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Local News  
Local Journalists  
Local Ownership

# The Denison Free Press

FREE  
TAKE ONE!

Vol. 1 | No. 6

SERVING DENISON & CRAWFORD COUNTY, IOWA

August 10, 2023

## Wulfy's Bash returns

Saturday event is first since 2019



The Brad Morgan Band will play from 8-11 p.m.

BY DAN MUNDT

The first Wulfy's Bash in four years is set for Saturday, August 12.

2019 was the last time Bob and Sandra Wulf put on the event on their acreage near Deloit.

Since then, a lot has happened.

"In 2019, I fell 16 feet off a grain bin," Bob said. "I lost my memory, so I had to learn a lot of things over again."

One of the things he had to learn was how to operate the sawmill he uses to create the custom buildings and other items on the property where Wulfy's Bash will take place.

He makes everything out of old telephone poles, reclaimed wood and trees.

Bob's relearning process has gone well.

"I built a new stage for Brad Morgan, and I built a new bar area," he said.

The Brad Morgan Band, a country act from Nashville, Tennessee, is the headliner for the event.

The band will play from 8 to 11 p.m.

Gates open at 3 p.m.

Local favorite The Boyer River Band will play from 4 to 6 p.m. and Moldy Fig will take the stage from 6 to 8 p.m.

Moldy Fig is a special band for Bob and Sandra.

The band played at The Lounge in Denison when Sandra was a bartender. They also performed at Bob and Sandra's wedding.

Hy-Vee will cater brats, pulled pork, steak sandwiches and hamburgers.

A beer garden will be set up.

Tickets are \$20 each or \$35 for two; children eat for free.

Ten percent of the proceeds will be donated to the veterans honor flight.

The Wulf's property is located at 1746 Highway 39, which is just a few feet north of Deloit city limits.

Attendees are encouraged to bring lawn chairs for seating.

## Playing with the band

Denison musician finds her way to the stage



Claudia Coltrain Rihner plays her fiddle along with Salty View's Acoustic Review at the Hot Summer Nights event in Uptown Denison last Friday.

BY DAN MUNDT

For Claudia Rihner, the experience of playing with talented musicians is the best part of performing.

She had a chance to do just that in Denison on Friday night as the female vocalist of the band Salty View's Acoustic Review.

The band, based in Fort Dodge, played for the crowd at the first of two Hot Summer Nights events in August.

Salty View's Acoustic Review is a three-piece acoustic band that plays country and classic rock.

MUSICIAN, PAGE 11

## Contractor error keeps new L51 bridge closed

County engineer wants solution before harvest



PHOTO BY DAN MUNDT

BY DAN MUNDT

"No one has ever seen this," said Crawford County Engineer Paul Assman. "I've been doing this for 40 years and this is probably the most

challenging construction-related issue that has come up."

The issue of concern is the new concrete bridge on County Road L51 about 2.5 miles south of Ricketts, which is essentially complete but can't be opened for public use due to a construction error.

The bridge crosses the East Soldier River about a mile and a half north of Highway 141.

L51 has been closed to through traffic since February.

Assman said the contractor, Graves Construction, appears to have placed the new pilings in the correct position,

BRIDGE, PAGE 3

## Denison's new fire engine designed to save seconds

Firefighters will be better equipped to save property and lives

BY GORDON WOLF

Denison's new fire engine arrived in town yesterday, driven by firefighters from the Denison Volunteer Fire Department, all the way from Appleton, Wisconsin, where the Pierce Mfg. facility is located.

The new engine may look a lot like the old engine. The body is much the same.

But beyond the first glance are a number of differences, all designed with these purposes in mind – to get water on a fire quicker and to decrease the amount of time it takes to rescue a person.

"We look at the role the truck plays in our response, and again, much of what we do is based on responding to a residential fire, or a 'go rescue,'" said Fire Chief Cory Snowgren. "Year after year, fire analytics are clear. The residential structure fire is the greatest risk to the public, and to us."

A lot of thought went into developing the specifications (specs) for the new engine. Snowgren pointed out that the engine is the most important truck in the department when it comes to fire suppression. For this reason, price is not the only factor in determining which bidder to go with. He said the department considers eight or nine factors, including warranty, vendor history, maintenance, and ease of operation.

"This is the first truck out the door, and the job of the four firefighters on the truck is to get water on the fire. Knowing that's job one for them, we wanted to spec the truck in a way that will help in accomplishing our performance standards and the skill sets we use to get water on the fire," Snowgren said.

Seconds matter because a fire doubles in size with every minute that passes.

And, of course, seconds matter if a person or persons need to be rescued.

Snowgren explained that for fire departments in smaller towns, a go

FIRE ENGINE, PAGE 16

## In full bloom

Mill Creek Flower Farm goes from growing to selling

BY DAN MUNDT

The flowers at Mill Creek Flower Farm are in full bloom, but the journey from a bare field to one covered in flowers took a little longer than Grace Reineke expected.

Her cut flower growing business, located about two miles southwest of Dunlap, is in its first growing season.

Grace is the daughter of veterinarians Beth and Shane Reineke, owners of Lincoln Highway Animal Hospital in Denison.

She graduated from Iowa State University in May 2022 with a degree in horticulture and a minor in animal science, and purchased a 3.5-acre property for the flower farm she dreamed of starting.

Grace had intended to begin planting at Mill Creek Flower Farm in

early May, but the drought in western Iowa disrupted her plans.

"I knew that I needed, either this season or the next, to install a hydrant out in the field for irrigation when Mother Nature doesn't come through," Grace said. "With how this spring went with no rain, I decided it was worth waiting for a hydrant to get put in. I was really lucky to get that done in the third week in May, but I didn't get planted until Memorial Day, which was a month later than I had originally planned on."

Her new irrigation system feeds three drip lines down each of 25 four-foot by 60-foot rows of plants in her field.

"Once that hydrant was installed, it was a huge push to get everything in the ground, and then in June I was fighting to keep the transplants alive in the heat and drought," she said. "With the hydrant, even though it put me behind, that's the only reason I was able to survive and have plants blooming now."

FLOWERS, PAGE 5



PHOTO BY DAN MUNDT

Grace Reineke, owner of Mill Creek Flower Farm.



# Kiron ambulance gets new colors



PHOTO BY DAN MUNDT

The ambulance donated to the Kiron Fire Department by Crawford County Memorial Hospital (CCMH) returned to Kiron last week after receiving Kiron signage on a new vinyl wrap from Vital Signs in Council Bluffs. Rachel Burns, firefighter/EMT and EMS service director for the Kiron Fire Department, said Vital Signs came highly recommended and had previously created and applied the vinyl wrap on the ambulance CCMH donated to Iowa Western Community College. The ambulance CCMH donated to Kiron in 2018 was nicknamed "old blue" by the hospital; Kiron kept the colors and nickname for that ambulance and the colors were carried forward to the new ambulance. Burns said blue is also a color that represents EMS.





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## Community Cookout & Honor Flight Fundraiser

At Denison



**Friday, August 18, 2023**

**11am - 1 pm - Crawford County Cattlemen**  
Serving hamburgers & cheesy potatoes - free will donation for Honor Flight. Carryout available.

**10 am to 3 pm - Veterans benefits, programs & Honor Flight information**

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BRIDGE, FROM PAGE 1

but when backfilling the slope, the tops of the pilings were pushed toward the center of the stream.

"The contractor then adjusted the falsework supports that would hold the steel and concrete during construction to fit the misaligned pilings, which resulted in the pier supports being in the incorrect location and the pilings being out of plumb (vertical)," he said.

"Unfortunately, we were not made aware of the issue when the contractor first discovered it. Had he stopped and said, 'We have a problem - somehow these pilings are in the wrong place,' we could have made adjustments up in the structure."

The cement pour for the deck was already underway when a member of the Crawford County Bridge Crew noticed that the pilings were not vertical.

The pilings were also later discovered to be misaligned.

Assman said the county crew does not check every measurement repeatedly as a contractor builds a bridge because this kind of problem has never occurred before.

The pour was completed and the bridge sits on the angled pilings, which do not meet the design criteria.

"The pilings are designed to take it (the bridge load) in a vertical line," Assman said. "If you push it over, it wants to kick out."

The bridge is not safe for use with the pilings aligned improperly.

"The slab (bridge deck and reinforcing steel) is two feet thick; it's carrying a tremendous amount of dead load (the weight of the bridge)," he said. "It has to also carry the live load, which is the traffic that goes over it."

Assman said the tilted and misaligned pilings have a significant impact on the capacity of the substructure to carry the bridge, so it can't be opened to traffic.

Assman said Dan Graves, the owner of the construction company, has been open about his company being at fault.

"They're a good contractor - they've done a lot of work for us and they've done a lot of work for the state," Assman said. "He feels bad about it and they're trying to work through a solution. They're acknowledging that it's theirs to deal with."

The county's engineering consultant, Calhoun-Burns and Associates, is working with Graves Construction to try to find a way to make the bridge usable without ripping the whole thing out.

Assman said one suggestion was to build a beam underneath the bridge and transfer part of the bridge load through the beam and additional pilings.

That idea was rejected because it didn't account for enough of the bridge load, he said.

"So we have to figure out a way to pick up the load beneath the slab and transfer the load to the soil through some other means," Assman said.

He said the involved parties continue to look for a solution that will leave the new bridge deck in place.

"Our consultant has lots of experience dealing with county bridges here in the state," Assman said. "We are comfortable that they will not allow something to be done here that they don't feel comfortable with and (the solution) will protect the safety of the people using the bridge."

He wants to have the bridge open by harvest.

"We will find a solution, we will figure it out and we will open the bridge," Assman said.



Local Calendar

MONDAY, AUGUST 14, 2023

American Legion Post 8 Denison meeting: 7 p.m., basement of ISU Extension office, 35 South Main. Please enter through the door on the south side of the building. All veterans welcome. Contact Commander William Smith, 712-263-8404.

Schleswig VFW Auxiliary meeting: 7 p.m., Schleswig Golf Course. Some items on the agenda are patriotism cards and the Hoffman window. Dues are payable for anyone who hasn't yet paid.

Monarch Middle School Football Camps: Denison Middle School is hosting a football camp for middle school students on August 14 and 15 from 6-8 p.m. The cost is \$20 for individuals or \$40 for families.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 15, 2023

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

Crafternoon: The Denison Library will play host to a Crafternoon for adults, teens and tweens ages 12 and up. Crafting projects and techniques will be offered. 4-6 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 16, 2023

Euchre Night- Charter Oak: Join a fun night of euchre at 7 p.m. at the Charter Oak Community Building. Attendees will be partnered up randomly throughout the night.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 16, 2023 (continued)

Read and Play: Denison Library will have a Read and Play on Wednesday August 16th for ages 0-5 years old at 10 a.m. in the Children's Library. This is a shorter story session designed for those who can't quite sit still yet.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 17, 2023

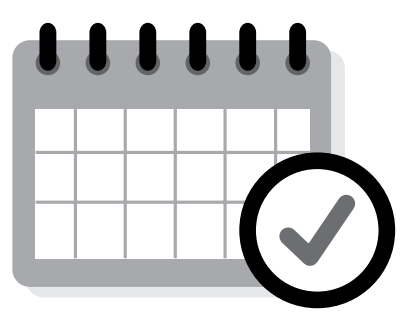
Game Night: Game Night at the Norelius Public Library from 6-7:30 p.m. with classic games such as Clue and Sorry!

SATURDAY, AUGUST 19, 2023

McHenry House August Hours: The McHenry House summer hours in August will be the 5th, 6th, 19th, and 20th from 1 PM-4 PM. Stop by to check the house out and enjoy some refreshments.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 23, 2023

Farmland Leasing program at Crawford County Extension: 35 South Main Street, Denison, 1:30-4 p.m. Cost of attendance is \$20 per individual. Call the Crawford County Extension office at 712-263-4697 to register.



Submit events at denisonefreepress.com

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# Best in the West draws livestock champions from 10 counties

BY GORDON WOLF

Youth whose livestock projects were champions at 10 county fairs gathered at the Western Iowa Expo Building in Denison last Wednesday (August 2) for the Best in the West Showdown.

Counties involved are Audubon, Carroll, Cass, Crawford, Harrison, Ida, Monona, Sac, Shelby and Woodbury.

The following were the Crawford County representatives.

- Sawyer Sonnichsen- Breeding Ewe
- Macy Gruhn - Breeding Gilt
- Kallie Bromert - Breeding Doe
- Makia Smith - Breeding Heifer
- Hayden Soma -Market Lamb
- Kane Boyle - Market Hog
- Karson Bromert – Market Goat
- Keagan Eischeid - Market Beef

Following are the overall Best in the West winners in each category, who went on to show their livestock projects at the All-Iowa Showdown on August 6 in Oskaloosa.

### Breeding animals

- Heifer: Landon Tibken, Cass County
- Doe: Tyler Ellingson, Audubon County
- Ewe: Chase Buck, Audubon County
- Gilt: Kambria Donscheski, Harrison County

### Market animals

- Goat: Brylie Andersen, Shelby County
- Lamb: Jayce Furrow, Woodbury County
- Hog: Leyton Elmquist, Audubon County
- Beef: Morgan Will, Cass County



PHOTOS BY GORDON WOLF

Macy Gruhn herds her breeding gilt around the ring at the Western Iowa Expo Building at the Best in the West Showdown.



Hayden Soma leads his market lamb into the Expo building for the Best in the West Showdown.



## Letters TO THE EDITOR

To submit a letter visit, denisofreepress.com

### To the Editor:

#### The IUB should put the brakes on the Midwest Carbon Express

North Dakota's Public Service Commission threw a major roadblock in the path of Summit Carbon Solutions' Midwest Carbon Express when it voted unanimously to deny the

company's hazardous CO2 pipeline permit. According to PSC Chair Randy Christmann, Summit "failed to meet its burden of proof to show that the location, construction, operation and maintenance will produce minimal adverse effects on the environment and on the citizen of North Dakota."

Without the PSC permit, the Midwest Carbon Express is a pipeline to nowhere.

The Midwest Carbon Express is on shaky ground all along its multi-state route. Summit seeks a permit in Iowa with little more than two-thirds of easements signed.

Minnesota requires an Environmental Impact Study and

will not allow eminent domain to be used for this project. South Dakotans, outraged by the lack of action in their legislature, are demanding Governor Noem call a special session.

Summit's risky CO2 pipeline faces strong opposition. Diverse groups on the political spectrum have joined with impacted landowners to stop one of the biggest land grabs in American history. A recent poll in The Des Moines Register found that 80% of Iowans oppose the use of eminent domain for the dangerous CO2 pipelines.

In Iowa, Summit-impacted landowners have been frantically preparing for the IUB hearing on

Summit's permit, scheduled to begin in two short weeks, on August 22. This date was unexpectedly moved ahead from an anticipated start in October.

With no route to Summit's sequestration site in North Dakota, the IUB should put the brakes on the Midwest Carbon Express. There is no urgent need to rush the permit process for a dangerous CO2 pipeline to nowhere. The IUB hearing on Summit Carbon Solutions' permit should be postponed indefinitely.

*Bonnie Ewoldt, Milford resident and Crawford County landowner*



## “Make-and-take” bouquet event drew nearly 50 people

FLOWERS, FROM PAGE 1

Grace planted about 45 flower and foliage plant species.

“I have 16 different zinnias, six different scabiosa, six different sunflowers, eight different snapdragons, and I think nearly 20 different colors of glads (gladiolus), just for starters,” she said. “I have so many varieties, some that I have experience growing, but even more that are completely new to me. I just went for it and tried a bunch of new stuff.”

She felt a little overwhelmed because the late start caused a bottleneck for all the tasks she needed to accomplish during her first growing season.

“I was trying to keep on top of the weeds and all the administrative stuff behind the scenes, building my website, marketing,” Grace said.

She also had to balance those activities, and her investments in the business, with the lack of income during the early summer.

Grace was not able to start selling her product until about three weeks ago.

“With flowers, you have to wait until they actually bloom before you see that return on investment,” she said.

Finding out what works and what doesn’t work is a big part of her plan for 2023.

As an experiment, she planted bells of Ireland and bupleurum, which she calls “cool season” flowers, in June.

Those flowers prefer to be planted in early May and didn’t make it during the hot days of June and July.

“Then you rip them out and put something else in,” Grace said.

“But I also had something called orlaya that isn’t supposed to do well over 85 degrees and is thriving. Plants surprise us, sometimes.”

Now that her flowers are available, she is starting to have success on the business side.

Grace is making weekly deliveries of fresh arrangements to decorate the reception areas of two businesses, several florists are buying wholesale from her, she has been selling her flowers at two farmers markets, and her bouquets are now available Thursday through Saturday at The Cottage in Uptown Denison.

She has also invited the public to “make-and-take” bouquet events at her farm; the most recent was on August 3.

“The bouquet popup worked really well,” Grace said. “I had way more people than I thought I would. I was going to be happy if there were five and we had nearly 50 come out.”

Visitors chose fresh flowers from buckets in her air-conditioned shed to make bouquets on their own or with Grace’s help.

They could also select from bouquets she arranged beforehand.

“It was like my own little farmers market,” Grace said. “I really enjoy getting to talk to people and make bouquets. That’s my favorite thing.”

She is still learning the unique business cycle of flower farming.

“With this being my first year, I don’t exactly know how the different flowering crops will ebb and flow,” she said. “One week, you’ll have a whole bunch of something to harvest and then you have to wait until it goes on to the next succession, or maybe you don’t have any more of that one so you have to weigh the options.”

Grace is making notes about how to improve her practices for next year as she continues to find her way this year.

She said she also has a learning curve on the business side, and noted that one year will never be the same as the next.

“As a small business owner, I definitely have some growing to do,” she said. “I spent a lot of time this season just learning. I love learning; I never want to stay where I am. I always want to be taking it to the next level – being more efficient – doing it better.”

Grace will continue picking flowers until frost arrives in mid- to late-October.

Next spring’s tulip and daffodil bulbs will go into the ground in November.

Until then, she will work on developing the business side and she’ll tend to her field.

“Some days the weeds are a little bit much,” Grace said. “There are definitely things that make my job stressful or hard, but when you get that bouquet made and you see how happy it makes somebody, it’s all worth it.”



Zinnias come in almost every color of the rainbow and love the summer heat in Iowa, according to Grace Reineke.



Rudbeckia are “bold and wildflower-esque flowers that are bright yellow like the sun.”



Scabiosa, or pincushion flowers, are dainty and delicate, and sway in the breeze, Grace said.



Grace Reineke tends to the flowers on her farm.

PHOTOS BY DAN MUNDT



Grace holds a dahlia, which she said are the show-stoppers of the cut flower world (in her opinion). She has about 200 growing in her field.



Mill Creek Flower Farm takes its name from the creek that rambles about fifty feet away.



An irrigation system feeds three drip lines down each of 25 rows of plants.





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## Keagan Eischeid and Dewey head to governor's steer show

BY GORDON WOLF

Keagan Eischeid, of Manning, and her steer, Dewey, will be the second entry in the show ring this Saturday, August 12, at the Iowa Governor's Charity Steer Show at the Iowa State Fair in Des Moines.

The celebrity show person for Dewey will be Lt. Gov. Adam Gregg.

The sponsors are the Crawford County Cattlemen's Association and Nor-AM Cold Storage.

Keagan, a member of the Aspinwall Achievers 4-H club and daughter of Andy and Heather Eischeid, showed Dewey at the Crawford County Fair beef show on July 22. Dewey was selected as the champion medium weight market steer, then headed back into the show ring with other class champions in the market beef division and won grand champion market steer honors. Dewey was also selected as the overall grand champion market beef animal.

At the Iowa Governor's Charity Steer Show, 25 steers are led around the ring by celebrity show persons who are competing for four awards - Overall Champion Steer, People's Choice, Showmanship and Community Hero.

Following the show, the steers are auctioned as a fundraiser for the Ronald McDonald Houses of Iowa.

The Iowa Governor's Charity Steer show is now 40 years old, and in that time the auction has raised more than \$4.9 million for the Ronald McDonald Houses of Iowa.

The Ronald McDonald houses in the state are in Sioux City, Des Moines and Iowa City.

The Iowa Governor's Charity Steer Show will begin at 4:30 p.m. The live stream will start at 4 p.m. A link to the live stream can be found on the charity steer show website, [www.iowagovernorscharitysteershow.com](http://www.iowagovernorscharitysteershow.com).



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PHOTO BY GORDON WOLF

Keagan Eischeid leads her steer, Dewey, into position at the Best in the West Shootout on August 2.



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To apply, please submit a City of Denison employment application, resume, and 2-3 letters of recommendation to the City of Denison, Jodie Flaherty, 111 N. Main Street, Denison, IA 51442 or email to [cityclerk@denisonia.com](mailto:cityclerk@denisonia.com)

Position is open until filled.

EOE



## Dunlap man dies after being trapped in grain bin

On August 2 at approximately 4:01 p.m., radio traffic came into the Crawford County Communication Center about someone trapped in a grain bin located at 1546 O'Banion Road.

Multiple agencies were paged out to assist in the rescue.

Michael Tom Heistand, 41, of

Dunlap, was pronounced dead at the scene.

Agencies assisting in the rescue effort were Crawford County Sheriff's Office, Crawford County Ambulance, Denison Fire, Dow City Fire, Manilla Fire, Dunlap Fire, Woodbine Fire, Logan Fire, Mondamin Fire, Harrison County Emergency Management Agency (EMA), Harrison County Incident Management Assistance Team (IMAT), Cogdill Farm Supply, LifeNet, Pauley Jones Funeral Home, and the Crawford County Medical Examiner's Office.

## COURTHOUSE NEWS

July 14-27, 2023

### SMALL CLAIMS

- Against: Christian Josue Resendiz Araujo, Denison. In favor of: Denison Municipal Utilities. Amount: \$496.31. Costs: \$115.
- Against: Tanika Diane Reese, Denison. In favor of: Denison Municipal Utilities. Amount: \$288.11. Costs: \$115.
- Against: Maryam Rodriguez, Denison. In favor of: Denison Municipal Utilities. Amount: \$192.51. Costs: \$115.
- Against: Samuel Kodi, Denison. In favor of: Denison Municipal Utilities. Amount: \$126.43. Costs: \$115.

### NON-SCHEDULED FINES

- Walter Railin Pineda, Denison, trespass, 1st offense, \$160.62.

### TRAFFIC FINES

- Ashley Phillip Waterman, Columbiaville, MI, texting/using mobile phone while operating commercial vehicle, \$135.50.
- Armando Rafael Tercero, Omaha, NE, dark window or windshield, \$135.50.
- Juan Jose Ochoa Gomez, Denison, dark window or windshield, \$175.75.
- Christopher Richard Mundt, Manning, dark window or windshield, \$175.75.
- Jemima Jaaziel Carrazco Moreno, Denison, dark window or windshield, \$175.75.
- Jose Medina Gonzalez, Omaha, NE, no valid driver's license, \$354.00.
- Allen Jones, Ute, operating non-registered vehicle, \$175.75.
- Alex Scott Anderson, Dunlap, operation without registration card or plate, \$175.75.
- Allen Jones, Ute, operating non-registered vehicle, \$175.75.
- Cody L. Rickers, Manilla, failure to maintain control, \$210.25.
- Cody L. Rickers, Manilla, failure to provide proof of financial liability, accident, \$796.75.
- Keler Garcia, Sioux City, no valid driver's license, \$354.
- Medardo Antonio Chicas Monterrosa, Denison, no valid driver's license, \$354.
- Jacob Anthony Green Jr., Brownsville, TX, no valid driver's license, \$354.
- Jacob Anthony Green Jr., Brownsville, TX, dark window or windshield, \$135.50.
- Juan Jose Ochoa Gomez, Denison, failure to maintain or use safety belts, adult, \$135.50.
- Cynthia Rae Jacobson, Manilla, open container, driver 21 years old and older, \$354.
- Shane Robert Thelen, Wall Lake, dark window or windshield, \$135.50.
- Bennett Lynn Freese, Denison, operation without registration card or plate, \$135.50.
- Selvin Gomez Mendez, Denison, no valid driver's license, \$354.
- Tanner James Hardman, Wall Lake, failure to maintain or use safety belts, adult, \$135.50.
- Robert Arthur Sleight, Denison, failure to reduce speed upon approach of stationary towing, recovery, utility, maintenance, etc. vehicle, no injury or death, \$210.25.
- Joshua Joe Johnson, Ida Grove, failure to maintain or use safety belts, adult, \$135.50.
- Don Lee Namanny, Denison, failure to maintain control, \$210.25.
- Ismael Gomez Aceves, Belvidere, IL, improper lane change, \$210.25.
- Hilario Garcia Sanchez, Denison, dark window or windshield, \$112.50.
- Pah Chi, Denison, failure to obey stop or yield sign, \$210.25.
- Juan Carlos Gallegos, Denison, operating non-registered vehicle, \$135.50.
- Maria Fernanda Zaragoza Paez, Denison, failure to prove security against liability, non-accident,

- \$342.50.
- Jeremiah James Hunt, Logan, operating non-registered vehicle, \$125.75.
- Jeremiah James Hunt, Logan, failure to prove security against liability, non-accident, \$486.25.
- Jeremiah James Hunt, Logan, failure to have a valid license or permit for operation of a motor vehicle, \$400.
- Durell Dorsey, Denison, failure to have a valid license or permit for operation of a motor vehicle, \$285.
- Stephanie Kristine Malone, Deloit, failure to obey stop or yield sign, \$210.25.
- Scott Andrew Vonnahme, Wall Lake, failure to prove security against liability, non-accident, \$342.50.
- Brody Lee Schneider, Schleswig, failure to obey stop or yield sign, \$210.25.
- Diane Ilene Furne, Denison, operating non-registered vehicle, \$135.50.

### SPEEDING (21 mph & over)

- Sullivan James Melichar, Mondamin, \$469.
- McKabe David Clarke, Lincoln, NE, \$233.25.

### SPEEDING (16-20 mph over)

- Kalee Marie Kirby, Fort Calhoun, NE, \$193.
- Kathryn E. Doody, Omaha, NE, \$193.

### SPEEDING (11-15 mph over)

- No fines

### SPEEDING (6-10 mph over)

- Edward Carl Watson, Gilbert, AZ, \$89.50.
- Daniel Allan Brotherson, Odebolt, \$118.25.
- Kinson Miller, Vancouver, WA, \$149.88.
- Christian Max Valles Mauldin, Dickinson, ND, \$149.88.
- Isahi Gabriel Herrera, Denison, \$118.25.
- Jonathan Ignacio Casillas, Denison, \$118.25.
- Walter Barahona, Dallas, TX, \$118.25.
- Jamie Kay Mesecher, Ames, \$118.25.
- Travis Lee Schuppan, Council Bluffs, \$118.25.
- Efrain Daniel Chavez, Denison, \$118.25.
- Heidi Jo Keiner, Lake View, \$149.88.
- Jeronimo Javier Ruizsantiago, Fairfield, CA, \$118.25.
- Da Ler, Denison, \$118.25.
- Gail Audrey Schlueter, Denison, \$118.25.

### SPEEDING (1-5 mph over)

- Sadie Ann Haberberger, Kiron, \$89.50.
- Alexander J. Koester, Lincoln, NE, \$106.75.
- Allen Jones, Ute, \$106.75.
- Samuel T. Hutchcraft, Jacksonville, IL, \$106.75.
- Rogelio Mojicanavarrete, Los Angeles, CA, \$89.50.
- Cristhian Angel Perez Molina, Denison, \$89.50.
- Nestor Alonso, Denison, \$89.50.
- Miguel Angel Ruiz Sanchez, Storm Lake, \$89.50.
- Pedro Gonzalez, Willow Creek, CA, \$106.75.
- Joseph Vincent Leming Jr, Langhorne, PA, \$89.50.
- Alee Sho, Manor, TX, \$89.50.
- John Joseph Reisz, Woodbine, \$89.50.
- Delaney K. Humm, Lincoln, NE, \$89.50.
- Benjamin Carl Wachholtz, Papillion, NE, \$89.50.
- Jacob Carlyle Eganhouse, Columbus, OH, \$89.50.
- Joseph J. Henkelman, Odebolt, \$89.50.
- Eduardo Luis Salcedo Mancilla, Denison, \$89.50.
- Christin Lynn Devine, Ida Grove, \$89.50.

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### Payton Henningsen receives P.E.O. STAR Scholarship

Payton Henningsen, a 2023 graduate of Denison High School, was selected to receive a \$2,500 STAR Scholarship from the P.E.O. Sisterhood.

She was recommended for the scholarship by P.E.O. Chapter CO of Denison and is the very first recipient of this honor from this area.

Payton is the daughter of Dean and Stephanie Henningsen, of Westside.

The P.E.O. STAR Scholarship was established in 2009 to provide scholarships for exceptional women in their final year of high school to attend an accredited postsecondary educational institution in the United States or Canada in the next academic year. The competitive STAR Scholarship is for women who exhibit excellence in leadership, academics, extracurricular activities, community service and potential for future success.

Payton continues to be an active member of FFA and 4-H serving in numerous leadership positions. She was instrumental in organizing the Bacon Buddies program at the Crawford County Fair, served as Crawford County Beef Queen last year and was chosen to be the 2023 Crawford County Fair Queen.

She is a National Honor Society member, is a lifeguard and Red Cross Water Safety Instructor and participated in basketball, softball and swim team.

Payton will attend Iowa State University in the fall to pursue a degree in animal science.

Chapter CO has been active in the Denison community since 1902.

P.E.O. (Philanthropic Educational Organization) has been celebrating women, helping women reach for the stars for more than 150 years. Since its inception in 1869, the nonprofit organization has helped more than 119,000 women pursue educational goals by providing \$398 million in grants, scholarships, awards and loans. What started with a bond of friendship among seven women in Mount Pleasant is now one of the oldest women's organizations in North America with close to 5,800 chapters.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Payton Henningsen was recognized at the 2023 Denison High School senior class awards day for receiving a national P.E.O. scholarship. She is pictured with Kathy Struck, a P.E.O. Chapter CO member.

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## Denison, Crawford County each pledge \$250,000 to wellness center project

BY GORDON WOLF

After hearing that it will work within the budget and that it won't raise taxes, the Denison City Council last week approved a pledge of \$250,000 to the Crawford County Wellness Center project.

The \$250,000 donation will come from the city's next bond issue.

The amount is in addition to \$750,000 the council allocated to the wellness center project from the city's American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds.

In all, the city received \$1,232,667.15 in ARPA funds from the federal government. Of that amount, \$230,883.89 has been spent, \$974,707.65 has been allocated, and \$27,075.61 is remaining, according to City Clerk Jodie Flaherty.

Flaherty told the city council that she and council members Dustin Logan and Corey Curnyn met with the wellness center ad hoc committee last week Tuesday, after first meeting with the city's financial advisor, Scott Stevenson with D. A. Davidson.

Logan and Curnyn are also members of the ad hoc committee.

"Corey and I had the opportunity to really break down our current bonding capacity versus our tax asking," said Logan. "That's a number that the three of us came up with that we would be comfortable with. Jodie is completely comfortable with it within the budget. We do need to pledge what we can."

"It fits our future budget and future needs for other things right now, that we also need to consider other than the wellness center," he added.

Curnyn said that the \$250,000, as of now, will be it.

"If there's a shortfall, that would be a time for another discussion, to bring all the players together, however that would be funded. At this point, there would not be a different number at the end if there would be a shortfall in the bid process," he said.

Logan continued that no other financial contingencies and no loans were discussed, just the \$250,000 pledge at this time.

The pledge would be paid in one lump sum rather than a number of payments over time.

The city council voted 5-0 in favor of the pledge.

Flaherty told The Denison Free Press in an email that the city will look at bonding in the spring of 2004 and that the bond proceeds will be held in the city's accounts.

She explained that the pledge won't raise property taxes because the amount will go into the city's debt service levy and that other bonds are being paid off.

"The city has bonds being paid off this fiscal year. Each time a bond is paid off, the debt service levy is reduced. The proposed bond will keep the debt service levy at the current rate, and this will allow the current levy to remain

the same," Flaherty said. "The city will be looking at what projects need to be completed, such as streets, and will bond this spring to pay for the projects."

The bond payments will start in fiscal year 2024-2025.

Tim Stuart, a member of the wellness center committee, said the city's \$250,000 pledge put the fundraising effort closer to the 70% level, which will help with a state Community Attractions and Tourism (CAT) grant application.

The application deadline is August 15.

"We've been told by those that oversee that program that in order to be competitive, we need to be at 70% funded in order for the state to take our application seriously," Stuart told the council members.

Without the city's pledge taken into consideration, the funding level was at 66% at the time of the council meeting.

Stuart said that with the city's pledge, about another \$500,000 was needed to reach 70%, at the time of the city council meeting.

He also said that the wellness center committee is projecting the receipt of \$1 million from the CAT grant program but that they would ask for more in their application based on additional funding that's available through the grant program.

Stuart said the committee has several meetings lined up for more fundraising effort.

He continued that the project has received pledges from companies located outside the county that have employees who live in Crawford County.

Two companies, GOMACO and Midwest Industries in Ida Grove, previously committed to the project.

The committee found out on the day of the council meeting that Pella in Carroll was making a commitment to the project.

"It speaks highly that businesses outside of our county are committing to this project. They see the need and feel that the support of their employees who live in Crawford County is warranted," Stuart said.

Following an hour-long discussion with Stuart this Tuesday morning, the Crawford County Board of Supervisors voted 5-0 to commit an additional \$250,000 to the wellness center project.

The county will provide \$100,000 out of ARPA funds this year; those funds are now part of the county general fund.

Contributions of \$50,000 will be committed for each of the next three years.

The county had previously committed \$750,000 of ARPA funds to the project.

*Dan Mundt contributed to this report.*

## LAND TRANSACTIONS

### Warranty Deeds

• Timothy J. Weber and Lisa M. Weber to Timothy J. Weber and Lisa M. Weber, Lot 5, Denison Northside Estates Addition.

• Mick Gorden to Roger Waderich and Marsha Waderich, Lot 1 Block 8, Dow City Original Town; \$30,800.

• Michael De Wolf, Julie De Wolf, Gina Hansen and Jeremy Hansen to Randy Ten Eyck, Lots 10, 11 and 12 Block 11, Arion Wagoner & Evans Addition; \$5,000.

• Steve Kremin and Nancy Kremin to Steve Kremin and Nancy Kremin, Lot 4 Block 9, Manilla Original Town.

• Terry Rickers and Catherine Rickers to Trail Crossing LLC, N1/2 SW1/4 Section 23, Jackson Township; N1/2 NW1/4 Section 35, Jackson Township.

• Paul D. Shook Revocable Trust, Lois A. Shook Revocable Trust, Paul D. Shook and Lois A. Shook to Denison MHP LLC, NW1/4 SE1/4 Section 15, Denison Township; NE1/4 SW1/4

Section 15, Denison Township; NE1/4 SW1/4 Section 15, Denison Township; \$3,000,000.

• Manilla Economic Development Corporation to Region XII Council of Governments Inc., Lots 1, 2 and 3 Block 28, Manilla Original Town: Lot 22, Manilla Sunrise 2nd Addition.

• Bethany Gail Gonzalez to Zuniga Construction Inc., Lot 3 Block 116, Denison Original Town; \$89,000.

• David Cotton and Heather Crosetti Cotton to LC Construction LLC, Lots 7 and 8 Block 3, Schleswig Original Town; \$94,500.

• Troy L. Carrier and Linda M. Carrier to John Dijok, Lot 82, Denison Purdy Hills 2nd Addition; \$239,000.

### Court Officer Deeds

• Catherine C. Zimmer Estate, Thomas C. Zimmer, Executor, to Catherine C. Zimmer Testamentary Trust, Thomas C. Zimmer, Trustee, S1/2 NW1/4 Section 32, Jackson Township; W1/2 NE1/4 Section 32, Jackson Township.

## Funeral Notices

### Georgia Hickey Roeder

Mass of Christian Burial for Georgia Hickey Roeder, 79, of Arthur, was conducted at 11 a.m. Thursday, August 10, at St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church in Denison.

Burial was at the Mt. Olivet Cemetery in Manilla.

She died Sunday, August 6, at the Crawford County Memorial Hospital in Denison.

Survivors include her husband, Ron Roeder, of Arthur; three sons, Doug (Diana) Wiges and Dave (Carol) Wiges, all of Denison, and Dennis (Lisa) Wiges, of Belton, Texas; four step-children, Nancy (Steve) Schug, of Ida Grove, Rick Roeder, of Odebolt, and Jeff Roeder and Terry Roeder, both of Arthur; 17 grandchildren; numerous great-grandchildren; a sister, LaVonne Brogan, of Sergeant Bluff; and many other relatives and friends.

Services are entrusted to the Huebner Funeral Home.

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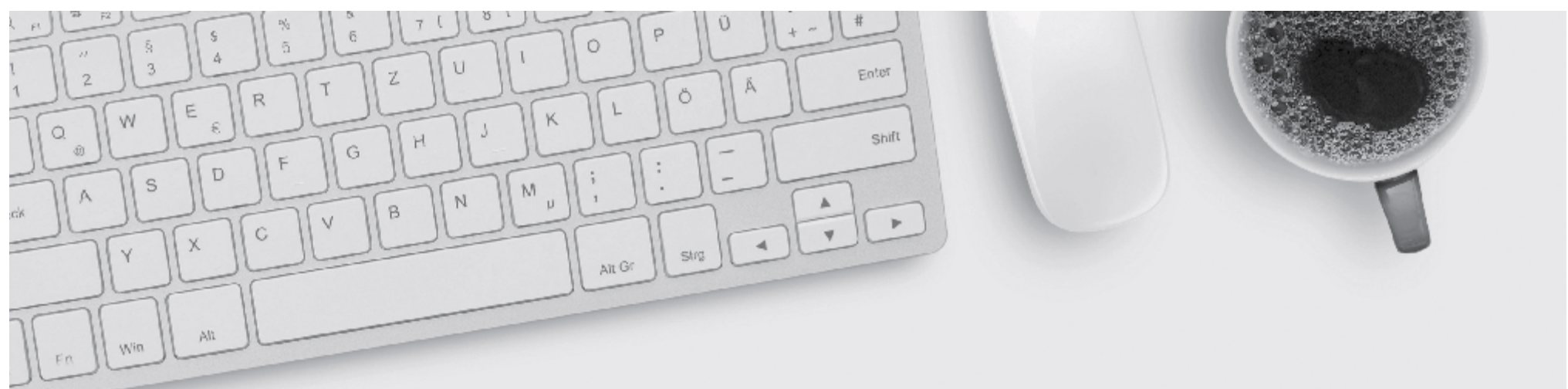
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# 76 students attend Verizon Innovative Learning camp at WITCC

## Immersion into STEM concepts

BY DAN MUNDT

The Western Iowa Tech Community College (WITCC) Denison campus recently played host to 76 students going into 6th, 7th and 8th grades this fall.

The students attended a three-week Verizon Innovative Learning STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) Achievers camp designed to immerse middle-school-age students in technology-related subjects.

"It gives kids the opportunity to engage in STEM-related next-generation concepts and ideas that they might want to see in their futures," said Jessica Garcia, director of the WITCC Denison Campus and Southern Service Area.

Verizon and the National Association for Community College Entrepreneurship have formed a partnership to offer the camp.

The individual workshops were developed by Verizon and Arizona State University.

"We set up different stations in different rooms so the students get

experience in every one of the programs every day," Garcia said.

The students begin by participating in a mentoring program.

"They take that deep dive into character. Who are they as a person? What motivates them? What are their goals?" she said.

The first STEM workshop is called Design Thinking.

"Design Thinking is about helping them think outside of the box," Garcia said.

"One of the engaging tasks was to come up with a solution for a ten-year-old kid who wanted to skateboard but could not walk without assistance. They had to come up with a solution for that child."

In Immersive Media, the students learned about the difference between augmented reality and virtual reality.

"They working through a system called CoSpaces where they're creating virtual reality movies, 360-degree movies and building a future world," she said. "Through that future world they

go into augmented reality and come up with things they can design in other components of the camp."

In Digital Products Innovation, the students use a system called Tinkercad to design and create an item for 3D printing.

"We have 3D printers and we can print most of the models they design and create," Garcia said.

The students created characters and objects that they could use in other workshops in the camp.

For Smart Solutions, the students learned to use a micro:bit computer that helps students understand how hardware and software work together.

"They do block coding to operate a radio and they wired their LEDs to create inputs and outputs," she said.

The students created scrolling LED messages in the same way a scrolling sign on a theater marquee works, she explained.

They also programmed thermometers on a rover that would take readings in different rooms of the school.

In Artificial Intelligence and Robotics, the students used their phones to control the small rover.

"They created paths for it to go down, and it could stop or turn or recognize the color of a building," Garcia said.

Students attended the workshops

Monday through Thursday for a total of 12 days over three weeks. The last day of camp was July 27.

"They definitely had a good time," Garcia said. "I think they had fun and were engaged in the material and in what we were looking for them to accomplish."

She said the camp would not have been possible without the support of the Denison Community School District; the district allowed WITCC to visit classrooms to demonstrate technology to help get students interested in attending the camp.

Pizza Ranch, El Jimador, Subway and McDonald's provided discounted lunches for participants.

Fareway Foods donated fruit, plates, and other supplies.

Garcia said she encourages individuals to shop and eat in the local area because those businesses are then able to support the community and programs such as the learning camps for youth.

Students attended the camp for free. Garcia said she is hopeful that WITCC will play host to the camps again next summer.

Students will receive a letter in the mail around the first of the year to gauge their interest in signing up or participating next year.



PHOTO BY DAN MUNDT

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## Artist branching out with solo performances

MUSICIAN, FROM PAGE 1

"I've absolutely loved working with them," Claudia said.

Tim Salter, whose name put the Salt in "Salty View's," founded the band 20 years ago.

"He has so much experience musically, and he's really pushed me to get better and strive for perfection in music," Claudia said. "He's a fantastic influence for me."

Jared Benson is the third member of the band.

"He's another really committed musician," she said. "He's been really fun to perform with, and our voices mesh well. It's been fun to work with our voices together."

Claudia is also the band's fiddle player.

"I started playing violin in the fifth grade," she said. "My parents really wanted me to be a fiddle player growing up."

Her parents are Fred and Marilyn Coltrain, of Kiron.

"I grew up on Highway 39 just north of Kiron and spent all of my years through high school graduation there," Claudia said.

A fiddle and a violin are the same instrument, but local opportunities were nonexistent for learning the fiddle style of playing it.

"Most of the teachers are classical teachers," Claudia said. "Dr. Rosemary Mason was my teacher growing up and she instilled a love of classical music in me, but I think part of me always wanted to fiddle, so that's where playing in country bands came about."

She did her own research to learn about the differences between playing classical violin and fiddle music.

Claudia was home schooled, but was involved with music activities, such as performing in the pit orchestra, at Denison High School; she was selected to play violin at the All-State Music Festival.

It wasn't until she attended college that she added singing to her repertoire.

"I went on to study music education at Iowa State University," she said. "While I was there, I started dabbling in singing a little bit, and realized I didn't have a terrible voice."

She sang with the Des Moines-based Royce Johns band for several years while she was in college.

Claudia graduated from ISU in 2017 with a bachelor's in music education.

"I moved to Denison and got hired as a part of the music faculty at the middle school and high school," she said.

"I've been involved with the mariachi program in Denison for nine years."

The opportunity with Salty View's Acoustic Review came up last year.

"I had seen a post that it's a band that's been together for 20 years and they were looking for a new female vocalist," Claudia said.

She figured she had nothing to lose by auditioning.

"So, I did that and the rest is history," she said.

Claudia decided not to renew her contract with Denison Community Schools this year to concentrate on performing, though she plans to stay

involved with the school as needed.

She joined Neppel Real Estate as an agent this spring.

Taylor Borkowski, organizer of the Hot Summer Nights street parties in Uptown Denison, approached Claudia about bringing Salty View's Acoustic Review to the event last week.

"This was our first time in Denison," Claudia said. "We perform all over the state of Iowa. It's fun to go to different areas and meet different people and other music lovers."

The band performs nearly every weekend from April until New Year's Eve.

"It's been a great experience," Claudia said.

She's also branching out with a new solo career.

Her first performance will be from 7 to 9 p.m. on Thursday, August 17, at Shiny Top Brewing in Fort Dodge.

"I'll be playing guitar and piano and singing for that gig," Claudia said. "I have done one or two solo gigs at local nursing homes, but this will be my first official solo performance at a venue."

As a performer, she goes by her maiden name, Claudia Coltrain, because that's the name she used when she first performed in Des Moines, and it's easier for people to remember and pronounce than Rihner.

Salty View's Acoustic Review's next performance will be from 8 to 11 p.m. this Friday at Community Tap & Pizza in Fort Dodge.

The band members are also part of a new music project called Renegade Soul, which includes a drummer and bass player in addition to Tim, Jared and Claudia.

Renegade Soul will open for country and gospel singer-songwriter Josh Turner in Fort Dodge on September 16.

"This will definitely be the performance highlight of our year," Claudia said.

She plans to stick with Salty View's Acoustic Review.

"There haven't been any negatives to me, so I definitely hope that they'll keep me around," Claudia said. "As long as they'll have me, I'll be part of the band."



PHOTO BY DAN MUNDT

From left, Tim Salter, Claudia Coltrain Rihner and Jared Benson perform for the crowd at last week's Hot Summer Nights event in Denison.

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*In Remembrance*



**Thomas Eugene Gustafson**  
November 25, 1949-July 25, 2023

Thomas Eugene Gustafson, 73, of Denison, Iowa died on July 25, 2023, at Crawford County Memorial Hospital.

Tom was born on November 25, 1949, in Alta, Iowa, to Ernie and Mildred Gustafson. He graduated from Alta High School and then attended University of Northern Iowa, prior to attending Law School at the University of Iowa. Since 1976, he made his home in Denison, Iowa.

Tom was a private practice attorney owning his own business, Gustafson Law Firm, since 1979, along with doing a wide variety of criminal defense work. He was the Crawford County Attorney, remaining in office for 28 years, and was one of the longest serving County Attorneys in the State of Iowa. He served on a number of volunteer boards, groups, and committees over the years; some of them being Rotary, Iowa County Attorneys Association, Iowa Law Enforcement Academy Board, the Coffee Club of uptown Denison, and the Crawford County Memorial Hospital Board of Trustees. He was a member of the First United Methodist Church in Denison.

Most people will probably remember him as an avid sports fan, mostly following the Iowa Hawkeyes and the Chicago Cubs. He always had an endless supply of sporting information stored in his mind. Along with whatever sporting event might be on TV or in a stadium or field nearby, Tom also enjoyed gardening, yard work, and history.

Tom was preceded in death by his parents, Ernie and Mildred; his son, Andy; and his brothers, Roger and Dennis; as well as numerous other relatives and friends.

Tom will be missed by his wife, Kathi of Denison; daughter, Jenny Gustafson of Cedar Rapids; daughter and son-in-law, Holly and Ryan Risetter of Waterloo; bonus daughters and their husbands, Courtney and Ryan Schulz of Harwood Heights, IL, and Taylor and Luke Dalton of Corning; grandchildren Brady, Addison, and Ben Risetter of Waterloo; Eli and Hudson Dalton of Corning; Abigail Schulz of Harwood Heights, IL; mother-in-law and father-in-law, Gary and Phyllis Hanson of Irwin; brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law, Jeff and Vickie Hanson of Desoto, KS; Dean and Suzanne Hanson of Eagle, MI; Dan and Megan Hanson of Denison; and sister-in-law Debi Gustafson of Chandler, AZ; cousins, nieces, nephews, other relatives, and friends.

Funeral Services were held at 10:30 A.M, Saturday, August 5, 2023, at First United Methodist Church in Denison, Iowa. Rev. Curt Copple officiated the service with interment in the Danway Cemetery in Kirkman, Iowa. Musical selections included "On Eagle's Wings" and "Jealous of the Angels" performed by The Greve Family. Recorded musical selections included "Beat You There" by Will Dempsey and the "Iowa Fight Song."

Serving as honorary pallbearers were Jim Andersen, Kent Hollrah, Jim Lohman, Jay Ford, Don Lyons, Uptown Coffee Club, Addison Risetter, Ben Risetter, Eli Dalton, Hudson Dalton and Abigail Schulz. Serving as pallbearers were Luke Dalton, Ryan Risetter, Brady Risetter, Ryan Schulz, Keith Walker and Megan Hanson.

Services were entrusted to the Huebner Funeral Home in Denison.

**CDC welcomes Beyond Behavior clinic and staff**



PHOTO BY GORDON WOLF

The Chamber & Development Council (CDC) of Crawford County welcomed Beyond Behavior with a ribbon cutting at noon on Tuesday. Beyond Behavior, an organization that provides services for children diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder, opened a clinic in Denison. The clinic provides Applied Behavior Analysis services specific for children on the autism spectrum who are working on goal progression for various behaviors or other social skill development. Staff from Beyond Behavior in the front row are Larisa Escalante, behavior technician (BT); Paige Prussing, registered behavior technician (RBT); Alyson Baytien, executive director, board certified behavior analyst (BCBA); Morgan Hallgren, BCBA; Heather Aldag, clinic manager, RBT; Karina Monge, RBT; and Alexis Gonzalez, RBT. The staff member in the back row is Stewart Black, RBT. The other individuals in the photograph represent the CDC. More about the Beyond Behavior clinic can be read in the August 3 Denison Free Press or by going to the following link: [www.denisonfreepress.com/news/beyond-behavior-opens-denison-office](http://www.denisonfreepress.com/news/beyond-behavior-opens-denison-office).



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# Manhole work continues in Denison



PHOTO BY GORDON WOLF

Workers from HK Solutions Group continue their rehabilitation of manholes in Denison. Denison Municipal Utilities (DMU) is working with the contractor on a three-year, 195 brick manhole rehabilitation project. The work is in the second of the three years, and 91 manholes have been completed. Manholes on school bus routes have been completed before classes resume. The manhole rehabilitation project is being done to reduce or eliminate the inflow and infiltration of stormwater into the sanitary sewer system. Kevin Georgius, DMU wastewater manager, said that with the dry conditions experienced in the last few years, flows from city collection system have been normal at around 800-900 thousand gallons per day. Saturday night's rain event put the flow to 977 thousand gallons, not a significant increase compared with previous years.

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The Denison Free Press

### More state fair exhibitors from Crawford County Fair

A number of Iowa State Fair selections were inadvertently omitted from last week's list of fair winners. Following is the listing of 2023 Iowa State Fair Exhibits and Communication from the Iowa State University Extension office.

Clothing Selection: Caralyn Henschen and Isabel Jepsen

Educational Presentations: Caralyn Henschen, Jodee Kruse, Brigid Bonner (poetry) and Ryder Meseck (informational piece about yo-yos)

Working Exhibits: Brigid Bonner, bracelet making; Danielle Gehling, ice cream in a bag

Share The Fun: Marissa Schrad, piano piece; Brigid Bonner, tap solo; Isabel Jepsen, piano piece

Extemporaneous Speaking: Brigid Bonner

Ag & Natural Resources: Ryder Meseck, miniature garden; Michelle Mohr, cut flower study

Creative Arts: Taya Adams, lily pad photo; Brigid Bonner, matted photo of escalator; Camilla Bonner, matted photo of city skyline, and color photo of Willis Tower; Claire Schumacher, Ms. Minny mounted photo; Tyson Stoppel, photo

from Civil War national battlefield; Logan Gordon, photo of Honda side-by-side, and hydro-dipped cup and phone case; Taya Adams, tree bark painting; Adelai Boeck, rooster canvas painting; Michele Mohr, macrame wall hanging

Family & Consumer Sciences: Violet Christensen, Harry Potter bag, and how to create a felted gnome; Isabel Jepsen, sewn black sequin jumpsuit; Piper Carroll, clothing - other/cow, and canned beef; Abbey Meseck, purchased outfit, and camel jacket and dress pants; Jasper Christensen, gluten-free apple pie; Logan Gordon, angel food cake, flannel rug, and thrifty meal poster; Ella Langel, butterhorn rolls; Luciana Knox, child-sized chair; Ryder Meseck, wreath; Amber Ragaller, jewelry box; Austin Waterbury-Lingle, catio display board

Personal Development: Brigid Bonner, volunteering with Eager Egg hunt binder; Logan Gordon, washer toss game; Mabel Langel, trip to Jamaica; Danielle Gehling, polishing family heirloom silverware

Engineering & Technology: Logan Gordon, welded paper towel holder; Brigid Bonner, record player stand - new construction from repurposed wood; Abby Williams, white wood bed frame

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## Ramaswamy holds big town hall in Vail

### Presidential candidate talks about cutting federal agencies

BY GORDON WOLF

Ending affirmative action, sending the U.S. military to the secure southern border and getting rid of bureaucrats were among the concepts voiced by Vivek Ramaswamy, a Republican candidate for president, during a town hall gathering at Hrabik Welding in Vail on Saturday.

Ramaswamy, 37, said running for office is personal – he's lived the American dream and he is worried that the American dream will not be available to his two sons.

His parents came to the United States from India 40 years ago. His grandfather was a rice farmer, and his

father came to the United States to get an education as an engineer in the late 1970s.

Ramaswamy, a former pharmaceutical executive, founded multibillion dollar companies.

Throughout his speech and in response to questions, Ramaswamy spoke about cutting the size of the federal government and referred to the federal bureaucracy as a fourth branch of government that shouldn't exist.

"The people who we elect to run the government, they ought to at least be the ones to actually run the government without this managerial bureaucratic

deep state that runs the show today," he said.

He also spoke about eliminating government agencies he said should not exist, and listed the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Internal Revenue Service, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Centers for Disease Control and the Department of Education.

"We will not just reform these agencies; we will get in there and shut them down," he said. "That is how we restore the integrity of a constitutional republic."

Ramaswamy said the reason people don't trust the government is that the government doesn't trust the people to be able to handle the truth.

"If I'm going to fix one thing when

I lead this country, we will have a government that tells the truth to the people again, not the truth when it's easy but the truth when it is hard," he said.

The following are among the points Ramaswamy made while answering questions from the audience.

- He wants a 90-plus percent headcount reduction at the U.S. Federal Reserve and a single mandate for the federal reserve to restore the stability of the U.S. dollar by tying it to gold, silver, nickel and agricultural and farm commodities.

- On foreign policy, he said there is one purpose – to advance the interest of Americans. He would end the war in Ukraine by coming to an agreement with Valdimir Putin, who he said he doesn't trust, but he does trust Putin to follow his self-interest. The current lines of control would be frozen, like a Korean War-style armistice and Ukraine would never become a NATO member. In return, Russia has to exit its military partnership with China.

- On his religion, Ramaswamy said he was raised in a Hindu household and that he and his wife are raising their sons in the same tradition, but with his faith, he believes in one true God and said the United States was founded on Judeo-Christian values. "I and my family deeply share these values in common, and I'm not running for pastor in chief. I'm running for Commander in Chief, and when it comes to Commander in Chief, it's the values that matter."

- On the deficit, Ramaswamy said a big part of that is shutting down the federal administrative state. He would reduce the federal employee head count by over 75% in his first term - 50% alone during his first year in office. He said the civil service protections only apply to individual firings, not mass layoffs.

- Ramaswamy wants to create a single-day vote on Election Day, making it a federal holiday. The single-day vote holiday would replace one of the other holidays, like "Juneteenth or one of the other useless ones we made up." Paper ballots would be used and voters will have a government-issued voter ID that matches the voter files.



PHOTO BY GORDON WOLF

The Hrabik Welding building in Vail served as the backdrop for a Vivek Ramaswamy town hall.

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## FIRE ENGINE, FROM PAGE 1

rescue is a high-risk, low frequency event.

A building fire, without entrapment is a more typical call.

"So, we try to build our operation based on the most common risk that we face. When we spec a truck, we're thinking how we can put this truck together to facilitate the rapid application of water," he said.

Snowgren continued that Assistant Fire Chief Duane Zenk set the tone for the type of chassis and body that the department would get. Zenk suggested that the new engine be as close in design to the existing engine to eliminate or reduce any learning curve. He also suggested the consoles for the engine operator be set up the same.

"From that point on we broke the truck down and put on paper what we felt would be most beneficial for a fire attack team based on local risk. We looked at what we should keep from the old engine's design, and what we can improve on," Snowgren said.

He gave the following points on how the new engine is different and more efficient to work with compared to the old engine.

A 5-inch intake was added to the front bumper, and rear tailboard and the water supply can be set up from any side of the truck. Snowgren said this addition is important in establishing a water supply to an available hydrant when a higher volume of water is needed.

The pumping capacity of the engine was increased by 500 gpm to a total of 2,000 gpm.

Snowgren said a side note is that the increased pumping capacity plays a part in establishing a more favorable ISO (Insurance Services Office) rating. ISO ratings can affect premiums for property insurance.

With the new engine, firefighters have immediate access to hoses on all four sides of the vehicle.

The sections of hard suction hose that are on top of the old engine will be attached to the right side of the new engine. Hard suction hoses are used when water has to be drafted from a pond or from a portable tank, when a fire hydrant is not available.

On top of the new engine will be a deck gun with a 2-1/2-inch hose on top; it will also have two portable deck guns. This is the same on the old engine. An important difference is that one of the portable deck guns will be mounted on the back of the new engine, and it will be pre-connected to a 2-1/2-inch hose, which will save time. On the old engine, firefighters had to get on top of the truck, take the straps off the portable gun, lower it down, then attach it to the outlet and stretch out the line.

Again, seconds count.

"How often are we telling kids that a fire doubles in size every 60 seconds?" Snowgren asked.

"If we can save 15-30 seconds, that is great. If we can save 60 seconds by improving 2-3 things in the design, we can get to these fires as early in the growth stage as possible. In a lot of ways that's really what we're after; we're looking for those 15- and 20-second improvements."

Also moving from the top of the truck and going onto the right side are the ladders. On the old engine, firefighters would have to wait for the ladders to be hydraulically lowered from the top.

On the new engine, the ladders can be accessed by releasing two spring tensioners, chest high.

"We've decreased the time that it takes for somebody to activate the power to the ladders, flip the switches and stand there and wait for the ladder to be lowered, by removing that entire



Eli Snowgren, son of Denison Fire Chief Cory Snowgren, looks at the ladders and hard suction lines that are mounted on the right side of Denison's new fire engine. On the old engine, that equipment was mounted on the top, making it more difficult to put into service.



The intakes on the back of the new fire engine are shown in this photo.

SUBMITTED PHOTOS

process," Snowgren said.

With these changes, the new engine will look more like traditional engines did, before ladders and hard suction lines were mounted on top of the truck to get them out of the way, he added.

One more change for the new engine is its staffing capacity.

The ideal staffing on an engine is four firefighters to carry out the skill sets needed to get water on a fire quickly.

The new engine will have two extra seats to accommodate two more firefighters going out the door first.

"If we built the cab for only four firefighters, where are the new department members going to get experience?" Snowgren asked. "We have

a couple of more seats in there so we're able to get them to the scene and give them an up-close view right away of our engine company operations."

The new engine was ordered in November 2021 at a bid price of \$622,000. By paying for the chassis up front, the price was decreased by \$10,000.

The old engine, a 2004 model, will be sold to the Manilla Fire Department for \$20,000.

Snowgren said that the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) gives engines a 20-year life span for front-line service, and that from 20-30 years, NFPA recommends reserve status.

The old engine will fill a need that

the Manilla Fire Department is dealing with. That department is in the process of replacing a 1986 pumper that no longer meets today's firefighting standards.

Denison's old engine is worth more than \$20,000 but the trade-off is that the engine will still see service in Denison. The Manilla Fire Department is one of three Auto-Aid partners for Denison (the others are Dow City-Arion and Vail) and responds to all structure fires and any incident requiring a fully-staffed engine. The 2004 Pierce will be the responding engine, so it will continue to benefit Denison residents as well as benefit Manilla residents.



Pictured in the left photo is the new engine for Denison. On the right is the old fire engine, which will be sold to the Manilla Fire Department. It will continue to see service in Denison when called upon through the Auto-Aid system.