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Citizens of the Year

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CDC hosts annual banquet

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# The Denison Free Press

Local News  
Local Journalists  
Local Ownership

FREE  
TAKE ONE!

Vol. 1 | No. 2

SERVING DENISON & CRAWFORD COUNTY, IOWA

July 13, 2023

## Ettleman's in Dow City under new ownership

New manager has lots of help



PHOTO BY DAN MUNDT

Colin Garrett is the new manager of Ettleman's Town & Country store in Dow City. The Garrett family took over ownership on July 1.

BY DAN MUNDT

On July 1, Amber and Kelly Garrett, and their children Cael, Colin and Connor, took over ownership of Ettleman's Town & Country store in Dow City.

Colin Garrett said he doesn't have a title, but if he did it would be "manager." "Everybody is going to have a hand in it but I'll be running it," he said. "I'm going to have a lot of help but I'll be in charge."

His parents are niece and nephew of former owners Ace and Marilyn Ettleman, who ran Ettleman's Town & Country for 46 years.

Ace's dad, Kenny, started the business.

Ettleman's was a big part of Colin's childhood.

"I spent just about every day going in and out of there growing up," he said. "It meant a lot to me and my family."

Colin grew up on the family farm and attended Iowa State University.

He graduated in May with a degree in animal science; he's putting that degree to work in his new job.

"My last couple of years at Iowa State I got into learning about meat and processed meat," he said.

The Garrett family's other Dow City business, GLC Beef, located about a block away on Franklin Street, had started selling meat, beef sticks and jerky at Ettleman's when Ace and

ETTLEMAN'S, PAGE 3



PHOTO BY DAN MUNDT

## A party to kick off Achievement Days

A parade made its way down Main Street in Charter Oak on Saturday as the town's 2023 Achievement Days celebration began. Music, food and fireworks soon followed. See more pictures on page 7.

## Local author reads her book to kids

Deanna Anderson wrote ABC Agriculture in middle school

BY DAN MUNDT

Deanna Anderson was a 7th grade student at Denison Middle School when she wrote "ABC Agriculture."

Her book went on to win the middle school division of the Iowa Agriculture Literacy Foundation's Bushel of Stories contest in 2021; the contest challenges students in grades 3 to 8 to write a story book about agriculture or food.

Kimberly Jorgensen, a Talented and Gifted/language arts teacher at Denison Middle School, encouraged her to enter the contest.

Deanna and the elementary division winner had their books professionally published by the Iowa Agriculture Literacy Foundation and the National Agriculture in the Classroom Organization.

She presented ABC Agriculture at the Crawford County Fair last year; the book was chosen to be presented as a static exhibit at the 2022 Iowa State Fair.

Deanna will be a sophomore this fall at Boyer Valley High School in Dunlap.

She spent time on Tuesday this week reading her book to children at



Author Deanna Anderson read her book, ABC Agriculture, to a group of 57 children at the Manilla Public Library on Tuesday.

libraries in Manilla and Dow City.

Her visits were organized by Crawford County Farm Bureau; Iowa Farm Bureau is a leading sponsor of the Iowa Agriculture Literacy Foundation.

"I like reading to little kids," Deanna said. "The Farm Bureau asked me to do it with them. They bring snacks and each little kid gets a book."

Deanna's book is based on the alphabet.

"It's all about agriculture," she said. "Each page has a letter of the alphabet and then a word that I thought went well with it."

The contest required at least 24 pages of content, so the alphabet made

ABC, PAGE 2

## Next week's Crawford County Fair features monster trucks, rodeo

BY GORDON WOLF

Some changes are in store for the 77th annual Crawford County Fair, which officially begins on Wednesday, July 19, although people can take in events begin before the middle of the week.

Speaking at last week's meeting of the Denison Rotary Club, Brian Brodersen, a member of the fair board, spoke about what's new and different this year.

On Wednesday, July 19, the Monster Truck Nitro Tour will entertain people at the grandstands. The show starts at 7:30 p.m., with a pit party from 6-7 p.m.

Brodersen the Nitro Tour is different than a monster truck show that was at the fair a number of years ago.

In addition, the fair association rented out the grandstand to the monster truck tour. The Nitro Tour will take the gate receipts but the fair association will receive the concession stand proceeds.

FAIR, PAGE 14

## Seeing in day and night

County gets two new spotting drones



PHOTO BY DAN MUNDT

Two drones like this are now available for search and spotting operations in Crawford County.

BY DAN MUNDT

Two new spotting drones are now available for spotting and search operations conducted by law enforcement agencies and fire departments in Crawford County.

The drones have high-definition cameras for imaging during the daytime and an infrared camera for nighttime operations.

"They will be used for searches, recoveries, fires," said Crawford County Emergency Management Agency (EMA) Coordinator Greg Miller. "They are excellent to see which way fires are traveling."

EMA purchased one drone and the Crawford County Firefighters Association bought the other.

The Evo Max drones were made by Autel Robotics and cost \$10,000 each.

Miller said county law enforcement agencies were familiar with that particular kind of drone because Shelby County uses them.

The Shelby County drones were

DRONES, PAGE 5

## The last ride

Accident takes the life of local Legion rider

BY GORDON WOLF

On Sunday, six members of the Soldier Valley American Legion Riders set out on a tour of Freedom Rocks in Crawford, Carroll, Audubon and Shelby counties. No one could have known that for one of them it would be the last ride.

After separating as a group in Earling, the site of the Shelby County Freedom Rock, each went their separate ways home.

Two of them, Leo Welsh and Galen Dirks, were headed the same way to Vail, where they live.

Traveling north on county blacktop M55, Welsh had an accident on a curve a mile or two south of Vail.

Dirks was in the lead so couldn't see or hear the accident.

Details of the accident that claimed



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Pictured from left are the six Soldier Valley American Legion Riders at the Crawford County Freedom Rock in Manilla: Jake Pedersen, Steve Hartman, Leo Welsh, Eric Riley, Ty Rosburg and Galen Dirks.

Welsh's life are not yet available. Ty Rosburg, commander of the riders, believes it was a freak accident because Welsh was a good rider.

He said one possibility is that Welsh's motorcycle skidded on some loose gravel on the blacktop.

WELSH, PAGE 3

# Author aims for a career in agriculture.

ABC, FROM PAGE 1

sense, Deanna said.

As she was working on the book, she made a list of agriculture-related words for each letter and then chose her favorites.

"Then I found information for each word," she said.

For example, in her book, G is for Grain.

"At the bottom of the page is a short summary about grain," Deanna said.

"Grain is the edible seed of some plants that humans and animals eat. Teff, wheat, oats, rice, corn, barley, sorghum, rye, millet, triticale, amaranth, buckwheat, and quinoa are all types of grain," reads her explanation.

The book was illustrated by Iowa State University student Irah Dhaseleer.

Deanna said she had fun making the book and learned more about agriculture in the process.

"One of the facts in the book that I found really interesting is pigs outnumber humans seven to one in Iowa," she said. "I knew there were a lot of pigs in Iowa but I didn't know that there were that many."

Deanna has thought about writing another book but doesn't see writing as a career.

"I do feel like I'll probably write another book or two – what about I have no clue yet," she said.

"I see myself in an agriculture career, though."

She's taking her time to look at the options while she is in high school.

"I'm looking at different careers and asking people what they do," Deanna said. "I hear some of the pros, some of the cons; they like this part of their job, they don't like this part; so hopefully I

can find a career that makes me happy."

Veterinary science is one of the options she's considering.

"I have lots of animals at home – I like being around them," she said.

Deanna said she's currently gearing up for the fair again.

"I've shown cows and sheep in the past – this year I decided to take a step back and do a little less," she said.

Deanna plans to present a few static projects and put her Labrador retriever in the dog show.

Her family got the dog as a puppy during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"My siblings and I put her in every contest," she said. "She's got a lot of energy but we work with her to make sure she has the basics down."

Deanna said writing ABC Agriculture was a good experience.

"I encourage other kids to do it even if they're not thinking about agriculture," she said. "They can think about it and write it, and if it's good enough you could possibly get it published."



Deanna Anderson



Deanna read her book to children at two libraries on Tuesday.



PHOTO BY DAN MUNDT

Each page of Deanna's book contains information about an agriculture topic.

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## All of the Ettlemans' employees decided to stay

ETTLEMAN'S, FROM PAGE 1

Marilyn still owned it.

Ettleman's also used GLC ground beef to make hamburgers.

Colin works at both businesses.

He wants to use the relationship to sell more GLC Beef and increase business at Ettleman's by offering the high-quality GLC meat there.

"We know we have a good product," he said.

Colin took over Ace's duties, which means he opens the store at 5 a.m. and stays until 8 or 10 a.m. every day.

The only major surprise has been how much time is required to deal with distributors.

"There are so many different salesmen and delivery guys in there every day of the week, and a lot of phone calls and paperwork," Colin said.

The Ettlemans had made the behind-the-scenes work seem easy – and they were good employers, he added.

Staffing has not been an issue, largely due to how the Ettlemans ran the business.

"They had 15 or 18 employees, and every single one of them wanted to stay," Colin said. "They had a really good staff."



PHOTO BY DAN MUNDOT

Ace and Marilyn Ettleman ran Ettleman's Town & Country for 46 years. The new owners plan to continue the traditions of the business the Ettlemans started.

Ace and Marilyn helped ease Colin into managing the business.

"I learned how to do everything with them for about a month and a half – and they're still over there every day and they help me out a lot," he said. "I still have questions for Ace just about every day."

Colin plans to stay in Dow City and is renovating a house in town that he recently purchased.

"It's mostly done - but it's livable," he said.

He is happy to carry on with what the Ettlemans started.

"They knew everybody and everybody loved them," he said. "They did business with just about everybody in town for over 40 years."

Colin sees Ettleman's as an important part of the fabric of the Dow City community.

"About eight guys just spent two hours in there talking and having coffee and educating everybody," he said with a laugh.

He said Dow City is working hard to remain a healthy community and Ettleman's is part of that effort.

"It's no secret small towns are really struggling these days," Colin said. "We're still fighting to keep everything going."

## WELSH, FROM PAGE 1

Rosburg said Welsh will be missed not only as a member of the riders group but also as a friend who looked out for everyone else.

The Soldier Valley American Legion Riders, sponsored by Charter Oak American Legion Post 66, was formed to create an avenue of similar interest for veterans, to draw them together and give them another form of support, explained Rosburg, commander of the group.

Equal with that purpose is to give back to the community – helping with initiatives such as Christmas Crusade for Children, donating to the Legion to send boys and girls to Boys State and Girls State and any number of charitable endeavors.

Welsh was a long-standing member.

"Leo was very active with the group and very supportive of other veterans," said Rosburg. "He was always checking on how everybody was doing."

For example, Welsh regularly called Rosburg while he was going through radiation treatments. In fact, they would sometimes pass each other on Highway 30 when Rosburg was going to the hospital in Carroll for treatments and Welsh was traveling home to Vail from his job at New Way in Scranton. If Rosburg did not wave, Welsh would call him to make sure he was doing well.

And this relationship wasn't just with Rosburg.

"Leo kind of looked after everybody," he said.

When it came to fundraising for the group's charitable giving, Welsh and Steve Hartman were at the top in selling raffle tickets, he said.

"Leo was very good at it. He knew everybody," Rosburg said. "You'll have to work pretty hard to find somebody that didn't like him. He just gave a darn about everybody. He genuinely cared about people and wanted them to have success."

The ride on Sunday began with a

meeting of the group in the basement of Rosburg's business, Rosburg Livestock in Charter Oak. Some type of ride generally took place after every meeting.

After the meeting, the riders headed to the Crawford County Freedom Rock in Manilla. The second was in Manning – the Carroll County Freedom Rock. The riders then traveled to Kimballton, not only to view the Audubon County Freedom Rock but also to take a donation to Gracee Rose Deakins to help with her medical expenses. She was injured on May 6 when an oncoming vehicle crossed the centerline on Highway 173 just north of Elk Horn and hit her vehicle head-on.

The last stop on the tour was the Shelby County Freedom Rock in Earling.

At each stop, the riders would talk about the images on the rock and what they meant to them. Prominent on the rock in Manilla are images of county residents who died when they were in service to their country.

"We discussed that and then looked at the names on the pavers leading to the rock to see if there are names of family members or someone we know," said Rosburg. "The rock in Manning has the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence and the Bill of Rights."

The donation in Kimballton was the result of a poker run the day before to raise funds for Deakins's medical bills.

"Two of our guys rode on that poker run but they didn't have their checkbooks with them, so since we were going to the Freedom Rock in Manning, we said we'd just hit Kimballton, too," said Rosburg. "The guys all wanted to do that. That's why our money is raised - to help people."

In the near future, the Soldier Valley American Legion Riders will memorialize Welsh with a tab that will be attached to the back of their vests. The tabs are for members of the group who have passed. Welsh's tab will join two other tabs memorializing riders who have died.



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# Local Calendar

## THURSDAY JULY 13, 2023

**Hot Summer Nights** on Broadway in Uptown Denison, 6-9 p.m.

**Movie Night** at Norelius Community Library in Denison, 6 p.m. All ages welcome.

## THURSDAY, JULY 13- SATURDAY, JULY 15, 2023

**Cat & Dog Days**, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., shopping for bargains in Uptown Denison.

## FRIDAY JULY 14, 2023

**13th Annual Hospital Foundation of Crawford County 4-person Scramble Golf Outing**, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Majestic Hills Golf Course. Go to [www.ccmhia.com](http://www.ccmhia.com) or call 712-265-2515 to register and for more details.

## SATURDAY JULY 15, 2023

**McHenry House** in Denison open 1-4 p.m. Refreshments served.

**Mega-Levigator** by Absolute Science presented at Norelius Community Library in Denison, 2-3 p.m. A display of what magnets and conductors can do with energy.

**Enchanted Costume Party** at Norelius Community Library in Denison, 1-3 p.m. Dress up as a fairy tale or any other book character. Food and games and a drawing at the end of the party.

## SUNDAY JULY 16, 2023

**McHenry House** in Denison open 1-4 p.m. Refreshments served. 4-H and FFA Dog Show at fairgrounds showing, 1 p.m.

**Crawford County Fair** Coronation Ceremony, 7 p.m., Denison High School Fine Arts Center

## MONDAY, JULY 17- THURSDAY, JULY 27, 2023

**Verizon Innovative Learning Stem Camp** at Western Iowa Tech in Denison, 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. For students going into 6th, 7th and

8th grades. Free to all students. For more information, contact Jessica Garcia at 712-317-3098 or emailing [jessica.g.garcia@witcc.edu](mailto:jessica.g.garcia@witcc.edu).

## TUESDAY JULY 18, 2023

**Euchre Night** at Ricketts Community Building, 7-8 p.m. Card playing, socializing, treats and beverages. Card game will start at 7 p.m. Entry fee is \$5. No need to bring a partner.

**Two Gal Best Ball Tournament**, 4-6 p.m., Schleswig Golf Course. To register, call The Clubhouse at 712-676-3343.

## WEDNESDAY JULY 19, 2023

**Kid's Club** at First United Methodist Church in Denison, 9 a.m.-12 p.m. Children PK to 5th grade are invited to participate in a morning of fun, friends, and learning.

**Charter Oak Library Conservation Program**, 2-3 p.m. Crawford County Conservation Naturalist Kelly Sonnichsen will present Animal Track and Furs. Children will learn to identify animals from the tracks that they leave and touch the pelts from various Iowa animals found in our area.

**Euchre Night** at Charter Oak Community Center, 7 p.m. No need to line up partners before the game.

## WEDNESDAY, JULY 19- SUNDAY, JULY 23, 2023

**Crawford County Fair.** See advertisement in this issue.

## SATURDAY JULY 22, 2023

**Charter Oak Library Story Time**, 1-2 p.m. Listen to readers from the community, featuring IPTV's book "Alma Speaks Up" and other books.



Submit events at [denisonfreepress.com](http://denisonfreepress.com)

## County arts council to kick off new season on July 27

The Crawford Council Arts Council (CCAC) will kick off its 2023-2024 concert series with a come-and-go open house on Thursday, July 27, 5 to 8 p.m. at Reynold's Clothing in uptown Denison.

Past and present season ticket holders and patrons, as well as any community members interested in season tickets for the CCAC season, are invited to the open house. Refreshments will be served and concert previews of the upcoming season will be available.

Season tickets will be available for purchase at the open house, as well.

The 2023-2024 Crawford County Arts Council concert series offers the following performances, all at the Denison High School Fine Arts Center.

- September 8, 7:30 p.m. - Divas 3
- October 9, 2:30 p.m. - Jive for Five Brass Quintet
- February 20, 7:30 p.m. - Billy McGuigan's Pop Orchestra
- March 11, 7:30 p.m. - Kiss Me Once: Stories from the Homefront
- May 6, 7:30 p.m. - Here Comes the Sun

More information and prices for the 2023-2024 CCAC season can be found at [www.CrawfordCoArts.org](http://www.CrawfordCoArts.org).

## Full House



PHOTO BY DAN MUNDT

Turkey vultures inhabit just about every available perch on the communications tower on the Crawford County Courthouse. The birds like keeping an eye on the activity in Uptown Denison.

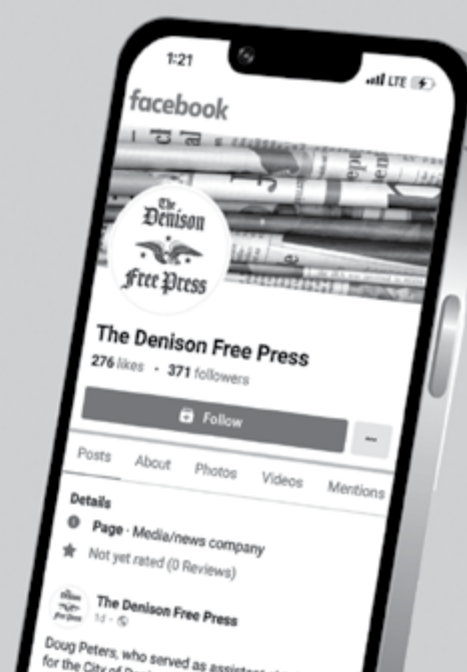
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## Letters TO THE EDITOR

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

### To the Editor:

Writer says Legislature should spend time on economic development

Note: The following letter was written on July 7, four days special legislative session mentioned below.

Is Iowa becoming a single-party authoritarian regime? With a myopic focus on the culture wars, Gov. Kim Reynolds has called for a special legislative session to enact a six-week abortion ban. It will be rubber-stamped by her legislative supermajority in a matter of hours on July 11 even though a majority of Iowans are opposed.

During the regular legislative session, Iowa's GOP legislative supermajority spent it's time being afraid of books, public schools, and LGBTQ people while the Nebraska Unicameral was passing legislation to promote economic growth in the semiconductor industry. A group of semiconductor companies is considering sites in Fremont and the Omaha area for a technology cluster called Silicon Heartland.

Why aren't our Crawford County legislators promoting economic

growth and semiconductor industries for western Iowa? They should be thinking about how to take advantage of President Biden's additional \$415.3 million in federal funding for high-speed internet in rural areas. They should be thinking of how to keep young people in Crawford County. Instead, they are fixated on enacting in lockstep with the governor a radical agenda without open debate and input from Iowa citizens.

Larry Peterson,  
Denison, IA

# Drones to be stationed at communications center and EMA office

DRONES, FROM PAGE 1

used during the search for a missing child near Crawford County Memorial Hospital in June 2021.

The infrared camera renders the warmth of an animal as white in a dark image when the drone flies at night.

In the search for the missing child, who was later found safe at home, the drone operators were able to see deer and other animals in the darkness.

"It will show any heat signature - people or animals," Miller said.

The drone would be useless at night without the infrared camera.

"You wouldn't see anything," Miller said.

A lot of trouble could have been saved if one of the drones had been available at the field fire near Ricketts last November.

"We would not have had to evacuate Ricketts because it was starting to die out at that time," Miller said.

"This can get quite a ways up in the air; you can use the weather service to check wind direction and decide if you need to evacuate, or if you're going to need to send the fire departments."

Pilots have to be certified by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to fly the drones.

"We're going to get pilots trained through the sheriff's office, police departments, fire departments," Miller said.

He would like to get 10 or more pilots trained so that someone will always be available.

"There's a regular flight school that you go to - or they come here and train you and give you a certificate through the FAA," he said.

Shelby County pilots will also be available.

"If we need a pilot and we haven't got a pilot certified yet, they can come up and fly these or bring their own," he said.

The drones will be stationed at the communications center at the Crawford County Law Enforcement Center and the EMA office.

"Any pilot can get one, if need be, or I will get it and deliver it where they need to go," Miller said.

Each drone comes with a small screen connected to the remote control used by the pilot.

Miller said two large-screen TVs will be purchased, one for each drone, to provide a bigger image that more people can look at during a flight.

Additional batteries will be purchased to allow for longer flight times.

The drones can be launched in a matter of minutes and are able to stay airborne for 20 to 25 minutes on a single battery, Miller said.

The additional batteries will allow for up to 1.5 hours of total flight time.

When the battery nears exhaustion, the drone will automatically return to the landing pad to have its battery changed.

"We'll have a bank charger that will charge three or four batteries at a time," he said.

Denison Fire Chief Cory Snowgren said the drones are "most certainly a resource that was long overdue for our county."

## Crawford County Annual



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- ✦ Thrifty White
- ✦ Don's Inc.
- ✦ Totally You Boutique
- ✦ Fareway Meat & Grocery
- ✦ Touch of Class Salon & Spa
- ✦ Good Samaritan Thrift Shop
- ✦ Wireless World
- ✦ Hy-Vee
- ✦ Wise Monkey Quilting
- ✦ ID Apparel

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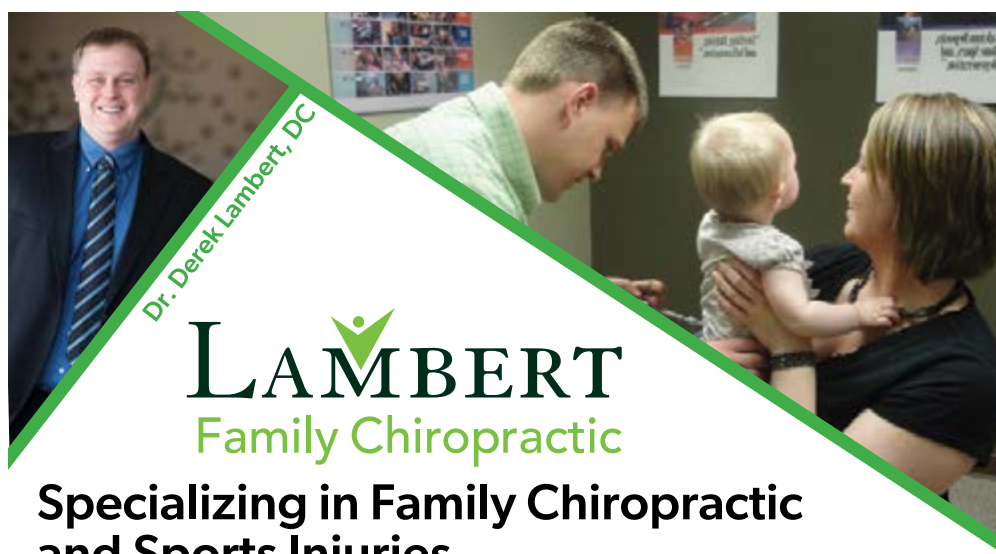
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### Broadway streetscape changed

The streetscape for the one block of Broadway from 15th to 16th streets changed dramatically on Tuesday. The crew from the Denison Public Works Department cut down five ash trees that had been infested by the emerald ash borer. The work was done after summer school was out as the entire block had to be closed off while the work was being done.

PHOTOS BY GORDON WOLF

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**10 am — 3 pm**

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# Charter Oak Achievement Days

Charter Oak's annual event ran from Saturday through Thursday of this week. The event was kicked off with a parade and a party on Main Street on Saturday evening.

PHOTOS BY DAN MUNDT



Lincoln McCall, of Soldier, and Vada Brouillette, of Ute, chase down candy on the street during the parade.



This Allis-Chalmers tractor, with a small party in tow, led a procession of classic tractors.



The Charter Oak Boosters, at left and Charter Oak Achievers 4-H clubs joined the parade as they headed toward Achievement Days this week and the county fair next week.



Kids who squeezed into the barrels that make up the cars of this little train got to ride up and down Main Street and in circles at the top and bottom of the block.

## Clausens are Charter Oak Citizens of the Year

BY DAN MUNDT

Trent and Took Clausen were named Charter Oak Citizens of the Year during the opening festivities of the 2023 Charter Oak Achievement Days celebration on Saturday evening. Following a parade on Main Street, many residents gathered in the Charter Oak Community Building for food and the award presentation.

Before presenting the award plaque, Loren Strait listed why the Clausens were chosen to be the 2023 Charter Oak Citizens of the Year.

He said they have both been very involved in volunteering and supporting the whole community and are always there to donate their time and resources.

The Clausens have been great patrons to Charter Oak and have been involved with youth in the community by serving on boards, coaching or helping out however needed.

"They were instrumental in helping

to build the shelter house at City Park," Strait said.

"They were involved in Charter Oak's 125th celebration and willingly helped with RAGBRAI when RAGBRAI came through Charter Oak."

The entire Clausen family has been involved with 4-H, and helping with funding and events for the organization.

The Clausens have been members of the fire department, city council and church councils.

They are members of the boosters club and spearheaded the development of the fitness room at Charter Oak-Ute School, he said.

"Took has lived in Charter Oak her whole life and Trent has lived in Charter Oak most of his adult life," Strait said. "(They) have been continuous supporters of all Charter Oak-Ute events and are very deserving of this award."



PHOTO BY DAN MUNDT

Loren Strait presented the Charter Oak Citizens of the Year award to Took and Trent Clausen during the kickoff of Achievement Days on Saturday evening.

# Gracewell, La Prensa and Smithfield receive CDC awards

PHOTOS BY GORDON WOLF



From left, Gracewell, represented by Mindi Baker and Amy Schultz; La Prensa, represented by Lorena Lopez; and Smithfield Foods, represented by Patricia Leslie, all received business leader awards Monday at the annual banquet of the Chamber & Development Council of Crawford County (CDC).

BY GORDON WOLF

Gracewell, an Eventide Community; Lorena Lopez and La Prensa; and Smithfield Foods were all recognized for the contributions they have made to the community at the Chamber & Development Council (CDC) of Crawford County annual banquet on Monday evening.

Gracewell, represented by its manager, Amy Schultz, and Mindi Baker, CEO of Eventide, received the Innovators Award. The award is given to a business that has been in operation for less than five years but has shown great leadership in the community.

Eventide opened its first living facility for seniors in 1963; Gracewell opened in 2022 to replace the Eventide Care Facility.

In presenting the award, Mariah Nutt, CDC office manager, said that with Gracewell, Eventide raised the bar even higher, setting a new standard of excellence in senior care.

Gracewell is a 65,000 square foot state-of-the-art facility that features 60 private rooms arranged in a community-like environment.

Earlier this year, Gracewell received the Governor's Quality of Care Award, which was presented in a ceremony attended by Gov. Kim Reynolds.

The award is a "testament to the exceptional care they provide and the positive impact they make on the lives of their residents," Nutt said.

The Emerging Leaders Award was presented to Lorena Lopez, publisher and editor of La Prensa, a Spanish-language newspaper founded in 2006 and published in Denison.

The newspaper has "become the foremost source of information for the Spanish-speaking populations across central and western Iowa," Nutt read. "With unwavering dedication, they have served as a vital link providing a voice to the Spanish community, fostering a sense of unity and empowerment."

La Prensa and Lopez embarked this summer on an enterprise to publish an English-language newspaper named The Denison Free Press.

Smithfield Foods, represented by Patricia Leslie, controller, received the Legacy Award. Last year Smithfield, the largest employer in the county, was the title sponsor of the Tri City BBQ Fest and has accepted that role for the 2023 festival.

Nutt said Smithfield "has left an undeniable legacy in our community, shaping not only the local economy but also our shared values. Since its establishment in 1959, they have been an unwavering force in the pork production industry and steadfast employer in Denison. Through a series of consolidations, they have continuously emerged as a leader, exemplifying excellence in their field."

The nomination narrative said that Smithfield's corporate slogan,



Jay Mendlik receives the outgoing president's award from Mariah Nutt, office manager for the CDC.



Outgoing CDC president Jay Mendlik welcomes the new president, Stephanie Wiese, assistant manager of Western Iowa Power Cooperative. Board members elected at the annual banquet on Monday are Amy Healy with Wise Monkey Quilting; Erin Muck with Crawford County Memorial Hospital; Jeremy Croghan with Manilla Economic Development Corporation; Larry Andersen with Crawford County Bank; and Lorena Lopez with La Prensa and The Denison Free Press.

"Good food. Responsibly." captures the company's commitment to making a positive impact and that the company's dedication extends far beyond simply providing good food.

"They're actively engaged in making a difference in the lives of individuals

and the wellbeing of our community. Their dedication extends far beyond simply providing good food; they're actively engaged in making a difference in the lives of individuals and the wellbeing of our community," the narrative said.



"I meant to send in my support last week..."

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# Denison launches proactive process to sell city-owned properties

BY GORDON WOLF

A City of Denison resolution to sell two lots in the Oak Ridge Heights subdivision will be much more than a "one-and-done" document.

It will serve as a template for city boards and officials to follow when any of the estimated 100 city-owned lots or properties are sold.

The template is not just for residential lots. It will also be the procedure for the sale of city-owned lots for commercial and industrial buildings.

The resolution passed by the city council on June 20 addresses the sale, by bid, of city-owned lots in the Oak Ridge Heights subdivision. The lots - Lots 49 and 49 and Outlot B - are located on Oak Ridge Drive, across the street from Bella Sera restaurant.

Chris Flattery, the city's building inspector, and Fire Chief Cory Snowgren, also currently serving as interim co-city manager, said developing the resolution and the template language came at the direction of the Denison Community Housing Agency.

It was a team effort with everyone on board, they said.

Snowgren said that Mayor Pam Soseman was along for the process at every step and that he and Flattery relied a lot on Councilwoman Jessica Garcia's input.

"We're trying to spur interest and get people involved so the city can get more housing built," said Flattery.

Snowgren said having the resolution passed means that it will be in place as a template to follow now and in the future.

A list of city-owned properties has been compiled and will go to the city's housing agency for the members to review and prioritize.

Flattery said he could envision the housing agency developing a "Top 25" list of properties that the city should try to sell first.

He and Snowgren emphasized that the sale of the property is to get it back on the tax roll is vastly more important than the sale or bid price.

In the case of the Oak Ridge Heights lots, the sealed bids can start at just \$1.

Property taxes are perennial; the sale has only a one-time effect on the city's budget, and both Flattery and Snowgren agree that the city should not be in the real-estate business.

They pointed out that property in the city's hands brings in nothing and actually costs taxpayers for maintenance, in the form of labor and

equipment use to mow the lots and remove snow from the sidewalks.

"Chris (Flattery) has said it before, and he is right; instead of waiting for economic development to come to us, we're pursuing it," Snowgren said. "If the city is sitting on property that can be developed, we need to get that in front of people."

An example given by Snowgren was a city-owned property located next to an existing business. City officials should be sitting down with the business owner to encourage growth.

"If a business can expand into an adjacent city-owned property, is the value in auctioning it for \$1?" Snowgren asked. "The value is adding it to the tax roll. In my opinion, if someone wants to expand and we own the property next to them, we should be doing everything we can to make that a reality for them."

A majority of the city-owned properties already have utility infrastructure, which Flattery pointed out is a built-in incentive that will save a buyer a lot of money.

### Template points

Here's what the resolution spells out, with the intent that future sales of city-owned property will abide by the same points.

- Sealed bids can start at \$1.
- Lots will not be allowed to be purchased for resale.

- Land and improvements won't receive the city's tax abatement.
- Construction must begin within 12 months after ownership of property.
- Construction must be completed within 24 months after ownership of property.
- If construction does not start within 12 months of ownership, property will revert back to the city.
- No manufactured homes or mobile homes allowed on property.
- All contractors must be registered with the city.
- Permits must be completed before construction begins.
- Home (or building) must be built by a licensed and bonded contractor/builder.
- New home must be compliant with zoning regulations in place on the lot.
- A minimum assessment shall be agreed upon by the city, the owner and the county assessor.
- An assessor's certificate of agreement will be executed upon the agreement of the minimum assessment.
- Minimum assessment agreement and assessor's certification filed with county recorder.

When improvements are completed, the assessor shall value the property as required by law, except that the actual value shall not be less than the minimum assessment as stated in the agreement.

## ON THE SCANNER

**July 8:** A criminal complaint was filed on Carlos Alberto Alvarenga Mendoza, 18, of Denison, for operating while under the influence-1st offense. He was also charged with driving while license denied or revoked. The incident that resulted in the charges took place on June 5 in the 500 block of North 20th Street in Denison.

**July 10:** A warrant was requested for Aker Machard, for charges of domestic abuse assault-1st offense and interference with official acts.

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# Meseck and Refitt attend National Student Leadership Congress

Abbey Meseck, a student at Denison High School, and Zayden Refitt, a student at Boyer Valley High School, were among 139 students who attended the National Student Leadership Congress in Washington, D.C., June 10-15.

Both are members of Talent Search through Western Iowa Tech Community College. Students were selected through an application process and went through an orientation via Zoom to go over the details of the trip.

A group of three students from Western Iowa and one advisor flew from Omaha to Washington, D.C. Students were housed in the dormitories at American University

and were assigned a roommate. Participants were split into groups for a mock Congress competition. The agenda for each day allotted time to work on the mock Congress presentation, hear speakers on a number of topics, and attend a college fair. Participants also went sightseeing, an activity that included a moonlight tour of the national monuments.

A favorite highlight from the trip is the new friendships made. Students said it was a unique experience to come together with others from across the country and around the world. The trip provided a great opportunity for students to develop their leadership skills.

SUBMITTED PHOTOS



Zayden Refitt and Abbey Meseck are shown ready for the mock Congress competition.



Students from Western Iowa pictured after arriving in Washington, D.C.



The students from Iowa met with Sen. Joni Ernst. Abbey Meseck is on the left, and Zayden Refitt is third from the right.



A group photo was taken of all the students that attended the National Student Leadership Congress.

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# Not your typical zoo

## Arthropods on display at library

BY GORDON WOLF

Children and adults, as well, seemed fascinated while strolling around the Iowa State University Insect Zoo at Norelius Community Library in Denison last Thursday (July 6).

Although the display took up far less space than a typical zoo, it was great in its numbers of invertebrate animals to see. Reagan Demmon and Mara Rosa with the zoo answered questions.

If you have never heard of the Iowa State University Insect Zoo or the university's insect collection, don't let it bug you. Here are a few facts from the zoo and collection websites ([www.ent.iastate.edu/insectzoo/](http://www.ent.iastate.edu/insectzoo/) and [www.ent.iastate.edu/insectcollection/about](http://www.ent.iastate.edu/insectcollection/about)).

i The insect zoo at Iowa State has over 100 live arthropods – invertebrate animals that have an exoskeleton, a segmented body and paired and jointed legs.

i The insect zoo is an outreach program that seeks to foster an appreciation of insects found in Iowa and throughout the world.

i The majority of specimens in the university's insect collection are from Iowa and the upper Midwest, but insects from other regions of North America are represented. The collection also has an international flair with specimens from Asia, Central America, South America and

Australasia.

Some of the insects displayed at Norelius Community Library were walking sticks, millipedes, grasshoppers, tarantulas, scorpions and all kinds of beetles.

Children were encouraged to gently touch and pick up certain insects - among them millipedes, stink beetles and darkling beetles - that were placed in large, red bowls.

Most of the specimens could be viewed only by peering through the front or sides of their containers, but Rosie, a Chilean rose hair tarantula, did not seem to mind being gently touched by children while resting in the palm of Demmon's hand.

That evening, the Song of Bugs display was scheduled for the Schleswig Public Library. The Song of Bugs involves a reading of "Unia, the Cricket Who Lost His Song" and the insect zoo display.

If you missed the events at the Denison and Schleswig libraries, you may be able to catch up with the Song of Bugs on July 17 at the following locations.

Sac City Public Library, 10:30 a.m.-12 p.m.

Wall Lake Public Library, 1-2:30 p.m.

Auburn Public Library, 6-7:30 p.m.

People may also learn more about insects at Bug Village, a full day of events on August 26 on the Iowa State University campus.

More about the insect zoo can be found at [www.facebook.com/ISUInsectZoo/](http://www.facebook.com/ISUInsectZoo/).

PHOTOS BY GORDON WOLF



Reagan Demmon, an Iowa State University student from Des Moines, holds Rosie, a Chilean rose hair tarantula at the university's Insect Zoo display at Norelius Community Library on July 6.




Davick Gillmor, of Denison, peers over the top of a cage that contains a walking stick community.



The adornment on Mara Rosa's arm is an Asian forest scorpion. The scorpion calmly rested on the Iowa State University student's arm while she opened a container to give children a closer view of another insect.



Children gather around bowls of insects lined up on a table. They were invited to gently touch and pick up insects such as stink beetles, millipedes and darkling beetles.



**Welcome back, Dr. Simons!**

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We're pleased to celebrate the return of Eric W. Simons to his full-time OB-GYN practice at the CCMH Medical Clinic. Patients are welcome to call 712.265.2700 to schedule appointments and consultations with Dr. Simons.



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## Thanks for attending our open house



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The staff of The Denison Free Press was overwhelmed and humbled by the turnout at a ribbon cutting and open house on Friday evening to celebrate the premier print of the new newspaper dedicated to local journalism and local stories about Denison and Crawford County. Lorena Lopez, publisher of The Denison Free Press and La Prensa, cuts the ribbon. Staff for the newspaper is Dan Mundt and Gordon Wolf, co-editors; Meriah Blakley, designer; Jon Sampson, co-designer; and Rhonda Rauch, sports/features photographer. Rauch was unable to attend. The Chamber & Development Council of Crawford County conducted the ribbon cutting. The staff of The Denison Free Press thanks all who attended the open house and gave their support with words of encouragement and/or donations to the newspaper. The newspaper is funded by advertisements and by donations to a non-profit foundation.



**Denison Community Schools**  
Denison, Iowa

## Registration and Payment of Fees School begins August 23, 2023

Welcome to the Denison Community Schools. We hope you had a great summer. For your convenience, we have arranged for you to register and pay fees as follows:

### EVERYONE MUST REGISTER TO BEGIN CLASSES FOR FALL 2023

All students will register through the Denison website (starting July 17th from your home). We ask that you complete the registration process no later than August 4th. Please log on to [www.denison.k12.ia.us](http://www.denison.k12.ia.us) and click on Parent/Student Resources. Next, click on Registration and Enrollment. Log on to PowerSchool and complete registration for each of your child(ren). Please contact a school office if you need assistance or have questions.

#### Student registration fees will be as follows:

<b>20th Street &amp; Broadway Elementary Schools Grades: TK-5</b>	
Textbook Fee	\$35.00
Activity Ticket	\$25.00 (optional)
<b>Middle School Grades: 6-8</b>	
Textbook Fee	\$40.00
Activity Ticket	\$25.00 (optional)
<b>High School Grades: 9-12</b>	
Textbook Fee	\$45.00
Activity Ticket	\$25.00 (optional)

To qualify for free/reduced registration fees and meals, you MUST complete and sign a lunch application, as well as the waiver form, on the back side of the lunch application.

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## Firefighter I class begins August 2 in Kiron

### Small towns need firefighters

BY DAN MUNDT

The first Firefighter I class in Crawford County in about five years will begin on August 2 in Kiron.

Eight students have signed up so far – but at least four more are needed.

“It takes 12 people for the state to pay for it,” said Kiron Fire Chief Josh Burns.

The class will take place from 6 to 10 p.m. at the Kiron Fire Station on Monday and Wednesday nights for four months.

Additional all-day training events will be conducted on four Saturdays.

Burns said the objective is to make Firefighter I as convenient to take as possible.

The class is free to anyone who wants to put in the time.

“That’s dependent on us getting 12,” Burns said.

Five Kiron residents, and one each from Odebolt, Charter Oak and Ida Grove have signed up, but students may come from anywhere, he noted.

Burns believes the future of the fire service depends on getting young people involved.

“I’m 47 now, and I can kind of see the writing on the wall; I can’t do this forever,” he said. “I think the important part is to get people in their 20s and 30s to engage a substantial amount of time.”

The class provides the basic amount of training required by the State of Iowa for an individual to be a firefighter.

“For someone to put on gear and go into a burning building, they need to be trained to the minimum level,” Burns said.

Most of the classroom work involves written materials.

“They start with how fires work,” he said. “They go into how buildings are made and how fire spreads in different



PHOTO BY RACHEL BURNS

The Firefighter I class, which is free of charge, will take place at the Kiron Fire Department beginning in August.

kinds of buildings, and the difference between new manufacture and old manufacture.”

Hands-on training will include a variety of equipment and techniques.

“One Saturday a month we’ll have a hands-on skills day where they’ll tie ropes and use ladders and put on the breathing apparatus to practice,” he said.

“When they’re done with this class, they should have all the skills to go in with a breathing apparatus, understand how the fire operates in the building, understand how to use the hoses, and how to conduct a search through a smoke-filled building. They’ll learn how to force themselves in and out of a building and how to retrieve themselves

or a fallen firefighter if something were to happen.”

Students who successfully complete the class and a separate written/skills test will receive a national-level certification that can be used to join fire departments in other states.

The main instructor is Shea Scollard, of Nebraska; Devlun Whiteing, of Ida Grove, will teach when Scollard is not available.

Small towns need firefighters, Burns said.

Kiron is doing well because they have made the fire department a family affair, he said.

“We tell people, ‘you can do it, and your spouse can, too,’” Burns said. “We’ve

tried pretty hard to nurture that.”

His wife, Rachel, is the EMS service director for the department, which also has another married couple.

“We’re a town of only about 200 people,” Burns said. “Just about every one of them goes away for work, except for three or four people that work in town.”

He and Rachel both work in Kiron, which makes them more available for emergencies during the day.

Burns said he’s working on three or four young people in town to get them to consider taking the firefighter class.

“It’s a commitment of time, especially for young people,” he said. “They need to see the benefit of it.”

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# FAIR, FROM PAGE 1

On Saturday, July 23, the Wright Rodeo will be at the grandstands. Brodersen announced that Smithfield Foods is sponsoring the entire rodeo, which means the company is paying the purse to the rodeo competitors.

Another new feature for fairgoers, especially those with children, is the lower cost of the wristbands for carnival rides. Brodersen said in the

past the wristbands had cost \$20 in advance; this year they will be just \$10. The wristband price during the fair will be \$25. The wristbands are for one four-hour session.

People can stop at the fair office (at the entrance to the fairgrounds) weekdays 10 a.m.-4 p.m. to purchase wristbands in advance.

The fair association posted updated carnival ride hours on its Facebook page. They are 5-9 p.m. Wednesday through Friday, July 19-21. Hours on Saturday, July 22, are 1-5 p.m. and

6-10 p.m., and on Sunday, July 23, the hours are 1-5 p.m.

The Bacon Buddies event will return to this year's fair, on Saturday, July 22. Bacon Buddies gives individuals who have intellectual and/or development disabilities an opportunity to show a pig in the show ring, with assistance from two 4-H and FFA youth mentors.

Payton Henningsen brought the Bacon Buddies event to the county fair last year and will again this year.

As scheduling change from past years is that the Bill Riley Talent Show

will be on Saturday (July 22) instead of earlier in the week, to give more people an opportunity to watch the talented sprouts and seniors perform.

The first events at the Crawford County Fair will take place this Sunday, July 16. The 4H and FFA dog show will start at 1 p.m. in the show ring.

At 7 p.m. that night, the fair royalty will be crowned in a ceremony at the Denison High School Fine Arts Center.

See a separate article about the fair royalty below.

## Introducing the candidates for Crawford County Fair Royalty

The 77th Crawford County Fair is just around the corner.

Among the first events will be the coronation of fair royalty, which will take place this Sunday, July 16, at 7 p.m. at the Denison High School Fine Arts Center.

Following are the candidates for all three royalty contests.

### Little Miss Princess candidates

- Harper Deal, daughter of Nick and Cammey Deal
- Ameila (Millie) Hinners, daughter of Joe and Ashley Hinners
- Juniper Hinners, daughter of Joe and Ashley Hinners
- Mariah Kropf, daughter of Lindsey Kropf
- Harper Lee, daughter of Dane and Kasey Lee
- Quinn Muff, daughter of Brian and Keri Muff
- Selene Olson, daughter of Holly Olson
- Penelope Randolph, daughter of John and Brittany Randolph

- Paislee Stoberl, daughter of Brian and Rachel Stoberl
- Bristol Vary, daughter of Andrew and Kirsten Vary
- Hazel Wessel, daughter of Daniel and Kelsi Wessel

### King of Clowns candidates

(No pictures with this article)

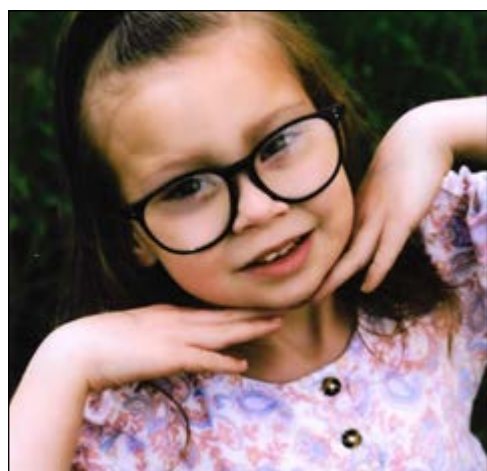
- Henry Deal, son of Nick and Cammey Deal
- Kaleo Raymie, son of Brandon and Jessica Raymie

### Queen candidates

- Kennedy Eischeid, daughter of Andy

and Heather Eischied

- Payton Henningsen, daughter of Dean and Steph Henningsen
- Caralyn Henschen, daughter of Jim and Peggy Sue Henschen
- Jodee Kruse, daughter of Randy and Dee Kruse
- Mabel Langel, daughter of Craig and Luann Langel
- Abby Maynard, daughter of Tyler and Denette Leitz Tyler Maynard
- Chloe Mendenhall, daughter of Jeff and Amy Mendenhall
- Arynn Outhouse, daughter of Les and Deb Outhouse



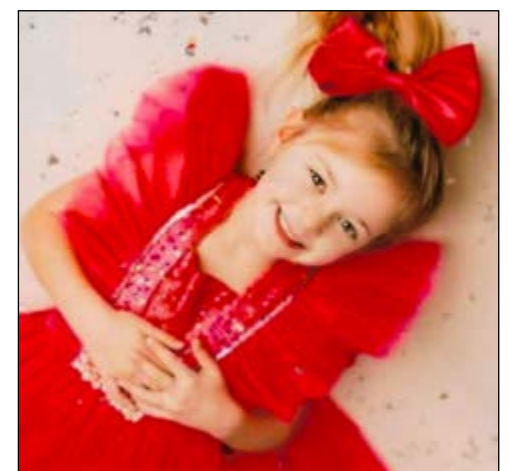
Harper Deal



Ameila (Millie) Hinners



Juniper Hinners



Mariah Kropf



Harper Lee



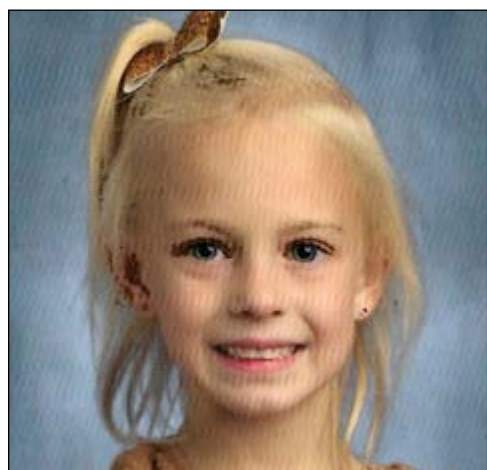
Quinn Muff



Selene Olson



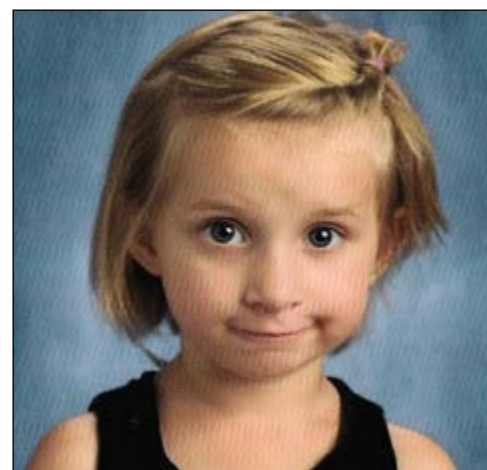
Penelope Randolph



Paislee Stoberl



Bristol Vary



Hazel Wessel

**Little Miss Princess Candidates**  
 <<<

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**Queen Candidates**  
 >>>



Kennedy Eischeid



Payton Henningsen



Caralyn Henschen



Jodee Kruse



Mabel Langel



Abby Maynard



Chloe Mendenhall



Arynn Outhouse

### Magic lava lamps

For fairytale story time at Norelius Community Library on Saturday, kids were invited to make lava lamps to remind them of Aladdin's magic lamp. Pictured from left are Charlotte Baier, Jaxon Edick and Bryce Deiber. The recipe is to fill a cup three-quarters full with oil, mix food coloring into water, and then pour the water mixture into the cup until it is about two inches from the top and mix well. The final step is to add an Alka Seltzer tablet. More tablets can be added when the bubbles subside.



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## 77th Crawford County Fair

JULY 19-23, 2023

Daily Schedule

### Wednesday, July 19:

- \*Monster Trucks In the Grandstands

### Thursday, July 20:

- \* Garden Tractor Pull In the Grandstands
- \* Kids Pedal Pull In the Show Ring
- \* Meal by Smithfield In the Show Ring
- \* UBI hands out ice cream treats

### Friday, July 21:

- \* Races In the Grandstands

### Saturday, July 22

- \* Boyer River Band near the Midway
- \* Beer Garden & Food Trucks
- \* Bacon Buddies at the Show Ring
- \* Bill Riley Talent Search under the Grandstands

### Sunday, July 23

- \* Wright Rodeo Sponsored by Smithfield

### Saturday, July 15

- \* Open Beef Show weigh ins 7-9 am, show begins at 11 am.

### Sunday, July 16

- \* 4H/FFA Dog Show at 1:00 in the Show Ring
- \* Queen and Princess Coronation 7:00 Denison High School Fine Arts Center

### Monday, July 17

- \* Open class Department III entered 5-8 pm in the Events Center

### Tuesday, July 18

- \* Open class Department III entries judged at 8:00 am in the Events Center

### Wednesday, July 19:

- \* 4H/FFA Poultry Show, Poultry Barn at 9:00 am
- \* Flag raising ceremony at noon, Veterans lunch to follow.
- \* 4H/FFA Horse show, 1:00 Expo Building
- \* 4H/FFA Livestock judging contest registration at 1:00, 1:30 Contest begins
- \* State Fair and Outstanding pictures at 5:00 at the Events Center
- \* Monster Trucks 8:00 in the Grandstands

### Thursday, July 20:

- \* 4H/FFA Sheep show 8:00 am in the Show Ring
- \* Senior Citizen Day in the Morton Building at 10:00 am
- \* 4H/FFA Goat show at 1:00 pm in the Show Ring
- \* Kids pedal pull, Goat Milking, family meal in the Show Ring at 6:00 pm
- \* Garden Tractor Pull 6:00-Grandstands-FREE Admission
- \* 4H/FFA Horse Game Event at 7:00pm in the Expo Building

### Friday, July 21

- \* 4h/FFA Swine Show 8:00 am in the Show Ring
- \* Races in the Grandstands 7:00. 5 & under FREE, 6-12 \$5, 13 & over \$10

### Saturday, July 22

- \* 4H/FFA Beef Show 8:00 am in the Show Ring
- \* Little Cutie Contest at 11:00 am in the Morton Building
- \* 4H/FFA Rabbit show at 3:00 in the Show Ring
- \* Bacon Buddies at 6:00 pm in the Show Ring
- \* Bill Riley Talent Search under the Grandstand 6:00
- \* Boyer River Band 7:30-10 near the midway (Free)

### Sunday, July 23

- \* Robert Henningsen Memorial Jackpot Swine Show at 10:00 am in Show Ring
- \* Clover Kids Stuffed Animal show in the Events Center at 12:30 pm
- \* Bottle Calf Open Show at 1:00 in the Show Ring
- \* 4H/FFA All Around Showmanship Competition at 3:00 pm in the Show Ring
- \* All exhibits released at 4:00 pm.
- \* Wright Rodeo Sponsored by Smithfield 6:00 Grandstands

### Monday, July 24

- \* Livestock Sale at 9:00

Scott Amusements LLC Carnival Wristband Coupons Available! \$10 in advance, \$25 during the fair. Inquire at the Fair Office

Carnival Rides open Wed-Sun!

Exhibit and Varied Industries Buildings open Wed-Sat 10AM -9PM and Sunday 10 AM -4 PM.



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