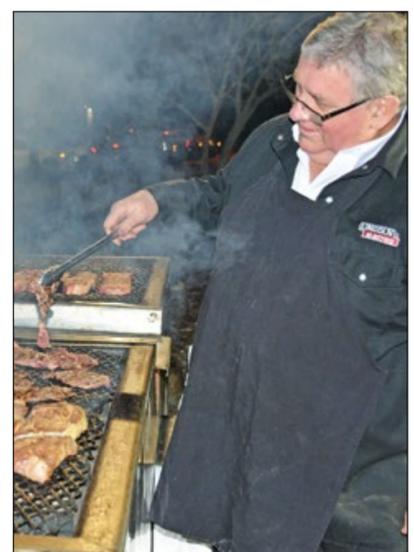
Calli Korner and Jodee Kruse, this year's Crawford County Cattlemen's Association Co-Queens, spoke at the annual banquet about their experiences of helping out at cattle shows, community events and cattlemen's events, and riding in parades. Korner (pictured at right) added, "One of the memories that will stick with us for a lifetime is the time we had with water fights with Craig (Miller, president of the cattlemen's association). Craig, we want to say we're sorry for all the water fights, but we really aren't." When Miller presented the co-queens with gifts for their service, he also gave each a squirt gun, adding that perhaps the guns would improve their aim. The gifts backfired, however, as after the banquet Korner and Kruse put their guns to use and doused Miller.



Tom Pauley with Denison Livestock Auction catches bids at the cattlemen's association auction on Saturday. He is pictured with beef co-queens Calli Korner and Jodee Kruse.



Crawford County Cattlemen's Association President Craig Miller had help with his duties at the annual banquet. He is holding his granddaughter, Adelynn Miller, age 16 months.



Rick Staley with Staley's Catering was busy getting the cattlemen's banquet, getting steaks ready for a hungry crowd.



Cattlemen's co-queens Calli Korner and Jodee Kruse joined Grace and Tricia Collins in the singing of the national anthem.

# Monarchs

## DENISON-SCHLESWIG MONARCHS BOWLING

### Monarchs roll on to state bowling tournament

BY GORDON WOLF

The Denison-Schleswig boys' bowling team rolled its way to a second-place finish in the state qualifying meet on Tuesday in LeMars and punched a ticket to the state meet in Cedar Falls February 19-21.

Additionally, two members of the girls' team, Brittany and Brianna Musgrave, and one member of the boys' team, Jake Fink, qualified for the state meet as individuals.

The schedule for the individual tournaments is Class 2A boys and girls on Monday, Class 3A boys and girls on Tuesday and Class 1A boys and girls on Wednesday. Those tournaments all start at 9 a.m.

The schedule for the team tournaments is Class 3A boys and girls on Monday, Class 1A boys and girls on Tuesday and Class 2A boys and girls on Wednesday. Those tournaments all start at 3 p.m.

The Denison-Schleswig teams are in Class 2A.

#### MONARCH BOYS

The boys placed second at the state qualifying meet, bowling a total score of 3044. LeMars was first with a score of 3076.

Similar to the girls' state qualifying tournament (read companion article), there were about four schools competing for the two qualifying spots.

The boys started off their first set of bakers with scores of 201, 189, 170, 210, and 243.

"This was a great way to start out," said Head Coach Shelby Brawner. "You could tell some of the boys were already locked in and ready to go. After this set they were in second place, behind Le Mars 49 pins."

She continued that the boys' second set was the toughest, and they were able to keep their momentum to start with games of 215, 218, and 215. Then, they struggled to throw strikes, but were able to pick up their spares to keep them alive.

"After the second set they were down to Le Mars by 103 pins, and the next closest team was 208 pins below them, so it really was a battle for first," said Brawner.

She continued that in the third set the boys needed a game to figure things out, but then they were back in it. They bowled 172, 258, and 255, and after the 13th game, the boys were up by five pins. They threw 194 for their next game and were up seven pins. All they needed to do was beat Le Mars the last game.

"They weren't able to do that and threw a 167. Fortunately, they still

landed in second and were able to qualify," Brawner said.

In individual scoring, Fink placed first with a 687 series. He bowled games of 186, 212, and 289.

"Jake's highlight of the day would have been his last game where he attempted to bowl another 300 game," said Brawner. "He was able to get 10 strikes in a row, but in his 11th shot, he left one pin standing."

Gavin Schmadeke placed 11th and was only 17 pins away from qualifying. He rolled games of 198, 197 and 208 for a total of 603.

Ethan Totten placed 16th and was only 28 pins away from qualifying. His scores were 166, 223 and 203 for a total of 592.

Grant Fink was actually in seventh place going into the last game, but unfortunately dropped to 19th, only 50 pins away from qualifying. He bowled games of 208, 213 and 149 for a total score of 570.

Jett Paulsen was 29th with games of 165, 176 and 172 for a total of 513.

Jackson Steinkuehler finished 34th with games of 152, 190 and 147 for a 489 total.

"We had four boys this year that have never bowled in the state qualifying meet before. Watching them step up, not let their nerves get to them and bowl well enough to qualify for the state tournament is a big accomplishment," said Brawner. "Our two returners, Jake Fink and Ethan Totten, did a great job of leading the team to make this dream of theirs happen. We look forward to see what the team can do next week."

#### MONARCH GIRLS

At the qualifying meet in Le Mars on Monday, Brittany Musgrave bowled a 589 series and ended in fifth place. Brianna Musgrave bowled a series of 518 and ended in eighth place.

Haley Lutz, a freshman, was just 12 pins away from qualifying. She threw a 477 series.

All Monarch bowlers placed 22nd or higher. Nevaeh Brandt finished 17th with a 461 series, Grace Collins finished 18th with a 454 series and Daisy Koch finished 22nd with a 444 series.

Brittany rolled games of 194, 177 and 198. Brianna had games of 167, 146 and 205.

Lutz bowled games of 125, 164 and 188. Brandt rolled games of 142, 180 and 139. Collins threw games of 117, 186 and 149. Koch had games of 167, 115 and 162.

As a team, the girls didn't quite end the season how they wanted to, said

169, and Haley Lutz with 158.

Brittany Musgrave had the high series of 431 on games of 230 and 201. She placed first in the individual tournament.

Brianna Musgrave placed third with a 391 series on games of 212 and 179.

The girls were in first place going into the bakers. They bowled a 153 in their first round and fell behind Clarinda. The Monarch girls quickly turned it around, throwing a 198 in their next game, which put them back into first place. Their last three games



PHOTOS BY RHONDA RAUCH

Monarch boys' bowling team



Monarch girls' bowling team

Head Coach Shelby Brawner. Denison-Schleswig finished fourth.

Brawner said out of the eight schools, four were battling for the top two places.

"Le Mars took off right away and were tough to keep up with," she said. "The girls bowled games of 171, 150, 226, 128 and 140 for their first set of bakers. They were sitting in second place ahead of MMCRU by six pins and Lewis Central by 12 pins.

In the second set of bakers, the Monarchs threw games of 182, 142, 158, 147 and 180 and were sitting in fourth place with a lot of ground to make up, Brawner added.

"Knowing that, the girls started off their final round with a 211. They were able to make up 55 pins against MMCRU, which was in second, and were up five pins against Lewis Central," she said. "The girls finished with games of 159, 193, 154 and 141 for a total of 2483."

Le Mars finished in first place with a total of 2971. Lewis Central was second with 2524 and MMCRU finished in third place with 2516. After Denison, Council Bluffs Thomas Jefferson, Sioux City West, West Sioux and Sioux Central rounded out the field in fifth through eighth place, respectively.

Brawner said Brittany was a major asset to the team all day as she was able to throw strikes once she found her spot.

She added that Brianna was able to play the spare game and pick up most of the pins she left.

"The freshmen this year – Haley Lutz, Daisy Koch and Grace Collins – have really done a great job stepping up and competing," Brawner said. "Our seniors – Nevaeh Brandt, Brittany Musgrave and Brianna Musgrave – have been great leaders, showing the underclassmen what the sport of bowling is all about and helping them find success."

### Monarch girls win H-10 bowling tournament

The Denison-Schleswig girls rolled their way to first place at the Hawkeye-10 Conference bowling tournament.

High games were bowled by Brittany Musgrave with 230, Brianna Musgrave with 212, Daisy Koch with 177, Grace Collins with 172, Nevaeh Brandt with

169, and Haley Lutz with 158.

Brittany Musgrave had the high series of 431 on games of 230 and 201. She placed first in the individual tournament.

Brianna Musgrave placed third with a 391 series on games of 212 and 179.

The girls were in first place going into the bakers. They bowled a 153 in their first round and fell behind Clarinda. The Monarch girls quickly turned it around, throwing a 198 in their next game, which put them back into first place. Their last three games

were 147, 165 and 181. Their final score was 2607.

Head Coach Shelby Brawner said this is the highest score the girls have bowled all season.

The Monarch boys placed fifth in the conference tournament. High games came from Gavin Schmadeke with 247, Jake Fink with 230, Ethan Totten with 211, Grant Fink with 204, Jett Paulsen with 186 and Jackson Steinkuehler with 183.

Jake Fink had the high series of 430 on games of 200 and 230. He placed

eighth in the individual tournament. Schmadeke placed 12th with a 411 series on games of 164 and 211.

The boys were in fourth place going into the bakers. They bowled a 197 in their first game. For their second game they moved to lane 18 and bowled a 173. Brawner said the boys had struggled on this lane throughout the meet.

The boys quickly turned things around in their third game, bowling a 248. They finished out their bakers with a 194 and 186. The boys' final score was 2928.



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# Sports

## DENISON-SCHLESWIG MONARCHS BASKETBALL

### Monarch boys edge Atlantic

The Denison-Schleswig boys nipped Atlantic by three points on the Monarchs' court on Tuesday. The final score was 76-73.

The Monarchs were up 21-14 after one quarter and 35-30 at the half. The Monarchs outscored Atlantic 23-20 in the third quarter. Atlantic made a 23-18 run in the final period.

Luke Wiebers had the hot hand and poured in 36 points. Lance Arkfeld added 13 and Jake Fink had 12.

Others in the scoring column were Easton Emery with 7, Kole Towne with 6 and Blaine Grady with 2.

In the JV game, the Monarchs won by 20 points, 55-35.

### Monarch girls fall to AHSTW and Glenwood

The Denison-Schleswig girls came up just 10 points short in a basketball game against AHSTW during the past week. The final score was 57-47.

Maya Slater paced the girls with

21 points, followed by Kiana Schulz with 8, Whitlee Auen with 7, Addison Inman and Gaby Cardenas with 4 each and Quinlan Bygness with 3.

Against Glenwood on February 9, the Monarchs fell 56-22.

Slater and Schulz each scored 8 points, and Inman, Kamden Bruhn and Auen each scored two points.

In the JV games, the Monarch girls fell to Glenwood 42-33 and fell to AHSTW 28-21.

## DENISON-SCHLESWIG MONARCHS WRESTLING

### Monarch wrestlers compete in wrestling qualifier

On Saturday, February 10, the Denison-Schleswig boys traveled to Ames for a regional state qualifying meet. The Monarchs did not get anyone through to the state tournament.

"This was a disappointing day for the team, but overall we are looking forward

to the future," said Assistant Coach Parker Preul. "The reason is we have a lot of young guys on the team, and they got to experience what this tournament felt like."

Preul said the team had some successes, wrestling well against some very tough competition.

Jackson Graeve put himself in the third and fourth place match with a chance to qualify. Preul said he ended up falling short in the match and placed fourth.



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## A question of regulatory authority

### Supervisors discuss CO2 pipeline ordinance

BY DAN MUNDT

The Crawford County Board of Supervisors and County Attorney Colin Johnson on February 6 discussed the possibility of enacting an ordinance related to a proposed carbon dioxide pipeline that will pass through the county if the project goes forward.

Two representatives of Summit Carbon Solutions, the company that plans to build the pipeline, and several members of the public were in attendance.

The discussion lasted more than an hour and often strayed into topics that had little to do with a pipeline ordinance; the following is a condensed and edited account of the discussion concerning an ordinance.

The supervisors discussed at length enacting a pipeline ordinance in 2022, but did not move forward at that time.

Summit sued Shelby and Story counties and won a permanent injunction last year to block enforcement of ordinances those counties enacted.

Johnson noted that he was still digesting information about pipeline ordinances approved by Dickinson and Palo Alto counties.

He said it is known from the experiences of Shelby and Story counties that Summit will legally challenge pipeline ordinances that are enacted.

Chairperson Jean Heiden suggested that Johnson should "hit the brakes" if the discussion strayed into areas that should be discussed in a closed session.

Johnson said that in the Shelby and Story county cases, the court declared that the state and federal government have exclusive authority to regulate safety, which preempted the county ordinances' attempts to regulate safety.

He said his understanding of the recently-approved ordinances in Dickinson and Palo Alto counties was that those ordinances were written to de-emphasize safety and instead rely on Iowa Code 335.5, which gives local governments authority over economic development and community planning goals.

The Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) sent a letter to Summit stating that local governments may still exercise powers granted to them under state law as long as they don't adopt pipeline safety standards or contradict federal law, Johnson said.

PHMSA also told Summit that local governments have traditionally exercised broad powers to regulate land use, including setbacks and property development in the vicinity of pipelines; nothing in federal law prevents local or state governments from traditional land use regulation, as long as they don't

attempt to regulate the safety of the pipeline, he said.

Johnson said that language seems favorable in that it deferred some authority back to local governments.

In the letter, PHMSA outlined a number of activities appropriate for local governments, including controlling dangerous excavation near pipelines, limiting certain land use activities along the pipeline right of way, and restricting land use and development along pipeline right of way through zoning setbacks and similar measures.

He said he thought Palo Alto and Dickinson counties had leaned into requiring consideration of pipeline facilities in proposed local development plans and also included emergency response plans, building design codes, and environmental impacts along the pipeline.

Johnson said in those cases, however, the county would be regulating the land around the pipeline – not regulating the pipeline.

A county could tell an entity they couldn't build a shed within 100 yards of a pipeline, "but that's different than saying 'you can't build your pipeline within 100 yards of this shed,'" he said.

"...there is still room and authority to be had by local governments but ... you can't act on things that are preempted by state and federal government."

He pointed out that Palo Alto had adopted their ordinance with a resolution stating that the ordinance is not enforceable until a final judgement is made confirming the county's authority to enforce pipeline setbacks.

Johnson noted that he had not spoken to the Palo Alto county attorney, but said he believes the resolution was an effort to get something on the books without suffering legal action from the pipeline company.

The Palo Alto ordinance shifted the focus on safety to obligations put on the county by Iowa Code 335, which regulates safety from fire, flood, panic and other dangers, the protection of health and general welfare, facilitates the adequate provision of transportation, water, sewage, schools, parks, and other public requirements, and other considerations for land use, he said.

"It's not that safety is just abandoned altogether – they've shifted their focus on safety to obligations put on the county under (Iowa Code) 335," Johnson said.

The main argument of the ordinance is that counties get to regulate land use such as commercial development, he said.

Heiden and Supervisor Ty Rosburg both aired their concerns about local economic development and how a



PHOTO BY DAN MUNDT

Crawford County Attorney Colin Johnson, left, discussed the possibility of enacting a CO2 pipeline ordinance with the Crawford County Board of Supervisors last week.

pipeline could hamper expansion in areas near it.

Johnson pointed out that Shelby and Story counties are in the Southern Judicial District of Iowa – and Crawford is in the Northern District.

He said decisions in the Southern District aren't automatically binding to the Northern District, though the decisions will certainly be referenced by any judge in the Northern District.

Supervisor Craig Dozark said his understanding of the issue is that the Iowa Utilities Board (IUB) has authority over the routing and siting of hazardous liquid pipelines in Iowa and the U.S. Department of Transportation (meaning PHMSA in this case) has jurisdiction over safety.

Court decisions stating that reality can't be ignored, he said.

The Denison Free Press asked Johnson if he thought an ordinance could be written that would give the Crawford County Board of Supervisors some authority to regulate where the pipeline might be placed.

"Probably not," he said.

Johnson said the question brought up an interesting aspect of the Story County ordinance ruling, which was that one piece of the ordinance survived.

The piece that survived required the county to consult with pipeline companies when new developments are proposed within the setback areas, he said.

Johnson said he didn't want to get into the rationale behind that part of the ordinance in a public session.

He pointed out that if the IUB gives a green light on siting and routing for the pipeline, local counties will have a tough time fighting siting and routing.

"But that's not to say that the county is without any power to regulate other aspects..." he said.

That power may not be what the supervisors want it to be, but that doesn't mean it's not there, Johnson said.

"Do you have to have an ordinance in place and waiting ahead of the ruling?" asked Supervisor Dave Muhlbauer.

If IUB were to issue a permit for Summit to build, it would likely be too late to enact an ordinance, Johnson said.

The Denison Free Press asked Johnson what he thought the general parameters might be for an ordinance he thought could be enacted.

Johnson said an ordinance would have to be one that would not be preempted by the IUB or PHMSA.

He said it was an open question whether or not Dickinson and Palo Alto's pivot away from safety and to economic and community development would make a difference in the courts.

If the courts say those ordinances aren't about safety and can stand, then Crawford County might have more wiggle room, Johnson said.

He said he had been told by the supervisors not to go too much into that area in the public meeting.

Johnson was directed by the board to contact Dickinson and Palo Alto counties to gather more information about their ordinances; the ordinance discussion item will be put on the supervisors agenda for a future meeting.

After the discussion, Johnson clarified to The Denison Free Press that the information he presented was based on his reading of past court decisions and his attempts to put puzzle pieces together to see what the picture shows.

He said the final decision on pipeline ordinances will be up to the courts, and he could not speak authoritatively on what that outcome might be.

# Local Calendar

## FRIDAY

FEBRUARY 16, 2024

### Fish Fry for Charter Oak Fire Association, 5-8 p.m. at Charter Oak Community Building. Proceeds go toward tanker truck. \$15 minimum donation for adults; freewill donation for kids. Takeout available. Catered by Staley's.

## SATURDAY

FEBRUARY 17, 2024

### Steam Saturday at Norelius Community Library, 10-11 a.m.; activities with science, technology, engineering, art, and math themes for ages 8-13.

Trivia Night at Schleswig Community Building, doors open at 5:30 p.m., brats, sauerkraut, and more served at 6:30 p.m., trivia to follow for teams of up to eight people. \$25 per person; proceeds go toward Schleswig 125th Celebration. Call 712-269-8697 or 515-491-3349 to register.

## SUNDAY

FEBRUARY 18, 2024

Bingo in Deloit, 1-4 p.m. at the Community Hall. Doors open at noon. Everyone is welcome.

## TUESDAY

FEBRUARY 20, 2024

Crafternoon at Norelius Community Library, 4-6 p.m. Crafting projects and techniques for ages 12 and up. This month: making St. Patrick's Day ribbons.

## Crawford County Arts Council

**Concert:** Billy McGuigan's Pop Rock Orchestra performs at 7:30 p.m. at Denison High School Fine Arts Center.

### 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 21, 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.

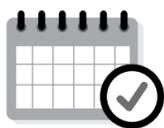
## THURSDAY

FEBRUARY 22, 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.

Fireside Book Discussion at Norelius Community Library, 2-3 p.m. Inquire about this month's book at circulation desk. Ages 19 and up.

### The Library Book Club at Norelius Community Library, 5:30-6:30 p.m. A book club about books and libraries. Call 712-263-9355 in advance to register.



## Wendt trial continues in federal court

BY GORDON WOLF

As of the date of this edition of The Denison Free Press, a federal court trial involving Bradley Wendt, of Denison, will be in its eighth day, unless the jury delivers a verdict on Wednesday after the newspaper's deadline.

See updates on the case on The Denison Free Press website and Facebook page.

The trial started on February 5. In the government's trial brief, U.S. Attorney Richard D. Westphal estimated that the trial would take up to two weeks.

Wendt is the chief of police for the City of Adair. He also owns BW Outfitters, a federal firearms licensee (FFL) with locations in Anita and Denison. BW Outfitters has Special Occupational Tax (SOT) status which allows the business, in certain circumstances, to possess and deal in machine guns regulated by the National Firearms Act and Gun Control Act.

The government charged Wendt with conspiracy to make false statements to and defraud the ATF (Count 1); false statements to the ATF (Counts 2 through 14); and illegal possession of a machine gun (Count 15).

Five charges against Wendt had previously been dropped.

The government claims that since July 2018, Wendt exploited his position as the Adair police chief to obtain and possess machine guns not lawfully available to the public. The government says he did this by providing law letters to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) in which Wendt falsely stated, among other things, that machine guns were being purchased for the official use of the Adair Police Department and not for resale or transfer, or machine guns were being demonstrated to the Adair Police Department to evaluate them for potential future purchase by the department.

The argument by the government is that Wendt acquired and sold machine guns registered to the Adair Police Department for his own personal use and gain.

Additionally, the government claims, regarding the demonstrations of the machine guns, that the Adair Police Department was not considering purchasing them and that Wendt was acquiring them for personal use, enjoyment, profit and gain.

The government also claims that Wendt submitted false demonstration law letters to facilitate the transfer of machine guns to other FFL-SOTs, including Robert Williams, of Manning.

Williams had been named a co-defendant in the case but charges against Williams were dropped.

Wendt is arguing that he did purchase the guns for use by the Adair Police Department and pointed out that the government seized machine guns from that department as part of this case.

He further states that he is a police chief and a dealer with an FFL-SOT, which he made clear to the ATF, and now the government is trying to do through federal criminal charges what the ATF did not do as part of its regulatory oversight.

He said the government has chosen to bring a novel theory in highly regulated areas of the law in a first-of-its-kind case; that the government completely

misstates the law in several places; and that the government is attempting to regulate by criminal prosecution.

Later in his argument, Wendt claims that the ATF knew what he was doing and was fine with it, and it is the government that is claiming that the ATF was negligent because it is now claiming what the ATF did was wrong.

His argument further says that the bulk of the case is about alleged false material statements to the ATF, and the ATF knew and understood what he was doing, and therefore, it could not have been material.

He also claimed that as a chief of police, he had the authority under law to acquire machine guns, to possess machine guns, and to authorize others to possess machine guns.

Another part of Wendt's argument is that the charges against him should be dismissed based on due process and vagueness concerns and that these concerns have heightened as the parties began submitting jury instructions.

On the subject of the machine gun shoot, Wendt said it was attended by and worked by several law enforcement officers managing the stations who then got to shoot the machine guns without having to pay for the ammunition. He said it was important for law enforcement agencies to have officers in surrounding towns and counties properly trained and able to access weapons where an officer's nearest backup could be 50 miles away. The money paid at the machine gun shoot did not cover the price of the ammunition, he said. Wendt added that he purchased the machine guns with his own money for the benefit of his police department and that is something specifically contemplated by statute.

On day one of the trial, the jury was impeached, the government and Wendt's attorney, Nick A. Klinefeldt, made opening statements, and the government began calling its witnesses to the stand.

The government continued to call witnesses on days two and three.

On the fourth day of the trial (February 8), Wendt moved for judgement of acquittal. Judge Stephen H. Locher denied that motion as to trial counts 1-14 and reserved the ruling as to count 15. The government rested its case, and Wendt's team started calling witnesses to the stand. The court recessed in the mid afternoon with the trial to resume on February 12.

On February 12 (day five), the court and counsel discussed final jury instructions before the jury came into the courtroom. The defense rested its case after Wendt testified, and the government called a rebuttal witness.

On Tuesday (day 6), Wendt renewed his oral motion for a directed verdict, the government responded, and the court continued to deny the motion as to trial counts 1-14 and reserved ruling as to trial count 15. Final jury instructions were discussed by the court and counsel. Final instructions were read to the jury. The government and the defense presented their closing arguments, and the government presented its rebuttal closing argument. The jury was released for deliberations at 12:32 p.m., and at 4:40 p.m. the jury was released for the day to resume deliberations at 8:30 a.m. on Wednesday.

# Letters TO THE EDITOR

To submit a letter visit, [denisonfreepress.com](http://denisonfreepress.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.

## LAND TRANSACTIONS

February 2-8, 2024

### Warranty Deeds

- Mathew S. Kesterson to LC Construction LLC: Lot 1, Block 7, Western Town Lot, City of Kiron; \$19,500.
- Nuviv IRA Inc. To Pearl Stone Salon & Spa LLC: Lot 1, 2, 3, 4, Block 126, City of Denison; \$120,000.
- Danny L. Alcantara Mateo and Mavis Orquidia Franco Lopez to Danny L. Alcantara Mateo and Mavis Orquidia Franco Lopez: Lot 10 and Lot 17, Jeschke's Addition, City of Denison.
- Terence R. Boeck to BBM LLC: NW1/4 NW1/4 Section 30, Otter Creek Township; W1/2 NW1/4 Section 30, Otter Creek Township; \$925,000.
- Robert V. Ertleman to Ace Ertleman and Marilyn Ertleman: Lot 18, Block 6, City of Dow City; \$127,000.
- Danette Waderich to Marsha Waderich: Lot 20, Block 5, City of Dow City; \$15,000.

### Court Officer Deeds

- James A. Christensen Estate, Linda

L. Christensen, Executor to Linda L. Christensen: Parcel B, Northwood Fourth Addition, City of Denison.

### Quit Claim Deeds

- Jane M. Edsen to JME Trust, Jane M. Edsen, Trustee: Lot 3, Park West Second Addition, City of Denison.
- Craig L. Whited and Darlys A. Whited to Pearl Stone Salon & Spa LLC: Lot 1, 2, 3, 4, Block 126, City of Denison.
- Vincent Holihan and Patricia Holihan to Vincent Holihan and Patricia Holihan: NE1/4 NW1/4 SW1/4 SW1/4, Section 18, Milford Township; SW1/4 SW1/4 Section 18, Milford Township; SE1/4 SW1/4 Section 18, Milford Township; S1/2 NE1/4 SE1/4 Section 18, Milford Township; NE1/4 NW1/4 Section 19, Milford Township; NW1/4 SW1/4 Section 17, Milford Township; S1/2 SW1/4 Section 17, Milford Township.
- RJV Transport Inc. To Aaron Peterson and Sarah Peterson: Lot 1 and Lot 2, Block 20, City of Westside.

## COURTHOUSE NEWS

February 2-8, 2024

### SCHEDULED TRAFFIC

- Ryan Jerrold Gangestad, Altoona, careless driving, \$112.50.
- Ryan Jerrold Gangestad, Altoona, unsafe turn or failure to give signal, \$210.25.
- August John Boettger, Arion, failure to obey stop sign and yield right of way, \$210.25.
- Edgar Abraham Zavala Hernandez, Denison, no valid driver's license, \$354.
- Jesus Xavier Garcia, Denison, no valid driver's license, \$354.
- Jerry Lee Radcliffe, Denison, failure to maintain control, \$210.25.
- Alexa Emily Rowedder, Denison, failure to yield upon left turn, \$210.25.
- Anthony David Hill, Deloit, maximum group axle weight violation, 4001 to 5000 pounds over, \$486.25.
- Aganos Michael Gatkuoth, Denison, failure to prove security against liability, non-accident, \$342.50.
- Denilson Ariel Hernandez Gomez, Denison, failure to yield entering through highway, \$287.88.

- Jonathan Ishmael Hernandez, Ute, failure to prove security against liability, accident, \$630.

### SPEEDING (11-15 MPH OVER)

- Kory Ross Petersen, Dunlap, \$236.13.

### SPEEDING (6-10 MPH OVER)

- Atujenri Vicente Pelico, Storm Lake, \$118.25.
- Nilson Vladimir Sosa Aguilar, Denison, \$118.25.
- Kenneth McCoy King, Denison, \$118.25.

### SPEEDING (1-5 MPH OVER)

- Ryan Jerrold Gangestad, Altoona, \$89.50.
- Matthew B. Zyla, Omaha, NE, \$89.50.
- Marvin Alexander Escalante Sanchez, Country Club, MO, \$89.50.
- Branden Michael Haselhorst, Pierce, NE, \$89.50.
- Todd Lee Jepsen, Schleswig, \$89.50.
- Edy Alexander Castillo Martinez, Denison, \$89.50.

### Valentines party at the library



PHOTOS BY GORDON WOLF



The Children's Library at Norelius Community Library in Denison hosted a Valentines-themed story time on Saturday. After the books were read, children could make Valentines crafts and enjoy Valentines cookies. Pictured from left, Finlee Stolz and her sister, Sloane, are assisted by their mother, Tessa, and Charlotte Ball received help from her mother, Brooke. In another picture, Kenai Sardona (right) is helped by his brother, Andrew Garcia. Also pictured is Kenai's creation.



# 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

**TICKETS BY PRESALE ONLY by March 7, 2024**

PLEASE CONTACT US TO PURCHASE TABLES OF 8 OR TO SPONSOR TOWARD EVENT EXPENSES



Crossroads of Crawford County

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# WE ARE HIRING!!

## DON'T MISS ONE OF MONOGRAM'S LARGEST HIRING EVENTS!

Denison | Wednesday, February 21 | 1:00 to 5:00 pm

All applicants will also receive FREE bacon!

**Come learn about all of our open positions!**  
Application assistance to be provided

**We are a fun company offering a friendly atmosphere, competitive pay and excellent benefits!**

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**PLAYGROUND, FROM PAGE 1**

Both emphasized that the new playground will be all-inclusive. "Do you know what that means?" Soseman asked students at St. Rose. "It means it's for everyone." She also told students that they could go from the east end of the playground to the west end without touching the ground, simply by going from one piece of equipment to the next.

One of the prevailing community questions about the playground is if it will be fenced in, as Kids Kastle had been fenced in. Kids Kastle, a wooden structure, was demolished last year because its deteriorated condition raised safety concerns from the city's insurance carrier.

Mayor Pam Soseman said the playground would not have a fence,

and this has to do with handicapped accessibility.

"In designing the park, the engineer said to make it ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) compliant that we should not put a fence around it," she said. "That and it's more transparent. In the past we've had problems with vandalism within the confines of the fenced area."

Green space green space between the playground and off-street parking on the south side of Washington Park.

More trees will be planted around the playground.

"We have been told the more shade you have it increases the longevity of the poured-in-place surface," the

mayor said.

It is anticipated that the playground will be completed in August or September at the latest.

It will take 14 weeks for the equipment to be delivered after it is ordered. The order will be placed soon, said Soseman, adding it has to be before the new prices come out.

"They (the vendor) has guaranteed us 2023 pricing if we get it ordered in February," Soseman said.

The vendor will install the playground equipment.

Read more details about the playground equipment in future issues of The Denison Free Press.



PHOTOS BY GORDON WOLF

Von Grover (left) points excitedly as a video of the Washington Park playground is shown in the Broadway Elementary auditorium. With him are Charlie Kilnoski and Cameron Brown. The video can be seen on the Denison Parks & Rec Facebook page.



Mayor Pam Soseman takes questions from St. Rose students.



**A nice improvement to the area E16 bridge to be replaced**

BY DAN MUNDT

A bridge on Crawford County Road E16 is set to be replaced during the coming construction season.

The bridge in question is located two and ¼ miles west of the intersection of E16 and County Road L51.

It was built in 1967.

"The bridge deck condition is very poor on the current bridge and it has been steadily getting worse," said Crawford County Engineer Paul Assman. "We've done some patching on it, but it's served its time for us."

Assman said the replacement project accomplishes two things: it removes a bridge in poor condition – and it removes a bridge from the county road system.

The replacement project will put a 10-foot by 10-foot twin box culvert in place of the bridge.

"We're going to put in a concrete box culvert, so there won't be bridge railing, an approach guardrail and all those associated features with it," Assman said. "It will be a nice improvement in that area."

The bridge does not currently have any weight restrictions.

"It's still capable of carrying the loads but it's near that point where it's going to have to be posted," he said. "We try to have bridges in that condition replaced before we have a load restriction."

The replacement project will include grade control to the waterway.

"There will be a concrete flume on

the outlet end (of the box culvert) that will address some of the grade differential in the stream channel in that particular area," Assman said.

Dixon Construction Company, of Correctionville, submitted the winning bid of \$874,128.06 for the project.

"We're going to get cost-share reimbursement from the Hungry Canyons organization in the amount of \$160,000, so that will help with the cost of the project," Assman said.

The Hungry Canyons Alliance provides support stream channel erosion/degradation support for counties in the loess soils region of western Iowa.

"A large portion - 80% - of the cost comes from the Highway Bridge Program, which are federal dollars," he said. "The balance of whatever's left will come from the Farm to Market funds since it's on a paved Farm to Market road."

Assman said he could not yet provide a timeline for the project.

"Ideally, we'd like to start on it right away; as soon as the contractor is ready to go to work and we have the preconstruction conference," he said. "We'd prefer to have this type of project done in the early part of the year – spring/summer – so that we're not impacting harvest. That's always our goal."

He said the project will be done during the 2024 construction season.

"Hopefully on the front side of that as opposed to the back side of that," he said.

E16 in the area of the bridge will be closed during the project.

Paved-road traffic will be routed to the north at County Road L51 to the east of the project area and at County Road L37 in Monona County

to the west; detoured traffic will travel east/west on County Road D54 in Woodbury and Ida Counties.

See future editions of the Denison Free Press for information about when E16 will be closed.



This bridge on County Road E16 will be replaced during the coming construction season.



Erosion control on the waterway under the bridge will be part of the replacement project.