



Local Calendar

PAGE 4



On the scanner

PAGE 4



New Monarchs coach

PAGE 5



Concert series

PAGE 8

Local News
Local Journalists
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The Denison Free Press

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SERVING DENISON & CRAWFORD COUNTY, IOWA

March 07, 2024

How much do you know about Schleswig (and a lot of other things)

5th annual Trivia Night raises funds for town's 125th

BY GORDON WOLF

Questions about Schleswig will certainly be part of the 5th annual Trivia Night on March 16, but so will a lot of other undisclosed subjects, so be prepared to get stumped a time or two and to have fun all night.

The Schleswig Community Building doors will open for Trivia Night at 5:30 p.m. The meal will start at 6:30 p.m. and be followed by the game.

This year's Trivia Night is a fundraiser for the town's 125th anniversary, which will be celebrated September 13-15.

Craig Bogatzke selects the categories and questions and serves as the master of ceremonies.

"Then your team tries to test their knowledge on whatever the subject may be," said Shannon Cose, one of the organizers of the event.

There is no limit to the number of teams that can participate, and teams can be from one to eight people. If an individual arrives and wants to join a team, that can be accomplished as well.

"We'll put that person with a team that doesn't already have eight members or will make up a team of individuals who want to join in but don't have a team," said Cose. "We'll find you a place."

The cost to join in on Trivia Night is \$25 a person, which includes a meal.

"And since this is for the 125th celebration, our theme is German style, so we're going to do brats, sauerkraut and German potato salad and kind of stick with the German flair," said Cose.

Teams make up their own names, which could provide a certain amount of anonymity if they don't want others to know how well or how poorly they are doing when the scores are shown after the rounds. But in past trivia

TRIVIA NIGHT, PAGE 3

Returning home to solo



PHOTO BY GORDON WOLF

James Garcia, a 2022 graduate of Denison High School and a member of the Iowa State University Wind Ensemble, performs on clarinet with Lydia Lee. They were the soloists on the song "Concert Piece For Two Clarinets And Wind Band," performed Monday night at the Denison High School Fine Arts Center. The Iowa State University Wind Ensemble is the university's top concert band and is directed by Dr. Michael Golemo. The wind ensemble was a special guest at the concert that featured the high school's 9-10 band and 11-12 band. See more photos inside.

This year's St. Pat's Parade packed with family connections

Everyone welcome to join in on the "Day When Everyone Is Irish"

BY GORDON WOLF

The annual St. Patrick's Day parade on March 16 will start at 1 p.m. and will be packed with a lot of family heritage.

This year's Irish Mother is Julie Fitzpatrick Lamaack, originally from Denison and now from Breda. Thirty years ago, Julie's grandfather, Emmet Fitzpatrick, was the parade's Grand Marshall.

This year's Grand Marshall is Ty Knott, originally from Denison and now from Pisgah. His mother, Georgena Knott, was the Irish Mother in 2006.

"There is a lot of heritage, a lot of family history this year and we're really

ST. PAT'S PARADE, PAGE 9



Julie Fitzpatrick Lamaack is this year's Irish Mother.

New superintendent brings wealth of experience to position

BY GORDON WOLF



From the classroom to a state office, Denison and Schleswig's new superintendent has a wealth of experiences in education.

Last Thursday the Denison and Schleswig school boards announced that they had selected Dr. Kim Buryanek as the next shared superintendent for both schools.

Her selection followed a search process and then an interview with stakeholder groups composed of parents, teachers, support staff and community members on February 26.

Buryanek will start her duties on July 1, after the retirement of Mike Pardun. Pardun is serving his 20th year in the superintendent's position.

Buryanek is currently the PK-12 learning division administrator for the Iowa Department of Education.

But her first job was as a classroom teacher.

Buryanek grew up on a farm near Ireton, in Sioux County, Iowa, and was educated in the West Sioux Community Schools, based in Hawarden. She then got an undergraduate degree in English from the University of South Dakota at Vermillion.

Her first teaching jobs were at Remsen St. Mary's and then at Hill City, South Dakota; both were high school English teaching posts. While at Hill City she earned a master's degree in educational administration from South Dakota State University in Brookings.

"I enjoyed learning about leadership and different theories about that and learning from other administrators, so I decided I was going to see if I enjoyed administration. I always thought I could return to the classroom if I wanted to," she said.

Her first administrative job was as assistant high school principal in Sydney, Montana, located on the

BURYANEK, PAGE 3

Denison's Harrison Dahm to compete in national contest next week

Was the champion Iowa grocery bagger in 2023

BY GORDON WOLF

After winning the Best Bagger contest at the Iowa State Fair in August, Harrison Dahm, of Denison, will be off to Las Vegas next week for the National Grocers Association (NGA) Best Bagger Championship.

Harrison competed in the state contest for three consecutive years. He placed fourth in 2021, third in 2022 and first last year.

Harrison, who is in his second year at Iowa State University and is majoring in industrial engineering, has been bagging groceries since May of 2018 at the Denison Fareway where his father, Mike, is the grocery manager.

His father, incidentally, was the champion bagger in Iowa in 1994 and 1995, and then became the national champion in 1996.

The NGA's Best Bagger Championship is a yearlong contest in which grocery baggers from around the nation compete for the national prize.

The first National Best Bagger Championship contest took place in 1987 in Dallas. This year's contest will be at Ceasar Forum Convention Center in Las Vegas. That's where the NGA's annual convention will take place.

GROCERY BAGGING, PAGE 10



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Harrison Dahm starts a practice run to bag groceries as quickly and as efficiently as he can, in preparation for a national bagging contest next week in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Concert sounds: music and applause



PHOTOS BY GORDON WOLF

Angelina Gutierrez plays a marching machine during the song, "Terracotta Warriors," which was written by Scott Watson to be a musical journey through the awe-inspiring army guarding the tomb of China's first emperor, Qin Shi Huang. The musical piece was performed by the Denison High School 9-10 Concert Band, directed by Ryan Meyer.



Denison High School 9-10 Concert Band members perform during a concert Monday night in the Fine Arts Center.



Four directors: Dr. Michael Golemo with the Iowa State University Wind Ensemble, and Ruben Newell, Ryan Meyer and Peter Bekkerus with the Denison high school and middle school band programs. Newell and Bekkerus were students of Dr. Golemo.



Ruben Newell directs the Denison High School 11-12 band during the performance of "On A Hymnsong Of Philip Bliss."

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TRIVIA NIGHT, FROM PAGE 1

nights, no one really cared. The team names generally add to the fun of the night.

Each round has a bonus question for which people can win a prize if they are the first to text in with the correct answer. Other than that, the use of cell phones is forbidden, or since Trivia Night has a German flair this year, it would be verboten.

A change-up in Trivia Night this year is that after three categories are completed, scores go back to zero, to be built up again during the next three categories.

"In years past it's been all or nothing, so one team could potentially walk away with it all. So just to keep it more interesting for everyone, we're doing this instead, so everyone has a better chance

to be on the leaderboard," said Cose.

Businesses or people can help the cause by becoming a sponsor of Trivia Night.

Sponsors receive recognition a number of times throughout the night with announcements and their name on the screen. Those interested in a sponsorship can call Cose at 712-269-8697.

People don't need to be walking encyclopedias to have a great time at the event.

"The biggest part of Trivia Night is that it's something that's happening close to home," said Cose. "The categories are all across the board so you may do really great in one category and not in another, but it's just meant to be a fun night."

Holt: 'Voluntary' armed teachers make sense

BY DOUGLAS BURNS
SPECIAL TO THE DENISON FREE PRESS

State Rep. Steve Holt, R-Denison, a 20-year veteran of the U.S. Marines, says an Iowa House-passed school-security bill that, among other elements, allows teachers and school staff to carry firearms will protect students.

Holt stressed the measure, which passed the House and is widely expected to clear the Iowa Senate and gain Gov. Kim Reynolds' signature, is voluntary, a decision school boards across the state can make on their own.

"This program is totally voluntary," Holt said in an interview with The Denison Free Press. "A district doesn't have to do it if they don't want to do it."

Holt said people need to consider the legislation and its outcome in straightforward terms.

"I just think folks need to think in terms of the difference between somebody with good intentions with a firearm versus somebody with bad intentions with a firearm," Holt said.

House members passed the legislation, House File 2586, last Wednesday on a 61-34 vote.

Holt said districts can put staff with firearms through exhaustive and effective training.

That said, the process is not without concerns, he said.

"I think it's the same you could have with a law enforcement officer," Holt said. "There are unfortunately occasions

where a law enforcement officer hits someone they didn't intend to hit in a firing situation. I think what it comes down is you train people properly."

Holt said there is risk in most any policy.

"For me, the greater risk is not hardening our schools," Holt said. "The greater risk is not having all the components we have."

Holt said he expects emerging technology to assist with cameras in schools by enabling the equipment to detect firearms in schools.

"There's a lot of different pieces we want to move in several different bills," Holt said. "I think the greater danger is in doing nothing."

Besides allowing school staff to carry firearms, the school-security legislation would encourage districts to hire school security and provides up to \$50,000 in matching funds for police, or security, in schools.

It also creates qualified immunity for the "application of reasonable force at the place of employment," a portion of the bill designed to protect schools in insurance terms.

Holt said he has had favorable responses from educators.

"Like I said, it's not going to be for everyone," Holt said. "There are probably six to eight districts that will probably do it immediately if we are able to get that legislation signed into law. At least one school district in my legislative district was very open to it."

Ecklund among five named to National Federation of Republican Women Board



Winning the White House Committee.

Following are the five women who will serve on the national board for 2024-2025.

Gwen Ecklund, Denison, Crawford County Republican Women; NFRW Presidential Advisory Committee Chair and NFRW Winning the White House Committee

Lori Leonard Reyman, Holstein, Northwest Iowa Republican Women; NFRW Public Relations Committee Vice Chair

Michelle Crawford, Eldridge, Scott County Republican Women; NFRW State Presidents Committee

Laura Carlson, Story City, Republican Women of Central Iowa; NFRW Programs Committee

Jordyn Landau, Ames, Capital Region Republican Women; NFRW "EmpowHer" Committee

Five Iowa Federation of Republican Women leaders from across the state have been named to the National Federation of Republican Women board of directors, according to NFRW President Julie Harris from Arkansas.

"Serving on the national board is an exhilarating experience, working with conservative women across the United States with the same goal of increasing the effectiveness of women in the cause of good government," said Gwen Ecklund, from Denison, who is serving as chair of the President Harris' Advisory Committee and the national

"Our state association is honored and excited to have multiple voices representing the Republican Women of Iowa on the national board," said IowaFRW President Michelle Crawford. "We are enthusiastic about the direction and goals President Harris has brought to the Federation and look forward to collaborating throughout the two-year term to expand the footprint of Republican Women both across Iowa and nationally."

The national board meets for its first meeting of the two-year term later this month in Washington, D.C.

BURYANEK, FROM PAGE 1

eastern side of the state. After several years there she felt she was ready for the next leadership opportunity. She was hired as the high school principal in Anaconda, Montana, which is just past Butte.

After a number of years there, Buryanek was told by her parents and her husband's parents that the principal at her alma mater, West Sioux High School, was going to retire and hinted that she should apply for that job.

"I did. I thought there was probably someone closer to West Sioux and that area that they would hire, and I was too far away, because we did enjoy living out in the mountains in Montana. But that's not how it worked out," she said.

She was hired as the 6-12 principal at West Sioux.

"It was a good decision to make," she added.

It was her first experience in working with middle school students.

While working at West Sioux, Buryanek got her superintendent endorsement through Iowa state and completed the work for her Ph.D.

"After I got my Ph.D. I thought I was ready for that next leadership challenge so applied for and was hired as the director of curriculum, instruction and assessment for the Sioux City Community School District. I worked a lot with students in K-12. It was my first central district office job," she said.

After two years in that position, she became the associate superintendent.

Buryanek was with the Sioux City Community School District for 10 years before taking a job at the Iowa Department of Education.

At the Iowa Department of Education, Buryanek is the administrator of one of the three department divisions - the preschool through 12th learning and results division. It involves public and non-public schools, everything related to the work of schools, preschool through 12th grade.

That division has seven bureaus - preschool, special education, federal programs division, food and nutrition bureau, learning and results division, school improvement bureau, and information and technology bureau.

Buryanek enjoys the job but missed education on the local level.

"In my job, I spend a lot of time in meetings, a lot of time reviewing contracts, entering into contracts and reviewing legislation, rules and policies," she explained. "But I just got too far away from the schools."

"I enjoy administrators, teachers, students, parents and just working with all the stakeholders in a school system. I just got too far away from that in this job now," she said.

"I know I have the ability to have an impact - there's over half a million kids in schools in Iowa, and just thinking about that, some of the initiatives that I've been involved in or decisions that I make are going

to have an impact on a lot of kids," Buryanek added, "but I'm just a lot happier when I'm sitting in a room with teachers and administrators, having conversations and being involved at that level."

However, the experience she's gained in her state job will help her as a superintendent.

"Being able to review the legislation as it goes through the approval process and as administrative rules are written will help, and really take that information and be able to lead a school district in the interpretation and implementation of the expectations from legislation," she explained.

Buryanek said she always enjoyed school and has an aunt that's a teacher.

"My favorite teachers were English teachers, and it was just always an area that was my passion," she said.

"In undergraduate school you think you know what you want to pursue but it was very soon that I realized I wanted to be a teacher," Buryanek added. "I think it was always something I had in the back of my mind growing up."

It was her knowledge of Mike Pardun that tipped Buryanek off about the superintendent's position at Denison and Schleswig.

"When I heard that Mike was retiring, I was surprised because Mike and I have worked together on committees and have been involved in different meetings over the years," she said. "Right away I looked at the job posting, and I just knew I wanted that job. I dug into the data (of the school district) on the public websites."

She looked at the test scores and the ratings of the schools, the financial situation and financial health and did an analysis of that.

"I looked at a number of different reports pertaining to Denison and Schleswig. Both are really good school systems and they're well respected. The student achievement is good, the financial system is really healthy, and I did not have a single hesitation," she said.

"I'm excited to come to Denison and Schleswig and visit classrooms and see the positive things that are happening and just be able to lead and influence that next step, and to take the next steps within the systems to improve even more on student achievement, even gain more sound financial stability and take whatever steps I can to contribute to that," she said.

An overwhelming impression Buryanek took away from her visit to Denison was pride.

"When I left, especially after the interview and on my drive home, it was the pride that just came across," Buryanek said. "Every single group I talked to just had great pride about their accomplishments, about the schools, about working and living in Denison and Schleswig. That is something that I left with, just that feeling, just great pride in the system. I'm excited to be a part of that."

Crawford County man sentenced to 10 years in federal prison

Guilty of illegal possession of a firearm by a felon

A man who was found with a firearm after being a convicted felon, was sentenced February 29 to 10 years in federal prison.

Kevin DeWolf, 34, from Denison, received the prison term after a September 21, 2023, guilty plea to possession of a firearm by a felon. Shortly after being indicted for the firearm charge, DeWolf set a vehicle on fire in Crawford County, attempting to fraudulently collect the insurance proceeds.

DeWolf was previously convicted of manufacture, deliver, or possession with intent to manufacture or deliver

controlled substance, in the Iowa District Court for Crawford County on or about July 15, 2022. DeWolf also has a prior assault conviction.

DeWolf was sentenced in Sioux City by United States District Court Judge Leonard T. Strand and was sentenced to 120 months' imprisonment. He must also serve a three-year term of supervised release after the prison term. There is no parole in the federal system.

This case was brought as part of Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN). PSN is the centerpiece of the Department of Justice's violent crime reduction efforts.

DeWolf is being held in the United States Marshal's custody until he can be transported to a federal prison.

The case was investigated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, and was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Ron Timmons.



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Local Calendar

FRIDAY MARCH 8, 2024

"Jazz 2024" presented by the Denison Middle School and Denison High School jazz bands, 7 p.m. at the Denison High School Fine Arts Center. The concert will feature the Denison Middle School Jazz Band as well as the two Denison High School jazz bands in their only home performance of the season. Concert is free.

SATURDAY MARCH 9, 2024

Boy Scout paper drive, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Walmart parking lot

CDC Legislative Coffee, 10 a.m., at CDC office, 109 North Main Street (next to city hall). Legislators will be Rep. Steven Holt and Sen. Jason Schultz. The event will start with brief introductions and opening comments from the legislators. Everyone is encouraged to bring forth one question or comment to initiate the conversation.

Storytime at Norelius Community Library, 10 a.m. For children ages 0-5. Stories, songs and a special activity at the end. Storytime lasts approximately 30 minutes including playtime.

Your First Quilt Program at Norelius Community Library, 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Program uses Stacey Lee Creatives Your First Quilt YouTube videos to assist in instruction. Program is for adults ages 19 and older. Registration required. Register by going to the calendar on the library's website, www.denison.lib.ia.us. If the class is full, people are encouraged to register for the waiting list; if interest is great enough, a second program will run after the first one concludes. The program runs every two weeks until the quilts are finished.

Schleswig Golf Course Stag, doors open at 6 p.m., steak grilled by Crawford County Cattlemen. Raffles for a box of Schmidt Beef Company beef and a \$250 gift card to Tiefenthalers. Box of Janssen Meat to be auctioned. Tickets cost \$75 and can be purchased from any board member or by stopping by the clubhouse.

SUNDAY MARCH 10, 2024

Little Hawks Childcare Center Shoes Fundraiser. Help raise funds by donating gently worn, used and new shoes. Shoes will be given a second life to those in need. Drop off shoes at Manilla City Hall at 10 a.m. The deadline has been extended to April 1. For more information, contact Ann Lockwood at 712-269-4217.

Bingo in Deloit, 1 p.m.; quarter cards, regular bingo.

MONDAY MARCH 11, 2024

Euchre at Denison Senior Center, 6 p.m.

American Legion Meeting, 7 p.m., basement of the Iowa State University Extension office

Schleswig VFW meeting, 7 p.m., Schleswig Golf Course

Crawford County Fine Arts Series performance of "Kiss Me Once: Stories from the Homefront" by Kathy Kaefer, 7:30 p.m., DHS Fine Arts Center

TUESDAY MARCH 12, 2024

Cards & Coffee at Norelius Community Library, 5:30-7:30 p.m. For ages 19 and up. A variety of card games will be played. Coffee and tea will be provided.

Answering the Call, the annual celebration of life and fundraising event for Crossroads Pregnancy & Parenting and CoCares non-medical assistance for elderly and caregiver help. Will be at Stables at Copper Ridge at 6:30 p.m. Meal by Staley's Catering. Speaker will be Brandon J. McDermott. Tickets by presale only by March 10. Call 712-393-4673.

Euchre Night at the Ricketts Community Building, 7 p.m. A fun night of card playing, socializing, treats and beverages. Entry fee is \$5 and there is no need to bring a partner.

WEDNESDAY MARCH 13, 2024

Storytime at Norelius Community Library, 2 p.m. For children ages 0-5. Stories, songs and a special activity at the end. Storytime lasts approximately 30 minutes including playtime.

CDC Business After 5, a networking event at the CDC office, 109 North Main Street (next to Denison City Hall). Event will last from 5 to 6 p.m. All CDC members are invited to attend free of charge.

Euchre Night at the Charter Oak Community Building, 7 p.m. No need to have a partner before the game. You will be "partnered" up randomly throughout the night.

THURSDAY MARCH 14, 2024

Grim Readers Book Club at Norelius Community Library, 5:30 p.m. A new true crime and true mystery book club for teens and adults. Register at www.denison.lib.ia.us/calendar and pick up a copy of the book at the circulation desk.

Storytime at Norelius Community Library, 6 p.m. For children ages 0-5. Stories, songs and a special activity at the end. Storytime lasts approximately 30 minutes including playtime.

Free Medicare seminar, CCMH Conference Room B, 5:30-7 p.m.

SATURDAY MARCH 16, 2024

VFW and American Legion Pancake Breakfast at Denison Senior Center, 7:30-11 a.m. Free will donation. All proceeds to go to Crawford County Wellness Center.



ON THE SCANNER

Arrests

February 11, 4:50 p.m.: Marcial Antonio Solis Ramirez, 49, of Denison, was arrested for operating while under the influence, 1st offense.

February 26, 12:45 p.m.: Oscar Gonzalez, 58, of Denison, was arrested and charged with public intoxication and trespass, 1st offense, at Children's Imagination Station.

February 26, 9:40 p.m.: Oscar Gonzalez, 58, of Denison, was arrested for simulated public intoxication, 1st offense.

February 28, 7:50 p.m.: Javier E. Rodriguez was arrested for possession of drug paraphernalia.

February 29, 12:59 p.m.: Dereck Argotsinger and Jessica Elaine Riddle, of Denison, were arrested on warrants at their residence.

Accidents

February 27, 7:50 a.m. Maite Vargas Ramirez, 17, of Denison was driving a white 2012 GMC Arcadia north on 18th Street and Tanya Geaney Monge, 16, of Denison, was driving a white 2012 Ford F150 pickup west on 1st Avenue North. Both vehicles met in the intersection at the same time. Vargas Ramirez received possible injuries (complaint of pain). Vargas Ramirez was cited for failing to yield the right of way. The side airbags in Monge's vehicle were deployed. The Vargas Ramirez vehicle received \$15,000 damage and the Monge vehicle received \$10,000 damage. Both vehicles were disabled and were towed from the scene.

February 27, 3:54 p.m.: A white 2011 Chevrolet Silverado K2500 pickup was illegally parked on the north side of Broadway near the intersection with 14th Street. No driver or passengers were in the vehicle at the time. The pickup had a ladder that was overhead on the bed rack and was overhanging by more than four feet and was not marked with anything. The ladder also stuck out farther than 16 feet from the curb, which violates the Denison City Code. William George Wieland, 77, of Denison, was driving a yellow 2016 Thomas school bus west on Broadway when the mirror and top corner of the windshield hit the ladder. About \$1,000 damage was done. The mirror was broken on the bus along with some damage to the windshield. Wieland was not cited, and proper adjustments were made to the ladder.

February 28, 6:25 a.m.: An accident occurred at the intersection of Highway 59/141 and Highway 39. Michael Thomas Schimerowski, 64, of Earling, was driving a maroon 1998 Toyota Tacoma pickup west and Lee Michael Hanson, 42, of Carroll, was driving a brown 2009 Lincoln and was making a left turn off Highway 39. An investigation by the officers at the scene concluded that the accident was neither parties' fault. Both thought they had the right of way from the stop signs. No one was injured. Schimerowski's vehicle received \$1,250 damage and Hanson's vehicle received \$1,400 damage. Both vehicles were disabled and were towed.

NORELIUS COMMUNITY LIBRARY NEWS

Library Friends seek donations for April 6 sale

Norelius Community Library will host the Denison Library Friends' annual White Elephant, Book & Bake Sale on April 6 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Take advantage of this opportunity to do a bit of spring cleaning and donate items to the Friends' sale. Your junk may be someone else's treasure. Then go to the library to browse through the items to find your own treasures. The library will accept donations through April 5. Proceeds from the donations benefit the Norelius Community Library. Contact the library at 712-263-9355 for more information.



Letters TO THE EDITOR

To submit a letter visit, denisonfreepress.com

Monarchs Sports

DENISON-SCHLESWIG MONARCHS FOOTBALL

New head coach selected for Monarch football

Baughman was assistant coach under Wiebers



With the retirement of Dave Wiebers from the Denison Community School District, the search was on for a new head football coach for the Denison-Schleswig Monarchs.

The Monarch Activities Department announced late last week that Willie Baughman is the new head football coach.

Baughman has been employed by the Denison Community School District for three years. He has been an assistant football coach for the past two years as well as the head boys' track

and field coach. Baughman came to Denison with a wealth of coaching experience gained at the Harlan Community School district, where he was employed for eight years.

He was the golf coach for eight years, middle school girls' softball coach for eight years, middle school boys' basketball coach for six years, volleyball coach for eight years and softball coach for one year.

Baughman is a 2009 graduate of Harlan High School where he played football, basketball and baseball, and ran track and golfed. After high school he attended Iowa Western Community College and played football there for two years. He then attended Iowa State

University, graduating with a bachelor's degree in math.

Baughman said he always wanted to be a coach.

"I love coaching and being around sports and activities," he said. "It pushes kids to be the absolute best they can be and pushes them to work as a team."

"I have always loved competing," he added. "Anyone that knows me knows that I am a competitor and will compete at anything. I love the challenge of getting a team to buy into a program and getting a team to play their absolute best when the lights are bright."

Baughman continued, "Football is a great sport in which you only get a small number of chances to prove those abilities. I love the community camaraderie that the sport of football brings. When things are going well on the football field there just is a

different vibe around the school and the community."

Baughman said he had the opportunity to learn from some of the best coaches in Iowa and wants to have the same impact on student-athletes that those coaches had on him.

Following is his list of coaches.

- Dave Wiebers - coached with him at Denison
- Curt Bladt - coached by him in Harlan (football)
- Mitch Osborn - coached by him in Harlan (basketball)
- Steve Daeges - coached by him in Harlan (baseball)
- Chad Swanson - coached by him and coached with him in Harlan
- Angie Spangenberg - coached with her in Harlan
- Scott Strohmeier - coached by him at Iowa Western

DENISON-SCHLESWIG MONARCHS WRESTLING

Boys' wrestling awards announced

The following awards were presented to members of the 2023-2024 Denison-Schleswig boys' wrestling team at the conclusion of the season.

- Most Valuable Wrestler: James Lemon
- Golden Monarch Award: Jayden Bradley
- Hardest Worker: James Lemon



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LAND TRANSACTIONS

February 23-29, 2024

Warranty Deeds

- Bahnsen Nextgen LLC to CB Farms LLC: N1/2 NW1/4 Section 15, Morgan Township; \$972,000.
- Keith A. Eck and Lori L. Eck to Abel Medrano and Gladiola Medrano: Lot 4 and Lot 5, Block 20, City of Manilla; \$72,000.

Dennis M. Gierstorf and Judith A. Gierstorf to Judith Hamann Trust, Judith Hamann and Kim Blankenheim, Trustees: Lot 2 and Lot 3, Block 40, City of Schleswig; \$20,000.

- Henry G. Ullerich to Henry Ullerich Living Trust, Henry Ullerich and David Berrent, Trustees: N1/2 NE1/4 Section 5, Willow Township; NE1/4 Section 33, Charter Oak Township; S1/2 NE1/4 Section 32, Charter Oak Township; SE1/4 Section 32, Charter Oak Township.
- Henry G. Ullerich to Henry Ullerich Living Trust, Henry Ullerich and David Berrent, Trustees: NE1/4 Section 20, Hanover Township.

- Scott A. Korner and Kelly J. Korner to Scott A. Korner and Kelly J. Korner: NE1/4 Section 2, Morgan Township; E1/2 E1/2 SE1/4 Section 2, Morgan Township; SE1/4 NE1/4 Section 2, Morgan Township; W1/2 E1/2 SE1/4 Section 2, Morgan Township.

- CGPK Farm LLC to Thomas P. Forbes and Jessica M. Forbes: NW1/4 NE1/4 Section 1, Soldier Township; \$111,307.50.

Quit Claim Deeds

- Trevis Beeck and Laura Beeck to

TDL Properties LLC: Lot 4 and Lot 5, Block 139, City of Denison.

Miscellaneous Deeds

- Melvin and Clarion Holdsworth Joint Tenancy Investment Trust, Doyle R. Slavik and David D. Wiener, Co-Trustees to Clarion I. Holdsworth Revocable Trust, David D. Wiener and Doyle R. Slavik, Co-Trustees: SE1/4 NE1/4 Section 30, East Boyer Township.
- Clarion I. Holdsworth Revocable Trust, Doyle R. Slavik and David D. Wiener, Co-Trustees to Jessica C. Thistle: SW1/4 Section 20, Iowa Township.
- Clarion I. Holdsworth Revocable Trust, Doyle R. Slavik and David D. Wiener, Co-Trustees to Elizabeth G. Greer: SE1/4 Section 29, Iowa Township.
- Clarion I. Holdsworth Revocable Trust, Doyle R. Slavik and David D. Wiener, Co-Trustees to Jessica C. Thistle: E1/2 NE1/4 Section 30, East Boyer Township.
- Clarion I. Holdsworth Revocable Trust, Doyle R. Slavik and David D. Wiener, Co-Trustees to Elizabeth G. Greer: E1/2 NE1/4 Section 30, East Boyer Township.

Contract

- Darlene Ogren Trust, Larry Aldag, Trustee to Brion Cupps: Lot 6, Block 15, City of Kiron; \$25,000.

Federal Tax Lien

- Internal Revenue Service, United States Department of the Treasury against WCP, LLC: \$8,333.02.

COURTHOUSE NEWS

February 23-29, 2024

SCHEDULED TRAFFIC

- Alma Dayami Lima, Denison, failure to obey stop sign and yield right of way, \$420.50.
- Nolan Allan Neddermeyer, Charter Oak, failure to maintain or use safety belts, adult, \$135.50.
- Julie L. Wood, Omaha, NE, failure to obey stop sign and yield right of way, \$210.25.
- Miguel Angel Ramirez Marrero, Denison, failure to maintain or use safety belts, adult, \$135.50.
- Miguel Angel Ramirez Marrero, Denison, operation without registration card or plate, \$135.50.
- Carter James Frank, Lake View, failure to maintain or use safety belts, adult, \$135.50.
- Macie Mullin, Denison, person under 21 years of age using tobacco/ vapor product, first offense, \$70.
- Santiago Ozuna Garibo, Denison, operation of motor vehicle with expired license, \$135.50.
- Josue Reyes, Denison, failure to obey traffic control device, \$210.25.
- Josue Reyes, Denison, no valid driver's license, \$354.
- Eva May Jensen, Dow City, failure to prove security against liability, non-accident, \$342.50.
- Juan Alejandro Garcia, Denison, operating non-registered vehicle, \$175.75.
- Justin Davila, Denison, defective braking equipment, \$287.88.
- Sharelyn Alicia Melendrez, Denison, violation of conditions of restricted license, \$135.50.
- Alexander Arita Velqazquez, Denison, insufficient number of headlamps, \$106.75.

SPEEDING (11-15 MPH OVER)

- Riley Wiliam Gosch, Castana, \$175.75.

SPEEDING (1-5 MPH OVER)

- John J. Mink III, Denison, \$106.75.
- Beatriz Aide Zarate Ayala, Council Bluffs, \$89.50.
- Christopher G. Tiedtke, Tilden, NE, \$89.50.
- Connor Aaron Williams, Council Bluffs, \$89.50.
- Jose Fernandez Viveros, Omaha, NE, \$89.50.
- Napoleon Alcaraz Hernandez, Denison, \$89.50.
- William Richard Knudsen, Manilla, \$89.50.
- Luke Andrew Herbert, Deloit, \$89.50.
- Alexis Lopez Nava, Denison, \$89.50.
- Nash Cooper Langenfeld, Denison, \$89.50.
- Jesus Alberto Jovel, Denison, \$89.50.

SMALL CLAIMS

- Against: Joel Uribe, Denison. In favor of: DNF Associates, LLC. Amount: \$3,498.10 plus \$95 costs.
- Against: Christopher G. Schultz, Denison. In favor of: DNF Associates, LLC. Amount: \$5,004.01 plus \$95 costs.
- Against: Jared Nathan Ransom, Denison. In favor of: H&R Accounts, Inc. Amount: \$4,279.05 plus \$95 costs.
- Against: Lindsey Schnoor, Charter Oak. In favor of: H&R Accounts, Inc. Amount: \$2,011.28 plus \$95 costs.
- Against: Christopher Lee Shelton, Charter Oak. In favor of: H&R Accounts, Inc. Amount: \$1,146.07 plus \$95 costs.
- Against: Timothy Allen Totten, Denison. In favor of: Midland Credit Management, Inc. Amount: \$2,472.60 plus \$95 costs.
- Against: Kimberly Yvette Torres, Schleswig. In favor of: Cyclone Car Credit. Amount: \$4,863.60 plus \$95 costs.

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The Denison Free Press

Virgil says Feenstra has failed represent Iowa's 4th District

Sutherland man mounting a primary challenge

BY GORDON WOLF

Kevin Virgil, of rural Sutherland in O'Brien County, said his opponent in the Republican primary for Iowa's 4th Congressional District, Randy Feenstra, has failed to uphold the Constitution on many occasions.

He believes voters have taken note of this and that he can win over Feenstra and make inroads in Feenstra's overwhelmingly Republican home county – Sioux County.

Virgil is a West Point graduate who served in the 82nd Airborne Division and the 75th Ranger Regiment. He went on to business school at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia, and then pursued a career on Wall Street. After 9/11 he joined the CIA as a case officer. When Virgil returned home again, he spent over a decade starting and growing companies. He was the co-founder of Polysentry, a data analytics company that serves government and commercial customers.

So far, Virgil has visited 24 of the district's 36 counties, including a stop in Crawford County on Tuesday where he spoke at Prime Times in Denison.

"The people there (in Sioux County) are increasingly aware of how he (Feenstra) has voted or failed to vote on their behalf over the last three years," Virgil said. "There's a lot of frustration there."

He admitted his campaign knew from the beginning that Sioux County would be a outsized priority. It's not the most populous county in the 4th District but it's certainly one of the most important, he added.

Virgil has spent a lot of time in Sioux County and said there is a lot of dissatisfaction about how Feenstra is representing the district.

He continued that the 4th District is the most conservative district in Iowa and one of the most conservative districts in the nation.

Voters in the 4th District re-elected former Congressman Steve King for nine terms "because, whatever you thought about him or his opinions, you know that people were comfortable with how he always worked hard to pull the conversation at the national level in Congress in a conservative direction as hard as he could, and I think they appreciated that. Randy Feenstra has not done that," Virgil said.

"Most egregiously in my opinion, and this is the issue that really converted me from a concerned citizen to an activist, people here are grappling today with efforts to build a carbon capture pipeline and how Summit Carbon Solutions has high level political connections in Iowa and across the upper Midwest," said Virgil, "and they are seeking to force eminent domain judgements against private landowners, obviously without their consent. There's no clear public benefit for that pipeline which therefore makes it a clear violation of the 5th Amendment."

Virgil claimed that Feenstra worked to increase the value of the tax credits for CO2 removal from the atmosphere and that those tax credits make the pipeline financially viable.

"He hasn't stood up for true conservatives either," Virgil continued. "Back in January there was a continuing resolution (to fund the government) that was up for a vote and there were 106 conservative members of Congress as well as two Democrats who voted against funding the federal government because they wanted to apply pressure to the Biden Administration to close the border. Randy Feenstra did not vote with those conservatives."

Virgil said he has three principles he intends to uphold when serving the 4th District.

"First, I intend to uphold my oath to the Constitution, and I've said many



PHOTO BY GORDON WOLF

Kevin Virgil will challenge Congressman Randy Feenstra in the Republican primary this June.

times that I will only vote for legislation that passes that litmus test. If there is something on the floor for a vote that doesn't surpass that test, I will vote for a full stop. I fully expect to vote no a whole lot more than I vote yes, which I think is what Congressman King often did," Virgil said.

He has received the endorsement of King.

Virgil added a lot of other members of Congress and the Senate who he respects uphold that principle every day, just as he intends to do.

His second principle is the need to radically decentralize the federal government.

"People ask me what I think is the greatest national security threat we face today. It's not the southern border, it's not the Chinese Communist Party. It's a federal government that's completely out of control," said Virgil.

"Today we have over 3 million full-time employees in federal government. That is the root cause of our \$34 trillion deficit. It's going to bankrupt us with all of the entitlements and all of the overhead that entails," he added.

"Why is it that we employ the same number of people in the federal government today that we did at the end of World War II. There's never been a sustained reduction in that head count," Virgil continued. "Meanwhile, out here in the real world, the productivity has increased 225% in the last 80 years. What that means is that one person working today in a job out here on Broadway can do the same work today that two and one-half people could do 80 years ago. The world has learned how to be more productive thanks to technology and better processes, but the federal government has never learned how to do that. And what's worse is I think that we now face that situation where there's this increasing belief among government employees in many agencies that we are somehow here to serve them and not the other way around."

Virgil said he supports a radical drawdown in the federal government and the expense of the number of people it employs. He believes there are many agencies in the federal government that simply don't need to be there or that are unconstitutional.

"I intend that for as long as I'm in Congress, the number one issue that I intend to work for is to reduce the scope and the control that the federal government has over every American."

Virgil's third principle is transparency and accountability. He said that contrasts to Feenstra.

"Just to be accessible and accountable and transparent, it shouldn't be that hard for a representative to stand in front of the people and be asked the hard questions and more importantly to listen," Virgil said. "While people may not always agree with what I have to say, I can also promise that I'll always make it extremely clear as to how I stand on an issue. Nobody's going to have any doubt before an important vote how I intend to vote. I don't think Congressman Feenstra has done a good job of that."

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CCMH to host free Medicare seminar

Crawford County Memorial Hospital (CCMH) will host a free "Welcome to Medicare" seminar on Thursday, March 14.

The seminar, led by volunteer Senior Health Insurance Information Program (SHIIP) counselors, will take place in CCMH Conference Room B at 100 Medical Parkway in Denison, 5:30-7 p.m.

The one-hour educational seminar will be helpful for residents who are approaching retirement age to explore their health insurance options, as well as those who are currently on Medicare to better understand their coverage.

The "Welcome to Medicare" seminar will cover Medicare Part A and Part B benefits, the prescription drug benefit (Part D), Medicare Advantage plans and Medicare supplement insurance.

Participants will learn what Medicare is and isn't; how to avoid penalties for late enrollment in Medicare; and how to get the most out of the health and prescription benefit plans.

Connie Riesselman, a SHIIP volunteer at CCMH, said, "Some decisions and actions about Medicare can take place three to six months before you turn 65, so I encourage people not to wait until they are turning 65 to understand all there is to know about this important benefit."

Participants are asked to register in advance by calling 712-265-2509.

"We're excited to offer this free seminar to the community," said Dustin Durbin, Volunteer Services & Community Outreach coordinator at CCMH. "Medicare is such an important program and understanding what it offers helps assure that anyone eligible gets the health benefits they deserve."

The Senior Health Insurance Information Program (SHIIP) is a service of the State of Iowa. SHIIP services are free, confidential, and unbiased. SHIIP counselors are trained by the state and do not sell or promote any insurance companies, policies or agents. CCMH is a local sponsor for SHIIP in Crawford County. For more information about SHIIP, visit <https://shiip.iowa.gov/>.

Books and more at the Schleswig Public Library

• If your favorite reading material is a good James Patterson book, the Schleswig Public Library has "Alex Cross Must Die," "Crosshairs" and "Missing Persons."

• Also featured is a new author for the Schleswig Public Library – Sarah Moss. The library has the following books: "The Fell" and "Summerwater."

• If the library does not have the book you are looking for, an interlibrary loan can be requested from any library in Iowa.

• The library has a tablet available to check out if you wish to read a book on Libby or listen to an audio book.

• Children are invited to a monthly STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) activity on March 21 from 3 to 5:30 p.m. The afternoon will feature several STEM activities, snacks and an introduction to the new Makerspace where children can use their imagination to create anything to take home and enjoy.

• Students in fourth grade and younger who read 25 books in two months will be rewarded with a pop and small pizza from KCK's. Stop in the library to pick up a form to record the books you read.

• Plans for a speaker series are being discussed; watch for updates. In April, Pippa White will present the program "Far as the Eye Can See."

• A reminder is that the library has a bigger table for meetings. If you need a place to hold any meetings, consider the library. A number of meetings have taken place at the library to plan for Schleswig's 125th celebration in September.

Boy Scout paper drive on Saturday

The Boy Scouts of Troop 55 in Denison will conduct their monthly paper drive this Saturday, March 9, at the Walmart parking lot, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The Boy Scouts will help people unload their tied, bundled or sacked newspapers.

People can bring acceptable papers in paper bags or cardboard boxes but not in plastic bags.

People are asked to limit the amount of cardboard they bring.

Schleswig VFW Auxiliary meets March 11

The Schleswig VFW Auxiliary will conduct its regular monthly meeting on Monday, March 11, at 7 p.m. at the Schleswig Golf Course.

Items on the agenda are the mural, new members and Schleswig's 125th celebration.

Health care scholarship offered

The Crawford County For Life organization is accepting scholarship applications for any student in Crawford County who is going into the medical field and who is also a pro-life supporter. This is a \$1,000 scholarship to be given for the fall of 2024 school year.

Applicants can either make a YouTube video, or they can write an essay answering the question: "Why does the life of the unborn matter?" The winning video or speech will be presented, by the applicant, at Rally for Life which is scheduled for April 14 in Denison.

Applications can be picked up at all Crawford County High School guidance offices and must be received by April 1. Videos or essays can be emailed to daniel.1951vogel@gmail.com. For more information call Daniel at 712-309-1292.

Funeral Notices

LaGene Webb

Mass of Christian Burial for LaGene Webb, 100, of Denison, will be conducted at 10 a.m. Saturday, March 9, at St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church in Denison with burial at the parish cemetery.



The Huebner Funeral Home in Denison is in charge of arrangements where friends may call from 5 to 7 p.m. on Friday, March 8, with a rosary at 4:45 p.m.

LaGene passed away on Saturday, February 24, at Gracewell in Denison.

Survivors include her children, Kathleen Hayes, of Texas, Mary Grace Bartlett, of Council Bluffs, Jack (Terri) Webb, of Denison, Jeanne (Craig) Konrady, of Waterloo, and Elizabeth Webb, of Des Moines; along with numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Services are entrusted to the Huebner Funeral Home.

Larry Halbur

Mass of Christian Burial for Larry Halbur, 82, of Denison, will be conducted at 10:30 a.m. Monday, March 11, at St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church in Denison with burial at the parish cemetery.



The Huebner Funeral Home in Denison is in charge of arrangements where friends may call from 1 to 3:30 p.m. Sunday, March 10, with a rosary at 12:45 p.m. and a prayer service at 3:30 p.m.

He passed away Thursday, February 29, at Gracewell in Denison.

Survivors include his children, Annette (Ray) Watkins, of Vail, Brenda (Bennett) Freese, of Denison, Cindy (John) Dinis, of California, and Ed (Sara) Halbur, of Ankeny; nine grandchildren, three great-grandchildren; a brother, Bill Halbur, of Arizona; sisters, Margaret (Tom) Denker, of Halbur, and Pat (Joe) Goblirsch, of Jesup; and numerous in-laws, nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

Services are entrusted to the Huebner Funeral Home.

William Fox, Jr.

Graveside services for William Fox, Jr., 85, of Kiron will be conducted at a later date in Walker, Minnesota.



He passed away Sunday, February 25, at Crawford County Memorial Hospital in Denison.

Survivors include his wife, Sara; daughters, Jamie (Josh) Hamblen, of Arkansas, Tammy (Mike) McGee, of Minnesota, Kim (Brian) Hanson, of Odebolt, and Tracy (Kyle) Perlich, of Minnesota; a brother, Harvey Fox, of Minnesota; eight grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

Services are entrusted to the Huebner Funeral Home.

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GUEST COLUMN



Douglas Burns
SPECIAL TO THE DENISON FREE PRESS

The enduring legacy of Denison alum Mr. Knott

The late teacher empowered generations to lead self-examining lives



In the 1960 movie "Inherit The Wind," a signature piece of filmmaking that dramatizes the Scopes Monkey Trial, Spencer Tracy's character,

the attorney defending the teaching of evolution in schools, in very animated fashion delivers one of the best lines in cinematic history.

"Why did God plague us with the capacity to think?" says Tracy's Henry Drummond. "Why do you deny the one thing that sets man above the other animals? What other merit have we? The elephant is larger, the horse stronger and swifter, the butterfly more beautiful, the mosquito more prolific, even the sponge is more durable."

Drummond is the fictional character based on legendary defense attorney Clarence Darrow who squared off with populist/evangelist William Jennings Bryan in arguably the most significant debate in American history: the Scopes trial in 1925.

"Inherit The Wind" was one of Carroll educator James Knott's favorite movies.

For about 50 years, Mr. Knott, a man who wanted to be a lawyer but made the financially costly mistake of falling

in love with teaching along the way, was the Clarence Darrow of the classroom. With changing turns of phrase to fit the generations he taught, Mr. Knott delivered a wonderful line of reasoning that cuts to the essence of teaching, and indeed life itself: Are you going to think for yourself, man, or are you just going to swallow what the more powerful or sanctimonious tell you to think?

Mr. Knott served as a Carroll High School teacher from 1961 to 1987 and then as dean-provost at the Des Moines Area Community College Carroll campus for nearly 20 years.

Mr. Knott passed away Thursday, Feb. 29 at age 94. He was a Denison native and graduate of Denison High School.

Thirty seven years ago, when I was backstage as an "actor" for the final play I would do with Mr. Knott as director, and the last play he would direct at CHS, he approached me and said he didn't want any sentimental bull, any tributes to take away from the performance, which happened to be Huxley's "Brave New World," the tale of the divide between rich and poor run amok and one full of contemporary lessons.

I gave Mr. Knott my word then that we'd get our lines right and walk off the stage and move on to the next parts of our lives. That's what he wanted.

If Mr. Knott knew I were writing this column I can tell you what he'd say: "Burns, get on with it." He may even call me a "dingbat" or some antiquated and endearing thing for good measure.

In other words, Mr. Knott would say, I have some more students to teach, and you, Burns, surely have more stories on other people that need to be told.

True enough. But we'll have time for that tomorrow.

Mr. Knott gave students an outline of how to live their lives, how to challenge with respect, how to swim against the stream without being self-destructive (perhaps his greatest lesson). He wasn't a captain-oh-my-captain schmaltz-king in the classroom like so many popular teachers today, but more of a pirate in the teaching fleet, always game for a fight with the establishment monkeys and purveyors of conventional wisdom.

Hollywood's Mr. Holland taught kids to play trumpets and bang on drums. Mr. Knott taught us how to think. There's no comparison.

Mr. Knott wouldn't suffer grade-grubbing sycophants, and seemed to have more affection for the kids

smoking cigarettes across Adams Street from the old CHS than the showcase students with their lists of activities and yearbook-ready smiles.

In speech class one day in the mid 1980s, a kid who was no stranger to detention, gave a demonstration of how to handle martial-arts devices that were admittedly often used to escalate the stakes in schoolyard fights.

A lot of teachers would have thrown this kid out of class, and in the post 9/11-Columbine (and now Perry shootings) world of zero tolerance perhaps that would be the proper course. But the kid gave a great speech. He was passionate about the subject, knew his facts, and Mr. Knott gave him kudos for the presentation, told him it was far and away the best speech of the day. I doubt the student, always one for the back rows of classes, ever had that kind of encouragement, ever felt that he was at the top of the class in anything. It was an enormously moving thing to see.

This community learned much from Mr. Knott about respect.

In a conversation years ago with former Carroll Middle School principal John Kinley, who went on to a career in the Ames schools and served for a time as superintendent in Gilbert, I mentioned something I called "the one great teacher theory." If a student has just one great teacher, I observed, it impacts the young person's learning in other classes with lesser teachers because the kid is always measuring himself by the expectations of a Mr. Knott.

Kinley, one of the better administrators to come through here, didn't disagree.

Many of us still measure ourselves by the standards Mr. Knott set. His former students referred to him with the proper salutation, "mister." One wouldn't call Franklin D. Roosevelt "Frank," and those of us who sat in that classroom on the third floor of Carroll High School will forever refer to our teacher as Mr. Knott, as a show of respect for him and the respect he taught us to have for ourselves.

It is hard for me to think of a person in the community who has had such depth of influence on thousands of people, whether through teaching in the trenches of a worn-out high school building or by developing a community college that makes higher education accessible to many western Iowans who would be left behind without Knott's foresighted leadership.

Concert series features Kathy Kaefer on March 11

Stories from the Homefront pays tribute to "The Greatest Generation"

"Kiss Me Once: Stories from the Homefront," a performance by Kathy Kaefer, is the next offering in the Crawford County Fine Arts series of concerts.



It will be performed at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, March 11, at the Denison High School Fine Arts Center.

Sponsors are Crawford County Fine Arts and Russ Stone.

The award-winning "Kiss Me Once: Stories from the Homefront" immortalizes the brave men and women of "The Greatest Generation" in a celebration of the songs that inspired them to greatness.

Kaefer draws a deeply personal narrative from her own interviews with veterans about their wartime experiences and her own grandmothers about their lives as young women on the homefront.

The list of program highlights includes the following songs.

- When I Grow Too Old To Dream
- Moonlight Serenade
- Long Ago And Far Away
- I'll Be Seeing You
- Shoo Shoo Baby
- I Don't Want to Walk Without You
- I'll Walk Alone
- My Shining Hour
- White Cliffs of Dover
- Milkman Keep Those Bottles Quiet
- No Nuthin'
- I'll Be Home for Christmas
- Speak Low
- We'll Meet Again
- Sentimental Journey

Stories about and letters from servicemen are interspersed throughout the program.



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ST. PAT'S PARADE, FROM PAGE 1



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Ty (Tyler) Knott is pictured at right in this photo from 2006. He is this year's Grand Marshall. Pictured with him are his mother, Georgena, who was the Irish Mother in 2006, and Pat Brosnahan, the Grand Marshall in 2006.

excited about it," said Susan Brosnahan Grau, the parade organizer. "I think all of our families kind of grew up together and so we've all been family friends."

She said Ty and her brother, Mark, now deceased, were best friends. They graduated from Denison High School in 1976.

"They were older than me, but we all played together and ran around together," she added.

So strong was the friendship between Ty and Mark that when Susan asked Ty to be the Grand Marshall, he said he would do it on one condition.

"I asked what the one condition was," said Susan. "He answered, 'I want you to put in memory of Mark Brosnahan on there.'"

"On the sign?"

"Yup, and I want to have a picture of Mark so I can have him right along with me," Ty responded.

"I thought, 'Oh, my God, that's just the kind of bond we all have,'" Susan said.

Starting time for the March 16 parade is 1 p.m. Line-up is in front of the post office on 1st Avenue North between 12 and 12:30 p.m.

The American Legion leads the parade, followed by the sheriff and the fire department, and then all the families and businesses.

The parade route is south on North Main to Broadway, east on Broadway to 16th Street, and then north on 16th Street back to 1st Avenue North.

Anyone can join in the parade, said Susan, and added that having an entry in the parade is great free publicity for businesses.

She added that she's reached out to Latino-owned businesses to encourage them to enter the parade.

"I would just love for them to be a bigger part of the parade," she said.

This is the 34th year for the St. Patrick's Day parade in Denison. Susan said the annual event was started by Joe and Marilyn Curnyn. Then Brian O'Neill was the parade organizer for a number of years. When he passed away, Susan took over.

"Joe and my dad (Ed) were really good friends," Susan said. "My dad died 34 years ago on March 16, so he didn't even get to see the first St. Patrick's Day parade in Denison. But Joe came in his outfit to see my dad the day he died, so

Joe brought the parade to my dad.

"It's just why I'm so passionate about the parade, because I know that it meant a lot to our parents and all of our clans," she continued. "It meant a lot to our parents' heritage, and I just love that the kids have taken it on and are continuing the parade."

Susan said a special feature for this year's parade will be a bagpipe player on the Curnyns' parade entry.

Also look for Susan's sister, JoAnn Beymer, tossing out foil-wrapped baked potatoes. It has been a favorite attraction at many of the St. Patrick's

Day parades in Denison.

"She lives in Illinois, and they used to go to the Chicago parade all the time. That's how she started doing this. It's funny, because when people see us coming, they yell out 'I want a potato, please.'"

The warm baked potatoes are especially welcome when there's a chill in the air on the day of the St. Patrick's Day parade.

And, as always, there will be plenty of candy tossed out to the kids, and adults, so come with a bag to collect your treats.



Pictured is Mark Brosnahan, who was a good friend to Ty Knott.



Pictured is Ed Brosnahan, Susan Brosnahan Grau's father.



Joe and Marilyn Curnyn and Tom Curnyn are shown in this picture from the past.



Emmet Fitzpatrick waves from his car in the 1994 St. Patrick's Day parade. He is the grandfather of this year's Irish Mother, Julie Fitzpatrick Lamaack.

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Friday: 8 am - 5 pm
Saturday: 8 am - 10:30 am

GROCERY BAGGING, FROM PAGE 1



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

After filling one bag with groceries, Harrison Dahm works on a second and then a third bag. He lifts his arms to signal that he is done.

One objective of the contest is to teach and develop the knowledge and skills of successful bagging and customer service.

Harrison will fly to Las Vegas on March 10, compete on March 11 and have a day to roam around the city on March 12 before returning home on the 13th.

He said the biggest difference between the state and the national contest is that the national contest has big sponsors, like PepsiCo and Campbells, so he figures the national contest will feature products from those companies.

"Products like Quaker oatmeal boxes, possibly a full two-liter bottle of pop, a bunch of Campbells cans, a bottle of Gatorade and maybe a single-serve glass bottle of Starbucks macchiato," Harrison guessed. "The products may differ, but the system of bagging is the same."

The bagger contest is run in heats, with the championship qualifiers facing off head-to-head.

This year 18 contestants will be in the national contest. This year's qualifiers are from Alabama, California, Georgia, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Ohio, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Tennessee, Utah, Virginia, Washington and Wisconsin.

Harrison is acquainted with and has

been receiving tips from the qualifier from Nebraska, Nolan McGregor. McGregor was the Iowa champion bagger in 2022 and competed in the national contest in 2023. Since that time he was transferred by Fareway to a store in Nebraska, which did the best bagger contest for the first time in 2023. McGregor won that contest and will be returning to the national contest. In Iowa, once a person wins the state championship, they cannot compete again.

Harrison has also been turning to YouTube videos to hone his technique. He said the videos give him visual insight.

"That definitely helps with selecting what items I should be bagging," he said. "That's where I got the idea of the two-liter bottle of pop, the single-serve bottle of Gatorade and Quaker oatmeal."

"The videos give good insight and also help me with the structure of what's going on," Harrison continued. "I want to know where I'm going to go and how much time I will have to look at the table of items before the heat begins."

Watching videos and getting tips from others is fine, but there is no substitute for hands-on practice.

"For the past month or so I've been periodically coming home on Saturdays and Sundays. I wait until my dad comes home and he sets up a table with a random set of groceries,"

Harrison said. "We'll practice for a couple hours and take some breaks, and Sunday morning I try to get a little bit in before I have to go back to college."

Two hours of practice can be pretty intense.

"It gets very repetitive," Harrison said. "If you get tired of it or lose your focus, it can really set off your times. There's a bunch of variations in times once you get tired, and variations in the weights of the bags."

Time and weight distribution are two areas where a bagger can score points. There's also bag-building technique, style, attitude and appearance.

Ten points are awarded for times of up to 53 seconds, nine points for 53:01 to 57 seconds and on down to one point for 85:01 or more seconds.

Up to 10 points can be awarded for proper bag-building technique and up to five points can be awarded for the distribution of weight among bags. This is calculated by weighing each bag and subtracting the weight of the lightest bag from the heaviest bag, then subtracting the difference in weights from the total possible points (5).

Style, attitude and appearance can earn a bagger up to five points.

"I think for as many times as I've bagged groceries, I could walk up to a table without practicing for a week and just crush the times and the weights," Harrison said. "It's gotten to where I

can walk up to a table with anything you throw at me, 30 items or 50 items, I'm almost certain I can get it done in under a minute."

Still, Harrison is not taking any chances. He talked about taking groceries back to Iowa State this week just to practice some more.

Besides bagging and bragging rights, cash prizes are on the line at the national contest - \$10,000 for the national champion, \$5,000 for first runner up, \$1,000 for second and third runners up and \$500 for fourth runner up.

Harrison will have a lot of support at the national contest. His mother and father and his sister will be going along. His brother might be going. In addition, an uncle will make the trip and possibly another uncle and his wife.

And two customers will be going. "A wife and a husband who I met over the summer," Harrison said. "I did some work for them and talked to them about the Iowa contest. They came and watched me at the state fair and said they wanted to watch me in Vegas."

People can watch Harrison and the other baggers compete for the national championship via a live stream on the National Grocers Association Facebook page. The link is <https://www.facebook.com/NationalGrocersAssn/>.

UBI donates to Central and Western Iowa Brushy Creek Honor Flight

United Bank of Iowa recently donated \$2,060 to Brushy Creek Honor Flight. This money was raised during the United Bank of Iowa's "UNITED TOGETHER Makes the Difference Cause Day" effort.

The goal of United Bank of Iowa's Cause Day effort is to give employees the opportunity to make a difference and support people in need in the communities the bank serves. On the second and fourth Fridays of each month, UBI employees from all 35 locations have the option to donate \$5 to wear their UNITED TOGETHER T-shirts and jeans to work. The bank matches the employee donations up to \$1,000 and the total is donated to one cause, randomly drawn from suggestions from all 35 locations. Since September 2020, United Bank of Iowa has donated \$173,398 to 81 causes in

their market area through this Cause Day effort. For more information, go to www.unitedbk.bank.

Brushy Creek Honor Flight was the lucky recipient of the United Bank of Iowa's January 26, Cause Day donation. Brushy Creek Honor Flight, based in Fort Dodge, is a non-profit created to honor American veterans for their sacrifices. Veterans from central and western Iowa are flown to Washington DC to visit and reflect at their memorials. Numerous veterans from Crawford County have participated in Honor Flights over the last several years. There is never a cost to the Veteran.

United Bank of Iowa employees presenting the check are Jay Lally, Beth Maack and Rebecca Berens. The check was presented at the Charter Oak location to veterans from the area that have participated in an Honor Flight.



Front, from left: Alva Lill, Randy Bohlmann and Gerald Jors. Back: BH Meyer, Beth Maack, Jay Lally, Rebecca Berens and Lester Goslar.

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