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Courthouse trees fall victim to ash borer

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Fun in Uptown Denison

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# The Denison Free Press

Local News  
Local Journalists  
Local Ownership

FREE  
TAKE ONE!

Vol. 1 | No. 3

SERVING DENISON & CRAWFORD COUNTY, IOWA

July 20, 2023

## LULAC Denison president comments on ballot language decision

Court rules against English-only election materials

BY DAN MUNDT

"It's a win for LULAC, but it's also a win for Democracy," said Alma Puga, president of the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) Denison chapter.

Her comment was in response to the June 28 court decision in favor of LULAC Iowa in which Iowa Fifth Judicial District Judge Scott Rosenberg ruled that the state can't prevent election officials from providing non-English voting materials.

The decision dissolved a 2008 injunction barring the Iowa secretary of state from providing voter registration forms in any language other than English.

At issue was language in the "Iowa English language reaffirmation" law, enacted by former Gov. Tom Vilsack in 2002, which stated the law shall not apply to "any language usage required by or necessary to secure the rights guaranteed by the Constitution and laws of the United States of America or the Constitution of the State of Iowa."

Under the Vilsack administration, the exception was interpreted to mean that voting materials should be provided in other languages; the secretary of state began to make non-English voter registration forms available online in 2003.

In response, former Iowa Congressman Steve King filed a lawsuit arguing that providing non-English voting materials violated the Iowa English language reaffirmation law; in 2008, a judge agreed and issued an injunction barring the secretary of state from providing voter registration forms in any language other than English.

In 2021, LULAC Iowa filed a lawsuit against Iowa Secretary of State Paul Pate and the auditors of Buena Vista, Calhoun, Jefferson and Montgomery Counties, seeking to dissolve the 2008 injunction.

In its 2008 decision issuing the injunction, the court noted that even though the issue had not been raised in arguments at the time, the exception for "language usage required by or necessary to secure the rights guaranteed by the Constitution..." might justify the use of non-English voter registration forms.

In his ruling, Rosenberg agreed with that assessment.

"...the undisputed facts in this case can lead to only one legal conclusion: official materials related to voting are a use of language that is 'necessary to secure the rights guaranteed by the Constitution and laws of the United States of America or the Constitution of the State of Iowa,'" he wrote. "The right to vote is not merely the ability to check boxes on a piece of paper. It is about being able to register, understanding what is on the ballot, and knowing when and where voting takes place. All of these facets are furthered by allowing counties to provide and accept voting materials in

VOTING, PAGE 7

## A new business in the middle of nowhere

Ricketts gets a pop machine



PHOTO BY DAN MUNDT

Jill and Mike Marth are the proud owners of Ricketts's newest business/gathering place.

BY DAN MUNDT

Ricketts, the town that sells itself to the world as the "Middle of Nowhere" on the community welcome sign, is the home of a thriving new business – a pop machine.

"We needed something in town," said Mike Marth, of Ricketts. "I

thought it would be a good thing for the community."

The pop machine is located in front of the old bank building on Maple Street, which is also County Road L51.

Mike's wife, Jill, pointed out that getting to the closest nearby town,

POP, PAGE 11

## From kitchen to the fair booth, Zion's maid rites are a mission of service

BY GORDON WOLF

For years and years, hundreds of volunteers have transformed pounds and pounds of ground beef into tasty sandwiches that are a Crawford County Fair tradition.

The Zion Lutheran maid rite has brought people into the varied industries building to slide their trays along the counter and watch volunteers wrap the combination of meat and bun in waxed paper squares or liberally ladle the seasoned ground beef over hot dogs.

To take the sandwiches from kitchen to counter takes organization and planning, as well as volunteers.

Last year and again this year that task was taken up by the Zion Lutheran Ladies Aid.

Last Thursday, beginning at about 8 a.m., the kitchen in the basement of Zion Lutheran was a busy scene with volunteers stationed at range-top burners or hotplates, browning the ground beef – 500 pounds of it, a

ZION, PAGE 3

## Moving ahead on Broadway

BY GORDON WOLF

The Denison School Community School District is moving ahead with a two-story addition at Broadway Elementary School.

The project will add another chapter to the 86-year history of the brick building, and while the addition is new, it will preserve the past.

The addition will enclose the south entrance to Broadway Elementary, protecting and enshrining the words "high school" etched in the stone lintel. That part will be in a commons area created by the merger of old and new.

In addition, the south wall of the building will be cleaned and tuckpointed before being enclosed by the addition.

BROADWAY, PAGE 13



This rendering from the DLR Group shows what the commons area would look like in the Broadway Elementary addition.



PHOTO BY GORDON WOLF

## Reigning at the fair

The 77th annual Crawford County Fair is here. In fact, as you read this, a number of events have already taken place, among them the coronation of fair royalty on Sunday evening at the Denison High School Fine Arts Center. Pictured from left are Hazel Wessel, the 2023 Princess; Payton Henningsen, the 2023 Queen; and Henry Deal, this year's King of Clowns. You'll see these and other members of the royal court at many events throughout the fair, which ends on Sunday. Look inside for more pictures from the coronation ceremony.

FAIR, PAGE 6



A one-in-\$10,000 shot

# Omaha man collects hole-in-one prize at hospital foundation tournament

BY GORDON WOLF

In 20 years of organizing charity golf tournaments, Don Luensmann, executive director of the Hospital Foundation of Crawford County (HFCC), had only one hole-in-one occur on his watch.

That changed on Friday during the HFCC's annual charity tournament. And the hole-in-one happened in a most unusual way.

Scott Cook, with CHI Health, was the second to the last person in his foursome to tee off on No. 13, a 165-yard Par 4 hole at Majestic Hills Golf Course. He said he hit what he thought was a pretty good shot.

"I knew I hit the ball about as well as I could and that it was heading straight for the pin," Cook said in an email to The Denison Free Press. "However, I thought I hit long and over the green until I heard it hit what I presumed to be the flagpole and lost track of it."

He and others in his group were looking for his ball around the back side of the green, Cook said, when, "I thought why not check the hole... I mean for good measure."

And there was the ball.

Not only had Cook hit a hole-in-one, but he saved the shot for the right place. Hole No. 13 had a hole-in-one sponsor in The Hoffman Agency, and Cook's shot won a \$10,000 prize.

That money comes from an insurance company - not The Hoffman Agency, though. The HFCC pays a premium to a company each year to insure against a

hole-in-one winner.

Cook grew up next to the golf course in Mt. Ayr and started golfing at age six or seven.

"I used to play a lot but only play 7-8 times a year (now)," he said.

"This was my first hole-in-one, and I only came close once or twice before. I've hit an eagle on a par four but never something this lucky."

CHI is one of Crawford County Memorial Hospital's partners in the specialty clinics. Cook is the CHI Health market director for network development and rural health services.

The buzz about the hole-in-one made its way around the golf course fairly quickly. But Cook wasn't around at the end of the tournament to receive accolades from the entire cadre of golfers.

"Unfortunately they (Cook and the other three in his group) had to leave early and so they weren't there when we presented the rest of the awards," said Luensmann.

Luensmann called the way the hole-in-one was made a fluke but not out of the ordinary, at least to what he's heard over the years.

"I've heard them (holes-in-one) described hundreds of different kinds of ways, and rarely is it a classic," he said.

A classic would be a straight shot from the tee into the hole.

"Usually it's one of those shots that's one million and that was truly one, at least one in 10,000," Luensmann said.

Before he was with the HFCC and became the marketing and development director for Crawford County Memorial Hospital, Luensmann organized charity golf tournaments for the Chamber & Development Council of Crawford County as that organization's executive director.

Twenty years of four-person best ball tournaments on 18-hole golf

courses adds up to tens of thousands of opportunities for a hole in one to be made.

The other hole-in-one that happened under Luensmann's watch happened about 15 years ago and was on Hole No. 4 at Majestic Hills. The prize then was a trip to Las Vegas.

Luensmann said the hole-in-one sparked a lot of excitement for everyone on the golf course, and for Cook and the members of his foursome, it will be the source of stories for years into the future.

Sidebar story

Golf tournament raises funds for two LUCAS devices ... and more!

Luensmann said Friday's cool temperatures made the HFCC charity golf tournament an enjoyable one.

Other factors made the tournament one to remember.

"We had more sponsors for the outing this year than we've ever had before," said Luensmann.

He said before expenses are subtracted the tournament raised close to \$24,000.

The net proceeds will be used to

purchase a LUCAS device for each of the hospital's two ambulances.

A LUCAS device provides chest compressions for a patient who's experienced a cardiac arrest or some other sort of cardiac event, Luensmann explained.

"If you've ever had to do CPR, you realize that as a human being you would literally be exhausted within a couple of minutes of having to provide chest compressions," he said. "A LUCAS device allows us to provide more standard chest compressions to a patient in a better way, and it allows the paramedic and the EMT to have their hands free to treat the patient for other conditions."

Luensmann said a LUCAS device costs about \$5,000, and after purchasing two of them, he believes the hospital foundation will have money left over to buy some more equipment.

"Probably for the emergency department," he said. "I don't know what that would be today, but we'll look around and see if there's something else that we need. We'll make sure we put everyone's dollars to good use."



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Scott Cook, with CHI Health in Omaha, leans over to retrieve the ball after a hole-in-one shot on Hole No. 13 at Majestic Hills Golf Course in Denison on Friday.

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back-to-school &  
sports physicals  
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ZION, FROM PAGE 1

panful at a time for each chef. Others drained the cooked meat while still others mixed the recipe in with the cooked hamburger.

The completed culinary mixture was put into ice cream buckets to cool and then freeze, waiting for the fair to begin.

The purpose of the Zion Lutheran food booth and other ladies aid fundraisers throughout the year is to give back to the church family and to give back to others.

Money raised is going to missions, the restoration of the church and the remodeling of the women's bathroom in the basement of the church.

Money also goes to the Lutheran Hour and Lutheran Bible translators, and the ladies aid is also sponsoring a child in Central America.

The list of who and what the ladies aid help goes on.

The volunteers are not just members of the ladies aid. Other church members take on a number of jobs integral to getting the maid rites and other food from the booth into people's hands ... and stomachs.

"We go through at least 16 to 18 buckets of meat each day at the fair," said Connie Crawford, secretary of the ladies aid. "As a matter of fact, we made 77 pails of maid rites this year, and we did that last year."

The goal is to make enough so that everyone who wants a maid rite can have one, but of course it is difficult to gauge how much that is, given variables in fair attendance such as weather and attractions.

When the fair is over, any remaining maid rite mixture and hot dogs are quickly snapped up.

"People can also buy pies, if there are some pieces left," Crawford said.

"Last year we came back into town with two and one-half buckets of meat and they were gone within an hour. It's



PHOTO BY GORDON WOLF

Members of the Zion Lutheran Church Ladies Aid, along with other volunteers, pose with just a fraction of the buckets full of maid rite meat that will be served at the Crawford County Fair this week. The group transforms 500 pounds of ground beef into tasty sandwiches and hot dog topping that are a favorite among fairgoers year after year.

surprising, and the hot dogs sold the same. They were gone right away."

Crawford said it was really warm during last year's fair but there was a good turnout for the booth.

"We're praying that this year it will be cooler, and we'll have an even better turnout," she added. "I would like to run out of stuff by the end of the fair."

Zion's maid-rite recipe is a secret – kind of a sacred recipe, Crawford said. So if you want to know what the recipe is, you might as well not ask.

"I've had people ask for the recipe,

but this is ours, this is what we're known for," she said.

Crawford continued that a maid rite recipe is in one of the Zion Lutheran cookbooks, but the recipe in the book isn't quite the same as the recipe used to make maid rites for the fair.

Making and serving maid rites at the fair is not the only activity of the ladies aid. They have a harvest supper in the fall, they serve at funerals if requested by the family, they organize Lenten meals after Lenten services and they are involved in a number of other services

to the church and people.

"We keep ourselves pretty busy throughout the year," said Crawford.

Service to the church family is one goal of the ladies aid. Another main goal is fellowship.

"It's just getting people together and having them sit down and visit," Crawford said. "Even working at the fair, when you have the down times, you visit with each other and people in the aisle as you clean off the tables."

"It's a lot of work getting ready for the fair but it's very enjoyable," she added.

# Local News Local Journalists Local Ownership



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News & Feature Writer



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**Gordon Wolf**  
News & Feature Writer

*It would be difficult to adequately cover local news if we didn't have experienced journalists living right here in our community. Thanks to your support, we can employ local professionals that continue to call Crawford County home. Since our paper is free, we depend on contributions from readers like you, as well as local advertising from businesses looking to connect with thousands of readers in print and online.*

*Please help us continue to offer local journalism: [sales@denisonfreepress.com](mailto:sales@denisonfreepress.com)*



# Local Calendar

**THURSDAY**  
**JULY 20, 2023**

**Center Street Market:** Center Street Market (a Market in the Park event) - same great vendors at new location in Uptown Denison! Shop locally-grown produce, meat products, jams, baked goods, arts, crafts, and much more. The Center Street Market will be held weekly on Thursdays north of Crawford County Bank from 3 PM-6 PM. Now accepting applications for food producers as well as local artisans, craftsmen, and small business with no fee. Applications are available at Market in the Park Facebook page. For more information call 712-269-6796 or email marketinthepark@gmail.com

**Harrison County Fair:** Save the date for the Harrison County Fair on July 18th- July 24th.

**Crawford County Fair:** The Crawford County Fair will take place from July 19th - 23rd. Click here to view the schedule.

**SATURDAY**  
**JULY 22, 2023**

**Charter Oak Library Story Time:** On July 22nd at 1 p.m., the Charter Oak Library will have a Story Time with readers from the community, featuring IPTV's book "Alma Speaks Up" as well as "Harold Finds a Voice," "Loud Mouse," and "Every Voice Counts."

**TUESDAY**  
**JULY 25, 2023**

**Euchre Night - Ricketts:** Every Tuesday night at the Community Building in Ricketts, join them for a fun night of card playing, socializing, treats, and beverages. The card game will start at 7pm. The entry fee is \$5 and there is no need to bring a partner.

**WEDNESDAY**  
**JULY 26, 2023**

**Euchre Night - Charter Oak:** Come and join a FUN night of card playing with the game Euchre. (Need no partners before the game. You will be "partnered" up, randomly throughout the night.) Every Wednesday night at 7pm at the Charter Oak Community Building.

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

## MEETINGS

**Norelius Community Library Board**

5:15 p.m., Tuesday, July 25  
Library Conference Room

Agenda: Review of monthly reports, the library director's report, bills, committee reports. Old business includes landscaping project update, staff AED, CPR and First Aid training schedule, and trustee vacancy. No new business. Library board meetings are subject to Iowa Open Meetings Laws. The meetings are open to the public with the exception of personnel issues. Contact the library at 712-263-9355 for more information.

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



# Letters

## TO THE EDITOR

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

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

## LAND TRANSACTIONS

### Warranty Deeds

• Mario Garcia to Kendy N. Lopez, Lot 2 Block 81, Denison Original Town, \$70,000.

• Gerald J. Kohles and Jennifer Kohles to Gerald J. Kohles Trust, Gerald J. Kohles, Trustee, W1/2 SW1/4, Washington Township; E1/2 SW1/4 Section 19, Washington Township; NW1/4 Section 30, Washington Township.

• Rickers Children Family Farm Trust, Christy S. Rickers, Trustee, to Trail Crossing LLC, E1/2 NE1/4 Section 32, Jackson Township; S1/2 SE1/4 Section 22, Jackson Township; N1/2 SE1/4 Section 22, Jackson Township; S1/2 SW1/4 Section 23, Jackson Township.

• Craig J. Promes and Lori L. Promes to Craig J. Promes and Lori L. Promes, Lot 18, Denison Schultz Addition.

• Bartlett N. Carstens and Charlotte J. Carstens to 1M LLC, W1/2 NW1/4 Section 3, Union Township; E1/2 NE1/4 Section 4, Union Township; \$240,000.

• Huntley Enterprises LLC to Maria Pastora Gutierrez, Lot 6 Block 118, Denison Original Town; \$65,000.

• Patricia L. Gress and David E. Gress to Patricia L. Gress and David Gress, W1/2 SE1/4 Section 10, Paradise Township; E1/2 SW1/4 Section 10, Paradise Township; SW1/4 SW1/4 Section 10, Paradise Township.

• Jerry A. Boettger and Parti K. Boettger to Jerry A. Boettger and Parti K. Boettger, Lot 19 Denison Oak Ridge Heights Plat 1; W1/2 NE1/4 Section 6, Denison Township; SE1/4 NW1/4 Section 6, Denison Township; NE1/4 NE1/4 Section 6, Denison Township; NE1/4 NW 1/4 Section 6, Denison Township; SW1/4 Section 15, Goodrich Township; SW1/4 SW1/4 Section 31, Goodrich Township; NW1/4 SW1/4 Section 31, Goodrich Township; SE1/4 NE1/4 Section 16, Goodrich Township; E1/2 SE1/4 Section 16, Goodrich Township.

• Domingo Mendoza Acebedo and Marbella Moo Hernandez to Samuel Franco and Lourdes Sanchez Castillo, Lots 4, 5 and 6 Block 69, Denison Original Town; \$60,000.

• Lori L. Promes, Lori L. Ahart, Craig J. Promes, Larry D. Thompson, Julie Thompson and Darren L. Thompson to Marilyn Kay Graeve and Edward J. Graeve, Lots 1,2,3,4,5 and 6 Block 105 Unit 1, Denison Original Town; \$112,000.

• Richard K. and Cheryl A. Hull Living Trust, Cheryl A. Hull, Trustee, to Troy L. Currier and Linda M. Currier, Lot 16, Denison Belaire 4th Addition; \$359,500.

• J3L Investments LLC to Pedro L. Mena and Maria D. Marin Sotelo, Lots 7 and 8, Denison Original Town; \$115,000.

• Bobbi Jo Burke to Kimberly Kae Wilkin and Mark Carl Wilkin, Lot 8, Denison Sunrise Addition; \$84,000.

• LaJune F. Miller to Bailey M. Miller, Lots 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12 Block 1, Buck Grove Original Town; \$15,000.

• Seksan Kwanchaiwong and Decem Kwanchaiwong to Tee Ah and Hsar Paw, Lot 6 Block 16, Schleswig Original Town; \$100,000.

• Kirby Sands and Annette Sands to Ana Miriam Velasquez and Juan Ramon Velasquez, Lot 7 Block 24, Schleswig Original Town; \$47,000.

• Florencia Altamirano to Edenilson V. Gonzalez Vilaseca and Sayra C. Leiva Hernandez, Lot 3 Block 82, Denison Original Town; \$95,000.

• Jose A. Mazo, Alejandrina Lara, Yumarky Mazo Garcia and Romero Mayrovis Prieto to Juan Carlos Campos Velasco and Maria Ester Velasco Mendoza, Lot 4 Block 72, Denison Original Town; \$80,000.

• Rosa Yanira Cerna to Jose A. Mazo and Enrique L. Romero, Lot 27 Block 1, Denison Sunrise Addition; \$92,500.

• LaJune F. Miller to Robert T. Miller, Lots 1, 2 and 3 Block 2, Buck Grove Original Town; \$1,500.

• Carlos Castillo to Joel B. Requeno Nolasco and Claudia P. Ramirez De Requeno, SW1/4 SW1/4 Section 12, Denison Township; \$155,000.

### Court Officer Deeds

• Gerald F. Berg Estate, Marie F. Berg, Executor, to Marie F. Berg LE, Brian G. Berg, Donna J. Berg, Kevin J. Berg and Carol A. Schrader, NE1/4 SE1/4 Section 10, West Side Township; W1/2 SE1/4 Section 10, West Side Township.

• Gerald F. Berg Estate, Marie F. Berg, Executor, to Marie F. Berg, E1/2 NE1/4 Section 10, West Side Township.

• Carmelo Baca Estate, Gilberto A. Baca, Executor, to Gilberto Baca, Lot 6 Block 106, Denison Original Town.

• Sandra K. Poday Estate, Donna Buren, Executor, to Heidi Nobiling and Benjamin Nobiling, Lot 15 Block 28, Vail Original Town.

• Arnold Poggensee Estate, Justin Poggensee, Executor, to Coy Tim Poggensee, Lincoln Poggensee, Lillian Poggensee, Willow Poggensee, Jason M. Poggensee LE, Justin M. Poggensee LE and Joseph M. Poggensee LE, E1/2 SW1/4 SW1/4 Section 25, Goodrich Township.

• Kristen K. Woebke Estate, Rashel Van Houten and Daniel Woebke, Administrators, to Daniel Woebke Jr. and Rashel Van Houten, Lots 14 and 15 Block 41, Denison Original Town.

### Quit Claim Deeds

• Randy D. Varner to Jeremy M. Karli, Lot 1 Block 11, Ricketts Original Town; \$5,000.

• Sherri Vaughn to Sherri R. Vaughn and David J. Welch, Lots 9, 10 and 11 Denison Hillcrest A Addition.

• Mitchel Alfred Nelson and Judith Ann Nelson to Judith Ann Nelson, Mitchel Alfred Nelson and Cheryl L. Gribben, Lot 11 Denison Hillcrest A Addition, Lot 6 Block 14 West Side Original Town.

• Janet M. Beeck to Destry Robert Beeck, NW1/4 Section 27, Otter Creek Township; NW1/4 Section 27, Otter Creek Township.

• Dave Wittrock and Angela Wittrock to AL's Corner Inc, Lot 3 Block 9, Vail Original Town; \$5,000.

• Carolyn K. Sievers to The Carolyn Sievers Living Trust, Carolyn K. Sievers, Trustee, NW1/4 SW1/4 Section 13, West Side Township; SW1/4 SW1/4 Section 13, West Side Township; SE1/4 SW1/4 Section 13, West Side Township; SE1/4 Section 13, West Side Township; SE1/4 Section 13, West Side Township; NW1/4 SW1/4 Section 13, West Side Township; NW1/4 NW1/4 Section 24, West Side Township; SW1/4 SW1/4 Section 13, West Side Township; SE1/4 SW1/4 Section 13, West Side Township; NW1/4 NW1/4 Section 24, West Side Township.

• LaJune McGill to McGill Family Farm LLC, NW1/4 Section 18, Denison Township.

• David B. Vetter and Maria N. Vetter to David and Maria Vetter Trust, David Vetter and Maria Vetter, Co-Trustees, NW1/4 NW1/4 Section 33, Hayes Township; N1/2 NE1/4 Section 11, Iowa Township.

• Mauricio Quijada Izquierdo to Rosa Yanira Cerna, Lot 24 Block 1, Denison Sunrise Addition; \$1.

### Contracts

• Landon Borkowski to Edwin Salazar, Lot 1 Block 16, Schleswig Original Town; \$55,000.

• Ace Ertleman and Marilyn Ertleman to Ertleman's Oil Real Estate LLC, Lots 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12 Block 1, Dow City Original Town; \$925,000.

• Lynette Ohl to Michael J. Fineran and Dena A. Fineran, Lots 1,2,3,4 and 5 Block 7, Denison Normal School Addition; \$200,000.

• Christian Resendiz Araujo to Jesus A. Torres and Catalina Torres, Lot 6 Block 123, Denison Original Town; \$29,760.

### State Tax Lien

• Iowa Department of Revenue to Edward J. Krajicek; \$31,000.27.

### Sheriff's Deed

• Crawford County Sheriff, Adams Motor Company, Adams Motor Company of Manning LLC, Robert Gale Adams, Adams Motor Company of Denison LLC, Direct Biz Capital and Denison Land Holdings LLC to Denison Land Holdings LLC, NE1/4 NW1/4 Section 10, Denison Township, \$128,177.37.





# Lost horizon

Wildfires in Canada resulted in smoky skies across the area over the weekend. Heath warnings were issued due to the heavy smoke. Rain on Monday morning and a changing weather pattern led to clear skies to start the week.

PHOTOS BY DAN MUNDT



The dense smoke caused the sun to take on a reddish-orange color and dim enough to be viewed with the naked eye. The sun disappeared completely an hour before sundown on Saturday and Sunday due to the layers of smoke near the horizon.



This photo was taken on S Avenue looking to the east. The farthest visible hill in the distance is about three miles away.



This view is looking to the south of Denison on Saturday, with South Main Street in the foreground.



The beef smoking process started a little early for these cattle on a hill about three miles south of Denison.



Looking across the bean fields from the east, Denison's industrial area has a smoky shroud.



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



BECAUSE COMMUNITY JOURNALISM MATTERS.

*Happy 103<sup>rd</sup> Birthday!*

**Doris L. Hansen**  
July 22, 2023

*We love you, Mom!*  
*From all of your family!*

If you would like to join us in showering Doris with cards for her 103rd birthday, her address is  
**Silveridge Apt. 11  
 222 South 20th St.  
 Denison, IA 51442**

Or if you want to give her a phone call any time or stop in to say Hi, she would enjoy that, too.



### More fair royalty

PHOTOS BY GORDON WOLF



Henry Deal (left) was crowned King of Clowns at the Crawford County Fair coronation contest on Sunday. Kaleo Raymie (right) also kept the crowd laughing with his act.



Members of the Princess court are, from left, Bristol Vary, 3rd runner up; Juniper Hanners, 2nd runner up; Princess Hazel Wessel; Harper Deal, Miss Congeniality; and Harper Lee, 1st runner up. See more photos from the fair online at The Denison Free Press.

### The dogs' day at the fair

PHOTOS BY GORDON WOLF



Each dog had its day and its time in the show ring at the Crawford County Fair dog show on Sunday. Pictured, Wyatt Kragl and his dog, Smash, jump over a hurdle in the agility course.



Jacob Hanson with Westside 4-H and his dog, Milo, won Best in Show.



Aspen Steinkuehler dressed up her dog, Nys, as a lion and herself as the lion tamer, and won first place in the costume contest.



Jake Peterson with the Boyer Rooters and his dog, Violet, were champions in the beginner obedience class.



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:

#### 20th Street & Broadway Elementary Schools Grades: TK-5

- Textbook Fee \$35.00
- Activity Ticket \$25.00 (optional)

#### Middle School Grades: 6-8

- Textbook Fee \$40.00
- Activity Ticket \$25.00 (optional)

#### High School Grades: 9-12

- 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.



# Odd hours, no pay, cool hat

## Documentary about firefighters to screen in Kiron Sunday

BY DAN MUNDT

The documentary film "Odd Hours, No Pay, Cool Hat" will screen free of charge in Kiron this Sunday.

The 2023 film is about volunteer firefighting services and features the stories of individuals in many states to illuminate the role volunteer firefighters play across the country.

"Not only is it about firefighting, but it's specific to volunteers like us," said Rachel Burns, firefighter/EMT and the EMS service director for the Kiron Fire Department.

The film's distribution is supported by John Deere and the National Volunteer Fire Council.

Burns said the title of the film has meaning to those in the fire service.

"It's kind of a joke for fire department recruitment for volunteers; odd hours, no pay, cool hat, which is of course a reference to the fire helmet and one of the cool benefits of joining a volunteer fire department," she said.

She hopes to share the screening with members of the general public to raise awareness of the volunteer firefighter community.

"It's not a fundraiser," Burns noted. "We would just like to have anyone from anywhere come visit us, watch a movie with us, and enjoy some snacks."

The film will be shown in the Kiron Fire Department truck bay.

"We are going to pull our trucks out of the bay - we have a screen and a new projector," she said. "We have candy and pop that we'll give out - and we'll have to work on the popcorn situation still because that seems like something we need for a movie."

The truck bay will hold about 100 people for the screening.

"We have plenty of folding chairs, we have plenty of space," Burns said. "If it's so popular that we have to screen it more than once we can do that. I'm up for whatever the community is

interested in."

The film runs 91 minutes.

Burns said she would stay to run the film a second time or it could be scheduled for a second date.

"It's exciting for us to have something like this we can share," she said.

One of the reasons the film is available for the Kiron Fire Department to screen for free is because it is also being used to recruit students for the Firefighter I class that will begin in Kiron in August.

"We welcome members of the general public who just want to come watch the movie, but we also welcome current firefighters as well as anyone who is curious about whether joining a fire department might be right for them," she said.

Burns said she hopes members of the audience will feel something when watching the film.

"I think if this helps people have empathy for the hard times we go through as volunteers or if it helps people feel gratitude for the way we give back to the community, then maybe we'll find a few people who feel called to do something like this or at least try something like this," she said.

"I think if some members of the community are moved to find out more about taking the firefighter class or joining one of the departments in Crawford County, that would be a really exciting success."

She also hopes that people learn from the film that volunteers are not special - they're just the people who show up.

Every fire department is a family and joining one is a great way to be part of something bigger than one's self, Burns said.

"Our department has strong leadership and we will believe in you, train you, practice with you, and cheer for you," she said. "We might disagree like family and annoy each other like family, but we work so well together under pressure, protect each other like family, and laugh and have fun together like family."

Odd Hours, No Pay, Cool Hat will be shown at 7:30 p.m. on Sunday, July 23, at the Kiron Fire Department, 101 South Grove Street in Kiron.

# Language should not be a barrier

## VOTING, FROM PAGE 1

non-English languages."

"The English-only law is hurtful for immigrant communities," said Puga.

"We're all immigrants. It's damaging to only have materials in English because a lot of immigrants that have become citizens aren't necessarily fluent in English. To have only material in English is not proactive; it's punitive because it steers people away from being civically engaged."

Individuals should be encouraged to be civically engaged, not discouraged, she said.

Puga said the English-only law, as it had been applied to voting materials, has

had a negative effect on voting turnout.

"I think it's a barrier to be able to vote," she said. "Local officials, after this decision, should make and provide non-English voting materials, especially in our county, in which many are Latinos and Spanish speaking. They should be provided in all languages that we have in our county."

Puga likened the English-only law, as it related to voting, as similar to "literacy tests" enacted in the past to prevent some individuals from voting.

"The people of Iowa should know that it's beneficial to have these materials in other languages," she said. "Language should not be a barrier."

Crawford County Auditor Terri Martens said her office has received notice of the court decision and is awaiting guidance from the secretary of state's office.

# Rainy Wednesday

A storm moved through western Iowa early in the day on July 12 and dropped .5 to 1.7 inches of much-needed rain across Crawford County. The rain led to a cool morning, with temperatures reaching just the low 70s by early afternoon.

PHOTOS BY DAN MUNDT



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## ON THE SCANNER

**July 11, 1:01 p.m.:** Officer Sosa with the Denison Police Department investigated a two-vehicle accident that happened on 1st Avenue North. Emily Rena Chavez, 38, of Denison, was driving a red 2000 Ford Ranger pickup and was stopped at the intersection of 1st Avenue North and North Main Street, waiting for the light to change. Mary Louise Mancini, 75, of Denison, began backing from a sport at the U.S. Post Office. Her white 2004 Chevrolet Impala struck the passenger side of Chavez's vehicle. No one was injured. Both vehicles were driven from the scene. Chavez's vehicle received \$1,000 damage. Mancini's vehicle received \$700 damage to the rear driver side.

**July 14, 8:22 p.m.:** Officer Wolff with the Denison Police Department investigated a two-vehicle accident that happened in the 10 block of North Main Street. Selvin Aurelio Gomez Mendez, 27, of Denison, was operating a gray 2018 Honda Civic and was backing to the south. Aimee Kay Schultz, 46, of Denison, was backing to the north in a red 2006 Chrysler Pacifica. The vehicles collided in the middle of the street. No injuries were reported. Gomez Mendez's vehicle received \$1,000 damage to the rear driver's side. Schultz's vehicle received \$1,000 damage to the rear driver side corner. Gomez Mendez was cited for not having a valid driver's license.

**July 14, 9:33 p.m.:** Officer Wolff with the Denison Police Department investigated a two-vehicle accident that happened at the south Highway 59 ramp at Highway 30. Tong Lou Her, 33, of Denison, was driving a beige 2001 Toyota RAV north on Highway 59. He stopped at the stop sign at the Highway 59 and Highway 30 junction and then proceeded north through the stop sign. Taya Ann Marie Herrig, 19, of Denison, was driving a black 2021

Chevrolet Malibu and was stopped at the stop sign, facing west on Highway 30, at the Highway 59 and Highway 30 junction. Herrig proceeded through the stop sign and collided with the rear of the Her vehicle. No injuries were reported. Herrig was cited for failure to obey a stop sign and yield the right of way. The Herrig vehicle received \$3,500 damage. The Her vehicle received \$1,500 damage. Both vehicles could be driven from the site.

**July 14, 9:03 p.m.:** Officer Clausen with the Denison Police Department investigated a two-vehicle accident that happened in the Dairy Queen parking lot. Bryan Alexander Quintanilla Ramos, 22, of Denison, was driving a black 2010 Mercedes C3400 south in the parking lot. Roberto Ortega, 27, of Denison, was backing a gray 2015 Chrysler 200 from the west side of the parking lot. Ortega backed into Quintanilla Ramos's vehicle as he was driving through the lot. No one was injured. Quintanilla Ramos's vehicle received \$1,500 damage to the front passenger side corner. Ortega's vehicle did not receive any damage.

**July 16:** Abraham Gatwech Ngor, 61, of Storm Lake, was arrested for public intoxication. The offense happened on South 12th Street in Denison.

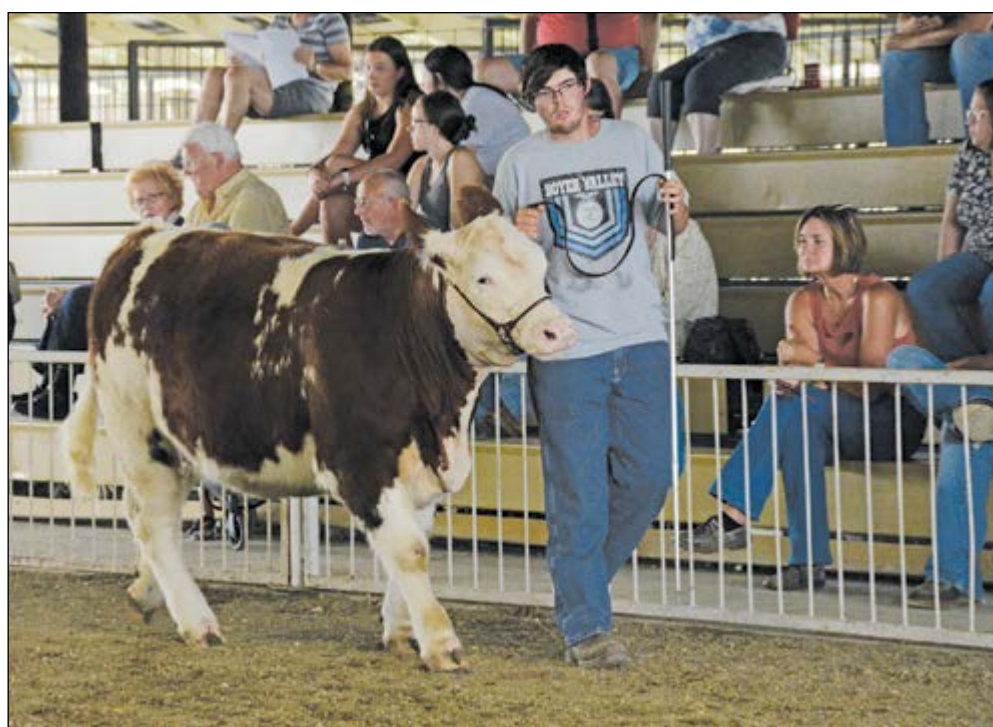
**July 17, 6:56 p.m.:** A report was received about a male and female with a tent underneath a bridge north of Charter Oak. The caller wanted them removed. Chief Deputy Henningsen with the Crawford County Sheriff's Office spoke with the female party and advised them to move along.

**July 17, 7:56 p.m.:** The Dow City-Arion Fire Department was called to a ditch fire at Highway 30 and Nelson Park Road.

## All about beef at the fairgrounds

PHOTOS BY GORDON WOLFF

The annual open cattle show filled the show ring at the Crawford County Fairgrounds with youth and their entries on Saturday. In these two pictures, Tricia Collins and Jon Gordon lead their cattle around the ring.



“ I meant to send in my support last week... ”

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# Fairytale finale

PHOTOS BY GORDON WOLF



The finale for the summer reading program at Norelius Community Library was a fairytale costume party and scavenger hunt in the Children's Library. Pictured, Katie Guthrie, the youth services librarian, is dressed as a fairy godmother, and Summer Lamaak, a library page, is dressed as a witch.



Dressed as Belle is Kyleigh Schultz, of Odebolt. She is with her grandmother, Cheryl Schultz, of Schleswig.



Julian Diaz does a searching quiz with help of his mother, Nancy, and his brother, Enrique.

## Funeral Notices

### Robert "Bob" Schneller

Graveside services for Robert "Bob" Schneller, 81, will be conducted at 10 a.m. Saturday, July 22, at Crawford Heights Memory Gardens in Denison. He died December 2022 in Florida.

Survivors include his wife, Myrna; a daughter, Laurie Lashier; a son, Greg Schneller; five grandchildren; five great grandchildren; and brother, Ronald Schneller.

Services are entrusted to Huebner Funeral Home.

### Gloria Vaughn

Funeral services for Gloria Vaughn, 77, of Denison will be conducted at 3 p.m. Saturday, July 22, at Huebner Funeral Home in Denison with visitation one hour prior to the service.

She died Friday, July 14, at her home. Survivors include one daughter, Rebecca Friedrichsen, of Schleswig; one son, Robert Vaughn, of Denison; two grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

Services are entrusted to Huebner Funeral Home in Denison.

## Meeting Minutes

DELOIT CITY  
DELOIT CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
July 11, 2023

The council meeting called to order by Mayor Braasch and roll call were Lorenzen, Anderson and Schillerberg, and Mulligan. Absent: Kelly. The agenda was approved by Anderson/Mulligan. All approved. Reading of last month minutes was waived by Schillerberg/Anderson. All approved.

Jason Powell wanted to buy the alley in back of his house. The Council said no because of the electric lines, water lines and too many people using that alley. The Council decided to stay with MidAmerican utilities. We had the public hearing that night and read Ordinance No VII. Schillerberg/Lorenzen made a motion to expect Ordinance VII. All Approved. Schillerberg/Mulligan to waive the 2nd and 3rd reading of Ordinance VII. All approved. The council decided Crouch's Duplexes should have 2 meters per Duplex that is readable. She needs to stall the meters at her cost and the meters. If she want water shut off the basement Duplexes, the meters have to be in place. Harold Thede was there to discuss an old problem with the cable company not filling in the dirt and someone sprayed his grass. The Board said the Doug would the city right a way and fill in the holes with dirt if needed then was asked to leave, and he refused. Connie Mulligan will get trained on the GWorks Account Program made by Schillerberg/Anderson. All Approved.

Maintenance report given. Financial reports was read and moved by Anderson/Mulligan to approve. All approved. Bills were read and moved by Schillerberg/Mulligan to pay. All ayes. Bill: BT Computer \$55.00, Bomgaars \$46.98, Denison Bulletin \$54.99, EMC Insurance Comp. \$138.00, Frontier Comm. \$108.33, Growmark \$441.44, IA League of Cities \$375.00, MidAmerican Energy \$543.72, Wal Mart \$138.37, Payroll \$2958.26, Payroll Taxes \$1772.02, Verizon Wireless \$49.20, Water: IA DNR \$27.51, Foundation Ana. Lab. \$222.75, Frontier Comm. \$25.00, MidAmerican Energy \$125.01, Walmart \$25.87, Taxes \$160.60, Garbage: Craw. Co. Landfill \$300.85, Craw. Co. Solid Waste \$750.00, Growmark \$116.21, Sewer: MidAmerican \$46.30, Sunquist Engineering \$378.00, Walmart \$5.84, RUT: UBI \$1,177.53. Meeting adjourned by Lorenzen/Anderson.

Corrine Kinney-Mehaffey, City Clerk  
Tyler Braasch, Mayor

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## Grandkids have never seen a pop machine

POP, FROM PAGE 1

Charter Oak, is not easy at present because the bridge between the towns, on the only paved road, is currently under construction.

"It's the second time we've had a bridge replaced," she said. "You have to go way around somewhere out of town if you need gas in your car."

"This way you're not spending \$5 in gas to go get a \$1 can of pop," Mike said.

Jill and Mike met in high school when Mike's buddy was dating one of Jill's friends.

Mike grew up in Ricketts and went to school in Schleswig; Jill grew up in Ida Grove.

They both graduated from high school on the same day in 1980.

"Same day, different towns," Jill said.

They dated in high school, went their separate ways, and then reconnected when Jill moved to Ricketts in 1990.

They were married in 2010.

She works at WalMart in Denison; he is retired from working at Farmland.

Mike said he has good high school memories of driving to Charter Oak with his buddies every weekend to get a bottle of pop.

"It was glass back then," he noted. "We did it every weekend just to drive around. Maybe they'll come over here, now."

"Charter Oak doesn't have a pop machine, anymore," Jill pointed out.

It took a while for Mike to find a good machine he could afford. He settled on one that had been rebuilt.

"I ordered it on the computer out of a company in Texas," he said. "It was pretty pricey - like three grand - which was a little more than I was planning on spending. But - oh, well. It was still a



PHOTO BY DAN MUNDT

The pop machine is located in front of the old bank building in Ricketts, along Maple Street/County Road L51.

good deal."

Each can sells for \$1; the Marths make a quarter per can.

Mike hasn't made a spreadsheet to see how long it will take to break even.

"I don't think I want to know," he said. "Twelve thousand cans might pay for the machine."

Jill said Ricketts has become a bedroom community over the years; many of the town's residents have jobs in other communities.

As a result, they don't know all of their neighbors as well as they once did.

"Even in this small of a town, it's getting to the point you don't know half the people living here," Mike said.

"We know people by what color

house they live in," Jill said.

"Maybe this will help people get to know each other," Mike said.

The pop machine has already become a focal point for the community.

"The kids are excited," Jill said. "I drove into town last night and four kids were lined up at the pop machine getting pop."

The same kids were there the night before when the machine had jammed.

"We were over here helping them out," she said. "They must be over here every night getting a can of pop."

"There's nothing else in town for them to do," Mike said.

Jill said their grandkids are excited to come to Ricketts to see the pop

machine.

Part of their excitement stems from the fact they've never seen one.

Having achieved his goals with the pop machine, Mike said he doesn't plan to launch any additional business ventures in Ricketts.

"This will probably be it," he said.

The Marths are happy with the reaction the pop machine has received from the community.

"People are having fun with it," Jill said. "We've been down here two or three times just in a group of people talking. It's kind of become a social place at night because it's in the shade."

"We might have to work on getting a picnic table down here," Mike said.



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# Historic Preservation fair booth to feature Crawford County aviation

## A wealth of history

BY DAN MUNDT

Aviation is the theme for the 2023 Crawford County Historic Preservation Commission (CCHPC) booth at the fair.

"In our research, we've found that there were a lot of aviators that came out of Crawford County," said CCHPC Treasurer Amy Pieper. "Some are more famous than others."

Those aviators, and the history of aviation in Crawford County, will be featured at the booth.

"We always try to have fun activities at the fair," Pieper said. "The big item this year will be our photo booth. You can pretend that you're Clarence Chamberlin making history."

Chamberlin, who was born in Denison in 1893, became world-famous in May 1927 as the second pilot to fly non-stop across the Atlantic Ocean.

For many years, Chamberlin was nearly as famous as Charles Lindbergh, who had flown across the Atlantic just two weeks earlier.

In August of the same year, Chamberlin became the first pilot to make a ship-to-shore mail delivery when he flew an airplane off a ramp constructed on the ocean liner SS Leviathan.

At the CCHPC photo booth, visitors will be able to have their picture taken as if they are sitting in the cockpit of Miss Columbia, which was Chamberlin's airplane on the transatlantic flight.

"We have props like a helmet, goggles, scarf and gloves people can wear for their photo," Pieper said.

Other aspects of Crawford County's rich aviation heritage will also be on display.

"We have all kinds of information on aviators from the past, about the old airports and what aviation meant to Crawford County," Pieper said. "We've found that it meant a lot."

Pieper said part of her research was guided by a statement by the late Merle Luvaas, who documented Crawford County history and had a column in the Denison Bulletin and Review for many

years. "Merle Luvaas said the Army Air Corps (the precursor to the United States Air Force) said in 1945 that there were more pilots from Crawford County, Iowa, per capita than from anywhere else in the United States," she said.

Pieper found evidence that the statement was correct.

"If you look in the local newspapers from 1943 to 1945, almost every week there is a story about someone getting their wings or someone going off to flight training," she said.

Some of the pilots participated in famous battles – and some gave their lives.

Bombardier William Dieter, of Vail, died in the 1942 Doolittle Raid, which was the United States' first attack on

the island of Japan during World War II.

Captain Charles Cassaday, of Denison, was a reconnaissance pilot who flew over Normandy on D-Day to gather information about the landings; he was shot down and killed in Holland two days later.

Pieper also learned of five pilots from a single block in Denison; three were killed in action.

Other aviation stories to be presented include Ralph Weberg, who established the original Denison Airport, and Denison pilot John Langer, who was inducted into the Iowa Aviation Museum Hall of Fame in 2021.

"We're excited because John said he's going to visit the booth if he can," Pieper said.

Stories about other pilots and details

of the history of Crawford County aviation will adorn the walls of the CCHPC booth.

Pieper said she was amazed at the number of local aviation-related stories she and other CCHPC members have found.

"Other than Clarence Chamberlin, whose house is literally just a block away from mine, I did not realize so many aviators came from this area," she said.

Free (and just barely airworthy) styrofoam airplanes will be available for kids and a station to make paper airplanes will be set up in the booth, which is on the south end of the Varied Industries Building at the Crawford County Fairgrounds.

The writer is a member of the CCHPC.



PHOTOS BY DAN MUNDT

Ken Kahl and Christy Rickers, of the Crawford County Historic Preservation Commission, adjust the canvas of the photo background in the commission's fair booth. The photo is of Denison native Clarence Chamberlin's airplane, Miss Columbia.

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The walls of the Historic Preservation Commission booth at the Crawford County Fair are adorned with a wealth of information about aviators from the county. Visitors will also see a variety of miniature aircraft, such as this B-17 bomber, which is similar to one that crashed near Denison in 1944.

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### BROADWAY, FROM PAGE 1

The Broadway Elementary project will be financed by the sale of revenue bonds backed by the one-cent statewide sales tax for schools, or Secure an Advanced Vision for Education (SAVE). Property taxes will not be used.

Among the purposes of the addition is to move the third-grade classes from Denison Elementary to Broadway to help balance the number of students at the buildings.

With the space vacated at Denison Elementary, the district can move the preschool classes inside the main building. Preschool classes are currently taught in a stand-alone annex located across the playground from the Denison Elementary building.

The planning and development of the project dates back at least three years as school board members considered improvements needed at all buildings, but especially at Broadway Elementary and Denison Elementary.

At Monday's school board meeting, Superintendent Mike Pardun said a "pre" preconstruction meeting had been scheduled with school officials and the project's contractor.

A month ago, at its June meeting, the school board approved a base bid for the Broadway addition - \$17,263,000 from Kingery Construction Company, based in Omaha.

The only other bid was submitted by K&S LLC, doing business as Nelson Commercial Construction, based in Sioux City.

The school board also chose to accept alternate 6, the tuckpointing of the south exterior wall, and alternate 8, a brick face for the addition that will closely match the brick on the existing Broadway building. These alternates will add \$324,000 and \$28,000 to the project, respectively.

With the two alternates, the bids accepted by the board total \$17,615,000.

The base bid is about 12.5% higher than the engineer's estimate of \$15.3 million. That estimate was developed months ago, before the project was bid the first time in April. Since that time, inflation has raised prices. Additionally, Eric Kamin, an engineer with the DLR Group, said that some work was added to the project plans since the estimate was developed.

The Broadway addition project was bid a second time, with the letting in June, because no contractors bid for the April letting.

Kamin said one reason no one bid the first time is that general contractors had trouble lining up work by mechanical contractors.

He added that even with the second bid, mechanical contractors are still pressed for labor.

Kamin also said that the Iowa market is "chock full of work," pointing out that contractors were busy before the second bid letting.

The existing gym building, located on the southwest quadrant for the block, would pose another problem as it would be 15-20 feet from the west side of the addition.

Kamin said that was one of the factors in the first bidding period - why some contractors didn't look at the project.

He explained the distance of the gym building to the footprint of the addition would offer complexities during construction, including for future demolition and future parking. The gym building is located where the project would put parking for the addition.

Asked when demolition of the gym building would take place, Kamin answered sometime next spring.

Currently, physical education, the talented and gifted program, vocal

music and art are housed in the gym building. The third floor has been unused for more than 15 years since the fire marshal ruled that it posed a hazard, as the floor has only one exit.

The district owns the entire Broadway Elementary block except the two lots in the northwest corner. Those are owned by Huebner & Co.

School board member Kris Rowedder pointed out that any outside access would be cut off by leaving the gym building up.

"I don't want to leave the old gym building partially because if we ever have to expand in the future and we don't own that area (the two lots) and can't secure the corner, we will lock ourselves in. I think we need to maintain control of that whole block as much as we can, and we can't tie ourselves to another building right next door," she said.

Prior to the approval of the bids, Rich Knowles asked the school board to table its decision and to consider preserving the old gym building so that it could be renovated into apartments for seniors. He said the architectural features of the building are one benefit. In addition, it would place seniors in the uptown area where services are within walking distance.

He said he had been in contact with Shawn Fouch with Fouch Brothers, based in Kansas City. Fouch Brothers has renovated a number of old school buildings into apartments.

Some of those projects are in Fort Dodge, Storm Lake, Charles City and Algona.

"I look at this gym building as the ideal building to renovate," said Knowles. "That could be quite a process but I hope that the board will fully consider this as an option. I know it's rather late in the game but you know once the building's gone, it's gone."

Knowles asked the cost to demolish the gym building. Pardun did not have

the answer at the time as the demolition expense was lumped in with the base bid. Pardun later told The Denison Free Press that while the school didn't yet have a schedule of values, the general contractor did say that the demolition expense was between \$300,000 and \$365,000. The general contractor was still working with the demolition subcontractor on some details at the time Pardun provided the information to the newspaper.

The Broadway addition will add about 33,300 square feet of space onto the south side of the Broadway Elementary building, where a concrete playground is currently located. It will also involve the renovation of about 9,600 square feet of existing space.

Along with classrooms, the addition will house a gymnasium that will be adjacent to the new commons area.

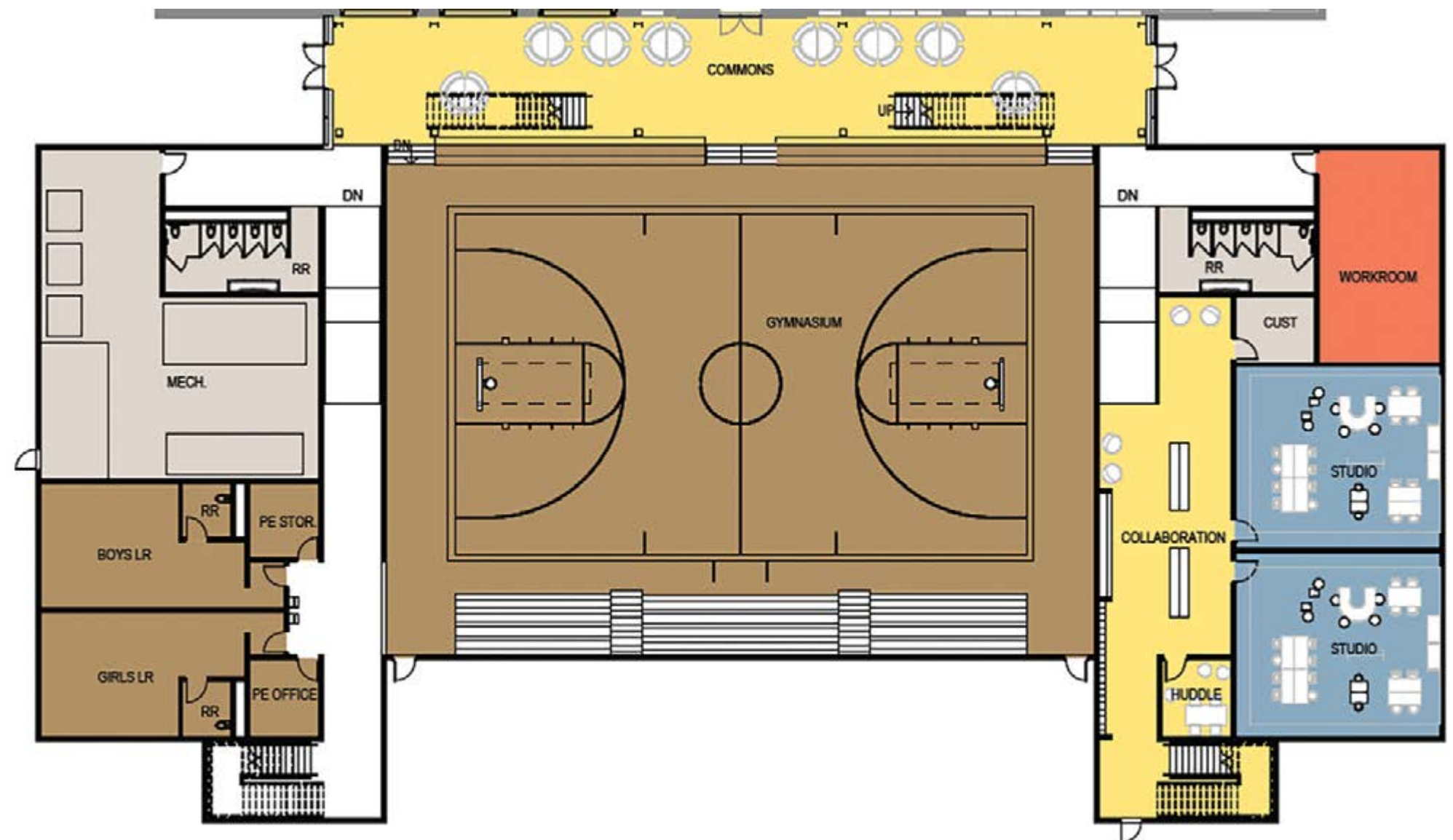
The school board decided to not accept a number of alternates that were bid. Among the rejected alternates are a bus drop-off loop on the east side of the school, a parent drop-off drive on the north side of the school, the demolition of a temporary classroom building (called the alternative high school), installing new windows in the library, and tuckpointing the west, south and east sides of the Broadway building.

Another alternate that pertained to HVAC work received no bids.

The alternate high school building is an annex off the southeast corner of the Broadway building. The school district retained the option of having it moved or selling the annex to someone who will move it.

The school district could go out for bids again on any of alternates that were rejected.

Rowedder wanted to be sure that with the construction of the addition by itself, the development of the drop-off areas would be possible. They would be, Kamin replied.



The layout for the new classrooms and new gym are shown in this rendering from the DLR Group. Classrooms will be on the first and second floors of the addition.

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## Service above self

### Johnson takes on role of Denison Rotary president

BY DAN MUNDT

JJ Johnson, general manager, sports director and sales manager at KDSN Radio, took over duties as president of Denison Rotary on July 1.

His goal is to keep the organization moving forward.

"I'm very excited," Johnson said. "I'm one of the youngest members so I feel honored that they look to me. I'm honored that they were willing to have me, especially since I'm not from here originally."

Johnson moved to Denison from Wisconsin in 2011.

"I feel at this point I am from Denison – and this kind of solidifies that," he said. "I think it will be a fun year and I look forward to all the things we'll try to accomplish throughout the year."

Johnson pointed to Rotary's motto, "Service Above Self," as the best description of the organization's purpose.

"Rotary is a community organization club that works to help out the community by raising funds to support projects throughout the year," he said.

One of Denison Rotary's main goals for the next year is to provide funding for projects at the Western Iowa Tech Community College (WITCC) Denison Campus.

WITCC and Denison Community Schools are developing a career academy in which students will learn workplace skills for jobs in high-demand occupations while earning high school and college credit.

"They will be expanding not only in the career academy, they're going to be doing a lot of groundbreaking to add extra classrooms and make that building larger," Johnson said.

Denison Rotary will provide a substantial monetary donation toward the projects.

WITCC aligns well with Rotary's goals, he said.

"Western Iowa Tech is helping train and bring along that next group of future employees," Johnson said.

The WITCC nursing courses are an example he used to show what the college provides to the community.

"I don't know how many people take the nursing course and then go on to work at one of the local nursing homes or the hospital," he said. "Having a college like that is pretty amazing for this community."

Among their other activities, Denison Rotary gives scholarships, assistance to the fire department, books to second graders, warm coats to Crawford County kids, assistance to Crawford County Hunger Fighters and funds to a variety of other organizations.

Johnson said another goal for the year is to provide support for the Crawford County Wellness Center project.

"We try to align ourselves with what is going on in the community, and that is one of the projects that we want to support," Johnson said.

Denison Rotary plans to provide a major, multi-year donation to the wellness center, he said.

Another venture he wants to keep rolling is the "Rotary Roads" project, which will add many miles of walking/biking trails to Crawford County and will eventually connect up with trails in other counties.

At the recent Immigrant Heritage Festival in Denison, people were asked to give their thoughts on where new trails should go.

"A lot of people offered their ideas of where the trails should be here in town," he said. "Our goal is to piggyback off of that."

Johnson noted that Rotary Roads is very long-term project; he would like to see the trails someday go as far as Des Moines.

"I want it to keep progressing and keep going forward," Johnson said. "Each year we put money into the fund for it, and we're applying for grants."

Denison Rotary conducts an annual auction on the first Sunday in November.

Last year's auction raised \$53,000.

"That is how we are able to do all these things throughout the year," he said. "We basically take that money and then we give it all back to the community."

Johnson, who is in his fourth year as a member of Denison Rotary, said he has looked to past rotary presidents Bill Bruce and Don Luensmann for advice about his new role.

"I sat down with Bill and Don getting ready for this year, and both

have really good guidance," he said.

Johnson has also received leadership training from Zoom meetings/trips to other clubs of Rotary District 6000, of which Denison Rotary is a member.

The president position rotates to a different member each year.

Johnson invites members of the community to consider joining Denison Rotary.

"I think some people think it's a private club that nobody can be a part of, and it's members-only, but it's not. We're always looking for new members," he said. "It is for members, but we have guests every week and we have a speaker every week to learn more about what's going on around Crawford County."

He said members often know about what's going on around town before a story about it appears on the radio or in the newspaper.

"Rotary isn't this secret club that we don't want people to know about or be a part of," Johnson said.

Weekly guests provide talks on just about any subject.

The club currently meets at noon on Thursdays, but Johnson has been given the task of adding an additional meeting time that will allow individuals, such as teachers and others who can't get away during the day, to join the group.

Interested individuals may simply show up at noon on Thursday; meetings in July are at Bella Sera and will be at Bogy's Grille in August.

"We're here to pick up this week's Denison Free Press!"



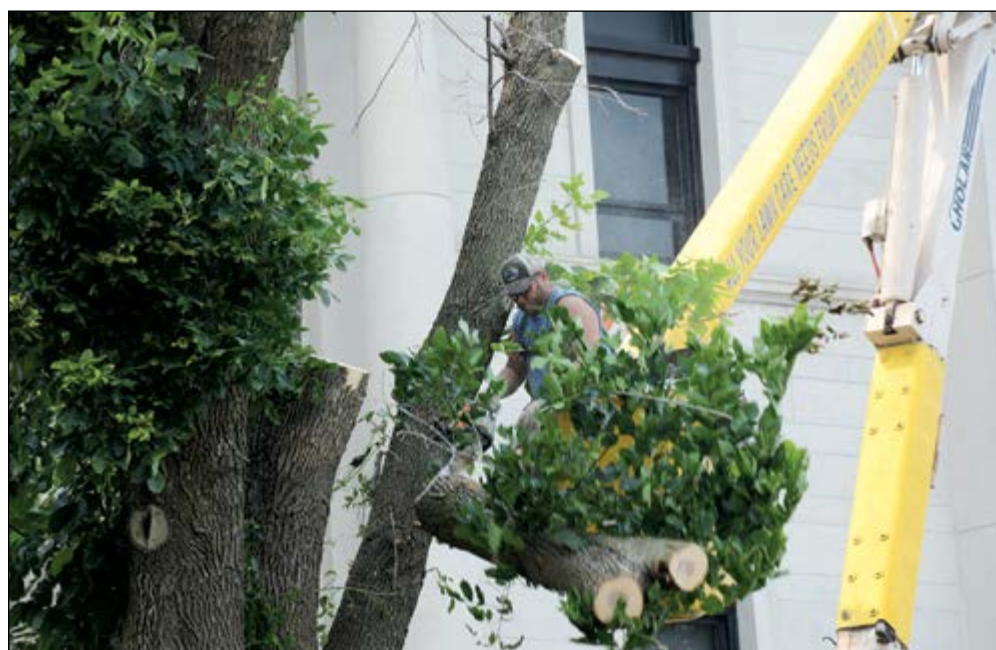
Who knows, maybe they'll make a purchase while they're here? If your business would like to be a distribution point for The Denison Free Press, contact us and let us know. As a free newspaper, you would only need to provide a shelf from which community members could grab a copy.



### Victims of emerald ash borer

PHOTOS BY GORDON WOLF

An infestation of the emerald ash borer drastically changed the treescape at the Crawford County Courthouse this past week. Hipnar Lawn & Tree had to take down six ash trees. Andy Hipnar is pictured in the bucket.



### Bringing water to the public

PHOTOS BY GORDON WOLF



Denison Municipal Utilities is bringing increased water flow and water pressure to its customers in the northeast section of Denison, generally. This will be done by a pump station, a new water tower at the Little League/Senior League field, and with new water mains. Max Smith Construction, of Corning, has the water main contract and has been busy installing the new pipe from the Northside Rec area to 20th Street. At 20th Street, the water main is going south to an existing main and is also going north and then east to the site of the new tower. Pictured, workers from Max Smith Construction are monitoring the progress of a drill to put the new pipe in along 20th Street. Also pictured is a length of water main waiting to be pulled underground.



### Magic sand art

PHOTOS BY GORDON WOLF

Toward the end of the children's summer reading program at Norelius Community Library, children took an imaginary magic carpet ride to Aladdin's desert where they scooped up sand to make works of art. The youth layered sand in various colors into containers. Pictured, Isais Quetz and Saul Santos fill their containers with sand. Also pictured, Violet Patterson shows two sand-art butterflies she made with the help of her mother.





# A fun time at summer nights

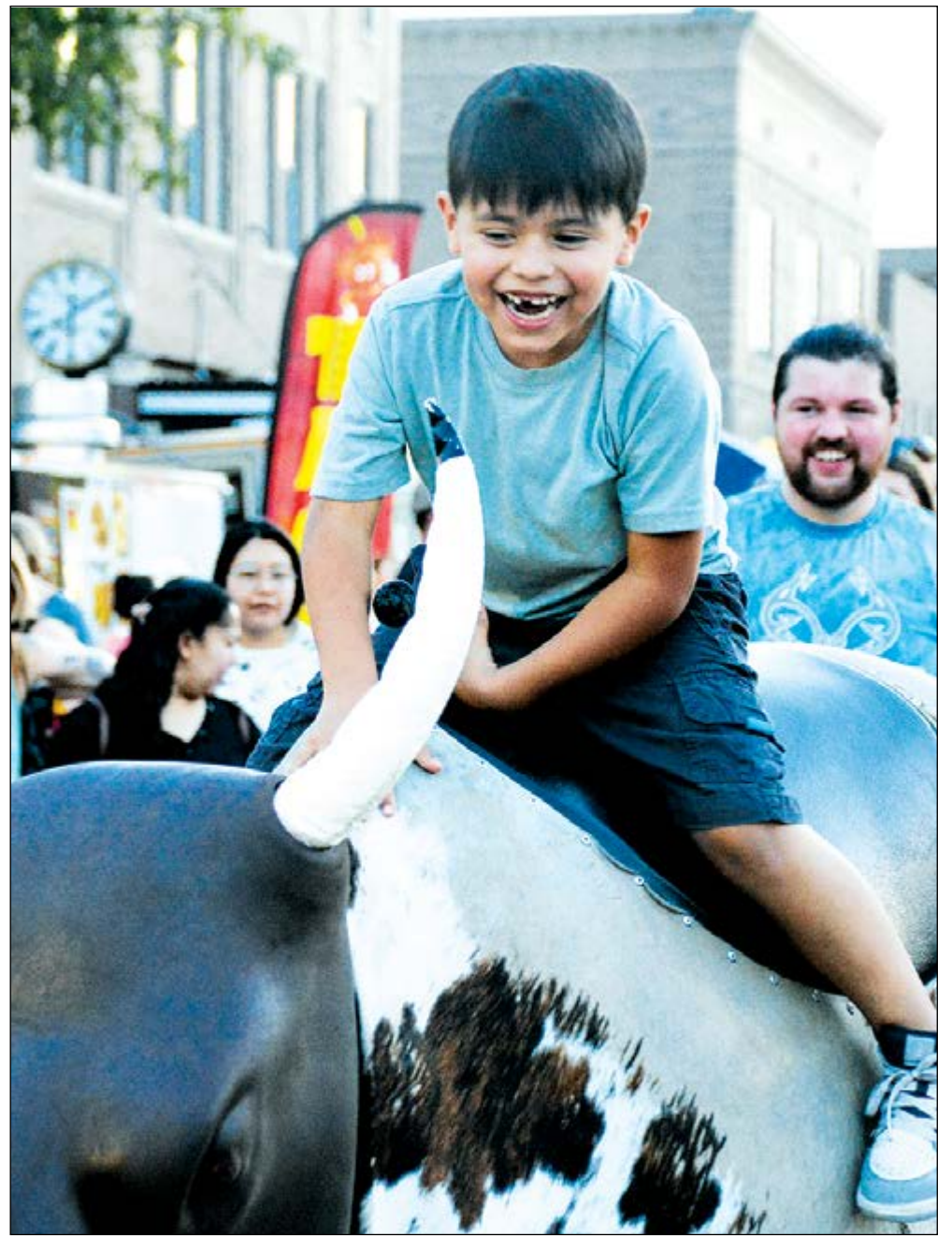
PHOTOS BY GORDON WOLF



Hot Summer Nights on Thursday, July 12, filled Broadway in Uptown Denison with people playing games, eating food and listening to music. Above, The Boyer River Band had a great following at the event.



Reese Freml, of Johnston, takes a turn on the mechanical bull. She was visiting her grandparents, Sherri and Jim Freml, of Denison.



Juan Carey, of Denison, smiles broadly as he holds on tight to the mechanical bull. And no, the missing teeth were not part of the activity, just part of growing up.



Denison Police Chief Tony Trejo takes a short ride on a dunking platform. The girl throwing the ball had good aim as she dunked the police chief at least twice.