



Monarch bowlers sign letter of intent

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Third graders stage musical

PAGE 6



County unemployment rate

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CCMH nurse honored

PAGE 10

Local News  
Local Journalists  
Local Ownership

# The Denison Free Press

FREE  
TAKE ONE!

Vol. 1 | No. 35

SERVING DENISON & CRAWFORD COUNTY, IOWA

February 29, 2024

## Donna Reed Foundation hosts economic summit

IEDA director offers advice

BY GORDON WOLF

Representatives of the Donna Reed Foundation received input and feedback following an economic summit conducted on Friday.

Seated at tables set up in the lobby of the Donna Reed Theater in Denison were city and state officials as well as community leaders.

State representation came from the Iowa Economic Development Authority (IEDA). Director Debi Durham brought with her Jim Thompson, business specialist for the Main Street Iowa program; Stephanie Neppl, tourism liaison; Liz Gilman, film commissioner; and Heather Gibb, state historic preservation officer.

John Fujii, president of the Donna Reed Foundation, went over important milestones that pertain to the Donna Reed Foundation – the building of the Germania Opera House (now the Donna Reed Theater) in 1914, Donnabelle Mullenger's (Donna Reed's) birth in 1921, Reed's Academy Award returning to Denison in 1986, the formation of the Donna Reed Foundation and the acquisition of the Donna Reed Theater in 1987, Donna Reed's Centennial and her induction into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame in 2021, and the listing of the Donna Reed Theater on the National Register of Historic Places in 2023.

"We have great things to work with here (in Western Iowa)," said Fujii, adding that there is much more work to be done.

He listed as Western Iowa treasures Donna Reed as a cultural icon, the Donna Reed Theater as a crown jewel and the Donna Reed Foundation in providing opportunities to share the legacies of Donna Reed and the Donna Reed Theater.

Fujii presented a strategic plan (represented by a pyramid) that has as its base the safety and preservation of the building. Fujii said over three decades of preservation has been done and noted that old buildings need a lot

DONNA REED, PAGE 3

## "Pop" goes the concert



PHOTO BY GORDON WOLF

The Denison High School Vocal Music Department presented its annual Pops Concert on Friday. The concert's theme was love. Above, Shelby Kastner opened the Chamber Choir portion of the Pops Concert by soloing on "You Can't Hurry Love," a Motown classic originally recorded in 1966 by the Supremes. See more photos inside this issue.

It all started with Jingles

## Jeri Dreyer's commitment to animals results in award for Denison Pound

BY GORDON WOLF

Last week Wednesday, Jeri Dreyer, manager of the Denison Animal Pound, was presented with an award from the Best Friends Network in recognition of achieving a no-kill shelter status for 2022.

The Best Friends Network, located in Utah, is the biggest rescue in the nation and averages around 1,600 animals at all times, Jeri explained.

JERI DREYER, PAGE 7



PHOTO BY GORDON WOLF

Jeri Dreyer is shown with a min pin (miniature pinscher) that is up for adoption. Jeri's passion for animals led to an award for the Denison Animal Pound.

## A new Denison twist on The Old Fashioned

Ken Kahl, Dustin Durbin opening businesses in former Legion building



PHOTO BY DOUGLAS BURNS

The developers of a new bar in Denison, The Old Fashioned, plan to open within weeks. Pictured are business partners Dustin Durbin (left) and Ken Kahl.

BY DOUGLAS BURNS  
SPECIAL TO THE DENISON FREE PRESS

A Prohibition era-themed bar with a speakeasy ambiance is slated to open in mid-March in the former American Legion building, a historic reach in downtown Denison.

The bar's name: The Old Fashioned. The mood: laid back. The cocktails: think 1920s mixes.

"The exciting thing is to open something that's just been a hidden gem in town for so long," said The Old Fashioned's co-creator and owner Dustin Durbin, 41. "So the excitement is just when everybody walks through the door. It's really neat. I'm already excited being here, but when you get people to come in here and see it for the first time, they're just in shock. Like, 'Oh my gosh, I didn't even know this was up here.'"

Durbin is opening the bar, which already has a manager and a planned

staff of four people, at 1211 Broadway. It will be in the upstairs of the building in a space adjacent to the new location for Crawford County Abstract, LLC, a business owned by Durbin's business partner Ken Kahl, 41. The abstract firm, which has orbiting operations in Cass and Sac counties, is currently located above the Donna Reed Theater, a block to the east.

"This is our home and Denison is strong," Kahl said of the investment in the property, which he and Durbin are remodeling for the businesses. They took ownership in January.

Crawford County Abstract plans to open in the new location in the spring.

The Old Fashioned, which will exclusively serve cocktails (save for one beer, Natural Light) and no food, plans to be a good addition to the block, to boost traffic for other businesses, like the adjacent bar, Just One More, Kahl said.

"I think we'll be great neighbors and will complement each other well," Kahl said. "And I like to think that every decision we make for this space

THE OLD FASHIONED, PAGE 10

## HELP WANTED

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



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## Crossroads' new space

SUBMITTED BY JANETTE CLAUSEN, DIRECTOR

What is going on 7th Street where the big Crossroads banner is posted? We are pleased to answer folks who ask because it has big implications for our community! This is the new space we nearing completion of to become our new center. This includes our offices and most importantly, it will house our new ultrasound program that will work hand-in-hand with Crossroads' Pregnancy & Parenting Resource program.

For those who know little about us, it is typical to misunderstand this news to be that we will offer medical pregnancy care. This is NOT the case. Crossroads new site, including the renovations needed, is intended to provide a safe, inviting place where women experiencing difficult or unplanned pregnancies can come for ultrasound in order to confirm pregnancy, and to help them appreciate the beauty in their pregnancy, in spite of their difficult circumstances. We hope to engage with each of them to offer ongoing support and encouragement during their pregnancy as well as into parenthood.

Our services absolutely do not replace good prenatal care. We will only offer limited obstetric care, and will not be doing diagnostic ultrasound beyond confirming a pregnancy and approximate gestation. We will always seek to refer to good prenatal care through a medical provider. That would often imply further ultrasound for diagnostic purposes by the obstetrician, and once the woman is receiving such care, Crossroads would not do further ultrasound on

that patient.

At Crossroads, our mission is to gently help our clients defeat or remove the barriers that they may describe which make them feel abortion may be the right answer. We want to equip them with knowledge, confidence, and parenting and relationship skills. If we can assist them with the decision making, then a trusting relationship is formed, and we can be there to help them as they prepare for parenthood. Through that phase, we can offer support through rough times, and mentor them in multiple life challenges.

Why ultrasound? Ultrasound is a tool that helps them value the constantly changing and growing life inside of them. The Crossroads ultrasound project, which Crossroads has named the BIGGER Ultrasound Campaign, started after the Knights of Columbus, Charles Carroll group, pledged to begin fundraising for an ultrasound machine for Crossroads. They have successfully sparked and engaged help from other local Nate groups, including.

An ultrasound machine is very expensive, so while this is exciting news, it was a tremendous undertaking for Crossroads. The start of the program implied 1) moving to a larger space and consequentially making a purchase of a new building 2) medical staffing 3) higher professional insurances, 3) professional training, and 4) remodel of the space to ensure optimal safety. These factors combined require extensive community help and partnering for the program to be effective and successful.

The community has been generous and excited for what is unfolding. The remodel process started shortly after closing in early November on the private sale and has gone incredibly smooth.

Crossroads also provides care for the opposite stages of life through CoCares. This program offers nonmedical assistance to seniors and caregivers in the community for a nominal fee, with donations offsetting costs for the recipients. With our current ultrasound project and minimal staffing, we are maintaining the households we are serving without intentional marketing for more. We hope to add focus and awareness to this program soon.

While the expenses of the building site and operations for both programs are daunting at times, we are grateful for the community who have been encouraging, financially supportive and helpful. We encourage all community and surrounding area persons to keep updated through our quarterly newsletters, occasional short emails, website, and local media.

One key way to learn more about Crossroads and to help is to attend our annual fundraiser and celebration of life event scheduled for March 12. These monies have been used for direct program time in previous years, and are the key fuel for such. Of course, contributions to the building campaign are also needed and welcome anytime. All donations help to anchor our mission, either by providing a safe, welcoming environment for those in difficult pregnancy circumstances or offering the direct contact in helping them sort through the challenges in a healthy and proactive way.

Our news is also published online!  
Featured stories and more at  
DENISONFREEPRESS.COM

# VitaSuite

## IV and Ketamine Therapy

**Vita Suite will be in Denison at Lambert Family Chiropractic**  
909 4<sup>th</sup> Ave. S. Denison

Thursday, March 7<sup>th</sup> from 10 am – 4 pm  
Thursday, April 11<sup>th</sup> from 10 am – 4 pm

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**John Ingram, MD**  
Family Medicine

## DONNA REED, FROM PAGE 1

of maintenance. Second to safety and maintenance is a focus on hospitality and service, making sure that the building is not only safe but making it available for people to experience.

He also listed the opportunity to build out the brand, adding that Reed continues to attract attention nationally and internationally.

All three of these factors working well together will help reach the top of the summit, which is sustainability.

"We have to get through our fundamentals," Fujii said. "Our fundamentals include waterproofing the building."

He explained that water is an enemy of old buildings.

Other fundamentals are service, focusing on delivering the expectation of experiences at the Donna Reed building, and then spreading the brand.

"We have a great opportunity for brand reach and delivering on the brand promise, which is about the expectations that the general public in the state, nation and the world have in coming to the theater," he said.

Fujii pointed out that lot of things have changed since the foundation was formed in 1988.

"Instead of the old days of licking envelopes and sending out mailers and listing things at welcome centers, now people find us on the internet," he said.

He added that those that visit the Donna Reed Theater and Donna Reed Museum are turning to social media to tell of their experiences, and this makes it possible for others to self-evaluate whether they should make that trip to the theater.

"The spread of the brand is something we can get behind and work on with you folks, and then have the opportunity to create a greater halo effect that not only reflects on the western region but also on Iowa," Fujii said.

Fujii said making the theater a destination, expanding on brand assets and the history of the theater, and focusing on the experience of visitors will make what the foundation is doing sustainable.

Asked about his reference to water issues, Fujii said that is an ongoing issue. He spoke about a roof replacement and plans for a project to brace the parapets on the building. He said part of the issues are created through water seepage and that the intense cold experienced in January affected the limestone features on the upper exterior of the building. He said the focus is to create a seal so water can't get behind the facing.

"Nothing is out of control, but we can't let water deteriorate the building," Fujii said.

Denison Councilman Dustin Logan pointed out that the longevity of theater building has more to do with community interest and asked about plans to drive some kind of fund.

He referenced online resources that were mentioned during the conversation.

"What are you doing to drive funds to keep this operating?" he asked. "That's the issue of the online presence; it doesn't necessarily drive revenue."

Fujii agreed and said it's a little bit of a chicken and egg situation.

"If we do the investment now to show that we are healthy and sustainable, then we're going to see more of an interest, but we also have to build up a new track record in terms of tourism-focused events - people coming in having premium experiences and then have an

opportunity to expand reputation for the excellence that is going to happen, whether it is targeted events, themed events, concerts, or 'It's a Wonderful Life'-focused things or things that may be tied into more regional events," Fujii said.

Fujii added that the foundation is working on a budget or capital improvement program.

With Fujii were Mary Owen, daughter of Donna Reed and treasurer of the foundation, and Robin Blakely who is doing communications for the Donna Reed Foundation as pro bono specialist.

Blakely said the foundation started professionalizing tour groups. Last year six tour groups of about 45 people each came to the theater, and the people stayed overnight and ate in town. She said five more tour groups are scheduled for this year and added a lot of that happened because of what the foundation was doing online.

Mayor Pam Soseman said people often stop by the Donna Reed Museum for tours and asked if that would be open daily or have projected hours.

Blakely said one of the things being discussed with those around the table was to see the demand.

"We couldn't afford to have it open when no one came, and so it's much better to schedule the time frames that would be in coordination with other events or have a certain day that it is open each month that we could direct people to," Blakely said.

Along with Logan and Soseman, other city representatives at the summit were Councilman Corey Curnyn, City Manager Jessica Garcia, City Clerk Jodie Flaherty, and Building Inspector Chris Flattery.

Representing the Chamber & Development Council of Crawford County were Paul Plumb, executive director, and Drew Perrien, tourism coordinator, and from WESCO Industries, Clay Adams, executive director.

In an interview with The Denison Free Press, Durham said that the IEDA has the programs that "would certainly have a line of sight to this project."

She listed programs such as Produce Iowa, historic preservation and a catalyst grant.

A \$100,000 emergency catalyst grant is already in the works for a project to brace the parapets at the top of the Donna Reed Theater building. That grant goes through the city.

Durham added Travel Iowa can help with promotion and that the Destination Iowa program would be ideal for the Donna Reed Foundation as the grant program is all about tourism.

"You know there's no greater opportunity for all this with how iconic Donna Reed is," she said.

CAT grants can also help the foundation.

Durham said having the entire team that touches programs for IEDA at the theater was good, "so it's at the top of mind for us and there is a connection between the foundation and us and the community."

"You really have a gem here," she added, "and I don't think as a state we have been as good a partner as we can and should be going forward, because as we talked about the whole halo effect with Donna Reed, we have outreach through our communication and marketing team that goes national, and

guns, dog accessory packages, meat packages, prints, a power washer and a custom-made putter.

Quick raffle games will be played during the auction.

A drawing for kids will be featured.

Also featured will be five games of chance to win prizes and guns before the auction.

The banquet has over 120 sponsors this year at two levels.

Tickets are available at the door and can also be purchased by contacting Jake Segebart at 712-790-1497, Josh Langholdt at 712-269-8804 or Jon Saunders at 712-830-2996.



PHOTOS BY GORDON WOLF

Debi Durham (second from left), director of the Iowa Economic Development Authority, listens in on a conversation Robin Blakely is having with Jodie Flaherty and Dustin Logan with the City of Denison. Blakely does communications for the Donna Reed Foundation.

we also have connections with national media outlets that we can work with the foundation hand in hand to really try to elevate those kinds of stories that are coming up or anniversaries or significant events."

Durham continued that the Donna Reed Foundation and the community still have to frame what their project or projects are.

"So we do need more information which is what was talked about (during the summit)," she explained. "We need to see a full list of what the capital needs are. We want to see what those opportunities are for creating events or festivals, and once we see that, then we can do an even better job of connecting them and helping tell the story."

She said there is an art to grant writing and added that an applicant could have a great project, "but if you fail to tell the story, sometimes it doesn't score as well with people who haven't been here, because you have independent scorers. So part of it for us is to not only connect the dots of what programs align with where they want to go but more importantly it's

also to help them tell the story."

Durham said the IEDA grants are usually the last dollar in on a project, except for historic preservation, so private fundraising has to be done and there has to be city or county participation.

She added that IEDA will help communities with grants up to the point when an application is submitted.

"And we want to help them because, as I said today, the community of Denison and the foundation need to think of us as their extension of how we can help them be successful," she said.

Generating local interest in projects is about strategic planning and bringing the community along, she added.

"We have some communities out there that have done exceptional jobs," Durham said. "But if there's a strategic plan and you've brought the community along, that seems to be the best way to approach these things."

Read more about the Donna Reed Foundation's plans along with Durham's visit with city officials in next week's Free Press.



John Fujii (standing), president of the Donna Reed Foundation, presents a slide program at an economic development summit in the lobby of the Donna Reed Theater. Seated around the table are local and state leaders and others with the Donna Reed Foundation.

## Pheasants Forever banquet this Saturday

The Crawford County Chapter of Pheasants Forever will host its 37th annual banquet this Saturday, March 2, at the Manilla Memorial Hall. The doors will open at 5 p.m. and dinner will start at 6 p.m.

The dinner is Staley's chicken and New York strip.

An auction and raffle drawings will follow the dinner.

The auction will feature 40 items. Some of the items are griddles, grills,

guns, dog accessory packages, meat packages, prints, a power washer and a custom-made putter.

Quick raffle games will be played during the auction.

A drawing for kids will be featured.

Also featured will be five games of chance to win prizes and guns before the auction.

The banquet has over 120 sponsors this year at two levels.

Tickets are available at the door and can also be purchased by contacting Jake Segebart at 712-790-1497, Josh Langholdt at 712-269-8804 or Jon Saunders at 712-830-2996.

**The Denison Free Press**

SERVING DENISON & CRAWFORD COUNTY, IOWA

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or email to [director@denisoncis.org](mailto:director@denisoncis.org)



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The Denison Free Press reserves the right not to publish any advertisement that contains libelous materials.

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# Local Calendar

## SATURDAY MARCH 2, 2024

**Family Saturday at Norelius Community Library**, 2 p.m. Movie Day featuring The Super Mario Bros. Movie. Popcorn and drinks provided.

**Pheasants Forever annual banquet**, Manilla Memorial Hall. Doors open at 5 p.m. Dinner at 6 p.m. Tickets available at the door or call Jake Segebart at 712-790-1497, Josh Langholdt at 712-269-8804 or Jon Saunders at 712-830-2996.

## MONDAY MARCH 4, 2024

**Denison High School Instrumental March Concert**, 7 p.m., Fine Arts Center. Features 9-10 and 11-12 concert bands and the Iowa State University Wind Ensemble. Admission is free.

**Euchre Night at Denison Senior Center**, 6 p.m.

## TUESDAY MARCH 5, 2024

**Color Met Calm at Norelius Community Library**, for ages 10 and older, 5:30-7:30 p.m. Enjoy a tranquil time with others. Use materials provided or bring your own preferred project.

**Family & Teen Coloring at Norelius Community Library**, 5:30-7:30 p.m. Families and teens meet in the Children's Library for a fun time of coloring and crafts from the Maker Table. You are welcome to bring your project to work on.

**Euchre Night at the Community Building in Ricketts**. Card playing, socializing, treats and beverages. The card game starts at 7 p.m. Entry fee is \$5. People do not need to bring a partner.

## WEDNESDAY MARCH 6, 2024

**Story Time at Norelius Community Library**, for ages 0-5, 2 p.m. Stories, songs and a special activity at the end. Lasts approximately 30 minutes including playtime.

**Euchre Night at the Charter Oak Community Building**, 7 p.m. No partners needed.

## THURSDAY MARCH 7, 2024

**Crawford County Women in Business Impact Organization (WIBIO) monthly meeting**, 5 p.m., Chamber & Development Council office. All women looking to make Crawford County a better place to live, work and play are invited to attend.

**Anime Club at Norelius Community Library**, for ages 12-18, 5:30 p.m. Snacks, games to play and anime to watch.



# ON THE SCANNER

**February 21, 6:30 p.m.:** The Crawford County Sheriff's Office investigated a vehicle vs. deer accident that happened on Highway 141. Marc Charles Lansink, 61, of Battle Creek, was driving a maroon 2017 Dodge Ram 2500 north on Highway 141 just north of L Avenue when a deer entered the roadway from the west ditch. Lansink was unable to avoid the deer. His vehicle received \$4,000 damage to the grill, radiator, air conditioner condenser, bumper and left front fender. Lansink was not injured.

# LAND TRANSACTIONS

February 16-22, 2024

### Warranty Deeds

- Robert M. Lueth and Mary Lynne Lueth to Jose A. Valdez and Maria Barajas: Lot 6, Block 20, City of Manilla; \$65,000.
- Edward Sandberg, Martha Sandberg and Karl Sandberg to Joshua Burns and Rachel Burns: Lot 10, 11, 12, 13, Block 3, City of Kiron; \$72,000.
- Dayton L. Schmidt, Dayton L. Schmidt, Atty., Dr. D. L. Schmidt, Gloria M. Schmidt, Fred Schmidt, Fredric Schmidt to Derrick Lee

Behrendsen: Lot 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, Block 2, East Side Addition, City of Schleswig; \$140,000.

• Kelly J. Garrett and Amber S. Garrett to Riann Nicolaas Fourie: Lot 3, Block 22, City of Dow City; \$100,000.

### Court Officer Deeds

• Vivian Steinkamp Estate, Shawn Steinkamp, Executor to Shawn Steinkamp, Tasha Steinkamp, Carrie Howe and Crystal Drilling: E1/2 NW1/4 Section 12, Jackson Township; NE1/4 Section 12, Jackson Township; \$1.00.

## CITY OF KIRON DISBURSEMENTS FEBRUARY 12TH, 2024

<b>GENERAL FUND:</b>	
IPERS, benefits.....	\$373.52
EFTPS, 941 taxes.....	\$531.36
MIDAMERICAN ENERGY, city hall electric.....	\$136.13
SCHALLER TELEPHONE, city hall phone.....	\$36.88
MIDAMERICAN ENERGY, city shed electric.....	\$37.51
DENISON BULLETIN/REVIEW, publishing.....	\$118.99
ANGILA TREMBLAY, employee, general fund 1/3.....	\$469.24
HERMAN KOHNEKAMP, employee, general fund 1/2.....	\$0.00
QUILL CORPORATION, office supplies.....	\$49.99
US POSTAL SERVICE postage.....	\$118.00
<b>TOTAL:</b> .....	<b>\$1,871.62</b>

<b>FIRE DEPARTMENT</b>	
MIDAMERICAN ENERGY, fire station.....	\$21.49
MIDAMERICAN ENERGY, fire siren.....	\$10.69
<b>TOTAL:</b> .....	<b>\$32.18</b>

<b>SEWER</b>	
MIDAMERICAN ENERGY, sewer plant.....	\$980.82
JOHN LARSON, employee, sewer fund 50%.....	\$247.40
ANGILA TREMBLAY, employee, sewer fund 1/3.....	\$469.24
ISG, operator services, IDNR permit application fee.....	\$1,268.75
IDNR, wastewater permit.....	\$86.50
FOUNDATION ANALYTICAL LABORATORY, sewer testing.....	\$209.50
<b>TOTAL:</b> .....	<b>\$3,262.21</b>

<b>WATER</b>	
WCIRWA, water purchase.....	\$6,159.60
WCIRWA, loan payment.....	\$570.88
MIDAMERICAN ENERGY, Eureka St well.....	\$11.24
MIDAMERICAN ENERGY, water tower.....	\$44.78
ANGILA TREMBLAY, employee, water fund 1/3.....	\$469.24
JOHN LARSON, employee, water fund 50%.....	\$247.40
<b>TOTAL:</b> .....	<b>\$7,503.14</b>

<b>PARKS</b>	
MIDAMERICAN ENERGY, Eureka St shelter.....	\$73.49
MIDAMERICAN ENERGY, ballfield.....	\$20.87
MIDAMERICAN ENERGY, N Orchard shelter.....	\$10.16
<b>TOTAL:</b> .....	<b>\$104.52</b>

<b>ROAD USE TAX</b>	
MIDAMERICAN ENERGY, Hwy 39 traffic light.....	\$0.00
MIDAMERICAN ENERGY, N Grove street light.....	\$293.28
HERMAN KOHNEKAMP, employee, 1/2 street fund.....	\$1,050.34
QUALITY TRUCK SERVICE, parts & repair for city truck.....	\$147.50
ALS CORNER OIL CO, fuel for tractor/truck.....	\$539.72
MIKE LICKTEIG, employee.....	\$350.47
<b>TOTAL:</b> .....	<b>\$2,381.31</b>

<b>GARBAGE</b>	
R&S WASTE, garbage hauling.....	\$2,071.00
<b>TOTAL:</b> .....	<b>\$2,071.00</b>

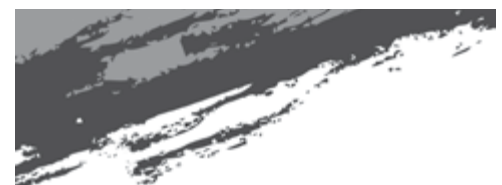
<b>TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS:</b>	
<b>\$17,225.98</b>	
<b>RECEIPTS: January 2024</b>	
GENERAL FUND:.....	\$838.92
WATER FUND:.....	\$6,710.17
SEWER FUND:.....	\$10,317.79
GARBAGE FUND:.....	\$2,284.59
ROAD USE TAX:.....	\$2,548.45
LOCAL OPTION SALES TAX:.....	\$2,703.01
PERMITS:.....	\$0.00
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS:</b> .....	<b>\$25,402.93</b>

## Denison Kiwanis Club lottery winners announced

The following winners in the February 28 Denison Kiwanis Club lottery drawing will each receive \$25.

Nancy Gesy, Denison; Quality Truck Service, Denison; Tonya Eller, Denison; Quality Truck Service, Denison; Oak Ridge Cobblestone Inn & Suites, Denison; Kristy Zenk, Denison; Crawford County Bank, Denison; Scott Lampman, Manning; Terri Martens, Denison; Kim Gustafson, Denison; Cheryl Nepl, Schleswig; Donna Kuehnhold, Denison; Scott Bowker, Denison; United Bank of Iowa, Denison; Gloria Anderson, Deloit; Loren Schultz, Denison; Tim Kropf, Denison; Denison Drywall, Denison

The last drawing for this year will be July 31.



Let everyone know about your upcoming event!

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sales@denisonfreepress.com

## NORELIUS COMMUNITY LIBRARY NEWS

### Denison Library Friends to meet March 11

The Denison Library Friends will meet at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, March 11, in the Library Meeting Room at Norelius Community Library. The agenda includes regular business reports, discussion of the White Elephant Sale on April 6 and the library director's report. The public is invited to attend the meeting. The next meeting will be Monday, May 13, at 5:30 p.m. at Norelius Community Library.

## COURTHOUSE NEWS

February 16-22, 2024

### NON-SCHEDULED TRAFFIC

• Jered D. Head, Dow City, restrictions on taking game, deer and turkey, \$4,215.25.

### SCHEDULED TRAFFIC

• Jered D. Head, Dow City, hunting, unlawful use of mobile transmitter, \$135.50.

• Francisca Tercero Rafael, Denison, failure to use seat belt, minor, \$135.50.

• Luis Angel Navar, Denison, failure to maintain control, \$210.25.

• Stephanie Lenae Adams, Dow City, operating non-registered vehicle, \$135.50.

• Haiden Jerrold Thomas Fineran, Denison, person under 21 years of age using tobacco/ vapor product, first offense, \$70.

• Janice Kay Ketelsen, Charter Oak, failure to obey traffic control device, \$210.25.

• Kevin Alexis Ramirez, Denison, careless driving, \$141.25.

### SPEEDING (11-15 MPH OVER)

• Amanda N. Coleman, Omaha, NE, \$175.75.

• Orelvys Jimenez Galindo, Columbus, NE, \$175.75.

### SPEEDING (6-10 MPH OVER)

• Dyllon Gene Jacobson, Manning, \$118.25.

• Mikel Borkhuis Scholten, Sioux Falls, SD, \$118.25.

• Joshua Daniel Heiman, Manilla, \$118.25.

• McKinzie Mae Hargens, Schleswig, \$118.25.

• Sharon Kaye Brown, Denison, \$118.25.

• Matthew Ryan Ferguson, Harlan, \$118.25.

• Nathan Allen Vetter, Denison, \$118.25.

• Angeline Volcy, Mulberry, FL, \$118.25.

### SPEEDING (1-5 MPH OVER)

• Tierney Ann Hunter, Carroll, \$119.50.

• Brandon Charles Huebert, Schleswig, \$89.50.

• Pablo Anthony Juarez, Houston, TX, \$89.50.

• Steven Paul Briceno Fermin, Fort Dodge, \$89.50.

• William Jay Weber, Clive, \$89.50.

• Taya Nicole Vonnahme, Manning, \$89.50.

• Julie Jo Burhoop, Dow City, \$89.50.

• Morgan Lynn Winey, Deloit, \$89.50.

• Epigmenio Jaime Sanchez, Vail, \$89.50.



# Letters TO THE EDITOR

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# Monarchs Sports

## DENISON-SCHLESWIG MONARCHS BOWLING

### Denison-Schleswig bowlers sign with Grand View

Sisters Brianna and Brittany Musgrave signed letters of intent on Tuesday morning to attend Grand View University in Des Moines.

Both girls competed in the state individual bowling tournament earlier this month. Brianna placed second in Class 2A and Brittany finished in 16th place.

Brianna told why she chose Grand View.

"I toured a couple of other schools, and just visiting there (Grand View) I liked the facilities, and I liked the dorms," she said. "The coach was really inviting and really welcoming so it made it just feel more like home and somewhere I could spend the next few years."

Brittany agreed. "She's (the coach) very nice and she's always willing to help us whether it's with bowling or other things, even before we signed," Brittany said. "And I like the fact that I'm super close to my other sister. We're only 15 minutes apart so we can go see her whenever we want."

That sister, Courtney Clark, lives in Altoona.

Brianna said Grand View has a solid bowling program.

"It's definitely going to be fun getting to maybe make the program a little better," she said.

Brittany pointed out that this summer she and Brianna went to a tournament where they met a couple girls that bowled for Grand View, and on a visit to Grand View Brianna met some other members of the team.

"They were super welcoming and nice to us," said Brittany.

Melody Felton, head men's and

women's bowling coach at Grand View, spoke about how she came in contact with Brianna and Brittany.

"I follow high school bowling and go through stats and check out Facebook pages to see whose bowling hot and

reach out to bowlers to see if they're interested in furthering their education and bowling in college," she said.

Read more about the Musgrave sisters in the bowling season wrap-up story.



PHOTO BY GORDON WOLF

Brittany and Brianna Musgrave signed letters of intent Tuesday to attend and bowl for Grand View University in Des Moines. Pictured seated from left are Melody Felton, head men's and women's bowling coach at Grand View; Brittany Musgrave; Brianna Musgrave; and the girls' father, Bruce Musgrave. Standing in back is Dave Wiebers, the Denison High School principal.

### A look at the Monarch bowling season

Monarch boy and girl bowlers were recognized at the end of the season for a number of awards.

#### BOYS' AWARDS

**All Conference:** Jake Fink, Gavin Schmadeke

**All District:** Jake Fink (2nd Team)

#### KMA RADIO AWARDS

**Boys Sophomore of the Year:** Jett Paulsen

**All Hawkeye 10 Team:** Jake Fink

**Hawkeye 10 Senior Team:** Jake Fink

**Hawkeye 10 Sophomore Team:** Jett Paulsen, Gavin Schmadeke, Ethan Totten

**Hawkeye 10 Freshman Team:** Grant Fink, Jackson Steinkuehler

#### GIRLS' AWARDS

**All Conference:** Brianna Musgrave, Brittany Musgrave

**All District:** Brittany Musgrave (2nd Team), Brianna Musgrave (1st Team)

**All State:** Brianna Musgrave (2nd Team)

#### KMA RADIO AWARDS

**Girls Bowler of the Year:** Brianna Musgrave

**Girls Senior of the Year:** Brianna Musgrave

**Girls Freshman of the Year:** Grace Collins

**All Hawkeye 10 Team:** Brianna Musgrave

**Hawkeye 10 Senior Team:** Brianna Musgrave, Brittany Musgrave

**Hawkeye 10 Freshman Team:** Grace Collins, Daisy Koch, Haley Lutz

Head Coach Shelby Kastner had the following comments about the season.

"The boys had a winning season. They also placed first at their Monarch Baker Tournament, fifth at the Hawkeye 10 conference tournament, and placed second at districts and qualified as a team for the state tournament. Jake Fink qualified for state as an individual. It was very exciting for Jake as he made it all the way to the finals and ended up placing second. This year's team was very young. We ended the season with one senior, three sophomores and two freshmen. Jake and Ethan both brought experience to the team and were able to pass it along to the other members. The team learned a lot this year and what it takes to compete at a higher level. They're already thinking about what they need to work on next year so they can continue to have success."

"The girls had a winning season. They also placed first at their Monarch Baker Tournament, first at the Hawkeye 10 conference tournament, and placed fourth at districts. Unfortunately, the team did not make it to state this year. In the individual portion of state qualifying, Brianna Musgrave and Brittany Musgrave qualified. It was very exciting for Brianna as she made it all the way to the finals and ended up placing second. The dynamic of the team this year was interesting as the varsity finished with three seniors and three freshmen. The seniors did a great job leading the freshmen, showing them what the sport is about, and the freshmen have a good base to set themselves up for the rest of their high school careers. We will graduate three seniors from the varsity team (five seniors total). We're excited to see how the team grows next year and who is going to step into those leadership roles."

### Monarch boys compete in state bowling tournament

A young Denison-Schleswig boys' bowling team competed in the Class 2A State Bowling Tournament last week Wednesday.

The team ended up eighth.

Head Coach Shelby Brawner said her team started the pre-bracket 15 baker games all right with scores of 180, 233, 152, 213 and 211.

"Lane 12 was the toughest for them in the first set," she said. "Battling one lane seemed to a trend throughout the first 15."

She said the next set was when her team struggled the most, throwing games of 189, 192, 165, 175 and 148.

"They had a lot of pin action, but the boys couldn't catch any breaks," Brawner said.

They finished the first 15 games with scores of 143, 224, 159, 211 and 185.

"They tried to catch the teams ahead of them but ended up placing eighth," she said.

In the first round of the bracket, the Monarchs took on Keokuk. Keokuk won three games in a row right away. The Monarchs bowled games of 167, 182 and 177.

Next the Monarchs bowled against Newton for seventh and were able to shut Newton out in three games bowling scores of 167, 208 and 247.

"The kids struggled overcoming the mental part of the game, but we were really excited to see them go into the last round with a great attitude. It goes to show how important the mental game is in bowling," Brawner said. "Our team is young, and they learned a lot through this experience that they can take with them next year. Jake (Fink) was a great leader for our young players, and he'll be missed next year."



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## DENISON-SCHLESWIG MONARCHS WRESTLING

### Girls' wrestling wrap-up

#### Awards presented; coach gives outlook for the future

The Denison-Schleswig Monarch girls finished their second season as a state sanctioned sport by sending two team members to the state tournament.

Taya Adams punched her ticket to the state tournament at 130 pounds and sophomore Angie Rivera qualified for state for the second consecutive year.

Along the way, the Monarchs won a number of duals and placed in tournaments.

The Monarchs won duals against Audubon, Hinton, Carroll, Glenwood and Kuemper.

They placed third at the Western Iowa tournament, fourth at the Council Bluffs Thomas Jefferson tournament, fourth at the Riverside tournament, fourth at the Lo-Ma tournament and 14th at the SWAT tournament.

The team recently presented its awards and letters.

**Most Valuable Wrestler:** Taya Adams  
**Most Improved:** Giana Garcia

**Hardest Worker:** Angie Rivera  
**Monarch Award:** Taya Adams

Following are the team members. Varsity letterwinners are denoted by \*.

**Freshmen team members:** Andrea Alcaraz\*, Grace Collins\*, Samantha Espinoza, Marisol Granados\*, Briana Perez, Katherine Ramirez, Guadalupe Ramos

**Sophomores:** Giana Garcia\*, Addison Ransom\*, Angie Rivera\*, Katerin Rodriguez

**Juniors:** Kasandra Barroso\*, Ana Castillo\*, Miranda Estrada, Alexis Hartwig\*, Nallely Rivera, Yarecz Rodriguez\*, Alexa Tremblay\*

**Seniors:** Taya Adams\*, Taylor Totten\*

"It felt like we got our feet underneath us a bit in our second year of competition. We were able to build a solid lineup that had four top four finishes in tournaments throughout the season," said Head Coach Jacob

Brawner. "We don't have any top tier girls from a talent perspective at this point, but we have a lot of solid girls throughout our lineup, and we improved immensely from quite an eye-opening experience against some tough teams on the first night of the season."

He added that the Monarchs rewrote the book with the following additions to the season's top 10 records.

Wins in a season: 7/10

Win percentage: 6/10

Takedowns: 6/10

Falls: 6/10

Fastest fall: 6/10

"It was a very long and grueling season, and we were decimated a bit by injuries and girls not sticking it out the whole season. We still managed to finish the season with 20 girls on our roster," Brawner said.

The Monarchs finished eighth out of 24 teams at the regional meet. Seven of the nine Monarchs at the regional won a match.

Brawner listed the following areas of focus for the future and provided comments for each area.

- Recruit athletic and tough girls to join the team. "We improved in this area during year two and have all but two varsity starters returning. Filling those gaps and getting girls in the room that challenge our current roster is imperative. We should start to see some freshmen come in next year with some experience, which will be nice to have."

- Recruit athletes to start participating in youth and middle school wrestling by building relationships. "Girls' wrestling is already commonplace in some areas around the state. We will struggle to keep up if we don't get girls involved sooner."

- Weight room and summer wrestling are a priority. "If we want to be competitive, we need to close the gaps in these areas."

- Establish a schedule with dual meets as a priority. "Dual meets emphasize the team aspect of wrestling."

This year's team captains were Rivera and Adams. The manager was Cheyenne Vang and the assistant coach was Joe Brawner.

### Bugs parade on stage during musical



PHOTOS BY GORDON WOLF

The third graders from Denison Elementary School got “buggy” with the performance of their musical “bugz” Tuesday night at the Denison High School Fine Arts Center. A cast and chorus of bugs gets ready to head to a picnic but has a problem with the stink bug. The musical was directed by Angie Rosener. Pictured, the stink bug gets no respect from his fellow insects as he crosses the stage. The stink bug was played by Spencer Ball.



The Lady Bugs are illuminated in red light for their song, “Be a Lady.”



A chorus of bugs sings “Goin’ on a Picnic.”



A group of bugs does a square dance at the center of the stage.



The caterpillars in this picture were later transformed into butterflies.



The Army Ants march as they sing their song.



Fireflies create their own light in this song.



The butterflies came out of their cocoons during the song “Things Change.”

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## JERI DREYER, FROM PAGE 1

She was surprised by the award, presented at the Denison City Council meeting, because she had forgotten that the Best Friends Network had called some time ago.

"About a year ago I got a telephone call. They wanted to know if I could send my records," Jeri said. "I did, after I removed people's names. I didn't know why they wanted to see my records, and they didn't say, but I have nothing to hide. I had forgotten about it. Then at city hall they told me about the award."

The no-kill shelter status is for exceeding a 90% save rate for cats and dogs. Jeri said the pound is always at or above 90% and has even gone as high as a 98% save rate.

She goes to great lengths to find a home for every cat and dog. The exception is dogs that are too dangerous to adopt out.

Jeri's love of animals began at an early age with a little black cocker spaniel named Jingles.

"I went to three different grade schools, two different junior high schools and two or three different high schools, but my best friend was my dog because we never lived anywhere long enough to really make friends," she said.

Jeri was born in Sioux Rapids and then her father went into construction. She lived in Storm Lake (at least two different times), Albert City, Sibley and Marathon.

Jingles was not only a trusted friend but also a trustworthy source of transportation when Jeri was in grade school.

"My mother worked at a factory, and when it was time for her to get off work, I put on my roller skates and put the leash on Jingles and he would pull me," she said. "It was several blocks to the factory, and he knew the routine."

Jeri came to Denison with her husband, Ron, and their two children, Brent and Jessica, in 1977 and a year later started grooming dogs at the veterinary clinic at the corner of Highway 30 and 20th Street, now called Lincoln Highway Animal Hospital. She started with Dr. T. A. Willroth, then worked for Dr. Kevin McKeown when he purchased the clinic and now works for the current owner, Dr. Beth Reineke.

"I just enjoy being with animals," she added.

She uses Petfinder and the pound's websites (denisoncitypound.com or denisoncitypound.org - both work) and also works with rescue organizations to find homes for the animals.

An example of a long-distance success story is a huge malamute weighing 120 pounds, probably the biggest dog that was a guest at the pound in Jeri's time there.

"A rescue had already interviewed somebody and had them on a waiting list, so the rescue was in contact with me," Jeri recalled. "The family that was going to adopt him lived in Kansas City, so the day after Thanksgiving my husband and I drove to the airport in Kansas City where the head of this rescue flew in from Atlanta, Georgia. He met us at the airport, and then we met the new family."

Another time Jeri and Ron drove to Wisconsin.

"I had a little black cocker spaniel here, and he reminded me so much of Jingles. But he had dry eye and so was mainly blind," Jeri said. "I found a rescue in Wisconsin that guaranteed me he would not be put down. The rescue would find him a family and give him a retirement package where they would pay for three haircuts a year and pay for his eye medicine, because it was quite expensive. So on our anniversary (in September), Ron and I drove to Wisconsin to this rescue so I could kind of check it out. The rescue got the dog a wonderful home. The dog's new family sent me a picture."

Jeri said she loves it when families that adopt dogs or cats from the pound send pictures and keep in touch with her.

"I've had people come here from New York, Boston and Alaska," she added. "I'll meet them at the airport (in Omaha) or they'll fly into Omaha and then drive up here."

She recalled one woman from New York City who adopted two dogs. The woman sent crates and everything else needed for the dogs to the pound in Denison. Then she flew into Omaha, rented a SUV, drove to Denison to pick up the dogs and headed back to New York City.

"I've met some wonderful people through operating the pound," Jeri said.

People travel that far to get a dog from the pound in Denison because they are looking for a certain breed, or they just fall in love with a dog or cat because of the pictures Jeri posts online.

"What you want to do is get a good picture, so when people see that picture, they fall in love and they have to have that dog or cat or come and meet them," she said.

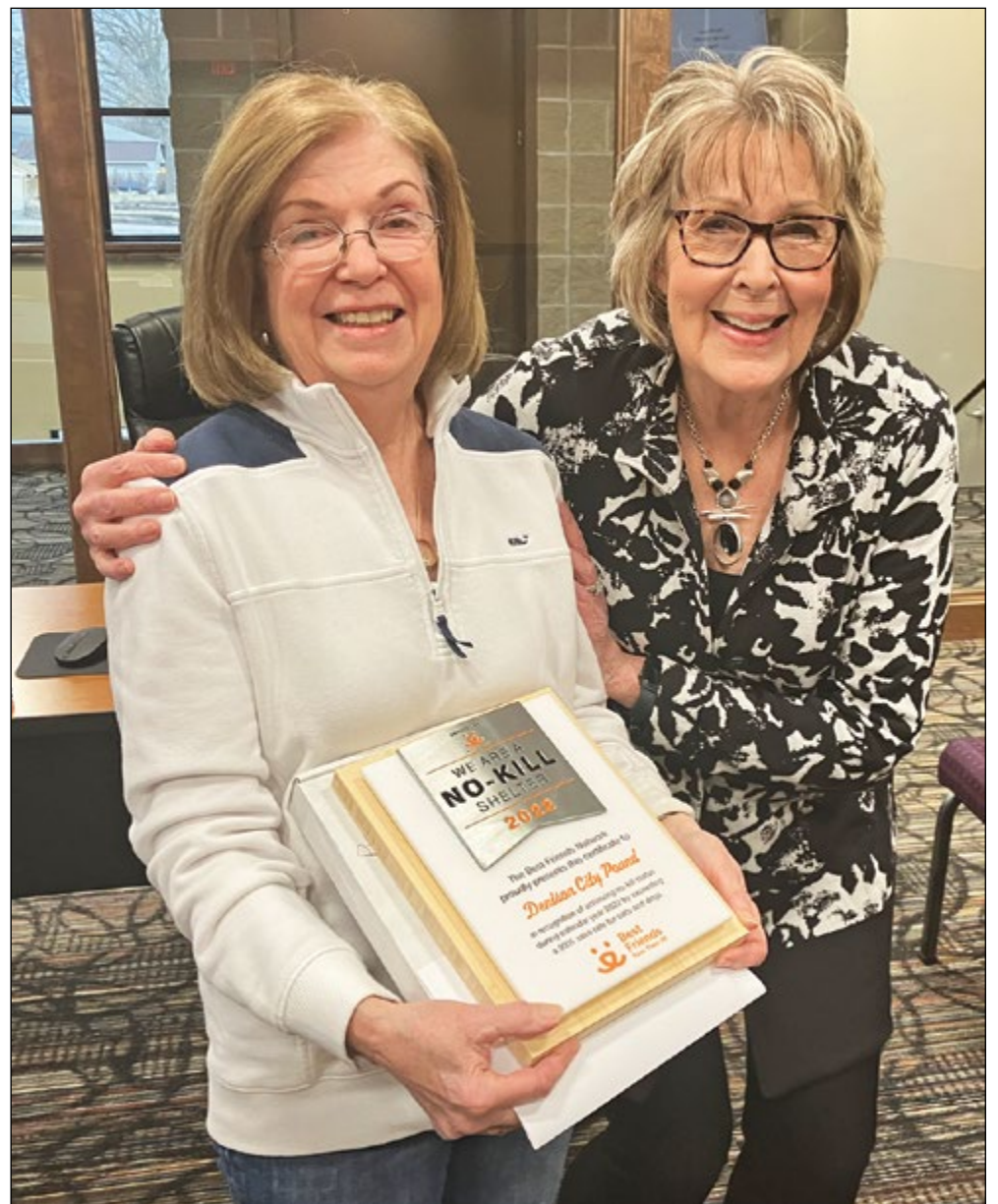
Jeri grooms the dogs before she photographs them.

She recalled one Sunday when she went to the pound and gave haircuts to six dogs that were going to up for adoption.

"They had to be cleaned up and spruced up because nobody would adopt them the way they looked before they were groomed," she said.

Jeri started working at the pound on May 1, 1998, and since that time the size of the facility has doubled. The addition was done more than 10 years ago after numerous fundraisers.

"When I first took over, we had



Denison Mayor Pam Soseman (right) presented Jeri Dreyer with a plaque from the Best Friends Network for having a no-kill shelter for calendar year 2022. Jeri is the manager of the Denison Animal Pound.

just the one kennel with eight runs, but we cover the whole county for animal control," she explained. "The way I wanted the pound was to have the room for the animals to stay until they get a home."

Those who want to help the pound can bring bags of Purina dog food.

"I ask for Purina because it's the most reasonably priced and the dogs do good on it. I try to keep them on one food so they don't have gastric problems," Jeri said.

She continued that Walmart in Denison and Carroll donate food.

If other brands of dog food are donated, Jeri mixes those with the Purina.

She explained that stores are not carrying as much dog food these days so there aren't as many torn bags.

"We are running pretty short, and having that food is the secret to keeping the dogs here," Jeri said.

She explained if the City of Denison had to buy all that food, she wouldn't be able to house the dogs as long as she does.

"Getting our food donated is a way these guys (dogs) can have the time they need here to get adopted," Jeri said.

The pound also receives donations of medicines, such as worming medicines, from veterinary clinics.

Some dogs are long-term guests. A dog Jeri adopted out last week Thursday had been at the pound since September.

But Blue is the longest resident of the pound - five years - because he is not adoptable.

Blue is a pit bull who years ago wouldn't let people go into or out of the convenience store in Vail, Jeri explained. He had to be darted by law enforcement to be taken to the pound.

"I just kind of fell in love with him because he's got a really good heart and he is not aggressive to other animals," she explained. "When he woke up (from being darted), I could see the kindness in his eyes. He goes out with me when I do the chores at the pound."

Jeri said she jokes with the police that she hired Blue for pound security. She added Blue will stare down any dog he thinks will give her problems.

The Denison Animal Pound is a state licensed facility, and state law says that any animal adopted must be spayed or neutered within 30 days. The new owners have to pay a \$50 spay or neuter deposit which is refunded once they turn in the paperwork with the veterinarian's signature. Many people, however, ask that the deposit be retained to help with the operation of the pound. If the paperwork isn't turned in within 30 days, the new owner is contacted and is told they have to return the animal.

Dogs and cats that end up at the pound can be adopted out after seven days. That's the amount of time the owner has to come and claim their pet

and pay an impoundment fee.

"A few dogs go up for adoption right at the seven days. If they aren't, it's because I need to work with them on socialization and things like that," Jeri said.

That was the case with a chocolate lab mix that Jeri adopted out last week.

"She was so shy when she came in that you could hardly see her because if you'd go outside the pound, she'd go inside, and if you came in, she'd go out," she explained. "I couldn't touch her for weeks, so I just let her figure out that I wasn't going to hurt her and that I was going to be here for her. Then, suddenly, it was just like she was asking, 'Can I be your friend?' When the woman and her daughter came to meet her (last week), she was playing ball with them."

It just takes some time and patience to work with animals, Jeri pointed out.

"If I have a real bashful dog or a dog that's not socialized well, when people come in, I'll have them offer a treat whether they're interested in that dog or not," she said. "You just have to let them know that nobody's here to hurt them."

Some dogs that come into the pound haven't been treated very well and need time to trust people again.

Jeri not only cares for animals at the pound but has adopted some herself. She and Ron used to have four dogs adopted from the pound, but they all got old, and one after the other died.

"The one that broke my heart the most was a goldendoodle," she said. "My kids said they'd get me a new dog but I said no, I couldn't."

But at Christmas two years ago her kids presented Jeri with a French bulldog, and then about a year later Jeri and Ron got another French bulldog.

Lulu and Rosie, who are inseparable, are the first dogs Jeri and Ron have had that haven't been adopted from the pound.

Jeri is very good at reading the personality of dogs, which helps when people come in to adopt an animal.

"If I don't think a dog is going to be a good fit for a family, I will tell them right away because I don't want that dog coming back," she explained.

However, if a family adopts a dog and it just doesn't work out, she encourages people to return the animal to the pound so a new family can be matched with the dog.

Jeri said one woman called and said the dog she adopted had too much energy for the family, but she was afraid to bring the dog back to the pound because she thought it would be put down.

"It really bothers me that people think that if they bring a dog back to the pound that I'm going to destroy it," Jeri said. "I will keep the dog here until I find a new family. It's work, but I don't mind the work; it's for a good cause."



PHOTOS BY GORDON WOLF

Blue, a pit bull, is Jeri's permanent companion at the Denison Animal Pound.

# Pops Concert all about love



Alisyn Ullrich (left) and Grace Collins sang "Things A Man Oughta Know," a 2019 Lainey Wilson release, at the Denison High School Pops Concert Friday at the Fine Arts Center. Each song performed was about love.



The concert choir sang "Put A Little Love In Your Heart" to open up its portion of the Pops Concert.



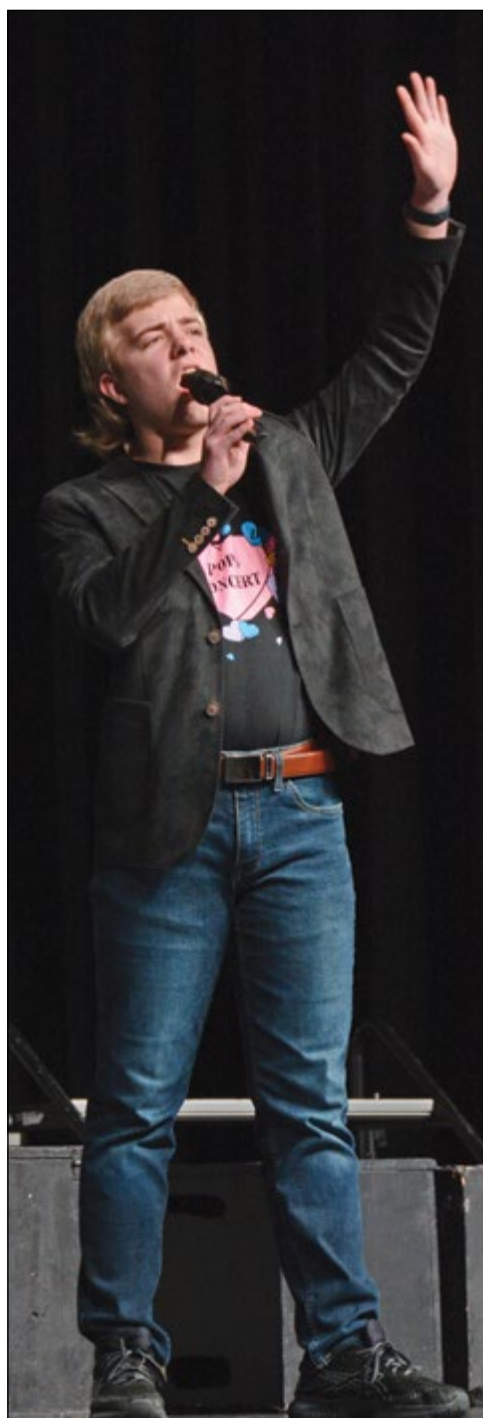
Alexander Segoviano sang "Can't Take My Eyes Off You," a pop song written by Bob Crewe and Bob Gaudio and originally recorded by Frankie Valli in 1967.



"Before You Leave Me" was performed by Roman Bygness. The song is a pop track written by Alex Warren.



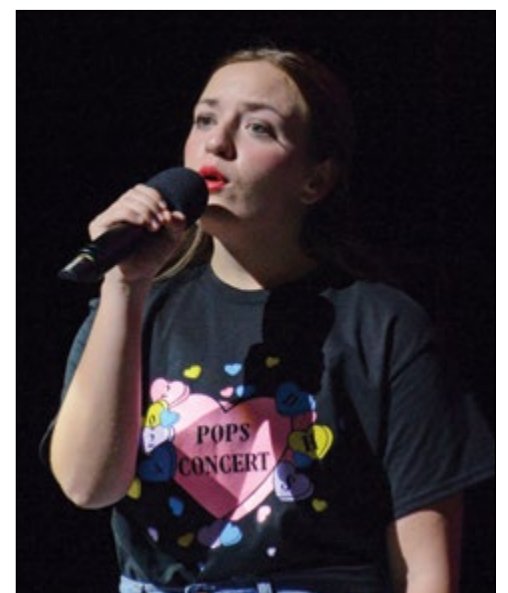
"Stand by Me" was the song choice for JP Montano. The rhythm and blues song was originally recorded by Ben E. King in 1961.



Cooper Gehlsen accompanied his rendition of "Beyond the Sea" with dramatic gestures. Bobby Darin recorded the song in 1959.



Azucena Bartolon sang the rhythm and blues song "Love" by Keyshia Cole.



Chloe Koch performed "Can't Help Falling in Love," a song made famous by Elvis Presley.



Dianne Castillo sang "Amor Eterno," a ballad recorded by Rocio Durcal.



The Singing Ambassadors perform a dance to "Runaway Medley," one of six songs that the group performed.



Charlye Cervantes sang the Latin pop song "Sway." Shelby Kastner was Charlye's dance partner during the song's interlude.



Leila Jaime and Jorge Romualdo performed "This Girl Is Mine." The song was written by Michael Jackson and released as a duet with Paul McCartney in 1982.

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**THE OLD FASHIONED,** FROM PAGE 1

is based on how we can make it unique and special for the patrons and for the town.

Added Durbin, "I don't want the beer business. I want the cocktail business."

As for those cocktails, expect to see Old Fashioneds (whiskey) on the menu as well as French 75s (gin, champagne, lemon juice, and sugar) and Mary Pickfords (white rum, fresh pineapple juice, grenadine, and Maraschino liqueur.).

"Gin's a very common Prohibition era cocktail," Kahl said. "So, you know, as much as we like whiskey, gin just keeps coming around. And I'm getting to appreciate it a lot more. And I'm wondering, I'm curious to see if the general public will gain a greater appreciation for gin cocktails through our menu."

The gin cocktails at The Old Fashioned will be far better than the

standard gin and tonics Iowa drinkers know, said Durbin, who joked that the stand-by G & T's taste like Christmas trees.

The Mary Pickford is special in an historic sense, too, Kahl noted, as the drink is named in honor of an actress, an early figure in Hollywood who was married to actor Douglas Fairbanks, and performed at the old opera house in Denison, what is now the Donna Reed Theater, early in her career as she traveled the nation by rail.

The drink menu won't be confined to beverages with alcohol.

"The menu at The Old Fashioned will feature various cocktails with explanations of the flavors and processes involved in creating them," Durbin and Kahl state in a business filing. "The menu will also showcase a variety of mocktail recipes, to demonstrate that beverages can be exquisite without alcohol. We

will not be preparing food, as the goal is simply to offer upscale beverage options before or after patronizing local eateries for dinner."

The Old Fashioned plans to have a dress code for staff as well.

The Old Fashioned will be open Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 4 to 10 p.m.

For his part, Kahl started in the abstract business in 2008 and took

over ownership of Crawford County Abstract in 2012. The business dates to 1912.



PHOTOS BY DOUGLAS BURNS

The Old Fashioned bar in Denison will be located in the upstairs of 1211 Broadway in the former Legion building. It will feature ample space for relaxed socializing and events.



The exterior of a developing complex that will include The Old Fashioned bar and a relocated Crawford County Abstract.

**CCMH nurse was named one of the 100 best in the state**



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Sam (Samatha) Pauley receives a certificate of recognition from Kelby Eck, emergency department director at Crawford County Memorial Hospital.

BY LORENA LÓPEZ ALTAMIRANO

Sam (Samantha) Pauley with Crawford County Memorial Hospital (CCMH) was one of 100 nurses in Iowa who were recognized by the Great Iowa Nurses organization.

She is a nurse in the emergency department.

Sam said she felt fortunate to work with a team of nurses who made her award possible.

"I would never have deserved this recognition without the support of

my colleagues, which includes the paramedic team, and that day after day, we all work as a single team for the benefit, safety, and care of our patients," Sam said.

She added, "The recognition belongs to all members of the department because they made me the nurse that I am today. I feel fortunate to live in this beautiful community."

Emergency Room Department Director Kelby Eck said that he nominated Sam because of his essential role in training other nurses for the department.

"The decision was difficult because in my department I am surrounded by nurses with devotion to their careers, who demonstrate it in their care and dedication to our patients."

He added, "Sam also demonstrates her dedication by taking her colleagues under her wing to train and guide them in the different activities of our department."

Kelby said he was notified about Sam's award in January of this year.

"That gave us enough time to make a shirt with the motto, 'The Great Iowa Nurse.'"

Great Iowa Nurses is a non-profit organization that recognizes nurses in Iowa and spotlights qualities that demonstrate efforts by nurses that go beyond their regular duties.



A number of Sam Pauley's family members attended the celebration that Crawford County Memorial Hospital hosted in her honor. From left are Sarah Luft (Sam's mother-in-law), Sam Pauley, Scott Pick (Sam's father), Katie Pick (Sam's mother), and Jeannie Gorman (Sam's grandmother).

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