



Shopping spree

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Local News
Local Journalists
Local Ownership

The Denison Free Press

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SERVING DENISON & CRAWFORD COUNTY, IOWA

August 24, 2023

“Luca” to be Saturday movie in the park

Water-themed activities to be featured

BY DAN MUNDT

The 2021 film “Luca” will be shown at the August Movies in the Park event at Washington Park on Saturday.

“We chose this movie because it is more oriented toward families and younger children,” said Jennifer Smith, who is the primary organizer of the event.

“With school starting back up this week, we thought it would be a fun way to get kids and families together outside of the classroom to celebrate the beginning of the school year and the end of summer.”

United Bank of Iowa is the sponsor for the public presentation of the film.

“Luca” is a Pixar/Disney studios production about a boy who lives in the sea and runs away from home to live on dry land.

The movie was originally to have had a wide release in movie theaters, but was instead released online in the summer of 2021 as the world emerged from the COVID-19 pandemic.

“Luca” had the highest streaming viewership of all movies in 2021 and received positive reviews.

“It was recommended to me by people that I trust with young kids,” Smith said. “It has a little bit of a multicultural undertone to it. I think that’s important – especially in our community.”

She said the film’s story about a child making connections in a changing world is something everyone can relate to.

The event at the park on Saturday will play off the “tropical, beachy feel” of the film.

“We plan to have water-themed activities going on at the park,” she said. “We’re going to have a giant slip and slide. The bouncy house we acquired last year with a tourism grant actually has a water feature component in it.”

The water feature hasn’t yet been used because the intent was to save it for this year.

A sprinkler will be set up for kids and a volleyball area will also be located near a sprinkler.

“There won’t be a ton of water usage because we know the area is in

LUCA, PAGE 14

Cultural Exchange 4-H student spends a month in South Korea



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Brigid Bonner, right, and her host sister, Hayun Lim, after putting a lock on the fence at Namsan Tower, which is a popular tourist site in South Korea. The locks symbolize love and how it lasts forever, Brigid said.

BY DAN MUNDT

South Korea was Brigid Bonner’s first choice for a country to visit as a delegate for the States’ 4-H International Exchange Program.

After missing out on the program in 2022 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, she applied again this year.

The application required two recommendations, and several short and long essays.

“Overall, it wasn’t bad,” she said.

Brigid was accepted for the Taiwan exchange program in February, but

EXCHANGE, PAGE 12

Braids Galore opens in Uptown Denison

Back to school appointments keep shop busy this week



PHOTO BY DAN MUNDT

RaShun Peterson braids the hair of a client in her new shop, Braids Galore, in Uptown Denison. She opened the shop on August 14 after running the business out of her home since January.

BY DAN MUNDT

RaShun Peterson recently returned to braiding hair, which she did for a good portion of her life before taking a few years off.

Her business, Braids Galore, recently moved into a space in Uptown Denison.

“I braided hair in Omaha for 22 years,” she said. “I took a break for seven years and I drove semi truck with my husband.”

Her husband, John, grew up in Denison; RaShun grew up in Omaha.

Their daughter, Gemma, who was born last summer, was the spark for another change in their lives.

“We wanted to get off the road and be at home, and I decided to do what I know best, so I went back to braiding,” RaShun said.

They initially opened Braids Galore in their home.

“I thought it was just going to be a little something on the side – nothing big,” she said. “Since we opened in January, my phone has not stopped ringing. We’ve outgrown our house, so

BRAIDS, PAGE 2

What’s old is new again

TV antennas are back in style



PHOTO BY DAN MUNDT

This classic TV antenna is located on the Broadway & Main Mall in Uptown Denison.

BY DAN MUNDT

Outdoor TV antennas were once the only way to receive the signals that bring news and entertainment programming to household televisions.

Over the last few decades, antennas began to disappear as cable television companies, and then the internet, started delivering programming.

Those technologies eventually became the dominant delivery systems.

That trend has reversed in the last few years as more and more people have discovered that free programming still exists over the air from broadcast stations.

Increasing cable and streaming costs have driven a reappearance of outdoor antennas.

Henry Giasson, owner of Steren Electronics Radio Shack in Uptown Denison, said he decided to hire a dedicated antenna installer about two and a half years ago to help him keep up with demand.

“We just did our 200th installation,” Giasson said.

Antenna sales have been high for the last several years and have noticeably increased in recent months, he said.

The United States transitioned from analog to digital broadcasting in 2009; since that change, many additional channels have been added to the digital signals from broadcast stations.

“There are roughly 25 channels on either side – from Omaha or Sioux City,” Giasson said.

Denison is not situated well to receive signals from the Des Moines broadcast stations, he said.

ANTENNAS, PAGE 3

Search is on for new Washington Park playground



PHOTO BY GORDON WOLF

Workers for Ten Point Construction clean up the debris from Kids Kastle after it was demolished on Monday morning. The immediate demolition of the playground was triggered by a recommendation from the city’s insurance carrier, due to a number of hazards.

BY GORDON WOLF

Request for proposals (RFPs) for a new playground at Washington Park in Denison will be sent to around 10 vendors to determine the options available in equipment and playground surfaces.

The new playground will replace Kids Kastle, the multi-faceted wooden playground with its spires and variety of climbing equipment, was demolished on Monday, falling victim to deterioration.

Kids Kastle was a project for which community members and businesses raised funds to build in 1997.

For the past number of years, the parks and rec director and the board, and the city council members, have been discussing the need to replace Kids Kastle because of its deterioration and difficulty in keeping up with the maintenance and replacement of

wooden posts and boards.

Last week, time and insurance risk caught up to the wooden playground when a representative from the Iowa Communities Assurance Pool (ICAP) came to Denison to assess the condition of all the city property. This had not been done in the past because the city had just finished its first year of coverage with ICAP.

The ICAP representative recommended the immediate removal of Kids Kastle based on its condition and safety hazards. Among the hazards, which were detailed in a city press release, were deteriorated wooden support poles, nails protruding from wood, potential head entrapment on the tube slide, missing railings, tripping hazards due to warped boards, potential strangulation hazards at slide

PLAYGROUND, PAGE 3

People travel to Denison from all over to have hair braided

BRAIDS, FROM PAGE 1

we decided to get a little more space so we could offer a lot more hair products and accessories."

RaShun said she can store many more products at the new location, which saves her a lot of trips to Omaha to get supplies.

The new Braids Galore, located at 1308 Broadway in Denison, opened on August 14.

Her clients come from all over. "The next nearest place is 75 miles away," she said. "They were having to go to Des Moines, Sioux City, or Omaha so it seemed like this community really needed something like this."

RaShun braids hair and adds accessories, and also sews in or crochets hair extensions.

"I do a lot of little girls with natural hair with pony tails and braids, and I also do accessories," RaShun said.

"Braiding is the number one natural

way to get your hair to grow, and it keeps it protected from the elements. That's why a lot of African Americans braid our hair up - it's the quickest way to protect our hair."

A lot of her appointments in the last week have been to help kids get ready for school.

"I'm really booked just with hairdos for school," she said.

RaShun keeps her prices affordable to help out people trying to pay their bills.

"I make sure my prices stay below everyone else's," she said. "With the way things are, the last thing you want to have to worry about is 'How is my kid going to look for school?'"

She and John plan to launch their own brand of hair extensions and an online store in the near future.

RaShun said she advertises mostly on social media and through word of mouth.

"It speaks to the value that I have people traveling from Omaha just to come to us," she said. "We've had people travel from all over."

She said she's happy that she returned to braiding after a break.

"It's something I enjoy," RaShun said. "I love what I do."



PHOTO BY DAN MUNDT

Braids Galore is well stocked with a variety of braiding and hair extension products. RaShun and John Peterson plan to launch their own brand of hair extensions and an online store in the near future.

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

Four minutes to shop



PHOTOS BY GORDON WOLF



Casey Buck with Ten Point Construction gathered \$864.90 worth of items from the shelves at Fareway in Denison Tuesday morning. The event was the annual shopping spree sponsored by Broadway Dental as an auction item for the Denison Rotary Auction last fall. Ten Point Construction was the winning bidder. Casey said the four-minute time limit was short and that he just tried to fill the carts as fast as he could.

In the group picture are Fareway staff, Forest Espinoza, Yahira Murillo, Dylan Trotter, Stacy Schrum, Austin Brummer and Mike Dahm. Casey Buck is at the far right and his father, KR, is at the left.

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ANTENNAS, FROM PAGE 1

Popular channels such as MeTV, Comet, Charge!, Ion and many others provide a variety of old and new programming.

The channels populate the digital dial as additions to the main broadcast channel.

The AARP recently put out a list of "23 Free, 'Hidden' TV Channels You Can Find Over the Air," on their

website.

Across the country, about 130 individual channels are available, depending on location.

Outdoor antennas are Giasson's most popular item; he said the broadcast signals are generally too weak for in-attic mounts - and old-style rabbit ears are just about useless.

Information about channels available in the local area is available from fcc.gov/media/engineering/dtvmaps

PLAYGROUND, FROM PAGE 1

entry points, pinch points and a number of other hazards.

The distribution of the RFPs was approved by the Denison City Council at a special meeting on Tuesday.

No budget amount was set for the new playground. The council members want to wait until they receive the information back from vendors to see what's available and what the city can afford.

The replacement of the playground is seen as a necessity by the council members.

Also at Tuesday's meeting, Jennifer Smith introduced a grant possibility to add another basketball court to Washington Park and to resurface the existing court. Action must be taken soon, as the application deadline is

August 30. Smith found the grant after attending a Parks & Rec meeting on Monday.

The city must provide a \$10,000 match if the grant application is successful.

A special meeting was set for noon on August 29 for the city council to approve a resolution of support.

Along with that, a master plan for Washington Park was seen as a need. A representative of Beck Engineering was at Tuesday's meeting to provide information on playgrounds and parks. Beck Engineering, the city's contracted engineering firm, will visit with the Parks & Rec Board on costs of services to develop a master plan. The Parks & Rec Board will submit its recommendation to the city council for approval.

LAND TRANSACTIONS**Warranty Deeds**

• Dennis Franken to Dennis Franken Revocable Trust, Dennis Franken, Trustee, N1/2 NE1/4 Section 26, Stockholm Township.

• Mary Lou Bonbrest and Marc Bonbrest to Irene T. Feilmeier, NE1/4 Section 16, Jackson Township, \$424,500.

• Rita J. Corbin and Jerry Corbin to Irene T. Feilmeier, NE1/4 Section 16, Jackson Township, \$424,500.

• Norman Andersen and Carolyn Andersen to Xiomara Sarae Vargas and Gerardo Javier Ahlberg Bizarro, Lots 4 and 5, Denison Morningside 1st Addition; \$138,000.

• Laverne H. Ambrose and Katja U. Ambrose to Laverne H. & Katja U. Ambrose Revocable Trust, Laverne H. Ambrose and Katja U. Ambrose, Trustees, Laverne H. Ambrose LE, Katja U. Ambrose LE, and Daniel S. Ambrose, Lot 18, Denison Purdy Hills Addition.

• Dennis L. Mozer and Lori L. Mozer Joint Revocable Trust, Lori L. Mozer and Dennis L. Mozer, Trustees, to Mark Spiegel Revocable Trust, Mark Spiegel, Trustee, SE1/4 NW1/4 Section 5, Hanover Township; SW1/4 NW1/4 Section 5, Hanover Township; \$233,871.15.

• Dianne M. McCaffery to Ian Matthew Ward, Lots 13 and 14 Block 89, Denison Original Town, \$140,000.

• James Carroll Gress to Scott James Gress and James Carroll Gress, Lot 13 Block 3, Ricketts Original Town.

• Cory R. Schmadeke and Stephanie A. Schmadeke to Ocham K. Toang, Lot 3, Denison Schultz Addition; \$258,000.

• Robert O. Maxwell Revocable Trust, Robert O. Maxwell, Trustee, to Jeremy Lee Muff, Kathryn Ann Muff and Chad

Thomas Muff, NE1/4 NE1/4 Section 8, East Boyer Township; E1/2 NW1/4 Section 8, East Boyer Township; S1/2 SE1/4 Section 5, East Boyer Township; SE1/4 Section 5, East Boyer Township; E1/2 SE1/4 Section 5, East Boyer Township; NE1/4 Section 8, East Boyer Township; E1/2 NW1/4 Section 8, East Boyer Township; E1/2 NW1/4 Section 8, East Boyer Township; \$1,383,200.

Contract

• Jose Munoz to Francisco Velazquez, Lots 2 and 3 Block 34, Denison Original Town; \$150,000.

Quit Claim Deed

• Amadon Acres LLC to Michael J. Fink, S1/2 SE1/4 Section 14, Goodrich Township; SW1/4 SW1/4 Section 13, Goodrich Township; NW1/4 SW1/4 Section 13, Goodrich Township; NW1/4 NW1/4 Section 24, Goodrich Township; NE1/4 NE1/4 Section 23, Goodrich Township; SW1/4 NW1/4 NE1/4 NE1/4 Section 23, Goodrich Township; NW1/4 SW1/4 NE1/4 NE1/4 Section 23, Goodrich Township.

Court Officer Deed

• David W. Crouch Estate, Tammy L. Crouch and Nikki A. Blume, Administrators, to Jesus M. Valdez and Guadalupe Valdez, Lot 5 Block 136, Denison Original Town; \$43,000.

Federal Tax Lien

• Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury to WCP LLC; \$3,504.41.

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Going underground



PHOTO BY GORDON WOLF

Chris Ball with the Denison Municipal Utilities electric department works on a project to push secondary cable into a duct installed by Quality Communications as part of the overhead-to-underground conversion project. The work pictured is being done in the alley across from Thrifty White Pharmacy.

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Winner at Crawford County for Life booth



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Drene "Tina" Briggles won the \$50 CDC gift card at the Crawford County for Life booth at the Crawford County Fair. She is picture with Noel Johnson, president of Crawford County for Life.

Local Calendar

SATURDAY
AUGUST 26, 2023

Free outdoor movies are back on the big screen at Washington Park, starting at 6 p.m. The next movie nights will be September 30 and October 28. If there is inclement weather, the movies will be shown the following Saturday. There will be food/drink vendors or you can bring in your own food/drink. Please pick up after yourself!

The United Methodist Church will hold a rummage sale from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. the church fellowship hall. This is a very large sale with many nice items! All items purchased will be as a free-will donation (within reason).

SUNDAY
AUGUST 27, 2023

Izaak Walton League breakfast at Bartlett Park, 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. Freewill donation goes to Izaak Walton League programs for youth. Bartlett park is located at 2795 Avenue E, just west of Highway 39 between Deloit and Kiron.

TUESDAY
AUGUST 29, 2023

Euchre night at Ricketts, 7-8 p.m. at Ricketts Community Building. Join in on a fun 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.

WEDNESDAY
AUGUST 30, 2023

Euchre Night at Charter Oak Community Building, 7 p.m. 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.)

Read and play at Norelius Community Library, 10 a.m. Thursday, August 31, 2023 Fireside book discussion at Norelius Community Library, 2-3 p.m.



Submit events at denisonfreepress.com

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

To submit a letter visit, 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.

Local Edward Jones financial advisor Joe Ferguson recognized by Forbes

Edward Jones Financial Advisor Joe Ferguson of Denison has been named to the 2023 Forbes Top Next-Gen Wealth Advisors Best-in-State ranking by Forbes/SHOOK Research. The list is comprised of more than 1,460 financial advisors nationwide, all under age 40.

Ferguson ranked No. 2 in Iowa. He has served area investors for the past seven years.

"This is an incredible honor, one I could never have achieved without the tremendous support from my branch team. And I am forever indebted to my clients for the trust they have put in me and the relationships we've built as we

work toward the financial goals that help give them the freedom to live life on their terms," Ferguson said. "This work inspires me because I know that, for years to come, I can make a meaningful difference in the lives of my clients and colleagues, and in my community."

This ranking is given to the top financial advisors under 40 in their respective states based on criteria that include compliance records, assets under care and more. The full Best-in-State list is online at Forbes Top Next-Gen Wealth Advisors Best-in-State (www.forbes.com/lists/best-in-state-next-gen-advisors/?sh=42ab8d6b5fc3).



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Monarch Schedule

August 25 - Council Bluffs TJ (A)	September 15 - Glenwood (A)
September 1 - Harlan (H)	September 22 - Ft. Dodge (A)
September 8 - Carroll (H)	September 29 - Spencer (H)
	October 6 - Storm Lake (H)
	October 13 - LeMars (A)
	October 20 - Sioux City West (H)



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- X LGBTQ+ students targeted by hate, fear, and discrimination**
- X millions of public school dollars diverted to rich private schools**
- X book bans and “white-washed” history deny students the truth**
- X democracy weakened by blocked public discussion of these issues**



ON THE SCANNER

August 16, 5:50 p.m.: Two females were seen on camera stealing various donated items, valued at \$300, from the Good Samaritan Thrift Shop in Denison. An arrest warrant was issued for a subject.

August 17, 11:45 a.m.: Hy-Vee reported that a container of shaving cream, razors and deodorant, each valued at \$5, had been taken from the store.

August 17, 12:20 p.m.: Elva Alcaez Hernandez, of Vail, reported that her wallet had been stolen from her vehicle while it was in the 10th block of South 14th Street in Denison. The wallet contained \$100 and a Social Security card.

August 17, 2:39 p.m.: Deputy Ten Eyck with the Crawford County Sheriff's Office is investigating theft of copper wire taken from a hog building in the 1500 block of 190th Street, Ricketts. The owner had not been at the building for three months. A neighbor said that sometime in the two weeks prior to July 4, two males stopped and asked about the buildings. The subjects had dealer plates on the truck they were in.

August 17, 3:45 p.m.: The Crawford County Sheriff's Office received a call about a reckless driver on Highway 59 just south of Denison.

August 17, 8:14 p.m.: Deputy Specketer with the Crawford County Sheriff's Office investigated a complaint of a vehicle versus calf accident that happened at E16 and Highway 39, Deloit.

August 18, 1:38 a.m.: The Crawford County Ambulance and the Kiron Fire Department were paged for a medical incident on North Orange Street in Kiron.

August 18, 1:13 p.m.: The Dow City-Arion Fire Department was paged for a bailer on fire on Two Mile Road, one-half mile south of Highway 30.

August 18, 7:33 p.m.: Officer Groth with the Denison Police Department investigated a two-vehicle accident that happened on 1st Avenue South. A white 2022 Ford F150 Lariat pickup being driven by Fastunia Cruz, 62, of Denison, was legally parked on the south side of the 1200 block of 1st Avenue South. She attempted to pull the vehicle ahead to assist with the unloading of the truck. She failed to maintain control of the vehicle, which caused the pickup to collide with a legally parked white 2018 Chevrolet 1500 pickup. Cruz's pickup continued to move forward and became wedged between a fire hydrant, a tree and the ISU Extension office. No damage was reported to the building. Cruz's pickup received \$15,000 damage to the front driver side corner and was disabled; the officer arranged for a tow. The Chevrolet pickup received \$3,500 damage to the rear middle. The sidewalk and fire hydrant received \$1,000 damage. Cruz was not injured. She was cited for failing to maintain control and for not having a valid driver's license.

August 19, 1:24 a.m.: Deputy Miller with the Crawford County Sheriff's Office handled a call about a tall male walking along Highway 30 westbound from Vail. The complaint said the subject was flipping people off and the complainant was afraid someone would hit the subject as he was dressed in all dark clothing. The deputy gave the subject a ride to Denison.

August 19, 9:42 a.m.: Officer Torres with the Denison Police

Department investigated a single-vehicle accident that happened at Fareway. Charlene Joy Gehring, 86, of Denison, was driving a red 2022 Chevrolet Blazer. She drove into the Fareway building, causing \$4,000 damage to the front middle of her vehicle. The accident report did not specify damage to the Fareway building. The vehicle's airbags went off. Gehring received suspected minor/non-incapacitating injuries. EMS was called to the scene. Gehring refused medical help. Her vehicle was privately towed.

August 19, 8:28 p.m.: The Crawford County Ambulance was paged for a lift assist in the 2000 block of Highway 59, Denison.

August 19, 9:21 p.m.: Deputy Miller with the Crawford County Sheriff's Office assisted trucks in getting turned around by the bridge construction on L51 near Charter Oak.

August 19, 11:20 p.m.: Deputy Miller with the Crawford County Sheriff's Office gave a subject a ride to the Harrison County line from the vicinity of the ethanol plant in Denison. The subject wanted to go to Omaha.

August 20, 1:24 a.m.: Deputy Miller with the Crawford County Sheriff's Office handled a call from a subject who heard a horn honk outside a residence in the 2200 block of Highway 141, Denison. A dog was barking, and the caller was unsure if anyone was outside the residence. The deputy reported that he checked the area and that nothing appeared to be missing.

August 20, 1:34 a.m.: Deputy Miller with the Crawford County Sheriff's Office assisted the Carroll County Sheriff's Office with a pursuit that was going westbound on Highway 30 from Arcadia.

August 20, 2:31 a.m.: The Crawford County Ambulance and the Manilla Fire Department were paged for a medical incident in the 2400 block of M47, Manilla.

August 20, 3:04 a.m.: Deputy Miller with the Crawford County Sheriff's Office investigated a complaint of two motorcycles speeding and doing burnouts all over Ricketts. His report said he would try to locate the suspects on Sunday evening.

August 20, 12:18 p.m.: Officer Krajicek with the Denison Police Department investigated a two-vehicle accident that happened in the Walmart parking lot. Rosa Ina Francisca Medrano, 50, of Vail, was driving a red 2020 Toyota Highlander, and Victor Hernandez Reyes, 46, of Ida Grove, was driving a gray Mitsubishi Outlander. The vehicles struck each other while backing out of parking spaces. Hernandez Reyes said he was driving a friend's vehicle and could not find the insurance papers. The vehicle he was driving received \$650 damage to the rear driver side corner. The Medrano vehicle received \$750 damage to the rear passenger side corner.

August 20, 6:03 p.m.: Brian Pierce was arrested for OWI-1st offense after a traffic stop on Highway 59 south of U Avenue, Denison. Deputy Christensen with the Crawford County Sheriff's Office handled the incident.

August 21, 2 a.m.: The Crawford County Sheriff's Office received a report of a possible car accident at Highway 39 and Buchanan Avenue, Kiron. The caller reported hearing a loud noise.

Funeral Notices

Lois Ernst

Funeral services for Lois Ernst, 94, of Schleswig, will be at 10 a.m. Saturday, August 26, at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Schleswig with burial at Trinity Lutheran Cemetery, Grant Township, in Ida County.

Friends may call from 4-7 p.m. Friday, August 25, at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Schleswig.

She died Saturday, August 19, at

Gracewell in Denison.

Survivors include two sons Allen (Cher) Ernst, of Illinois, and Jerry (Barb) Ernst, of Schleswig; two daughters, Diane Taylor, of Colorado, and Donita (Dan) Mork, of Sac City; 11 grandchildren; 28 great-grandchildren; two step-grandchildren; four great-great-grandchildren; one step-great-great-granddaughter; sister-in-law, Audrey (Jim) Munson; and many beloved nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

Services are entrusted to the Huebner Funeral Home.

The Denison Free Press

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Hot Summer Nights ends on a hot streak

Big crowd ignores heat, humidity

BY DAN MUNDT

“We had an amazing turnout,” said Taylor Borkowski of the fifth and final Hot Summer Nights event of 2023, which took place on Saturday.

“As soon as the sun went down, we definitely saw an influx in people.”

Temperatures on Saturday hovered in the upper 90s but dropped about 15° by 9:30 p.m.

Initially, only four events had been planned for 2023; Borkowski added the fifth event, dubbed the Encore, after the success of the first three.

“It was the best one; it was amazing,” she said. “We think we had somewhere between 1,200 and 1,500 people uptown at the absolute peak time. It was truly amazing for being such a short amount of time between announcing it and the actual event.”

She said the energy level was high all through the evening.

“The ‘real feel’ was something like

117°, so to still have 1,200 people uptown is actually insane,” Borkowski said.

The warm temperatures weren’t able to slow down a street dance that started to pick up steam after 10 p.m.

Over the course of about two hours, hundreds of people made their way to the space in front of the band, El Nuevo Imperio, and danced as a group, often in step with one another.

“It was so much fun,” Borkowski said.

The sponsor list for the event was “a mile long” and many volunteers from the community made the event happen; volunteers gave up five nights to set up and tear down the events and others worked behind the scenes to keep the books straight, she said.

“You see my name all the time connected with this, but it takes tons of people to make everything come together and make everything happen,”

Borkowski said. “I work with the best team. Everyone does an amazing job and that’s what makes my job easy.”

She pointed out that her ability to lean on an experienced group of volunteers made adding a fifth night possible.

“Everything kind of just fell into place,” she said.

Hot Summer Nights has grown into an event that brings people of all backgrounds and ages together, she said.

Her overall goal is to promote local shopping, which is why she set the event among the uptown businesses.

“We’ve helped turn Uptown Denison into a destination,” Borkowski said. “It’s about investing in the future of Denison.”

She has received a lot of positive feedback from many people around the community.

“They just loved having something to do,” she said.

Every year is a learning experience, and she plans to incorporate this year’s lessons into the plan for 2024.

“There will be small changes made for next year, but I only envision it getting bigger and better as the years move forward,” Borkowski said. “I can’t wait to do it again in 2024.”

The finances for the Hot Summer Nights events are now handled through the City of Denison, so it will be a few weeks before the final numbers are known.

“I think we will end up with about \$12,000,” Borkowski said.

In the past, the proceeds have been used to fund uptown improvements, but that won’t be the case this year.

“In talking to the uptown improvement committee, I think everyone sees an immediate need for the money to go to the wellness center,” she said. “Uptown improvement is something that we can focus on forever, actually. There’s nothing that has to be done immediately, whereas the wellness center committee has a concrete goal that needs to be attained very quickly, so they (the Uptown Improvement Committee) are OK if all of the money goes to the wellness center.”



PHOTOS BY DAN MUNDT

The crowd opted for sitting and eating early in the night while the temperatures were still in the mid-90s.



El Nuevo Imperio, of Crete, Nebraska, played to an enthusiastic crowd that grew as the night went on. The band ended up staying on the stage until midnight, which was an hour longer than scheduled.



Manuel tried out the mechanical bull and discovered he was a natural.

“ We’re here to pick up this week’s Denison Free Press! ”



Keven, left, and Jesús react after Keven’s removal of a block causes the Jenga Giant stack to topple

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.



Once the temperatures dropped to the mid-80s, the crowd started making their way to the area in front of the stage. Between about 10 p.m. and midnight, hundreds of people danced the night away.

Sports

WATERMELON SCRIMMAGE

PHOTOS BY RHONDA RAUCH



Head coach Dave Wiebers talks to senior Blaine Brodsky after a play at the watermelon scrimmage.



#11 Luke Wiebers looks to pitch the ball.



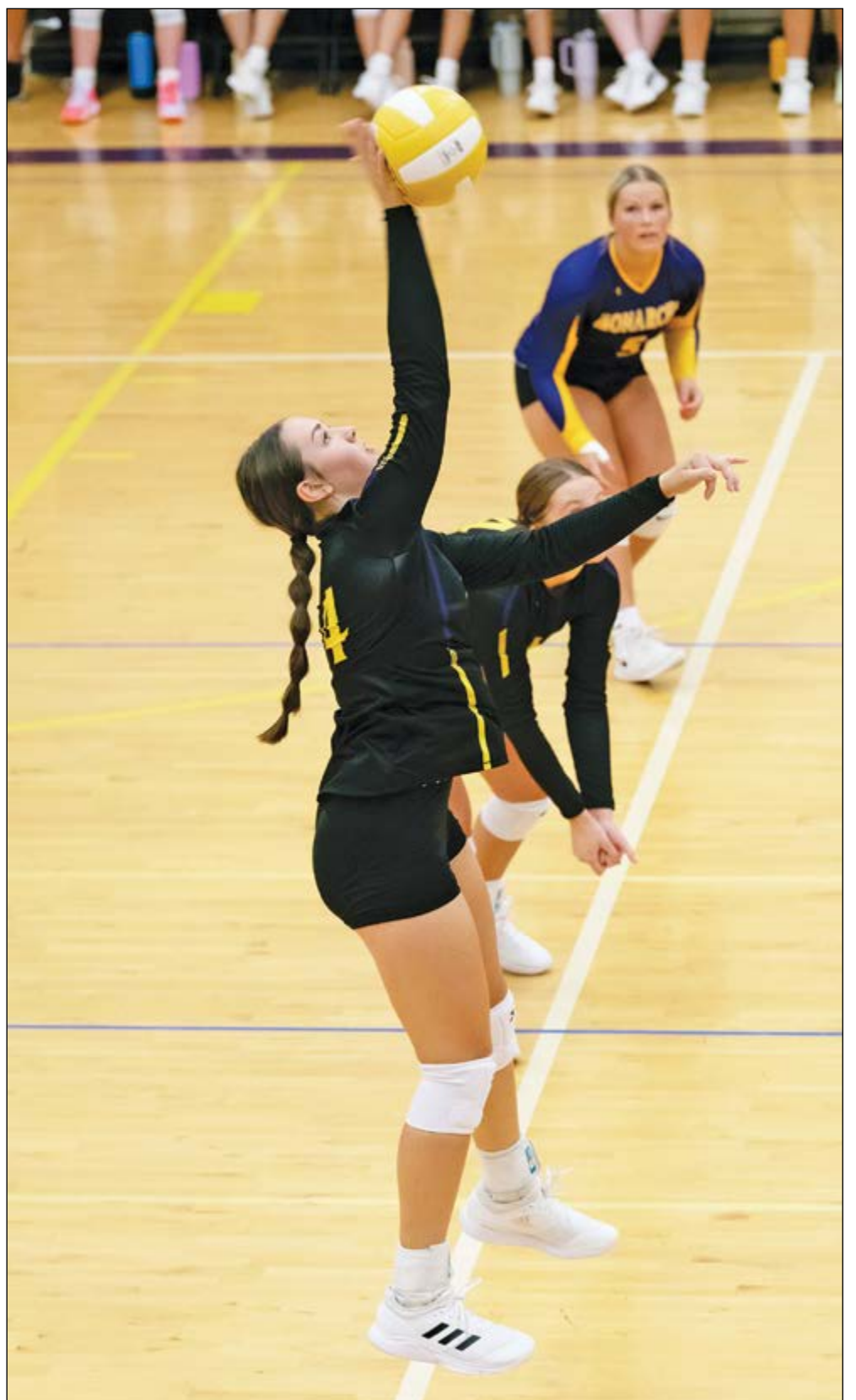
#21 Ty Fink dives ahead for extra yards.

DENISON-SCHLESWIG VS MVAOCOUCU SCRIMMAGE

PHOTOS BY RHONDA RAUCH



Addison Inman and Gabby Cardenas block a kill.



Hannah Slater goes up for a kill.

Creating a Monarch



PHOTOS BY GORDON WOLF

Tony Stafki, owner of Wall of Art, based in the Twin Cities, paints on the wall at the Denison High School gym. The gym is getting a major makeover with new bleachers and new aesthetics on the floor and the walls.

In the championship show



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The acro dance quartet composed of (from left) Jordyn Linn, Ashlyn Herrig, Elli Heiden and Mary Claire Matthews competed in the Championship Show of the Bill Riley Talent Search at the Iowa State Fair on Sunday. Linn, 17, Herrig, 18, and Matthews, 18, all from Denison, and Heiden, 17, of Schleswig, performed their dance to the song "Freak." They qualified for the Bill Riley Talent Search at the state level with a first-place finish at the Monona County Fair show in July. Their first performance at the state fair on August 13 qualified them for a semi-final round on August 19. They were named a finalist act and competed in the championship show the following day. The four girls are pictured with their instructor, Cory Pieper with HardCor Performing Arts in Denison.

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Bonner interested in studying international relations/business

EXCHANGE, FROM PAGE 1

then a spot opened for South Korea in June, so she switched.

"It was my number one pick because I wanted to learn about the South Korean culture because it has emerged so much since the Koreas split, and now it's become a first world nation," she said. "I didn't know a whole lot about Korea, so I really wanted to learn a lot about it."

Brigid is 15 and a sophomore at Denison High School.

She has been in 4-H since fourth grade; before that, she was in 4-H Clover Kids.

Brigid recently returned from her four-week visit to South Korea.

She said she and her classmates learn about the Korean War in history classes – and some know a lot about the South Korean music style known as K-pop.

"But I think in general people don't know a whole lot about the culture," Brigid said. "I didn't know much about it, so it was really cool to learn about something very, very different from what we have here."

The 4-H exchange students spent the first night in South Korea at the Korea 4-H Center and met their host families at a "matching ceremony" the next morning.

"We introduced ourselves and where we were from in Korean and then our host families came up and did the initial greeting," she said. "I had an amazing and wonderful host family."

Miae Park, her host mother, Ik Sam Lim, her host father, and Hayun Lim, her host sister, live in Paju, in Gyeonggi Province, located just south of the 38th parallel, which is the border with North Korea.

Brigid noted that those are the Americanized versions of the family members' names; family names come first in South Korea.

On Brigid's first night in the province, the family took her to see the Gimpo Historical Center.

"It was a chance to see traditional Korean houses," she said. "Nowadays, most of them live in apartments because there are so many people and it's not a big country."

While there, Brigid learned how to make a piece of traditional Korean

pottery.

"It took three weeks to get back to me because of all the curing they do to get it to turn a pretty green color," she said.

Her host sister, Hayun, who is a year younger, took Brigid to Seoul, the capital of South Korea, several times for shopping, museum visits and sightseeing.

Brigid said she learned a little bit about the language before her trip – useful words and phrases like hello and thank you – but the language barrier was difficult.

Fortunately, Hayun is fairly fluent in English.

"She has been learning it for a long time; she understood a lot of what I said and could translate it to other people," Brigid said.

Most people in South Korea know at least a little English because the language is taught in the country's schools.

"It was pretty easy to figure out what they were saying or to find someone who could translate if we needed to have a more in-depth conversation," she said.

While in Seoul, Brigid visited South Korea's memorial to the Korean War.

"I've seen the Korean War Memorial in Washington, D.C., but to see their memorial was also very interesting," Brigid said.

She said the memorial reminded her of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, which she has also visited.

Brigid said her favorite experience of the trip was a visit to the demilitarized zone (DMZ) between North Korea and South Korea.

"I really enjoyed going to the DMZ because we hear a lot about it, and it was interesting to see it from their perspective," she said.

She had the opportunity to go past the civilian line and see the museums and other sites in the area on a tour.

"It was a great chance to learn about the different perspectives from both sides, and to learn about what they think about reunification and the history of the war," Brigid said.

Her host family took her to see many other places in South Korea while she was there.

Brigid said she is very happy that she got involved with the exchange program.

"I hope to do other similar 4-H programs, and I want to be an exchange student for a year after I graduate from high school," she said. "This was a good opportunity to get a glimpse of that and

see what it's like."

She said her involvement in 4-H has been a good way to learn about leadership, citizenship and communications.

"Earlier this year, I went to Ignite by 4-H in Washington, D.C., and I've gone to the Iowa 4-H Youth Conference in Ames for two years," Brigid said. "I was a part of Career Pathways, which is a program for youth to learn about the different career pathways and see what interests them."

She's also a member of the Crawford County 4-H Council.

Brigid took 24 static projects, four communications projects, and two style show projects to the Crawford County Fair this year; of the above, all four communications projects, a photography project, a woodworking project and a citizen project went on to the Iowa State Fair.

"Communications is probably my favorite project area in 4-H," she said.

Brigid believes her exchange program experiences will be useful for her future education plans.

"I'm interested in studying international relations, international business and communications," she said. "I think it could be helpful getting other cultures' perspectives to pursue this field. I think it could be helpful in any situation because you could see how other people live and how it's different from life here in America."



Brigid and Hayun stand partway up a waterfall at a South Korean national park.



Brigid, right, and Hayun take in the view from Gamaksan Mountain after climbing it; Brigid said it took about an hour to get to this spot.



Brigid learns to play a traditional Korean instrument while wearing a hanbok, which is a traditional Korean dress.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

From left, Miae, Brigid, Hayun, and Ik Sam on a famous bridge in Paju, which is the city where the family lives.



Brigid, in the cap, spoke with students in her host mother's class; she learned about school in South Korea while telling the students about her life in America.



From left, Ik Sam, Hayun, Brigid and Miae at the 4-H farewell ceremony at the end of Brigid's visit to Korea.

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On to the nationals

Harrison Dahm is champion grocery bagger in Iowa

BY GORDON WOLF

Fourth place, third place and now first place.

That was Harrison Dahm's progression in three consecutive years of competing in the Iowa Grocery Industry's Best Bagger Contest at the Iowa State Fair.

Upon becoming Iowa's top grocery bagger on August 11, Dahm earned a ticket to the national grocery bagging contest in Las Vegas in March.

Dahm has been bagging groceries since May of 2018 at the Denison Fareway where his father, Mike, is the grocery manager.

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

Dahm said competing in the two previous state contests made the difference this year.

"Granted, it's a little different year to year but it's kind of the same concept," he said. "I don't want to say I was the older guy, but I had the most experience among the Fareway contestants."

Dahm, who is starting his second year at Iowa State University, had to compete against other Fareway baggers to qualify for the state contest.

At the state contest, the baggers compete in heats and then, if they qualify, in the championship round.

Dahm had a good time in his preliminary heat and in the championship round, but there was one bagger who finished before him.

Time is important but also important is the weight distribution among the three grocery bags that were packed.

"The weight category is the difference between your heaviest bag and your lightest bag, and then you subtract that difference from 5, because that's the total amount of points you can get for the weight category," Dahm explained.

The weight difference between Dahm's heaviest and lightest bag of groceries was just .9 pounds, so he earned 4.1 points in the weight category, and that made the difference in winning the contest.

Dahm still was nervous that the other bagger finished before he did.

"My timer said I went faster that round (the championship rounds) so I was kind of thinking maybe I kind of had it in the bag, but then when I turned around and saw that this kid from Hy-Vee was done, I did get pretty nervous," he said.

The way the placings are announced after the contest still didn't give Dahm any idea if he would be at the top of the finalists or last or second to last.

"There were six people in the final round and they only call four places (in reverse order), so I didn't know if I was first or fifth or sixth until that last moment," he said. "It was just a huge sigh of relief."



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Harrison Dahm, of Denison, is pictured with a trophy and a ceremonial check for \$500 after winning the Iowa Grocery Industry's Best Bagger Contest at the Iowa State Fair on August 11.

Dahm had his own cheering squad for the contest; he said that helped.

"I had my grandma on my dad's side, who is in her 90s, and then I had a couple of aunts and uncles, and obviously, my parents and my brother and sister and my sister's husband," he said. "I even had a couple family friends show up from back in Denison and a couple of customers from Fareway."

Dahm said his group of family and friends always gets to the contest early and sits in the front row.

"So, walking out there for the first round, it kind of just calms me down that I have a bunch of people watching," he said. "I know them. I come out and they cheer my name. It makes me happy and gets me going."

Dahm has already been learning about the national finals. He said last year's national bagging champion, who is also from a Fareway store, has told him some of the details, such as a change in groceries to bag from the first to the final round, and that a bagger can use as many bags as he or she wants to.

He said he would practice at the Fareway store in Denison on Thanksgiving and Christmas breaks and again on spring break.

Dahm was not exactly eager to compete for the first time three years ago.

"I obviously knew it (the contest) was a thing because my dad did it way back when," he said. "I think it was an assistant manager at the time who said I

should enter the contest."

Dahm thought differently but then found he had been signed up.

"Then you know, when you start something, you don't want to be bad at it, so you have to practice," he said.

"You know you have to do good. It's at the state fair and when you get there you realize it's kind of a big thing, and you're bagging groceries in front of 250 people," he added.

Dahm said bagging groceries is something he and others do for customers every day as part of customer service at Fareway.

He added, "We take great pride in it, so for Fareway to win this is huge, because we're all about service from your cart to your car."

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Vendors will sell food, drinks and candy

LUCA, FROM PAGE 1

a water watch, but this is a good way for everybody to get a little bit wet, and make the best use we can of the resources we have in the community," Smith said.

The Denison Volunteer Fire Department will bring their new fire truck to the park for the event and will help with some of the water activities.

"The fire department is always one of the groups that's down to help

with all kinds of community events, and I know the guys in general are supporters of the parks department," she said.

Rock of Salvation Church will be on hand selling pupusas, elotes, cotton candy, and shaved ice treats.

Bakers on Broadway and will serve homemade desserts.

"Bakers on Broadway is Tabby Hoyle and Denima Lund's new business," Smith said. "We're excited to have them as first-time participants in the event and hope to recruit them for future ones, as well."

Denison Parks & Rec will serve popcorn and nachos and The Cottage

will be selling freeze-dried candies, which are growing in popularity.

"If anyone else wants to join, we're always looking for more vendors," she said. "Get your name out to Sam (Denison Parks & Rec Program Director Sam Ellis) or me and we'll be more than happy to work with you."

Activities will begin at Washington Park at 4 p.m. on Saturday.

"We did that to have enough daylight left to actually enjoy the water features without anyone getting chilly," Smith said.

Daytime highs are forecast to be around 80°.

Smith said the start of the event is set to coincide with the end of the Market at the Farm event at the Fineran family farm, which runs from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

"Luca" will begin at dark, which will be about 8:30 p.m. Saturday.

Smith said the demolition of Kids Kastle playground at Washington Park shouldn't stop anyone from coming to the event on Saturday.

"Even though the playground is closed, the movie is still going on and we're going to make the best use of the park that we can," she said.

"Movies in the Park" are free events and everyone is invited, she said.

First concert



PHOTOS BY GORDON WOLF

Sixth graders from Denison Community Schools presented their first concert ever on Thursday, August 17. The concert was performed just six weeks after music lessons started.



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DIVAS 3

– Three Powerhouse Female Vocalists –

Saturday, September 9, 2023 | 7:30 p.m.

Three female singers with powerhouse voices sing the biggest hits of the greatest divas in music history. This vibrant show spans four decades covering the 1960's through the 1990's with hits by Aretha Franklin, Carole King, Celine Dion, Whitney Houston, Cher, Dolly Parton, Donna Summer, ABBA, and many more! Individual members of the group have all starred in shows on the Las Vegas Strip.

Availa Bank

JIVE FOR FIVE

– Fort Dodge Area Brass Quintet –

Sunday, October 8, 2023 | 2:30 p.m.

Based out of Fort Dodge, Iowa, the Jive for Five brass quintet has performed in many venues around the state, and has been a featured brass ensemble with the Ames Municipal Band and Karl King Municipal Band.



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Broadway Dental

KISS ME ONCE: STORIES FROM THE HOMEFRONT

– WWII Era Songs –

Monday, March 11, 2024 | 7:30 p.m.

"Kiss Me Once: Stories from the Homefront" immortalizes the brave men and women of 'The Greatest Generation' in a celebration of the songs that inspired them to greatness. Kathy draws a deeply personal narrative from her own interviews with veterans about their wartime experiences and their lives as young women and men on the Homefront. Their stories come alive through Kathy's insightful storytelling and some of the greatest songs ever written.



Russ Stone



HERE COMES THE SUN

– Beatles Tribute Show –

Monday, May 6, 2024 | 7:30 p.m.

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Vets event at Van Wall raises funds for honor flights

The Crawford County Veterans Affairs (VA) office conducted a community event at Van Wall Equipment in Denison on Friday. A number of organizations that help veterans were on hand from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and a community cookout from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. raised money for the Brushy Creek Honor Flights. Special guests were Mary Lou Walker and Barb Schulze, both of Fort Dodge, who play a part in

sending veterans to Washington D.C. through the Brushy Creek Honor Flights. September 13 is the next Brushy Creek Honor Flight. The one after that is scheduled for May 2024. The September 13 flight is full and there are enough veterans on the waiting list to fill the May flight. Schulze pointed out that all the money for the honor flights comes from fundraising and donations – no corporate sponsors. Nickels, dimes, dollars and bills and checks in larger denominations add up. It costs \$600 for a veteran to fly on an honor flight to Washington, D.C., but no veteran pays. Everything is free for them.



Crawford County Cattlemen grilled burgers for the community cookout.



Veterans watch video from the 2019 honor flight on a television.



Pictured is a group photo of all the veterans at the Van Wall vets event last Friday.

PHOTOS BY GORDON WOLF

Lettering and coloring design selected for new water tower

Logo quantity & orientations TBD

54'-0"
45'-0"
107" Letter "D" Height
76" Letter "s" Height
Gap spacing TBD in field. As shown: 40"

Option 5

Colors
 Black 35GR
 Slate Gray 31GR
 Purple Mountain's Majesty 13SF

Tank dimensions need to be verified before ordering pattern

Pictured is the lettering design and color scheme selected by Denison Municipal Utilities (DMU) staff and approved by the DMU Board for the new water tower that will be constructed near the Senior League baseball field. The top of the 500,000-gallon tower will be painted in slate gray and the bottom will be painted in Purple Mountain's Majesty, a color that will blend with the purple on the tower along North 18th Street. The actual color may be different than what is seen here because of the computer rendering. The base for the new water tower has already been completed. The company that was awarded the water tower contract, Maguire Iron, Inc., of Sioux Falls, South Dakota, fabricates components of water towers at its facility. Delivery of components for Denison's water tower will start soon, and the tower erection crew will mobilize after that. Lake Area Sign Co. LLC, of Sulpher, Louisiana, did the drawing for Maguire Iron. The design pictured was selected from a number of options provided to DMU.

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