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Local News  
Local Journalists  
Local Ownership

# The Denison Free Press

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Vol. 1 | No. 19

SERVING DENISON & CRAWFORD COUNTY, IOWA

November 09, 2023

## Few surprises in city and school board elections

BY GORDON WOLF

With relatively few contested races on the ballot, the election of city officials and school board members held few surprises on Tuesday.

In Denison, Mike Schrum was elected to join the school board. He and incumbent Derek Lambert were both unopposed. Schrum fills the

seat currently held by Kris Rowedder, who decided to retire from the board.

Also in Denison, Pam Soseman, Greg Miller and John Granzen were all re-elected as mayor and council members, respectively. Jennifer Zupp-Smith was elected to serve an unexpired term as a councilmember

at large. Zupp-Smith was appointed to that seat earlier this fall. The seat was vacated by Jessica Garcia, who became the city manager for Denison.

Following are election results for the city and school board elections in the county. Results are unofficial

until canvassed by the board of supervisors. The names of those who received write-in votes were not available as of press time. Go to The Denison Free Press Facebook page for updates.

ELECTIONS, PAGE 8

## Generous donations and bidders make Rotary auction one of the best



PHOTO BY GORDON WOLF

Keith Kirkhoff (with hand up) auctions a stenciled Templeton Rye whiskey barrel stop and four collector "Ten Year Bottle" glasses at the Denison Rotary auction on Sunday. Kirkhoff is the founder of Templeton Rye. Also pictured on the stage are Tom Pauley, Don Luensmann and JR Pauley. Jared Muhlbauer is holding the barrel top.

BY GORDON WOLF

Sunday's Denison Rotary Action will be looked upon as one of the best.

Rotarian Don Luensmann said it appears that the auction will have taken in over \$62,000 in gross revenue, which would put it among the top five auctions.

He said the net amount would be more than \$50,000.

"Some costs were a little higher this year just because they are more expensive, but people were very generous in their bidding," he said.

For the first time in the 30 years of

the fundraising auction, bidders could pay by Venmo and with their credit or debit cards.

"We had a number of people who did that. It might have helped in some

ROTARY AUCTION, PAGE 5

## A surprising yield

Drought conditions continue



PHOTO BY DAN MUNDT

Corn varieties in use today are able to handle drought conditions to produce something like a normal yield.

BY DAN MUNDT

"The drought is still here," said Mike Witt, Iowa State University Extension field agronomist for Audubon, Calhoun, Carroll, Crawford, Greene, Guthrie, Harrison, Sac, and Shelby counties.

"The drought didn't go away, but the crops were able to withstand it better than I think a lot of people thought they would."

On U.S. Drought Monitor maps, conditions in all of western Iowa range from D0 (abnormally dry), D1 (moderate drought), to D2 (severe drought).

A large north-to-south swath of the state in central and eastern Iowa are in stage D3 (extreme drought).

In Crawford County, most of the northern areas are in D1, while the south is in D2.

This year's crops won't set any records, but they weren't devastated by the drought, either, Witt said.

HARVEST, PAGE 2

## Council approves playground company for Washington Park

BY GORDON WOLF

The Denison City Council on Tuesday approved AB Creative, based in DeSoto, Kansas, as the company to help design a new playground at Washington Park.

AB Creative was the company recommended by the Denison Parks & Rec Commission after a presentation on Monday night.

PLAYGROUND, PAGE 3

## Velasquez is new WITCC Denison Campus director

Collaboration with community is her goal

BY DAN MUNDT

Sandy Velasquez is the new director of the Denison Campus and Southern Service Area of Western Iowa Tech Community College (WITCC).

She succeeds Jessica Garcia, who left the role to become Denison's new city manager.

Velasquez is a 2010 graduate of Denison High School (DHS), has a 2014 bachelor's degree in Event Management from Iowa State University, and a 2023 MBA from the University of Iowa.

She worked for three years as the youth services director at the Norelius Community Library after graduation from ISU; since 2018, she has been the campus services coordinator at the WITCC Denison Campus.

She took over as director two weeks ago.

Velasquez said she feels she is a good fit for the job.

"I know the students and I know the community," she said. "I know the people that work here on a daily basis, so it's been an easy transition."

Her first two weeks have been very busy.

"I'm entering the management role, and there is a lot to the business side of the college," she said.

Velasquez is in charge of a team of six employees, and is responsible for a range of activities from oversight of the school's educational programs to maintaining the building.

"I've been working to navigate and



Sandy Velasquez

listen to everyone's needs, and see what we can do to better the campus," she said.

Looking to the future is also one of her responsibilities.

"I want to come in with a fresh set of ideas and find a way to move some things forward a little bit and be more involved in the community," Velasquez said. "We're collaborating with different organizations to bring in recruitment events, as well as

DIRECTOR, PAGE 3



# Less snow this winter may not mean less moisture

HARVEST, FROM PAGE 1

“There have been a lot of advancements by the corn industry out there to select hybrids that can handle these droughty conditions,” he said. “As corn has expanded into areas with less moisture or non-ideal acres, and people are planting corn where that water-holding capacity is different, hybrids have adapted to handle more droughty conditions.”

He said soybeans are better able to handle dry conditions.

“Corn needs the moisture all the way through the season,” he said. “Soybeans can handle the stress, and if they can get a couple of smaller rainstorms, they can make up some of what they need. A lot of that has to do with the physiology of the plant; it’s a lot smaller with a different type of moisture needs.”

He said the soybean harvest is just about done, but there may be a few fields standing here and there.

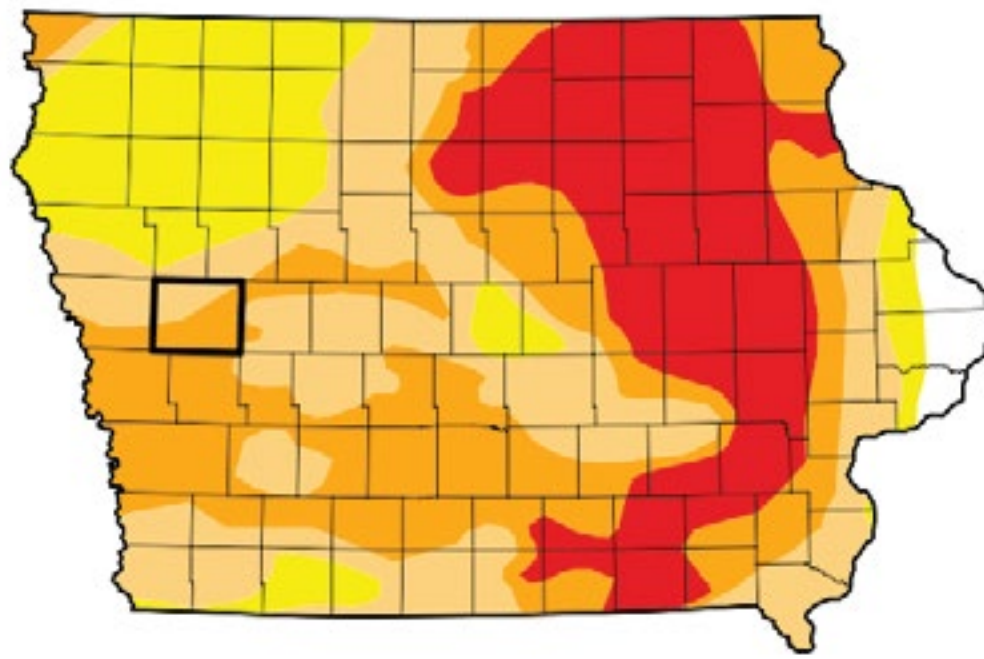
Witt expects the soybean yield to be in the 60-bushel-per-acre range.

“With that being said, some areas got hit with white mold and other areas like river bottom flats and places like that where you might have got only 10 to 15 bushels – because they just got no moisture and everything dried up,” he said. “And then some people got into the 80s (bushels) because they got moisture at the right time, but that 60-bushel mark is a fairly good number for around this area.”

As of Monday, the corn harvest was about 80-85% complete, he said.

“For corn, people have been pleasantly surprised with the yields but it’s hard to predict a number,” Witt said. “I would say we’ll probably be looking at the 180 to 200 (bushel) range, plus or minus.”

He said that, given the drought, those are pretty good numbers.



Drought conditions in Iowa as of November 2. Source: U.S. Drought Monitor

“I don’t think anyone will be out here saying, ‘Man, I had the best crop I’ve ever had,’ but I think they’re pleasantly surprised with the amount they got out of there,” Witt said.

A natural assumption will be that yields would have been significantly higher if not for the drought.

“I don’t think anyone will say they’re happy,” Witt said.

Future crops will be dependent on rain returning to the area because subsurface moisture is seriously depleted.

“Streamflow across the area is really low,” Witt said. “Some people have had issues with wells going dry – things they have not seen in the past.”

Without a lot of additional precipitation, the long-term drought scenario will likely be a serious concern, he said.

“At the end of the day, the plants

are using about that top 10-foot layer of moisture in their root system, but our drought conditions are extending further into that soil profile than that,” Witt said. “Crops can pull moisture from that area and then when the rains come, they can utilize that (from the topsoil), but we really haven’t gotten that moisture in there for the large recharge that we need. Unfortunately, it doesn’t look like we’re going to get it anytime soon.”

He said farmers don’t mind the dry conditions right now as harvest winds down and fertilizer application is ongoing.

Witt noted that the La Niña weather pattern of recent years has given way to El Niño this year.

“With El Niño, they’re calling for maybe less snow and less snowpack and warmer temperatures, but that might not necessarily mean less moisture,” he

said. “We might have more of the things we all love – those rain-sleet mixes.”

Soils might not freeze as hard this winter as in other recent years, Witt said.

Only the future will tell whether the drought conditions begin to ease for future crops.

“We’ve been in a longer-term drought scenario than we’ve been in for a while,” he said. “We usually have a year or two, but if we don’t get much rain, we’re going to be in year four of these conditions.”

Witt said the local climate has been trending toward less moisture – and farmers are making adjustments to that reality.

“They’re making selections for those conditions and companies are giving them products that can handle those conditions better,” he said. “Those adjustments are already being made.”

**The time to give is now!**

Donations are being accepted for the 2023 **Msgr. Lafferty Tuition Foundation**. Receive a 75% state of Iowa tax credit of your donation amount!

Contribute today online at [sdiocese.org/mltf](http://sdiocese.org/mltf)  
Or contact Angie Dahm at 712-263-5408 or [adahm@stroseoflimaschools.org](mailto:adahm@stroseoflimaschools.org)

## Waffles for wellness center



PHOTO BY GORDON WOLF

Paul Kenny, of Algona, serves a Dad’s Belgian Waffle to Richard Meyer at a breakfast on Saturday hosted by the Ninus L. Hunt VFW Post 2504 and American Legion Post 8, with assistance from Thrivent, the Denison Kiwanis Club and Monogram Foods. The proceeds from the freewill offering taken will go to the Crawford County Wellness Center project. It is part of the VFW’s and Legion’s three-year \$10,000 pledge. The event took place at the Senior Center in Denison.

**More photos on our Facebook page!**  
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**The Denison Free Press is possible in part thanks to the Western Iowa Journalism Foundation**

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## Veterans invited to program at Denison Elementary School

Veterans are invited to attend the annual Veterans Day program at Denison Elementary School this Friday, November 10.

The program begins at 8:45 a.m. However, veterans should arrive to be a part of the group picture that will be taken at around 8:35 a.m.

The guest speaker at the program will be Colin Gierstorff, whose granddaughter is in first grade at Denison Elementary School.

During the program, students will be singing songs and reciting lines.

## Garage Sales

2106 7th Ave. N. Denison  
Friday and Saturday  
November 10th and 11th  
From 11 am to 5 pm

Two bikes, two twin beds, and many items in excellent condition, including a lot of Christmas items



## Senior Lunch Menu

Served at the  
Senior Center on  
South Main in Denison  
Call 712-263-4950  
before 9:30 a.m.

**Friday, November 10:** crispy baked chicken, macaroni and cheese, baked beans, mixed fruit

**Monday, November 13:** beef stew, whole wheat roll, rice pudding, cottage cheese

**Tuesday, November 14:** BBQ pulled pork sandwich, whole wheat bun, coleslaw, cinnamon apples with crunchy topping

**Wednesday, November 15:** half a meat sandwich, potato soup, whole wheat crackers, carrots, mixed fruit

**Thursday, November 16:** chicken and noodles, green beans, apple slices, chocolate chip cookie

**Friday, November 17:** meatloaf, mashed potatoes with gravy, whole wheat bread, broccoli, peaches



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## New WITCC director wants to add more college classes for high school students

DIRECTOR, FROM PAGE 1

events for the community to teach them more about community college."

She is interested in hearing from community members about how WITCC can better serve the community's needs.

"Last year, we did a Camino al Colegio, a Latino family night, where we were able to talk about college completely in Spanish."

Another Camino al Colegio will take place on February 6.

Velasquez also wants to bring community awareness of others working at the college – and of their roles.

"I want to be sure we're empowering everyone on our campus," she said. "A nice thing about being at a community college is that you really get to know the people that are here."

Collaboration between the college and the community is a primary focus, she said.

She singled out Mut Toang, who recently took on the role of WITCC college and career transition counselor; he works for the college but is located at Denison High School.

"He's more hands-on with the students; he's making them more aware of the College Now classes," Velasquez said.

Students can earn college credit while still in high school through the College

Now program.

"We have instances where students will graduate with an associate's degree when they graduate with their high school diploma, as well," she said.

Velasquez said Toang's role as college and career transition counselor aligns with the goals of the career academy that is currently in the planning stages; the academy would be a collaboration among DHS, WITCC and other area schools.

Velasquez noted that she had 15 credits she was able to transfer to college as electives when she graduated from DHS.

"We definitely want to grow the number of college classes high school students can take," she said.

Until her previous role is filled, she will still continue to advise WITCC students.

"We're doing a big push to get the students that are registered in the fall to come back for the spring and I'll continue to advise and work one-on-one with students," Velasquez said.

She said she will always make herself available as a resource for students.

"I'm a first-generation college student and the first in my family to graduate with a bachelor's and a master's," Velasquez said. "I know the struggles I went through, so being able to assist students in my role now has been really fulfilling."

## PLAYGROUND,

FROM PAGE 1

Two other playground vendors had presented to the commission the week before on Monday – Cunningham Recreation and Park Planet.

A total of eight companies responded to the city's request for proposals, and AB Creative, Cunningham Recreation and Park Planet were selected as the top three and were asked to give presentations.

The next steps, which will come through a series of meetings, will be to design the playground and to decide on a budget.

Mayor Pam Soseman said that Mike Cedar with Beck Engineering had a lot of input on the selection of a company.

"He said everybody could do basically the same thing, but this particular company (AB Creative) is known for its rope system, and it creates physical activity with children, creativity, creative thinking and great recreational sport," the mayor said.

She continued that while the company is known for its rope system, that doesn't mean it will be the only component of the playground because AB Creative can supply regular park equipment as well.

Councilman Dustin Logan added later that the product isn't actually rope.

It is a material with a steel core encased in nylon rope.

"One thing that appealed to the majority of the crew (commission) is the different types of play they offer," said Logan. "They're (AB Creative is) famous for its rope system, but their standard ramp slide-style equipment is also really good as well, so it gives us the option to be flexible and have a little bit of both instead of being married to one or the other."

Logan continued that none of the vendors were too far apart on their pricing but that with the roping material the city could receive more equipment.

"To Pam's (Soseman's) point, that's not saying the entire park is going to be rope-style equipment," he added. "Beck Engineering did speak very highly of AB Creative and has worked with them before. They are very optimistic about the project, as well. The presentation was great. The board, I think, is enthusiastic."

Logan is the council's liaison to the Parks & Rec Commission.

Soseman explained that to compare apples to apples, each company had to

give its presentation based on a half million-dollar equipment budget. She qualified that this does not mean that will be the budget.

"Mike (Cedar) did share with us afterwards that every company presented something that was much larger than what we would actually need, so that price would come down, hopefully," she added.

The surface for the playground would be separate from the cost of playground equipment.

Logan said for surfacing, many options were presented.

"We saw everything from a half million dollars of equipment, and then the project ended up being \$1.2 or \$1.3 million, or as low as the mid-60s (\$600,000) or 70s (\$700,000) with mulching and surfacing like that. We definitely have a ton of options," he added. "We feel really good about this recommendation."

The life expectancy of the rope material is 30 years but Soseman said the engineer saw some that has lasted 40 years.

The equipment has a warranty. Sam Ellis, director of Parks & Rec, said that there have been no catastrophic incidents with the rope structures.

"You can't say that about anything else," he added.

The plan for the playground is to have different areas for different age groups and to have some all-inclusive equipment.

City Manager Jessica Garcia pointed out that AB Creative was the only one of the three presenters that did not offer a maintenance plan, and that is something the city will have to ask for.

Logan said that the commission members did ask those questions during the presentation.

He clarified that the city council would be voting on Tuesday only to use AB Creative, and not voting on a park design or a cost at that time.

Ellis told The Denison Free Press that the public will be involved in helping to choose playground equipment.

Parks & Rec Commission members, Ellis, representatives from Beck Engineering and AB Creative and others will be involved in the decision-making process, as well.

The new playground will fill the site where Kids Kastle was demolished on August 21. The demolition was due to safety concerns brought up by the City of Denison's insurance carrier, the Iowa Communities Assurance Pool.

## Funeral Notices

Amelia Wiegel

Funeral services for Amelia Wiegel, 99, of Charter Oak, were conducted at 11 a.m. Tuesday,

November 7, at St. John Lutheran Church in Charter Oak.

Burial was at the parish cemetery. She passed away Thursday, November 2, at Gracewell in Denison.

Survivors include two daughters, Jane Gierstorff and her husband Ladean, of Norwalk, and Jeri Lynn Driscoll, of Ames; one son, James Wiegel and his wife Doll, of Nebraska; seven grandchildren; four step-grandchildren; 19 great-grandchildren; three great-great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

Services were entrusted to the Huebner Funeral Home



Julie Strait

Funeral Services for Julie Strait, 76, of Charter Oak, will be conducted at 11 a.m. Friday, November 10,

at United Methodist Church in Charter Oak with burial at St. Claire Cemetery in Ute.

The Huebner Funeral Home in Charter Oak is in charge of arrangements where friends may call from 5 to 7 p.m. Thursday, November 9, with a prayer service at 7 p.m.

She passed away Monday, November 6, at her home in Charter Oak.

Survivors include her husband, Loren Strait, of Charter Oak; three sons, Bradley (Erin) Strait, of Kansas, Brian (Carrie) Strait, of Missouri, and Christopher (Christy) Strait, of Sioux City; eight grandchildren; a sister, Judith Cloeter, of Michigan; a brother-in-law, Ronald Sorensen, of Omaha; and many other relatives and friends.

Services are entrusted to the Huebner Funeral Home in Charter Oak.



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# Local Calendar

**FRIDAY**  
NOVEMBER 10, 2023

**Denison Elementary Veterans Day program, 8:45 a.m.**

**SATURDAY**  
NOVEMBER 11, 2023

**Garage sale at Zion Lutheran Church in Denison, 8 a.m. – 3 p.m.** Ladies Aid will serve coffee and rolls from 8-11 a.m. Many religious items, CDs, books, ornaments will be for sale. Proceeds will go to the Zion Lutheran Church Restoration Fund.

**Boy Scout Paper Drive: 9 a.m.-1 p.m.** in the Walmart parking lot. Troop 55 in Denison will help unload tied, bundled or sacked newspapers; no plastic bags. Please limit the amount of cardboard.

**Read & Play at Norelius Community Library, 10-11 a.m.** This is a shorter story session designed for those who can't quite sit still yet. Ages 0-5

**SUNDAY**  
NOVEMBER 12, 2023

**Garage sale at Zion Lutheran Church in Denison, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.** Ladies Aid will serve coffee and rolls from 8-11 a.m. Many religious items, CDs, books, ornaments will be for sale. Proceeds will go to the Zion Lutheran Church Restoration Fund.

**MONDAY**  
NOVEMBER 13, 2023

**Monday Funday at the United Methodist Church** from 1-4 p.m. This free event is for children Preschool through 5th grade.

**TUESDAY**  
NOVEMBER 14, 2023

**Cards & Coffee at Norelius Community Library, 5:30-6:30 p.m.** Cards, coffee, and chatter. A variety of card games will be played. Coffee and tea will be provided. Ages 19 and up.

**Euchre Night at the Community Building in Ricketts** starting at 7 p.m. The entry fee is \$5 and there is no need to bring a partner.

**WEDNESDAY**  
NOVEMBER 15, 2023

**Read & Play at Norelius Community Library, 10-11 a.m.** This is a shorter story session designed for those who can't quite sit still yet. Ages 0-5

**Euchre Night at the Charter Oak Community Building;** games begin at 7 p.m. No partners needed.

**THURSDAY**  
NOVEMBER 16, 2023

**Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS)** meets on Thursdays at United Presbyterian Church in Denison. Doors open at 7:30 a.m.; meeting begins at 8:30 a.m. Coffee provided. Call Carmen Swertzic at 712-269-6689 for more information.

**Game Night at Norelius Community Library, 5:30-7:30 p.m.** Many games will be available to choose from. CATAN is the November game. Ages 12+.

**CDC Ribbon Cutting Ceremony at Tiney's Steakhouse in Vail, 5:30 p.m.** All are welcome.

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

## NEWS BRIEFS

### Denison City Hall, courthouse closed on Friday

Denison City Hall and the Crawford County Courthouse will be closed this Friday, November 10, for the Veterans Day weekend. Veterans Day is on Saturday, November 11.

### Boy Scout paper drive this Saturday

The Boy Scouts of Troop 55 in Denison will conduct their November paper drive this Saturday, November 11, at the Walmart parking lot. The Boy Scouts will be there from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. to help people unload their tied, bundled or sacked newspapers. Acceptable papers can be brought in paper bags or cardboard boxes but not in plastic bags. People are asked to limit the amount of cardboard they bring.

### Veterans supper on Saturday in Schleswig

All veterans are invited to a veterans supper this Saturday, November 11, at the Schleswig Community Building. Social hour will begin at 5:30 p.m. and a meal catered by Hy-Vee will begin at 6:30 p.m. Guests speakers will be Brody Schneider, Chandler Lee and Ethan Wigg.

### Schleswig VFW Auxiliary to meet Monday

Schleswig VFW Auxiliary will conduct its regular meeting at 7 p.m. Monday, November 13, at the Schleswig Golf Course. Items on the agenda are Bakeless Bake Sale, Basic Fund, Veterans Supper and planning the December party.

## DeSantis talks about border wall on campaign stop in Denison

BY GORDON WOLF

During a stop at Bella Sera in Denison on Friday afternoon, Florida Governor Ron DeSantis, a Republican candidate for president, vowed to get a wall completed on the southern border of the United States and said Mexico would pay for it, but not in the same manner that former President Donald Trump had promised.

DeSantis's method is to have the border wall funded through fees on money sent from the people in the United States to other countries.

"I'm sick of hearing the talk about the border. I've heard it a lot from Republicans for really a generation about saying that they're going to do it, and yet here we are, and the problem is as bad as ever," he said.

"With me as president, on day one we're going to declare it a national emergency. We're going to mobilize our resources, including our U.S. military, to be at the border to stop the invasion cold," he added.

He said all those who enter the United States illegally will be sent back immediately.

"We will build the wall. I think

it's important. We will actually have Mexico pay for the wall," DeSantis continued. "Now, I know that's been said before, but the reality is Mexico is not just going to fork over money. The way you get Mexico to pay for the wall is you impose fees on the remittances that people send back to Mexico and Central America and South America, who work in this country and are foreigners."

According to a Congressional Research Service document updated May 10, 2023, the amount of remittances is over \$626 billion annually.

DeSantis said billions of dollars per year will be raised on fees on remittances.

He said the root cause of the problem is the Mexican drug cartels, and he said those would be treated like foreign terrorist organizations, with deadly military force used to hold them accountable.

During his campaign stop DeSantis also spoke about passing a balanced budget amendment to address the deficit, term limits on members of Congress, opening up all domestic energy resources for production, and school safety.

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# Letters TO THE EDITOR

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## Denison FFA members Carlson and Frazier awarded National American FFA Degree



Two members of the Denison FFA, Cole Carlson and Emily Frazier, were awarded the American FFA Degree at the 96th National FFA Convention & Expo on November 4 in Indianapolis.

Fewer than one percent of FFA members achieve the American FFA Degree.

The award honors FFA members who show the utmost dedication to the organization through their desire to develop their potential for premier leadership, personal growth, and career success through agricultural education.

The American FFA Degree is awarded to a select group of students in recognition of their years of academic and professional excellence. This year over 4,400 American Degrees were awarded.

The award recognizes demonstrated ability and outstanding achievements in agricultural business, production,

processing, or service programs.

To be eligible, FFA members must have earned at least \$10,000, or earned at least \$2,000 and worked at least 2,250 hours outside of class time through a supervised agricultural experience (SAE) program in which they own their own business, hold a professional position as an employee or conduct research.

They must also complete 50 hours of community service and demonstrate outstanding leadership abilities and civic involvement through completion of a long list of FFA and community activities.

The award is sponsored by Cargill, Case IH, Elanco Animal Health, and Syngenta.

Each recipient of the American FFA Degree receives a gold American FFA Degree key and certificate after being recognized at the national convention.

## ROTARY AUCTION, FROM PAGE 1

small way to encourage people to be more generous," Luensmann said.

For Luensmann and anyone attending the auction, two live auction items stood out as the "stars."

The first was the sale of a stenciled Templeton Rye whiskey barrel top to be autographed by Keith Kerkhoff with four collector "Ten Year Bottle" glasses. Kerkhoff called the bids for that item, interspersed with banter from auctioneers JR and Tom Pauley. The item brought \$2,300.

The second "star" was the last item auctioned on Sunday. Kent and Elkie Lansink donated a prime rib dinner for 16 people or eight couples, complete with drinks, at their rustic, restored early 1900s barn. On the spur of the moment, the Lansinks decided to offer not one but two such events. After encouragement from the auctioneers, each brought in \$4,000.

"This was amazing. Very generous in both ways, from the people donating it and the people buying it," said Luensmann.

Following are some other items that were auctioned.

The annual "Shop 'til You Drop" four-minute shopping spree at Fareway, sponsored by Broadway Dental, brought \$550 this year.

A Jacksonville Jaguars football autographed by Brandon Scherff and donated by Bob and Cindy Scherff, sold for \$350.

Two handmade quilts donated by Wise Monkey Quilting brought in \$500 each. One was a "Back the Blue" quilt and the other was "Respect the Red," honoring fire and rescue volunteers.

Monogram Foods donated boxes of bacon along with bacon gift certificates that were included as part of bigger auction packages.

The net proceeds from this year's auction will add to the nearly \$1 million in auction proceeds that the Denison Rotary Club has already reinvested in the community.

Among the club's goals are donations to the Crawford County Wellness Center project and the career academy at the Western Iowa Tech Community College campus in Denison.

The Denison Rotary Club also funds college scholarships, books for second graders and supports other community organizations and projects.

Luensmann said the club typically takes grant applications in December and January and awards those in February.



PHOTO BY GORDON WOLF

Auctioneer JR Pauley flips a quarter for a "Heads or Tails" game at the Rotary auction. The final contestants are standing in front of the stage.

## New sign



PHOTO BY GORDON WOLF

Workers from Install Nation put a new sign up at Wells Fargo in Denison on Monday.



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# Special ceremony on Saturday wraps veterans in Quilts of Valor

BY GORDON WOLF

Eight veterans were wrapped in Quilts of Valor Foundation quilts at a Saturday morning ceremony at the Senior Center in Denison.

The mission of the Quilts of Valor Foundation is to cover service members and veterans touched by war with comforting and healing Quilts of Valor. "And we feel all veterans were touched by war," Ann Crawford said at the ceremony.

Crawford is the Western Iowa state coordinator for the Quilts of Valor Foundation.

The Quilts of Valor Foundation was started in 2003 by Catherine Roberts after she had a dream about her son, Nat, who was deployed in Iraq. The message of that dream was that quilts equal healing.

Crawford said nearly 360,000 quilts have been awarded in the United States, Germany, Iraq and Afghanistan.

"The quilts bring a three-part message. First, we honor you for your service, raising your right hand to take the oath and leaving all that you held dear," she said. "These quilts are meant to say thank you and thank you for that service, sacrifice and valor in serving our nation."

"And finally, these quilts are meant to offer healing, peace, comfort and warmth to the individual who receives it and to let you know you are forever in our hearts and prayers."

Each quilt has a label that lists the quilter.

For all who received a quilt on Saturday, the quilter was Neila Arnold, of Everly, and formerly of Denison.

She has been making quilts for 40 years and at one time had a store, Quilts on Grand, in Spencer for 13 years.

She also made 45 quilts for Quilts of Valor recipients in Clay County.

For Arnold and her brothers, Edward and Merlin, who presented the quilts on Saturday, Quilts of Valor has a special meaning. Their brother, Allen, died in Vietnam in March 1969. A bridge on Donna Reed Road just south of Denison was named in his memory.

The veterans who received quilts on Saturday represent three eras of military service – the Korean War, the Cold War and the Vietnam War era.

Following are the recipients and what was read about them at the ceremony.

- Steve Bohm, U.S. Navy, 1973-1976
- Rex Garside, U.S. Air Force, 1952-1956, Airman 2nd Class, served in administration in The Philippines
- John Giovanetti, U.S. Army, Sgt.,



PHOTOS BY GORDON WOLF

Eight veterans received Quilts of Valor quilts during a Saturday morning ceremony at the Senior Center in Denison. Veterans and presenters pictured are, in front, from left, Rex Garside, Ron Quandt, Steve Bohm and Edwin Jepsen. Back: Carl Bohm with the Denison VFW; Ann Crawford, Western Iowa State coordinator for the Quilts of Valor Foundation; Neila Arnold, who made all the quilts; John Giovanetti; Francis Zimmer; Earl Luft; Alan Johnson; and Edward Arnold and Merlin Arnold, who presented the quilts to the veterans. Two veterans were unable to attend the ceremony and received their quilts later. They are James Polzin and William Wohlers.

1967-1968, served in Vietnam, received U.S. Commendation Medal for Acts of Heroism and Meritorious Service

Alan Johnson, U.S. Navy and U.S. Marines, 1964-1967, Petty Officer 3rd Class, served as a hospital corpsman in Chu Lai, Vietnam

Earl Luft, U.S. Army, 1970-2001, Sgt. 1st Class; after 30 years of military service, he continued to serve as commander of the Westside American Legion for 25 years

Ed Jepsen, U.S. Army, 1955-1957, PFC, served with the 503rd Military Police Company, assigned to the 3rd Armored Division, in Frankfurt, Germany

Francis Zimmer, U.S. Air Force, 1968-1972, E4, served as an air support weapons mechanic in Thailand

Ron Quandt, U.S. Army, 1967-1969, was a Spc. 4, served in Vietnam

The following two veterans were unable to attend Saturday's ceremony and received their quilts later.

James Polzin, U.S. Navy, 1964-1968, Petty Officer 2nd Class, served as an aviation electronic tech at the Naval Air Station in Guam

William Wohlers, U.S. Air Force, 1967-1969, Airman, served at Langley

Air Force Base in Hampton, Virginia, and played the clarinet in the U.S. Air Force Technical Air Command Band

Crawford said all work for the Quilts of Valor Foundation is done by volunteers, all the quilts are paid for by volunteers, and the labor is donated.

"Though we may never know the depth of the service and sacrifice that these veterans gave to protect and defend the United States of America, as an expression of gratitude from a grateful nation, we are humbled to award these quilts," she said.



Edward and Merlin Arnold present a Quilt of Valor to Alan Johnson.

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## Running an election

### Work begins two months in advance

BY DAN MUNDT

Though this week's election was a relatively straightforward city government and school board election, setup began in September, according to Amy Pieper, HR, Payroll and Election Deputy in the Crawford County Auditor's Office.

"We start to make the plan two months ahead of time," Pieper said. "We have to have all the important dates set so we know when we're supposed to have our counter ready for early voters."

Ballots have to be ordered at the appropriate time to allow for early voting at the counter in the auditor's office.

"The ballots are made about three weeks before the public test," she said.

The public test took place on October 26.

"We do the public test of all the election equipment to make sure the ballots can go through," Pieper said. "You want to do that before early voting starts because if you have an issue with a ballot, those need to be reprinted."

Ballots for two precincts had to be reprinted this year because the name of a candidate was misspelled.

"Luckily, that was found out before the public test so we could get the new ballots, test them on the machines, and then be ready for early voting at the counter," she said.

The public test is set by Iowa Code and the Iowa Secretary of State's guidelines.

The machines are checked to see if they will correctly tally different vote totals for a set of candidates.

A system-specific test is also conducted.

"Because we use Unisyn machines, we have to do a test for that specific machine to make sure its counting correctly," Pieper said. "We prepare what they call a 'test deck' of ballots."

The machines are checked to see how they respond to blank ballots, undervotes and overvotes.

"When we run the results, if they don't match what we say it should be, we have to go figure out what's wrong," she said. "In the 10 years I've been here, the machines have always been accurate."

Two three-hour training sessions were conducted for Precinct Election Officials (PEOs) over two days.

"That's a very important part of elections," Pieper said.

Auditor's office employees started packing supplies and counting ballots last Friday for this week's election.

"We took over the conference room downstairs (in the courthouse) and we had it all separated out by precinct," Pieper said. "Monday morning, first thing at eight o'clock, we got a truck and a trailer from the sheriff's office, we loaded up that trailer and then we headed out as soon as we could because it takes all day long to get all the precincts put up."

She and second deputy auditor Megan Hanson set up the voting system in six locations: Manilla, Vail, Denison, Schleswig, Charter Oak, and Dow City.

"There is a lot to set up at each one of them," she said.

They didn't finish until 5:45 p.m. on Monday.

Following the closing of polls at 8 p.m. on Tuesday, runners were sent to each precinct to retrieve the encrypted flash drives containing all the voting information.

The drives were read and unofficial results were tabulated by about 8:30 p.m.

Write-in votes have to be tabulated by hand; the vote will become official after the canvass of votes by the Crawford County Board of Supervisors next Tuesday (November 14).

Poll workers were tasked with returning the voting machines and other items to the courthouse on Tuesday evening.

One of the tasks on Wednesday was to separate out all the equipment and start to put it into storage.

"Election Day might be over for everyone at 8 (p.m.), but for us it continues on," Pieper said.

To assure the integrity of the vote, a post-election audit will be performed on the results of a precinct randomly chosen by the Iowa Secretary of State.

Northeast precinct (Vail) was selected.

"We will have to keep those ballots out and when the post-election audit board comes, we will have them hand-count the ballots and make sure they agree with what the machines say," she said.

The audit was set to take place today (Thursday, November 9).

On Monday, an absentee board will count provisional ballots; only one was cast.

Crawford County is the control county for the school board elections in Denison, Schleswig, Ar-We-Va, Boyer Valley and Charter Oak; some of the voters for those schools live in other counties.

Election results from the other counties will be delivered to Crawford County and a final canvass of school board votes will take place on Tuesday, November 21.

## LAND TRANSACTIONS

October 27 to November 2

### Warranty Deeds

• Rick Plough to Jesus M. Valdez and Guadalupe Valdez: Lot 15, Block 7, City of Charter Oak. \$46,000.

• Trust Agreement of Lloyd Carstens Estate, Dale Carstens, Trustee to Kelsey Aleta Jeanette Carstens: SW1/4 SE1/4 Section 10, Washington Township.

• Trustee of Trust Agreement of Lloyd Carstens Estate, Dale Carstens, Trustee to Tyler Carstens: SW1/4 SE1/4 Section 10, Washington Township.

• Tyler Carstens to Dale Carstens: SW1/4 SE1/4 Section 10, Washington Township; \$113,050.

### Quit Claim Deeds

• Rosemary Hansen to Gregory Michael Patchin and Scott Nolan Patchin: Lot 8 and 9, Block 82, City of Denison.

• Curt J. Schweers and Lynette K. Schweers to Curt J. Schweers Revocable Trust, Curt J. Schweers, Trustee: NE1/4 Section 13, Westside

Township; SE1/4 Section 2, Milford Township; SW1/4 Section 2, Milford Township; NE1/4 Section 14, Jackson Township.

• CNS Inc. of Crawford County to Bee Fore Farms, Inc.: SE1/4 SE1/4 Section 15, Denison Township.

• Juan O. Molina to Nora Roxana Mauricio Rodriguez: N1/2 SW1/4 SW1/4 Section 12, Denison Township; \$1.00.

### Court Officer Deed

• Darlene Beth Thompson Estate, Beth A. Sullivan and Cynthia Vollbrecht, Executors to Beth A. Sullivan, Cynthia Vollbrecht, Richard Thompson, Steven E. Thompson and Vivian Gilleland: W1/2 NW1/4 Section 31, Boyer Township; W1/2 W1/2 E1/2 NW1/4 Section 31, Boyer Township.

• Barbara M. Haley to Andrea Mercedes Corona Mineros: Lot 3, Block 3, City View Addition, City of Denison; \$162,500.

## COURTHOUSE NEWS

October 27 - November 2

### SMALL CLAIMS

• Against: Robert Joseph Wells, Lake View. In favor of: Hrabik Welding LLC. Amount: \$1,052.50 plus \$115 costs.

• Against: Debra K. Landgraf, Kiron. In favor of: Discover Bank. Amount: \$5,861.76 plus \$95 costs.

• Against: Mary Chieng, Denison. In favor of: First Portfolio Ventures II, LLC. Amount: \$912.40 plus \$95 costs.

• Against: Joseph Majok Amol, Denison. In favor of: OneMain Financial Group, LLC. Amount: \$4,770.59 plus \$95 costs.

### NON-SCHEDULED TRAFFIC

• Donovan Lloyd Richardson, Omaha, NE, driving while license under suspension. \$347.50.

• Burgess Jovon Martin, Charter Oak, DUS - driving while license denied, suspended, cancelled or revoked. \$624.94.

### TRAFFIC

• Grant Allan Gansemer, Wall Lake, operating non-registered vehicle, \$135.50.

• Dustin James Thoreson, Moorhead, failure to maintain or use safety belts, adult, \$175.75.

• Dustin James Thoreson, Moorhead, failure to provide proof of financial liability, \$615.63.

• Garrett B. Groves, Dunlap, failure to use seat belt, minor, \$175.75.

• Anthony Ariel Magana, Denison, no valid driver's license, \$503.50.

• Ryan Matthew Halsey, Dow City, operating non-registered vehicle, \$175.75.

• Braden Isaiah Lambert, Early, failure to maintain control, \$210.25.

• Jonathan Emmanel Rivas Dorado, Denison, failure to yield upon entering through highway, \$210.25.

• Jose Manuel Hernandez Perez, Denison, careless driving, \$117.50.

• Miguel Lopez Lopez, Denison, no valid driver's license, \$503.50.

• Emmanuel Prado, Denison, no valid driver's license, \$354.00.

• Emmanuel Prado, Denison, failure to provide proof of financial liability, \$428.75.

• Vanessa Jenny Freese, Manilla, dark window or windshield, \$135.50.

• Steven M. Blackwell, Manilla, failure to maintain or use safety belts, adult, \$135.50.

• Brayan Guzman Gonzalez, Onawa, no valid driver's license, \$354.00.

• Ernesto Prado Ramirez, Denison, operating non-registered vehicle, \$135.50.

• Ernesto Prado Ramirez, Denison, failure to obey stop sign and yield right of way, \$210.25.

• Mauricio Adonay Arce Rivera, Denison, failure to have a valid license or permit for operation of motor vehicle, \$400.00.

• Justo Garcia Jr., Denison, failure to have a valid license or permit for operation of motor vehicle, \$285.00.

### SPEEDING (11-15 MPH OVER)

• Ryan Matthew Halsey, Dow City, \$236.13.

• Charles Devin Karr, Mapleton, \$175.75.

### SPEEDING (6-10 MPH OVER)

• Bobby Jo Sipma, Mapleton, \$118.25.

• Brayton John Johannsen, Schleswig, \$118.25.

• Xander Douglas Kasperbauer, Carroll, \$118.25.

• Brady Scott Lutz, Denison, \$118.25.

• Elizabeth Ramos, Denison, \$149.88.

• Kathryn Heilesen, Denison, \$118.25.

• Patrick James Weber, Denison, \$118.25.

### SPEEDING (1-5 MPH OVER)

• Summer Leann Walker, Schleswig, \$89.50.

• Bailey Jo Cox, Macon, MO, \$89.50.

• Breanne Michelle Trotter, Arion, \$89.50.

• Shelby Catherine Keane, Panama, \$89.50.

• Brayan Guzman Gonzalez, Onawa, \$89.50.

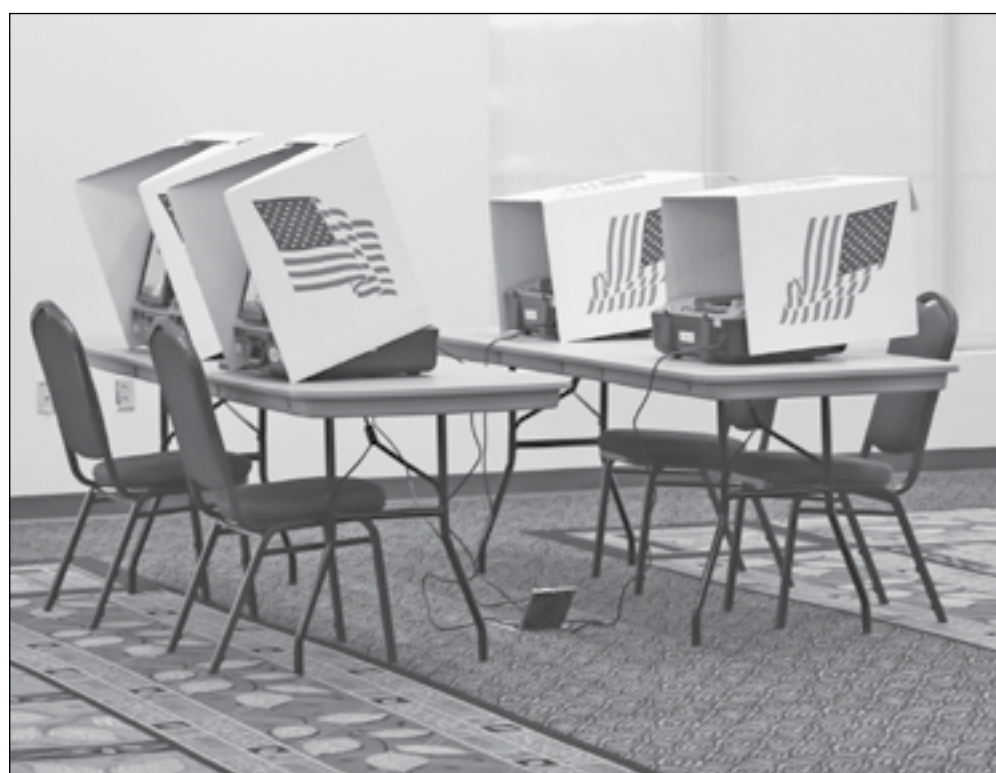


PHOTO BY DAN MUNDT

Deputies from the Crawford County Auditor's office set up polling stations around the county on Monday in preparation for Tuesday's election.



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Featured stories and more at

DENISONFREEPRESS.COM



# Tuckpointing and repair work taking place at Zion Lutheran

BY GORDON WOLF

Midland Restoration, a company based in Fort Scott, Kansas, is tuckpointing Zion Lutheran Church in Denison, and is replacing cracked brick and retying brick to the structure where needed.

Bricks in good condition, salvaged when two chimneys at the church were taken down, are being used as replacements.

The intent is to get the church as close to its original shape as is possible, said Ed Fink, head trustee for Zion Lutheran Church.

Once the exterior work is completed, the company will go inside and repair any plaster that may have cracked and paint the interior with a commercial-grade acrylic coating.

The exterior of the building will be seal coated in the spring to prevent moisture from seeping into the bricks and mortar.

An additional part of the work is to replace the wooden louvers in the bell tower, which are damaged beyond repair. The church is looking for a company that can as closely as possible replicate the louvers using fiberglass or aluminum. The louvers will be closed as they no longer need to be functional; a mechanical carillon replaced the bell a number of years ago. Closing the louvers will keep bats and birds out of the tower.

Finally, the brick sign at the entrance of the church will be removed and a new brick sign will be constructed.



## ELECTIONS, FROM PAGE 1

**ARION MAYOR**  
No candidate on ballot  
Write-in votes: 7

**ARION CITY COUNCIL AT LARGE**  
3 seats up for election  
No candidate on ballot  
Write-in votes: 17

**ASPINWALL MAYOR**  
Thomas Irlbeck: 19  
No write-in votes

**ASPINWALL CITY COUNCIL AT LARGE**  
5 seats up for election  
Kody Kerkhoff: 19  
Fred Irlbeck: 19  
Rick Warner: 18  
Carol Lile: 18  
Ted Jansen: 17  
No write-in votes

**BUCK GROVE MAYOR**  
Terry Kolln: 6  
No write-in votes

**BUCK GROVE CITY COUNCIL AT LARGE**  
5 seats up for election  
Karen Kolln: 6  
Aaron Schroeder: 5  
Michele Stover: 5  
Write-in votes: 9

**CHARTER OAK MAYOR**  
Peggy Staley: 99  
Write-in votes: 33

**CHARTER OAK CITY COUNCIL AT LARGE**  
3 seats up for election  
Russell Maack: 92  
Nathan Mohr: 87  
Tracy Helmhold: 80  
James Wilcox: 77  
Write-in votes: 6

**CHARTER OAK CITY COUNCIL AT LARGE, TO FILL A VACANCY**  
Alec Castillo: 125  
Write-in votes: 4

**DELOIT MAYOR**  
Tyler Braasch: 9  
Write-in votes: 19

**DELOIT CITY COUNCIL AT LARGE**  
5 seats up for election  
John Kelly: 15  
Gloria Anderson: 10  
Connie Mulligan: 10  
Libbie Schillerberg: 10  
Cheryl Kelly: 3  
Write-in votes: 59

**DENISON MAYOR**  
Pam Soseman: 253  
Write-in votes: 3

**DENISON CITY COUNCIL AT LARGE**  
Gregory J. Miller: 251  
Write-in votes: 5

**DENISON CITY COUNCIL WARD 2**  
John C. Granzen Sr.: 49  
Write-in votes: 1

**DENISON CITY COUNCIL AT LARGE, TO FILL A VACANCY**  
Jennifer Zupp-Smith: 243  
Write-in votes: 6

**DOW CITY MAYOR**  
Landon Burhoop: 18  
Write-in votes: 49

**DOW CITY CITY COUNCIL AT LARGE**  
2 seats up for election  
Bob Ertleman: 62  
Alec Charles Hast: 57  
Antonio Trevino: 21  
Serilda L. Block: 2  
Write-in votes: 1

**KIRON MAYOR**  
No candidate on ballot  
Write-in votes: 23

**KIRON CITY COUNCIL AT LARGE**  
3 seats up for election  
Nathan Tremblay: 20  
Tamarra Eck: 16  
Write-in votes: 18

**MANILLA MAYOR**  
Corey Gaskill: 232  
Write-in votes: 19

**MANILLA CITY COUNCIL AT LARGE**  
3 seats up for election  
Sam Rauterkus: 162  
Lana Georgius: 157  
Kurt Chapman: 153  
Pam Sebring: 123  
Courtney Wuebke: 67  
Tracie Riester: 60  
Write-in votes: 4

**RICKETTS MAYOR**  
No candidate on ballot  
Write-in votes: 11

**RICKETTS CITY COUNCIL AT LARGE**  
3 seats up for election  
Drene K. Briggles: 4  
Write-in votes: 23

**SCHLESWIG MAYOR**  
No candidate on ballot  
Write-in votes: 122

**SCHLESWIG CITY COUNCIL AT LARGE**  
2 seats up for election  
Troy M. Kluender: 90  
Paul Outhouse: 76  
Write-in votes: 51

**VAIL MAYOR**  
Monte Crichton: 28  
Write-in votes: 8

**VAIL CITY COUNCIL AT LARGE**  
2 seats up for election  
Suzanne M. Blume: 33  
Marc D. Kinney: 28  
Write-in votes: 3

**VAIL CITY COUNCIL AT LARGE, TO FILL A VACANCY**  
Loren J. Petersen: 33  
Write-in votes: 2

**WESTSIDE MAYOR**  
No candidate on ballot  
Write-in votes: 39

**WESTSIDE CITY COUNCIL AT LARGE**  
3 seats up for election  
Jary J. Quandt: 43  
Nicole Kock: 42  
Larry L. Jons: 36  
Write-in votes: 2

**AR-WE-VA SCHOOL DIRECTOR AT LARGE**  
3 seats up for election  
Denise Ragaller: 94  
Gregg Oeser: 90  
Brad R. Hinners: 87  
Write-in votes: 3  
District-wide vote  
Denise Ragaller: 166  
Greg Oeser: 162  
Brad R. Hinners: 161  
Write-in votes: 9

**BOYER VALLEY SCHOOL DIRECTOR DISTRICT 1**  
2 seats up for election  
Craig Malone: 104  
Kim McAllister: 77  
Write-in votes: 1  
District-wide vote  
Craig Malone: 321  
Kim McAllister: 301  
Write-in votes: 2

**BOYER VALLEY SCHOOL DIRECTOR DISTRICT 2**  
2 seats up for election  
Steve Puck: 81  
Benjamin Hansen: 81  
No write-in votes  
District-wide vote  
Steve Puck: 307  
Benjamin Hansen: 296  
Write-in votes: 2

**CHARTER OAK-UTE SCHOOL DIRECTOR AT LARGE**  
1 seat up for election  
Adam Hadden: 128  
Write-in votes: 1  
District-wide results  
Adam Hadden: 272  
Write-in votes: 1

**CHARTER OAK-UTE SCHOOL DIRECTOR DISTRICT 1**  
2 seats up for election  
Melanie McAndrews: 119  
Gregory Amunson: 110  
Write-in votes: 1  
District-wide results  
Melanie McAndrews: 249  
Gregory Amunson: 230  
Write-in votes: 1

**DENISON SCHOOL DIRECTOR AT LARGE**  
2 seats up for election  
Derek Lambert: 309  
Michael Schrum: 281  
Write-in votes: 4

**SCHLESWIG SCHOOL DIRECTOR AT LARGE**  
3 seats up for election

Rachel Frances Jacobson: 138  
Danette Miller: 132  
Wade Gurney: 115  
Write-in votes: 4

**IKM-MANNING SCHOOL DIRECTOR AT LARGE**  
1 seat up for election  
Zachery Meiners: 307  
Mike Blum: 106  
Sara Ferneding: 76  
Write-in votes: 5  
District-wide vote  
Zachery Meiners: 740  
Mike Blum: 535  
Sara Ferneding: 421  
Write-in votes: 13

**IKM-MANNING SCHOOL DIRECTOR DISTRICT 1A**  
1 seat up for election  
T.J. Sterk: 224  
Bridget Gore: 151  
Write-in votes: 9  
District-wide vote  
T.J. Sterk: 931  
Bridget Gore: 532  
Write-in votes: 14

**IKM-MANNING SCHOOL DIRECTOR DISTRICT 2A**  
One seat up for election  
David Heller: 274  
Emmalie Rasmussen: 212  
Write-in votes: 2  
District-wide vote  
Emmalie Rasmussen: 892  
David Heller: 788  
Write-in votes: 9

**IKM-MANNING SCHOOL DIRECTOR AT LARGE, TO FILL A VACANCY**  
1 seat up for election  
Jeremy Puck: 307  
Write-in votes: 42  
District-wide vote  
Jeremy Puck: 1,341  
Write-in votes: 97

**IKM-MANNING PUBLIC MEASURE TE**  
Yes: 143  
No: 381  
District-wide vote  
Yes: 965  
No: 883

**WESTERN IOWA TECH COMMUNITY COLLEGE DIRECTOR DISTRICT 9**  
1 seat up for election  
Erin Muck: 977  
Write-in votes: 7  
District-wide vote  
Erin Muck: 1,066  
Write-in votes: 8



## Knights of Columbus donation



PHOTO BY DAN MUNDT

The Denison Knights of Columbus on November 2 donated \$736 each to Mosaic and WESCO Industries. Funds were raised through the Knights of Columbus annual Tootsie Roll drive. Pictured are Monica Lorenzen, Mosaic; Mark Schwery, Knights of Columbus; Ron Songer, treasurer, Knights of Columbus; Janet Smith, Mosaic; Clay Adams, WESCO; and Tom Pauley, Knights of Columbus.

## Goodfellows campaign starting soon

### CDC office is new drop-off location

BY GORDON WOLF

Thanksgiving is approaching, and that means it's time to start thinking about Christmas and the Goodfellows program.

Goodfellows helps Crawford County families in need during the Christmas holiday and provides Christmas gifts to children age 12 and under from those families.

Families that are in need can sign up now at West Central Community Action, 145 North 7th Street in Denison. The application deadline is November 20.

The Goodfellows program cannot be successful without the generous donations from the community.

Here's how community members can help.

- Shortly after Thanksgiving, Christmas trees will be on display at Bomgaars, Fareway, Hy-Vee and the Crawford County Courthouse. Cards will be placed on the tree that match the Christmas gift wish lists of children, identified by a number assigned to each family.

- People are encouraged to select a card and shop for any or all of the items listed.

- Gifts should not be wrapped.

- The cards need to accompany the gifts. That way, "Santa's Helpers" can make sure the gifts are matched to the children who requested them.

- The drop-off location for the gifts will be new this year. It is the Chamber & Development Council of Crawford County office, located at 109 North Main Street, just south of Denison City Hall.

- People can donate items without selecting a card from a tree. In the past, people have donated quilts, clothing, books and toys and crafts of their own choosing. Cash donations are also accepted. Donations are tax deductible.

- The last day to bring gifts to the drop-off location will be Tuesday, December 19.

With your help, Goodfellows can make Christmas brighter for children.



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

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## Looking for a new home Parks & Rec Commission discusses future of Bell Log Cabin

BY DAN MUNDT

The Denison Parks & Rec Commission met with members of the Crawford County Historic Preservation Commission (CCHPC) on Monday to discuss the future of the Bell Log Cabin located at Washington Park in Denison.

The cabin was built in 1857 by Sandlandes Bell about a mile north of Dow City.

In 1926, the Old Settlers Association moved the cabin to Washington Park for use during the county's annual Old Settlers Picnic.

The cabin has been unused for decades and is deteriorating.

CCHPC member Christy Rickers, an archaeologist from Vail, said a company that specializes in the restoration of old structures will evaluate the cabin next week; she hopes they will be able to provide an estimate of the cost of restoration and a determination of whether moving the cabin is a viable option.

Sam Ellis, the new Denison Parks & Rec director, noted that CCHPC hopes to move the cabin to a location where it could be used for educational purposes.

In the past, the Neal Moeller Environmental Education Center at Yellow Smoke Park in Denison and the Dow House in Dow City have been discussed as possible future locations for the Bell Log Cabin.

Rickers said CCHPC started looking into options for the cabin after learning that it doesn't fit into the city's future plans for Washington Park.

Parks & Rec Commission member Jake Segebart asked if the purpose of Monday's meeting was to make a decision to let CCHPC decide the fate of the cabin.

Ellis said the meeting was a chance to discuss the issue.

He noted that Rickers and Amy Pieper, who was also present, had been in contact with him about the cabin and had also visited Crawford County Conservation Board meetings to discuss options for the cabin at county locations.

Ellis asked the CCHPC members if they wanted the cabin to become



PHOTOS BY DAN MUNDT

The Bell Log Cabin at Washington Park has not been used in many years and is showing serious signs of deterioration.

something more than it is right now.

Rickers said CCHPC hasn't received a yes or no from the county.

The members of the Parks & Rec Commission expressed general agreement that the commission no longer wants the cabin.

Denison City Council Member Dustin Logan said that for the cost of restoring the cabin, Washington Park could instead be enhanced to be usable for more people in the area.

Segebart said the cabin should go to a location where it will be used and not neglected.

Ellis asked if CCHPC would look for grant funds if the decision is made to give CCHPC control of the cabin.

Rickers said the legal aspects of the cabin's ownership would have to be

considered.

Logan said that would be a good question for City Clerk Jodie Flaherty.

Pieper, a deputy in the Crawford County Auditor's Office, said that office had looked for a deed for the cabin and did not find one.

Denison Mayor Pam Soseman said the city could reach out to legal counsel to look into the question of ownership; Logan agreed with that course of action.

The Parks & Rec Commission members expressed interest in seeing the cabin relocated to a place where it will be used and where vandalism would be less likely; they noted that the vision for Washington Park is different today, and the Bell Log Cabin hasn't been used for anything in recent years, but they also don't want to see it demolished.

Ellis said the cabin would be a good fit at the Dow House and the living history activities that take place there.

Rickers asked how long CCHPC would have to develop a plan for relocating the cabin.

Parks & Rec Commission member Janelle Brungardt said nothing need be done with the cabin until the new playground is installed at Washington Park, which will be at least next year.

Soseman asked if the cabin's deteriorating roof should be covered for the winter.

Rickers said she would see what the restoration company recommends.

*The writer is a member of the Crawford County Historic Preservation Commission.*



The chimney is no longer connected to the structure and is one of many places where animals can enter.



The log cabin's roof has large holes and may need to be covered for the coming winter.

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## In Remembrance



**Richard Allen Frank**

August 21, 1932 - October 29, 2023

Richard Allen Frank was born August 21, 1932 in Denison, Iowa, the son of Lewis and Emma (Cassebarth) Frank. He was baptized and confirmed at the St. John Lutheran Church in Charter Oak. He received his education from the Charter Oak Community School graduated with the Class of 1950.

With dedication and honor, Richard was inducted into the United States Army on October 7, 1957 in Omaha, Nebraska where he remained a member until his honorable discharge on August 31, 1959 at Fort Lewis, Washington. When he returned from the service, Richard started working at an automotive parts company and then he was employed with City Auto Parts until he retired in 1993. After retirement, he worked at Coleman Motors for a few more years.

On February 14, 1961, Richard married the love of his life, Hilda Christensen at the Immanuel Lutheran Church in Schleswig. Their union embodied love, devotion, and unwavering support through the years they shared together. For many years, they enjoyed traveling with the Crawford County Bank, embracing new experiences. Richard and Hilda also made many memories baking and sharing cookies.

He was an avid outdoorsman and spent many joyful hours working in his yard. He also had a remarkable talent for golfing and woodworking. His kindness and compassionate nature were evident in his willingness to always lend a helping hand to others.

A man of strong values and a dedicated community member, Richard was a longtime member of Zion Lutheran Church in Denison where he served as an usher and belonged to the Men's Club for numerous years. He was also a proud member of the Denison American Legion Post No. 8 and Denison V.F.W. 2504. He was the past commander and current sergeant of arms. Dick and Kenny Davis folded the American Flags for many years and Dick drove the Veteran Affairs van for 17 years.

Early October of this year, Richard and Hilda moved into Gracewell-Eventide Lutheran Home in Denison, where Richard passed away peacefully on Sunday, October 29, 2023, attaining the age of 91 years, 2 months, and 7 days. He was preceded in death by his parents, Lewis and Emma Frank; brother, Virgil Frank and his wife Lois; mother-in-law and father-in-law, Rudolph and Caroline Christensen; and sister-in-law, Alice Christensen.

Left to cherish his memory is his loving wife, Hilda Frank of Denison; close family friend, Louise Galbraith of Denison; nephew, Kevin Frank and his wife Leigh of Danbury; niece: Lynelle and her husband Rodney Hodgson and their son, Roy Hodgson and his wife, Mindy and their daughters, Addyson and Brooklyn Hodgson all of LeMars; other relatives and many friends.

Funeral Services were held 10:30 AM, Thursday, November 2, 2023 at Zion Lutheran Church in Denison, Iowa with Rev. Bill Wrede officiating. Organist Karen Kahl provided accompaniment for congregational hymns "What a Friend We Have in Jesus," "Beautiful Savior" and "Now the Light Has Gone Away." Serving as pallbearers were Glen Macumber, Kevin Frank, Roy Hodgson, Rodney Hodgson, Neal Nahnsen and Jim Harms. Serving as honorary pallbearers were the Denison American Legion Post 8 and Denison VFW 2504. Interment was in the Morgan Cemetery in Schleswig, Iowa with Military Honors provided by Denison American Legion Post 8, Denison VFW 2504 and the Iowa Army Honor Guard. Following the burial, the family invited everyone to return to the church for a time of fellowship and lunch. Services were entrusted to the Huebner Funeral Home in Denison.



**Dr. Ronald H. Dreyer**

April 5, 1947 - October 30, 2023

Dr. Ronald H. Dreyer was born on April 5, 1947, in Storm Lake, Iowa, the son of Maurice Dreyer and Pauline (Mudge) Douglass. Ron attended Storm Lake High School and graduated with the class of 1965. He then attended Palmer College of Chiropractic in Davenport, Iowa.

On September 19, 1969, he married the love of his life, Jerilyn Samuelson, in Marathon, Iowa. Their marriage was blessed with two children; Brent and Jessica.

Upon graduating from Palmer College of Chiropractic in December 1971, the family made their home in Sabetha, Kansas, where Ron opened his first chiropractic office. In 1977, the family relocated to Denison, Iowa, where he owned and operated Dreyer Chiropractic Center until his retirement in 2021, celebrating nearly 50 years of practice.

As an avid sports fan, Ron enjoyed cheering loud for the Iowa Hawkeyes from his downstairs "stadium". He looked forward to time out on the water, whether it be driving his 1938 Chris Craft across the Okoboji lakes or chasing walleye in his fishing boat with Jeri by his side. Ron relished in a good round of golf with friends and experienced his first hole-in-one on the Alta, Iowa golf course in 2021 during an outing with high school classmates. Never one to sit still, Ron was always up for the next adventure, iced tea in hand and ready to drive the getaway car whenever his girls wanted to hit the road. Ron was known for his witty sense of humor, compassionate spirit and down-to-earth personality. He treasured his role of Grandpa and best enjoyed times when his family was together.

Ron was always willing to lend a hand to someone in need or a listening ear to those wanting to chat. He was the most loving and caring husband, father and grandfather. He will be dearly missed by those who knew and loved him.

Ron passed away peacefully with family by his side on Monday, October 30, 2023, at Creighton University Medical Center - Bergan Mercy in Omaha, Nebraska, reaching the age of 76 years, 6 months, and 25 days. He was preceded in death by his parents and sister, Barbara.

He is survived by his loving wife of 54 years, Jeri Dreyer of Denison; son, Brent Dreyer of Ankeny; daughter, Jessica (Chad) Burk of Ida Grove; grandchildren: Erin (Tyler) Young of Omaha, NE; Jason Burk (Kennadie Klein) of Galva; Evan and Natalie Burk both of Ida Grove; great-grandchildren: Koy and Jaycee Burk both of Galva; a host of other relatives and friends.

Celebration of Life was held 2:00 PM, Monday, November 6, 2023 at the Huebner Funeral Home in Denison, Iowa with Tom Daniels officiating. Recorded musical selections included "Tears in Heaven" by Eric Clapton and "Spirit in the Sky" by Norman Greenbaum. Following the service, the family invited everyone to the YellowSmoke Lookout Shelter for a time of fellowship and snacks. Services were entrusted to the Huebner Funeral Home.



**Amelia G Wiegel**

January 23, 1924 - November 2, 2023

Amelia G Wiegel was born on January 23, 1924, the daughter of Bernhard and Amelia (Werle) Schmieder. She was born on the family farm in Willow Township, Crawford County, and died at the age of 99 on Thursday, November 2, 2023 at Gracewell-Eventide Lutheran Home in Denison.

Amelia was baptized at St. Matthew Lutheran Church in Mapleton and was later confirmed her faith on April 2, 1939, by Pastor Hugo Neiting at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Ute. She attended rural schools in Crawford County through the eighth grade and graduated from the Ute High School on April 30, 1942. She then attended Buena Vista College in Storm Lake, Morningside College in Sioux City, and taught in rural schools for five years. She also worked as a substitute teacher at the Charter Oak-Ute Community Schools and Zion Lutheran School.

On November 27, 1947, Amelia and LaVerne Wiegel were married by Pastor Hugo Neiting at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Ute. They farmed Rudolph Heide's farm in Hanover Township, Crawford County, for 12 years before purchasing a neighboring farm, where they resided until retirement in 1984, moving to a house they built in Charter Oak.

Amelia loved her family and enjoyed being with them. She also enjoyed "doing" for others and working outdoors on her lawn and in her garden. Amelia was a member of St. John Lutheran Church, having taught Sunday School and Confirmation there. She was a member of St. John LWML, Lamplighters, American Legion Auxiliary, and the Charter Oak Public Library.

Amelia was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, LaVerne; their daughter, Dr. Judy Wiegel; great-grand-daughter, Sophia Welch; son-in-law, William Driscoll; grandson-in-law, Brian Welch; sisters: Marie Newland (Barney); and Hedwig Schnoor (Martin); brothers: Harry Schmieder (Marie); Walter Schmieder (Evelyn); and Benny Schmieder (Ruth); sisters-in-law: Irene Wellner (Herman); Lois Laubscher (Fred); and Millie (Ray); brothers-in-law: Raymond (Helen); Roy (Frances); John (Vera); and Leonard (Gladys).

Survivors include her daughters: Jane Gierstorf and her husband Ladean of Norwalk, Iowa; and Jeri Lynn Driscoll of Ames, Iowa; son, James Wiegel and his wife Doll of Hastings, Nebraska; seven grandchildren: Emily (John) Trewin of Sheffield, Iowa; David (Heather) Gierstorf of Johnston, Iowa; Shelby Meek (Dustie) of Norwalk, Iowa; Jamie (Scott) Burns of Lincoln, Nebraska; Lindsay (Zach) Frey of Hastings, Nebraska; Whitney (Meghan) Wiegel of Omaha, Nebraska; and Zachary (Samantha) Wiegel of Green, Missouri; four step-grandchildren: Bill Driscoll of Saukville, Wisconsin; Joel (Jeannie) Driscoll of Versailles, Missouri; Tom (Joyce) Driscoll of Ames, Iowa; and Erin (Mark) Feaker of Story City, Iowa; granddaughter-in-law, June Driscoll of Port Washington, Wisconsin; nineteen great-grandchildren; 3 great-great-grandchildren; numerous nieces, nephews, as well as other relatives, and friends.

Funeral Services were held 11:00 AM Tuesday, November 7, 2023 at St. John Lutheran Church in Charter Oak, Iowa. Rev. Richard Merrill officiated the service with interment in the St. John Cemetery. Organist Brenda Christiansen provided accompaniment for congregational hymns "The Old Rugged Cross," "Amazing Grace" and "Abide With Me." Serving as pallbearers were Scott Burns, Zach Frey, David Gierstorf, Dustie Meek, John Trewin and Whit Wiegel. Following the interment, the family invited everyone to return to the church for a time of fellowship and lunch. Services were entrusted to the Huebner Funeral Home.

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# Broadway gym building comes down



PHOTOS BY GORDON WOLF

This week marked the demotion of the gym building at Broadway Elementary. The demolition is in conjunction with a project to add a two-story classroom and gym addition onto the south side of the Broadway Elementary building. The gym building with its adjoining classroom spaces had been used for physical education, the talented and gifted program, vocal music and art. The two pictures above show the demolition of the gym and the demolition of the classroom space.



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HELLO! I'M

*Adaly Abigail*

BORN OCTOBER 3, 2023  
11:41 PM • 5 LB 13 OZ • 20.5 IN

WELCOMED WITH LOVE BY:  
MARISSA & EDGAR JR.

  
WWW.CCMHIA.COM/ONLINE-NURSERY  
WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/CCMHDENISON



HELLO! I'M

*Grayson Roy*

BORN OCTOBER 25, 2023  
9:40 PM • 8 LB 9 OZ • 20 IN

WELCOMED WITH LOVE BY:  
MARY & CODY

  
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# Mayor proclaims November 7 a Mary Hargens Day



PHOTOS BY GORDON WOLF

Mary Hargens, who began working at Don's Inc. soon after its founding in 1973 and took over the ownership of the jewelry and gift business in 1991, was honored with a proclamation by Denison Mayor Pam Soseman. The proclamation named November 7 as Mary Hargens Day of Recognition in the City of Denison and encouraged all citizens, businesses, and institutions to consider following her example by treating one another with kindness, being sincere in all things, and giving back to their loved ones and community. Don's Inc. celebrated its 50th year in business this past Friday and Saturday, and in the proclamation, reference was made to the business slogan of "Friendliest Corner in America." The business is located on the corner of Broadway and Main Street. Hargens (second from left) is pictured with Soseman (second from right) and friends Jayne and Don Lyons.

## Proclamation

MARY HARGENS DAY OF RECOGNITION PROCLAMATION WHEREAS, Mary Hargens was born in 1940, raised in Vail, Iowa, and graduated high school from Ar-We-Va in 1959 before starting at Don's Inc. Jewelry and Gifts soon after its founding in 1973 and eventually taking ownership in 1991; WHEREAS, over the past 50 years Mary has made Don's Inc. an iconic business of the Denison community and served as an integral anchor to the economic vitality of Uptown Denison; all while treating her customers as family and lending credence to her business slogan of "Friendliest Corner in America"; WHEREAS, Mary, as a longtime member of the Denison Chamber of Commerce, has always shown the highest in ethical business practices, going above and beyond to find just the right piece for her customers, and stopping at nothing to rectify mistakes - even those beyond her control; WHEREAS, Mary's jewelry and gifts have been at the heart of our community's most tender and meaningful moments from rings for engagements and weddings, crosses for confirmations, gifts for birthdays and holidays, and tokens of remembrance for departed friends and family; WHEREAS, Mary has long been a follower and supporter of Denison High School athletics showing special affection for its baseball and women's basketball programs, often keeping her presence at games public and her philanthropic support private; WHEREAS, Mary has long been active with and faithful to her congregational family of Zion Lutheran Church in Denison, being supportive of its charitable efforts and often contributing to its community building endeavors; WHEREAS, the City of Denison wishes to honor Mary Hargens for her distinguished business career and contributions to not just this great City but also Crawford County and West Central Iowa; NOW, THEREFORE, I, Pamela Soseman, Mayor of the City of Denison, Iowa, have the distinct honor of proclaiming November 7, 2023, as Mary Hargens Day of Recognition in the City of Denison, and encourage all of its citizens, businesses, and institutions to consider following her example by treating one another with kindness, being sincere in all things, and giving back to their loved ones and community. Dated this 7th day of November, 2023.



PHOTO BY GORDON WOLF

Mariah Nutt (left), office manager with the Chamber & Development Council of Crawford County, presents a plaque to Mary Hargens upon the celebration of the 50th anniversary of Don's Inc. on Friday.

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# Monarch Sports

## DENISON-SCHLESWIG MONARCHS FOOTBALL

### All-District 1st team, offense

PHOTOS BY RHONDA RAUCH



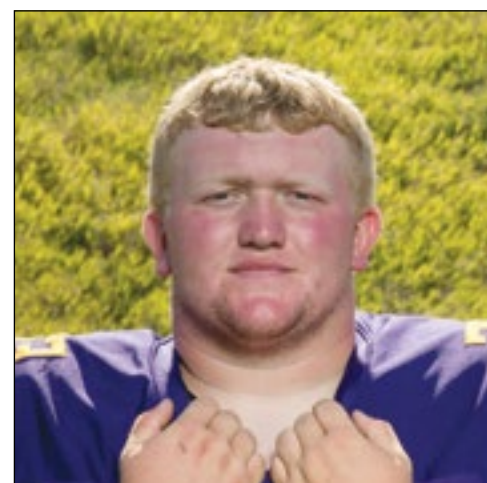
Blaine Brodsky



Jake Fink

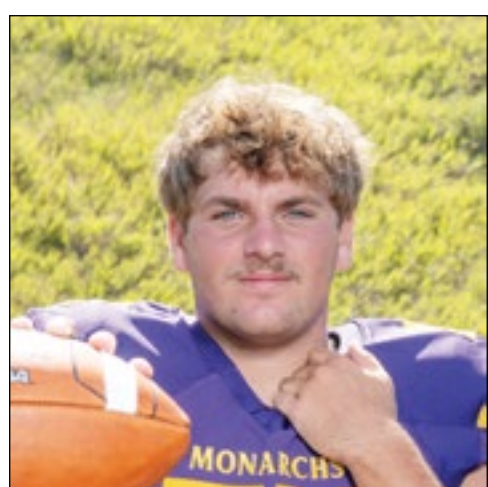


Joel Murillo

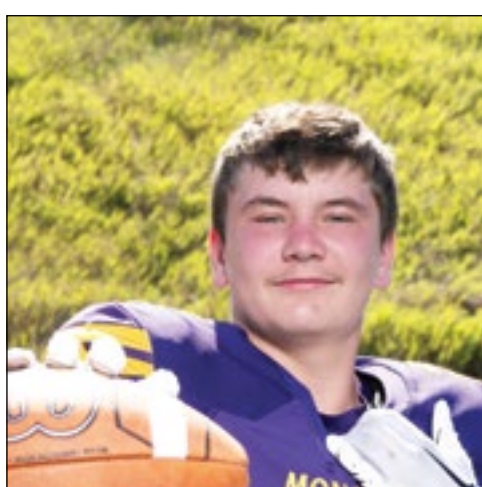


Garret Plagge

### All-District 1st team, defense



Easton Emery



Ty Fink



Luke Wiebers

### All-District 2nd team, defense



Ismael Alfaro



Anthony Arambula



Dominik Garcia

### All-District 2nd team, offense



Michael Collins



Cole Kastner

### Honorable mention



Gage Head



Brody Schneider

## D-S Monarchs land 14 players on All-District list

### Wiebers named MVP

Seven Denison-Schleswig Monarchs were named to first team All-District in Class 4A District 1, and five were named to the second team, while two Monarchs received honorable mention.

Named to the first team All-District offense are Blaine Brodsky, Jake Fink, Garret Plagge and Joel Murillo. Brodsky,

Fink and Plagge are seniors, and Murillo is a junior.

Monarchs on the first team All-District defensive team are Easton Emery, Ty Fink and Luke Wiebers, all seniors.

Wiebers was named District MVP along with Dreshaun Ross, a sophomore

from Fort Dodge.

Cole Kastner and Michael Collins were named to the second team All-District offensive roster. Kastner is a sophomore and Collins is a junior.

Ismael Alfaro, Dominik Garcia and Anthony Arambula were the picks for the second team All-District defensive

roster. They are all juniors.

Gage Head and Brody Schneider, both seniors, received honorable mention.

The offensive lineman of the year was Evan Jalas, a senior from LeMars, and Miles Robbins, a junior from Spencer, was the defensive lineman of the year.



## Mary Poppins

The 2023 community musical "Mary Poppins" took to the stage at the Denison High School Fine Arts Center for three performances over the weekend. Below is a selection of images from the production and from behind the scenes. PHOTOS BY DAN MUNDT



Bert begins to sing the iconic song "Jolly Holiday" to Mary Poppins, Beth Vogt, as park goers Aaron Ratliff and Trisha Boettger and Neleus the Statue watch the park begin to transform into a wonderland.



Bert speaks with Admiral Boom (Steve Holt) and Miss Lark (Violet Christensen) about the state of affairs in the Banks household now that Mary Poppins has arrived.



Shelby Kastner as the Bird Woman asks George Banks to feed the birds outside the cathedral with bags of crumbs she sells for tuppence (two pennies) a bag.



Miss Andrew (Crystal Holt) gets a dose of her own medicine from Mary Poppins.



Melanie Martinez and Jasmyne Ahrens are dolls come to life to warn the Banks children about not taking proper care of their toys.



George (Cody Schulte) apologizes to Winifred (Chloe Koch) after a situation at the bank is resolved.



The Banks children and Bert lead park goers and a magical cast of characters through the Jolly Holiday wonderland created by Mary Poppins.



Ethan Olsen, as Bert, teaches Seth Ullrich, as Michael Banks, to fly a kite while Claire Olsen, as Jane Banks, and Oscar Corona, as Neleus the Statue, look on.



Bert watches as Mary Poppins flies away to help teach the Banks children a lesson.



Mary Poppins leads the customers of the Talking Shop of Mrs. Corry (Leila Jaime) in the tune "Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious."



Cody Schulte, as George Banks, is unhappy about losing yet another nanny due to his children's behavior as his family and house staff sing along. With Mindy Thongvanh as Mrs. Brill and Adonay Arellano as Robertson Ay.



The largest dance number in the show, "Step in Time," included gymnasts and tap dancers in addition to the main cast. The number is a fast-paced tune about the chimney sweeps of London.



The backstage crew was responsible for about 40 scene transitions. From left, Cynthia Koster, Jorge Romualdo, Chris Lovan, Alan Rivera, Angel Pineda, Tanna Peterson, Phoenix Gordon, Poe Htoo, Yuliana Avina, Maritza Escobar, Landon Seebeck, William Gonzalez, Isabel Jepsen, Taya Adams.



From left in the control room were co-director Laurel Olsen, Abbey Meseck (projections), and Darin Johnson and Aaron Larson (sound). Not pictured, Aiden Medrano (lights).