



Dow City Legion auction

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Open at last

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UBI donates to LULAC

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Broadway time capsule

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Local News
Local Journalists
Local Ownership

The Denison Free Press

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Vol. 1 | No. 20

SERVING DENISON & CRAWFORD COUNTY, IOWA

November 16, 2023

Snacks and shopping

Holiday Open House & Recipe Walk is Sunday

BY DAN MUNDT

The Holiday Open House & Recipe Walk, an event produced by the Chamber & Development Council (CDC) of Crawford County, will take place this Sunday, November 19, from noon to 4 p.m.

"The Holiday Open House and Recipe Walk is a way for retailers to say thank you to their loyal customers, and it's also a fun way for shoppers to start their holiday shopping, or maybe even finish it," said CDC Office Manager Mariah Nutt. "It's also an opportunity to go into stores you might not have realized were in the area."

Many items will be on sale at participating businesses, and special treats will be offered.

Participating businesses provide free snack samples and a recipe card for individuals to use at home to recreate the treats.

SHOPPING, PAGE 3

Denison students and staff thank veterans for their service



PHOTO BY GORDON WOLF

Students at Denison Elementary School raise their voices in the song "God Bless the USA" at a Veterans Day program on Friday.

BY GORDON WOLF

The usual expression of gratitude spoken to military veterans is "Thank you for your service," and the response is traditionally "You are welcome," but

just before a Veterans Day program at Denison Elementary School (DES) on Friday, Tracy Beeck, school guidance

VETERANS DAY, PAGE 15

Wellness center moves ahead

Additional donations needed to reach key 80% mark



BY DAN MUNDT

Dirt work for the Crawford County Recreation and Wellness Center project is scheduled to begin in late May or June of 2024 and be completed by that July, according to Denison City Manager Jessica Garcia.

If all the pieces are in place, construction will begin later next summer.

Garcia explained to the Denison Free Press the status of the project at present and what will take place between now and next summer.

"We have secured Jensen Builders, LLC, to be the construction manager at risk (CMAR)," Garcia said. "When you have an architect firm that you're working with and an entity that is building a facility, the construction manager at risk is that middleman that works with both entities to get the best bang for your buck."

Jensen Builders will work to identify efficient processes and cost-effective materials to help save money on the project.

"They also follow all procurement policies: local, state, federal," she said. "They put all aspects of the project out for bid, they manage the building part of the process and make sure that everything is up to spec in the documents."

The schematic design for the project is currently 30% complete.

"We all got together and we met on some of the aspects of the design and shifted some things (and) looked at some more economical ways of building some things," Garcia said. "What we're working on now is to

WELLNESS, PAGE 3



PHOTO BY GORDON WOLF

Phyllis Mendenhall (right), of Defiance, and her daughters, Daphne Mendenhall (in front of tree) and Antigone Mendenhall, both of Harlan, decorated a tree in the children's bedroom on the second floor of the McHenry House.

McHenry House preview party is Saturday

Evening event is the only chance to see the lights at night

BY DAN MUNDT

The McHenry House in Denison has been decorated for the coming holiday season and individuals interested in catching a sneak peek are invited to the Festival of Trees preview party from 5:30 to 8 p.m. this Saturday, November 18.

The historic house is managed by the Crawford County Historical Society (CCHS).

"After all the decorators have been in and done all of their fantastic work on all of the rooms and the trees, this is a preview before we open it up to the public," said CCHS President Kathi Gustafson.

The event is a fundraiser to help pay for activities and events at the

McHenry House.

Tickets are \$15 for members, and \$20 for non-members.

"What you're going to see is all of the decorations and all of the trees lit up," Gustafson said.

One big advantage of attending the preview party will be a chance to see all the lights on when the sky is dark outside.

"We've done the open house at night before, but this year the open house is always during the day, so of course the lights just don't show up as well," she said. "We like to do the preview party at night because everything shows up perfectly. It's the only evening event, so

PREVIEW, PAGE 3

CCMH expansion/remodel project to begin next August

Clinic, rehab, pediatric services to grow

BY DAN MUNDT

Crawford County Memorial Hospital (CCMH) had six healthcare providers when the new hospital facility opened in 2011; with the addition of a new nurse practitioner in January 2024, CCMH will have 14 providers.

"We have outgrown our rural health clinic, our rehab services has outgrown their space, plus we would really like to be able to offer more pediatric services," said CCMH President and CEO Erin Muck.

"We would also like to centralize and make our admissions more private for when you come in to register for the clinic, the lab or radiology," she said.

Those priority areas were identified in a recently-completed revision of the master facility plan, which was the

first revision since the hospital was completed in 2011.

Invision Architects, of Des Moines, was hired to create the new master facility plan, which is an outline of priorities for CCMH in the next five to 10 years, Muck said.

She noted that because the building is now 12 years old, items such as air handlers begin to wear out.

"We're planning for what needs to be replaced sooner, rather than later," Muck said.

The project will expand the footprint of the hospital toward the west on the clinic side.


"It will be a remodel of the inside of what we currently have but it will also be an expansion," she said.

EXPANSION, PAGE 3



PHOTO BY GORDON WOLF

In September, the new spaces to be created at Crawford County Memorial Hospital were mocked up at the 4-H building at the Crawford County Fairgrounds.



**Denison Library Friends
Recycled Christmas, Book and Bake Sale**
November 17th from 9am-5pm & November 18th from 9am-1pm
The proceeds benefit children's programming
Donations will be accepted at the library during business hours up until 11-17-23
For more information, please get in touch with the library at 712-263-9355

Bellas Jewels
MEGA SALES!!!
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SALE *while supplies last*
Nov 17
Sale items 75% off
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We will be open for the Holiday Open House on November 19th. 12 to 4 pm!
Monday-Friday 11-5pm | Saturday 11-3pm



Holiday
OPEN HOUSE & RECIPE WALK
BIG SALES, TREATS, AND LOCAL SHOPPING!

DENISON SUN NOV NOON-4

2023 OPEN HOUSE PARTICIPANTS:

- AT HOME DESIGN
- BROADWAY DENTAL
- CDC
- COUNTRY ROSE
- CROSSROADS OF CRAWFORD COUNTY
- DON'S JEWELRY
- ID APPAREL
- PATTY'S STITCHES
- STEREN ELECTRONICS
- REYNOLD'S CLOTHING
- THE BOUTIQUE
- THE COTTAGE
- TOTALLY YOU BOUTIQUE
- WISE MONKEY QUILTING

*set up at the Mall on Main & Broadway- stop by the CDC's table there to get a Recipe Walk map!

DENISON SUN NOV 19 NOON-4
An event of the CDC Chamber & Development Council of Crawford County

Dow City American Legion auction



PHOTOS BY GORDON WOLF

American Legion Post 444 in Dow City conducted its annual soup supper and auction on Saturday night. Proceeds from the auction are directed toward high school youth. The Legion sends one rising Boyer Valley High School senior to Boys State and provides scholarships to two Boyer Valley seniors to further their education at a school of their choice. Pictured, Paul Laubscher, at left, holds a cast iron griddle that is up for auction. In the middle is Doyle Siglin, commander of the Dow City Legion, and at right is Jay Schaben, formerly of Dunlap and now of Phoenix, Arizona. Schaben, a friend of Siglin's, flew in from Phoenix to be the auctioneer.



At right, Dusty Ganzhorn explains the items in a basket that is up for auction. She is with her sons, Bryant and Braxton. Ganzhorn is the clerk at the Dow City post office.

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Adult beverages, hors d'oeuvres and other refreshments to be served at preview party

PREVIEW, FROM PAGE 1

if you want to see them at night, this is going to be your only opportunity.”

The McHenry House is decorated for Christmas from top to bottom.

“There are things to see on all four floors – from the basement all the way up to the third floor,” Gustafson said.

Decoration of the house took place over both days last weekend.

“Most people came on Saturday and some popped back in on Sunday to do last-minute cleanup or finishing touches,” she said. “Everything is ready to go and it’s beautiful.”

Donna Reed’s Oscar statue is a big draw for anyone who hasn’t visited the McHenry House, Gustafson said.

Reed won the Academy Award for Best Supporting Actress of 1953 for her role in “From Here to Eternity,” which celebrated its 70th anniversary this year.

“Her Oscar is on the first floor in the room we call the West Parlor,” Gustafson said. “It’s the big room with the fireplace, and the Oscar sits on the mantle right by Donna Reed’s picture. It always shines beautifully along with the lights that are around it. It’s really something to see.”

Another interesting artifact on display is the “cigar store Indian” that used to sit on the sidewalk in Uptown Denison.

“That’s something people like to see, as well,” she said.

Wine, other adult beverages, hors d'oeuvres and other refreshments will be on hand for attendees of the preview party.

“It’s a really good time and everybody enjoys it,” Gustafson said.

The preview party has become an annual event that takes place on the weekend before the McHenry House Christmas open house begins.

This year’s open house dates are November 25-26, December 2-3, and December 9-10, from 1-4 p.m. each day.

“We’re open for six days, total,” she said.

This year’s open house days will feature a raffle for five gift baskets.

“We will sell \$1 tickets, 12 for \$10, and you put your ticket in a bucket by each basket you want to have a chance at, and then we’ll draw for the baskets at the end of the open house weekends and call the five winners,” Gustafson said.

The gift baskets will be on display Saturday at the preview party.

Gustafson said the CCHS is still looking for musicians to play at the open house events.

“We only have two days picked, so far. A lady is going to play the pump organ (on November 25) and we have an accordion, guitar, harmonica trio (on December 9),” she said. “Anybody who plays an instrument or sings, we’d be happy to get them in.”

Performances may last as long as the musicians chooses.

“They could play for 20 minutes or two hours, anytime between 1 and 4 (on the open house days that haven’t already been chosen),” Gustafson said.

She noted that Christmas 2024 will be the 50th year anniversary of the Christmas open house at the McHenry House.

“We’ve chosen a theme called ‘A McHenry House Christmas – 50 Years of Tradition,’” Gustafson said.

Each decorator will choose a room and choose a decorating theme from the list of the past 50 years of themes.

Only seven spots are left already, she said.

Tickets for this weekend’s preview party are available at Sundquist Engineering, 120 South Main Street, Denison, or by calling Gustafson at 712-269-0616.

Any tickets left unsold by Saturday will be available for purchase at the McHenry House door.

Gustafson noted that there is no guarantee that tickets will be available on Saturday.

For information about memberships with the Crawford County Historical Society, scan the QR code shown here.



Kickoff for the holiday shopping season

SHOPPING, FROM PAGE 1

The event begins at the Broadway and Main Mall; in previous years, the event started at the Donna Reed Theater lobby, but that space was not available this year.

“When we realized we couldn’t use the Donna Reed Theater lobby, Jill Popham, a CDC member and owner of The Boutique, helped us out,” Nutt said. “She reached out to her landlords, the owners of the mall, the Lohman, Reitz, Sailer, Ullrich, and Blazek Law Firm, and they were gracious to let us use their space.”

The CDC will have a table set up on the main floor of the mall; new CDC Executive Director Paul Plumb, new Tourism Coordinator Drew Perrien and Nutt will all be in attendance.

“If you haven’t met all of us yet, it’s a good chance to get out and introduce yourself to the staff,” Nutt said.

The CDC will provide free recipe holders and a map of all the participating businesses.

The map is a new feature of the event, she noted.

“All the retailers put in hard work to make this happen, so we encourage everyone to go visit all of the shops,” she said. “It’s free – you don’t have to pay anything to go on the recipe walk.”

The Holiday Open House & Recipe Walk is the kickoff for the holiday season for local retailers.

“After this, we go right into Thanksgiving Black Friday shopping, and Small Business Saturday is the next Saturday (November 25). Then it’s really crunch time,” Nutt said. “The Open House & Recipe Walk is a good starting point, and what better way to do that than shopping locally?”

Wellness center would bring dollars to local retailers

WELLNESS, FROM PAGE 1

get to that 60% design development; according to our schedule, that should be done in January.”

All the parties involved in the project will meet in February to look over the design.

“At that point, it goes out to some initial bids to get general numbers so we can get what is referred to as the GMP, the guaranteed maximum price for the project,” Garcia.

“Around February, we should know what that GMP is to know if the project is going to be 100% feasible.”

Raising funds for the project remains a key concern.

“We’re still continuing to do fundraising, we’re still continuing to write grants,” she said.

“We’re continuing to do all of those things to try to get to the maximum amount of money raised and find out what the maximum price is for the building of the facility. Those two key pieces work in parallel with each other; we have to keep moving forward on both of them until they intersect at the end.”

The Recreation and Wellness Center Committee is waiting to hear whether previously-submitted grants will be approved by the Iowa West Foundation for \$150,000, T-Mobile for \$50,000, and a Community Attraction and Tourism (CAT) grant from the Iowa Economic Development Authority (IEDA) for \$1 million.

“We went to Des Moines (to IEDA for the CAT grant) and presented in October, but at that point in time they wanted to see more of our fundraising gap closed,” Garcia said. “We were between the 65% and 70% range; they wanted to see us close that gap a little bit tighter before they would consider funding the project.”

“One thing I’ve been telling people about fundraising is that we understand not everyone can give a great amount of money, but any amount of money that someone could donate is better than nothing,” Garcia said. “In perspective, we still need to raise approximately \$1 million from the public, from individuals. If every citizen in Denison gave \$100, that would put us at our mark. So, even \$10 or \$20, whatever that amount is, we would greatly appreciate because it would really close this gap. Without that gap getting



Senior Lunch Menu

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

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

Monday, November 20: baked fish with lemon cream sauce, roasted red potatoes, broccoli raisin salad, pears

Tuesday, November 21: Philly sloppy Joe on whole wheat bun, green beans, milk cake with mixed berries

Wednesday, November 22: brown sugar glazed pork, mashed potatoes with gravy, steamed carrots, whole wheat roll, banana

Thursday, November 23: closed for Thanksgiving

Friday, November 24: closed

closed, we’re at a standstill with the CAT grant.”

About 70% of the needed funds have been raised at present.

Funds committed to the project at present include: \$1 million from the City of Denison, \$1 million from Crawford County, \$1.5 million from Monogram Foods, \$500,000 from Crawford County Memorial Hospital, \$500,000 and an in-kind donation of infrastructure valued at \$450,000 from Denison Municipal Utilities (DMU), \$500,000 and land donation valued at \$525,000 from the Denison Community School District, \$4,558,197 from grants, and \$2,803,433 from private donations.

“There are some other large grants out there that we would like to apply for; companies that we’ve engaged before that told us when we’re at that 80% mark to come back to them,” Garcia said.

For an estimated total cost of \$19 million, the project would need donations of about another \$1.5 million to reach the 80% mark, she said.

Garcia said she believes in the project in her role as a member of the city administration and in her role as a citizen.

“As a parent, I engaged in coaching youth sports activities and saw the need for a place for youth to go, and it will give employers a way to keep their employees happy and healthy in the community they live and work in,” she said.

“I would say the one thing that has shifted in my new role is now seeing the impact that it can have on our community for tourism. When people come in for tournaments, they’re eating in our restaurants, shopping in our stores, visiting our gas stations. That brings more of that local option sales tax, which goes full circle to support the community and be able to do things in the community.”

The facility will have fitness equipment and a fitness class area, a walking track, a multipurpose gym for activities such as basketball, volleyball, and pickleball, and a fieldhouse with an indoor turf field.

Garcia believes raising funds from a wide variety of sources is the only way to make the project happen.

“This is a prime example of how people see something that we know will do good things for the community, and we pull together to make it a reality,” she said. “It’s all of us coming together to bring an amenity to our county and our city that will positively impact all of the organizations that will be affected by it.”

CCMH committed to staying on budget for expansion project

EXPANSION, FROM PAGE 1

Graham Construction, of Des Moines, was chosen last year to be the construction manager at risk for the project.

Rehabilitation services will be enlarged and will take over part of the clinic space on the north side of the building; clinics located there will be moved into the south part of the clinic.

CCMH obtained a \$22 million USDA loan with an interest rate of 2.5% for the project; the hospital had to put up \$3 million for a project total of around \$25 million.

The loan period is 30 years.

Muck said CCMH is in good financial shape to take on the project.

“Our days cash on hand are solid and we have plenty of cash in the bank,” she said. “We’ve been very

strategic about making sure we had enough cash, knowing that we have a new electronic medical records project we’ll be implementing in July. We feel pretty confident that we’re set and ready to go.”

As of the October CCMH Board of Trustees meeting, CCMH had 184 days of cash on hand and \$19,689,401 in cash.

Groundbreaking for the project is scheduled for August 2024; the construction project will be completed in April 2027.

Muck said the design for the new clinic entrance came in over budget and is being reworked.

“We’re very committed to keeping this on budget. We have no interest in going over and we won’t,” she said. “We’ll rework it until it fits.”

She said the whole design will be focused on the patient experience at CCMH.

“This is about patients, not about us,” she said. “We want to have a good working environment but this is all for our community members and how we can better serve them.”

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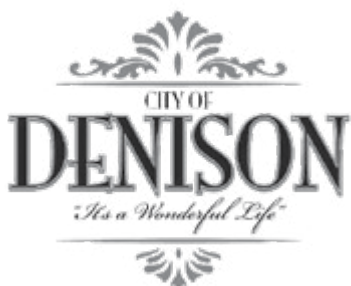
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Local Calendar

**FRIDAY
NOVEMBER 17, 2023**

Recycled Christmas Book and Bake Sale at Norelius Community Library, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Proceeds benefit children's programming at the library.

Arcadia Community Club Chicken Dinner, Staley's Catering, 5-7 p.m. at the Arcadia Legion. A feather party and a chance to win turkeys will follow.

**SATURDAY
NOVEMBER 18, 2023**

Recycled Christmas Book and Bake Sale at Norelius Community Library, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Proceeds benefit children's programming at the library.

Steam Saturday at Norelius Community Library, 10 a.m. Science, technology, engineering, art or math activities for ages 8-13 at the Children's Library.

Soup Supper, Manilla Area Historical Association, 4:30-7 p.m. Five soup choices; takeout and delivery available. Freewill donations accepted. Call 712-654-8362 for more information.



Submit events at denisonfreepress.com

**SUNDAY
NOVEMBER 19, 2023**

The CDC Holiday Open House and Recipe Walk, noon to 4 p.m. See the story on page 1 of this edition.

Bingo for Turkeys, Manilla Memorial Hall. Lunch served at 11 a.m.; Bingo at noon.

Bingo in Deloit at the Community Hall from 1 to 4 p.m. Doors open at noon. Everyone is welcome.

**TUESDAY
NOVEMBER 21, 2023**

Crafternoon at Norelius Community Library, 4-6 p.m. Crafting projects and techniques for teens and adults.

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 22, 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.

Free senior citizens meal December 4 at Denison High School

On Monday, December 4, Crawford County Memorial Hospital will sponsor a free holiday meal for senior citizens of Crawford County and their traveling companions. The career technical education organizations at the high school will host the meal at the Denison High School cafeteria.

Under the direction of Julie Wood, the organizations involved in hosting the event are Family Career and Community Leaders of America, Future Business Leaders of America and FFA.

The meal will be served from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Drive-through meals will also be offered and can be picked up at the high school circle drive from 5 to 6 p.m.

The meal will be pork loin, stuffing, mashed potatoes and gravy, green bean casserole, dinner roll and dessert.

Hunger Fighters food distribution on November 21

The Crawford County Hunger Fighters food distribution is planned for Tuesday, November 21, at the United Presbyterian Church, 205 North 24th Street in Denison. Drive-through pickup will be from 3 to 5 p.m.

Families in need of food assistance will verify their income level eligibility with the TEFAP form which is completed once every year. Forms may be picked up in advance in the bench in front of the Presbyterian Church or filled out that day.

Proxy consent forms, used for picking up another person's food, will not need to be renewed unless there are changes. People are asked to abide by the policy of one allotment of food per household.

Monetary donations made to Crawford County Hunger Fighters may be dropped off at V & H Tire, The Hoffman Agency, or Our Savior Lutheran Church. Listen to KDSN for any weather-related cancellations.

Those who would like to volunteer and help serve the community on the day of the food distribution should call the Presbyterian Church office at 712-263-4130.

Get ready for Goodfellows

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

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

The generosity of the community and work by volunteers makes the Goodfellows program possible.

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.

Donations to Goodfellows are tax deductible.

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

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

This space shouldn't be blank – it should be filled with an ad for your business. Contact our sales representative today.

712-790-1563

NEWS BRIEFS

Recycled Christmas Book & Bake this Friday and Saturday
Norelius Community Library will host the Denison Library Friends annual Recycled Christmas, Book & Bake Sale 8 a.m.-5 p.m. on Friday, November 17, and 9 a.m.-1 p.m. on Saturday, November 18. Proceeds benefit children's programming. Contact the library at 712-263-9355 for more information.

Marching band jackets for sale
The Monarch Marching Band (MMB) is currently selling MMB jackets used from the 2014-2023 seasons for \$20 each. Proceeds will go towards the purchase of a new set of MMB jackets for the 2024 football season. Approximately 75 jackets are for sale. If interested, email Ruben Newell at rnewell@denisoncsd.org.



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

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Restorers visit Bell Log Cabin



PHOTOS BY DAN MUNDT

From left, Amy Pieper and Christy Rickers, of the Crawford County Historic Preservation Commission (CCHPC), Tracy and Philip Grossmann of Heritage Woodworks, and Ken Kahl, CCHPC, look over the exterior of the Bell Log Cabin at Washington Park on Monday.

BY DAN MUNDT

Tracy, Philip and David Grossmann of Heritage Woodworks, Inc. visited Denison on Monday to take a look at the Bell Log Cabin at Washington Park.

They were invited by Christy Rickers, an archaeologist from Vail, who is also a member of the Crawford County Historic Preservation Commission (CCHPC).

The Bell Log Cabin was built in 1857 and moved to Washington Park in 1926; it is the oldest building in Crawford County.

Denison Parks & Rec Director Sam Ellis opened the cabin for a few hours

on Monday for the inspection.

The Grossmanns said they had seen cabins in much worse condition; they believe the Bell Log Cabin can be restored but would need to be dismantled to do so.

They will provide a written report to the CCHPC in a few weeks.

The photos on this page show the current condition of the interior of the cabin, which has been closed and unused for decades.

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



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Saturday: 8 am - 10:30 am

Omelets and Knights



PHOTOS BY GORDON WOLF

The Denison Knights of Columbus hosted its annual omelet and French toast breakfast at the St. Rose of Lima Parish Hall on Sunday morning. Pictured, George Blazek and Roger Kruse complete an omelet for Joann Collins.



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50th Anniversary Open House
For Vernis and Jean Nihsen

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Holiday Open House

THURSDAY 16TH 10-8 PM
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SUNDAY 19TH NOON-4 PM

RECIPE WALK

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Broadway & Main Mall
for your recipe walk map*

The Grinch that Gives

LULAC fundraiser for local organizations

BY DAN MUNDT

The Denison chapter of LULAC (League of United Latin American Citizens) has launched the second year of the organization's The Grinch that Gives fundraiser.

The effort is a collaboration with the Chamber & Development Council (CDC) of Crawford County.

"We select three Grinches, or they volunteer from our organization or the community," said LULAC Denison President Alma Puga.

"They choose a community project or organization in Crawford County that they would like to fundraise for. People or businesses can donate to their favorite Grinch, or their favorite cause."

The Grinch that raises the most funds before December 2 will be announced during the CDC Winter Snowcial that will take place in Uptown Denison that day; the winning Grinch will be crowned the grand marshal of the lighted parade that will take place after the Snowcial concludes.

Donations for The Grinch that Gives will be accepted through December 16, which is the date of LULAC Denison's Las Posadas celebration.

This year's Grinches are Maria Valdez, LULAC Denison vice president, raising funds for Lutheran

Services in Iowa (LSI) foster care and adoption; Patricia Ritchie will be raising funds for LULAC Denison, of which she is a founding member; and RaShun Peterson, one of the newest members of LULAC Denison, will be raising funds for Family Crisis Centers.

Donation jars will be located at banks around Denison.

"People can stop in and donate money or write checks. They can drop it off in the jars or they can also scan the QR code that is on the jars," Puga said. "They can scan that code and donate directly to our PayPal account through LULAC. They just have to make sure they mark which organization or what Grinch they would like to donate to, that way we can keep track of the donations that come in for the different organizations."

Donations may also be mailed to LULAC Denison, P.O. Box 241, Denison, IA 51442.

LULAC Denison is working on a plan to have the Grinches appear at a large Denison retailer to raise funds and pose for photographs with customers.

Puga noted that the Grinches in The Grinch that Gives fundraiser don't represent the version of the Grinch with the very small heart, but rather the Grinch whose heart grew three sizes after discovering the meaning of Christmas.

"That's why we named it 'The Grinch that Gives,'" she said. "It's a fun way to give back to the community and do something that goes with Christmas."

LAND TRANSACTIONS

November 3-9, 2023

Warranty Deeds

• Regina Caddell to Brady Miller: Lot 9 and 10, Block 16, City of Vail; \$52,000.

• Aaron Gill and Patrice Gill to Vicente Sandoval Alvarado, Maria Sandoval Duarte and Sandibel Sandoval Duarte: SW1/4 Section 31, Milford Township; \$355,000.

• Hugo Medina Martinez and Maria T. Lopez de Medina to Rafael Barroso Tapia and Maria Gutierrez Ruiz: Lot 10 and 11, Block 75, City of Denison; \$180,000.

• Crawford County Trust and Savings

Bank to Kevin Rihner and Claudia Rihner: Lot 17, Oak Ridge Heights Plat 1, City of Denison; \$19,000.

Quit Claim Deeds

• Ronald J. Surber, Carol A. Surber, Carol Surber, Atty. To Carol A. Surber: Lot 5, Block 57, City of Denison.

Contract

• Central Development Inc. To Crossroads of Crawford County Inc.: NE1/4 Section 10, Denison Township; \$442,575.

COURTHOUSE NEWS

November 3-9, 2023

SMALL CLAIMS

• Against: James Andrew Blair, Deloit. In favor of: AMVC Veterinary Services. Amount: \$417.83 plus \$115 costs.

NON-SCHEDULED TRAFFIC

• Ryan Matthew Halsey, Dow City. DUS – driving while license denied, suspended, cancelled or revoked. \$402.50.

TRAFFIC

• Laura Ann Trauffer, Denison, trespassing, second offense, \$796.75.

• Oscar Ivan Toapanta, Ida Grove, no valid driver's license, \$503.50.

• Garrett B. Groves, Dunlap, no valid driver's license, \$503.50.

• Abigail Lurene Lemon, Schleswig, failure to provide proof of financial liability, accident, \$1,167.63.

• Bryson Martin Kramer, Wall Lake, failure to maintain or use safety belts, adult, \$175.75.

• Bryson Martin Kramer, Wall Lake, violation of conditions of restricted license, \$175.75.

• Edgardo Carrizales Lopez, Denison, no valid driver's license, \$354.00.

• Carrie Lynn Bruck, Council Bluffs, dark window or windshield, \$135.50.

• Sophie Betty Marie Sonnichsen, Denison, failure to maintain or use safety belts, adult, \$135.50.

• Cody Allan Segebart, Schleswig, failure to provide proof of financial liability, \$615.63.

• Misael Lopez, Worthington, MN, no valid driver's license, \$354.00.

SPEEDING (16-20 MPH OVER)

• Phoenix Orion Armstrong Jones, Lidderdale, \$262.00.

SPEEDING (6-10 MPH OVER)

• Rosella Kay Lally, Charter Oak, \$118.25.

• Lucia Daniela Rubio, Denison, \$149.88.

• Jose Adolfo Medina Cerda, Denison, \$118.25.

• Melissa Hernandez, Denison, \$118.25.

• Robert Anthony Ludwig, Vail, \$118.25.

• Tommy James Rauscher, Denison, \$118.25.

SPEEDING (1-5 MPH OVER)

• Jason Christopher Brincks, Honey Creek, \$89.50.

• William Edward Ebelhare, Manilla, \$89.50.

• Kristie L. Laffash, Omaha, NE, \$89.50.

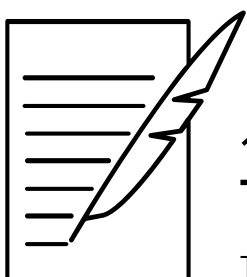
• Edgardo Carrizales Lopez, Denison, \$89.50.

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Letters TO THE EDITOR

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L51 bridge opens

One final snag caused additional delay

BY DAN MUNDT

The bridge on County Road L51 between Highway 141 and Ricketts opened on Friday of last week after a drawn-out construction process.

The bridge, which crosses the East Soldier River about 2.5 miles south of Ricketts, had been closed since February for the construction of a replacement bridge.

The project was complete by July, but the bridge remained closed due to an error by the contractor, Graves Construction, that resulted in the pilings on the north side of the bridge being out of proper alignment.

The alignment problem left the bridge unable to carry loads specified in the design process.

Crawford County's engineering consultant, Calhoun-Burns and Associates, developed a plan to modify the structure to bring the bridge up to specifications.

Two additional pilings were constructed on each side of the north pier of the bridge; the repair plan called for a reinforced concrete structure to be poured around all the north-side pilings to make a solid beam structure that would safely carry the load of the bridge.

Graves Construction took responsibility for the initial error and the cost of the remedial work.

Crawford County Engineer Paul Assman said several weeks were added to the project by an additional problem.

"When they initially formed the pier wall, the forms weren't sufficient to support the load, so we had a form failure," he said. "Then they had to take everything apart and clean it back up and strengthen it."

The second form was successful and the project moved forward from there as expected, Assman said.

"A number of different subcontractors worked on the project," he said. "They all did their part in a timely manner, and as a result we were finally able to open the bridge – albeit several months later than we had anticipated."

Assman said the bridge will serve citizens of the county for many years to come.

"It's been a pain, but everybody has been extremely patient, and we appreciate that," he said.



PHOTOS BY DAN MUNDT

The new bridge between Ricketts and Charter Oak, on County Road L51, is now open. It had been closed to traffic since February and remained closed during the summer and fall due to a contractor error.



A solid beam of concrete encases all of the bridge's north pilings, which had been placed incorrectly to carry the load of the bridge.

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

Hat draw



PHOTO BY DAN MUNDT

At the direction of Crawford County Auditor Terri Martens, and witnessed by all the members of the Crawford County Board of Supervisors, Supervisor Jean Heiden drew names from a box on Tuesday morning to determine the winners of city council races in Deloit and Ricketts. According Martens, the Deloit City Council race had five seats on the ballot with evident winners for only three of the seats; votes totals for the other two individuals on the ballot were tied with write-ins. In Ricketts, the race had two evident winners from the one name on the ballot and one write-in; a name was drawn from the additional write-ins to select the winner of the third seat. For both city council races, all the names were drawn and recorded in order to show that each of the write-ins was included in the drawing. The results of the drawings were reported to the city clerks in Deloit and Ricketts on Tuesday. No official report had been received by the auditor's office on Wednesday morning as to whether the winners of the drawing had accepted the seats.

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.

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Quilts of Valor



Saint John Lutheran Church, Charter Oak, Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) honored American Legion members with Quilts of Valor on Veterans Day Weekend, Sunday, November 12. From left are Melvin Neddermeyer, Army; Dennis Henschen, Air Force; Alva Lill, USMC.

Funeral Notices

Eunice Blum
 Mass of Christian Burial for Eunice Blum, 86, of Panama, was at 10:30 a.m. Monday, November 13,



at St. Mary of the Assumption Catholic Church in Panama with burial at the parish cemetery.

She passed away Sunday, November 5, at Myrtue Medical Center in Harlan.

Survivors include her children, Joan (Butch) Byer, of South Dakota, Roger Blum (Kim Marples), of Defiance, Lori (Craig) Oswald, of Colorado, Karen Blum, of South Dakota, and Mary Jo (Jeff) Schmitz, of Colorado; 11 grandchildren; 11 great-grandchildren; siblings, Jim (Dorothy) Leinen, of Denison, Orville (Kathleen) Leinen, of Panora, Mildred (Jerry) Brus, of Denison, and Zita (Gaylen) Smith, of Portsmouth; sister-in-law, Charlotte Leinen, of Harlan; brother-in-law, Mark Daoust, of Nebraska; and other relatives and friends.

Services are entrusted to the Huebner Funeral Home.

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Unity Ridge in fourth month of inaugural year

Students experience the same quality Christian Education

BY GORDON WOLF

On the surface, Unity Ridge Lutheran School, which opened its doors in August, does not appear much different than Zion Lutheran School.

Under a rental agreement between Unity Ridge and Zion Lutheran Church, students use the same building in Denison, the same classrooms, the same furnishings, and the same books/technology.

Unity Ridge's mission is to provide a highly academic, Christ-centered education, the same as it was at Zion.

"Other than different athletic uniforms and signage, the students are not aware of the differences. We have the same teachers for the most part and the same quality academic program," said Merrilee Sump, who had been the principal of Zion Lutheran School since 2017 and is now the director/principal of Unity Ridge Lutheran School.

One big difference is that Unity Ridge has added a high school; Zion Lutheran School went through the 8th grade.

And an underlying difference is the financing of the educational ministry. Zion Lutheran School was a church-supported school. Unity Ridge Lutheran School is an independent recognized organization of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod. It operates on a tuition-based model supplemented by churches and donors who want to support Christian education in the Denison area.

At Unity Ridge, the board of directors has the ultimate responsibility for the operation of the school, including the fiduciary responsibility. The board has the authority to call teachers/administrators, which took the approval of the Zion voter's assembly previously.

While Zion Lutheran School was a church-supported school, parents still paid tuition for their children to attend, but the church picked up a good portion of the tuition as part of their educational ministry, said Sump.

Although independently supported, financial assistance is available to help Unity Ridge parents meet the tuition or education costs.

"Financial assistance comes from a number of outside sources," Sump said. "Most school families apply and get assistance."

Unity Ridge received an unanticipated financial blessing right away. The opening of the new school coincided with the start-up of the

Iowa Students First Education Savings Accounts (ESAs). These are accounts set up for each student. Parents direct the funds to their school of choice for tuition or to approved vendors for educational needs.

It is a different program from a school voucher system, Sump explained. Generally, a student attending an accredited non-public school will receive the same per-pupil funding average allocated to public school districts based on enrollment numbers for the same budget year. The ESAs are subject to income guidelines this year and next year; the guidelines are removed beginning in the third year.

"The saving accounts have helped families with meeting the tuition payments at Unity Ridge," Sump said. "It's a big part of meeting the cost of education for the academic year."

Applying for an ESA is a five-step process between the parents and the school. For the majority of school families, it was not a difficult process, Sump said.

She added that the opening of Unity Ridge this year was not dependent on the state passing the educational saving accounts system.

"But it has been a real blessing for our families," Sump said.

"The Zion voter's assembly directed the Zion school board to form an RSO (recognized service organization of the Lutheran Church) in May of 2022," said Sump. "Individuals from churches in the Denison, Mapleton and Carroll circuits have all been invited to be part of the educational ministry of Unity Ridge."

Membership is not limited to only LCMS individuals. Voting members don't have to live in the Denison area. For example, one lives in Missouri, another in Clarinda, another from Battle Creek and another from Ida Grove. But most are from around Denison, Sump said. Members don't have to have children attending Unity Ridge. In fact, most who are members have adult children who love and appreciate the value of a Christian education, she added.

"Members are those who want to support the school," Sump said.

Unity Ridge has 81 voting members at the present time. Sump said the school hopes to double that number by next year. Voting members have a yearly meeting. This year's meeting was July 2 at Boulders Conference Center in

Denison.

With a new school comes a new name. Unity Ridge was the result of a survey of alumni, students, parents and teachers. All got to vote on a name, and the choices were narrowed to three to five school names. The board of directors selected Unity Ridge – unity, as united in Christ, and ridge, for the hills in Denison.

A school mascot name – Raptors – was selected. The student government came up with that name after polling the students.

Unity Ridge has its own mission statement: "To Educate in the light of God's Word, equipping all for a lifetime of Christ-centered learning, leadership and loving service."

"We're still educating under God's Word," said Sump. "Those Biblical principles are integrated throughout the day, which is no different from the 138 years Zion was in session."

A long-range plan for Unity Ridge is to construct a school building, and for the high school to increase in enrollment. The high school has four students. They spend part of two days each week at IGNITE Pathways, a career and technical education academy located in Woodbine that offers nearly 20 classes in six career paths. The rest of the school week is spent at Unity Ridge.

Unity Ridge offers a New Testament class in the CREW Center, located adjacent to IGNITE Pathways in

Woodbine. The religion class is open to all students, not only Unity Ridge students.

For middle school and high school sports, Unity Ridge has a sharing agreement with Ar-We-Va (the Rockets). Unity Ridge students were involved in junior high football and volleyball, and one of the students was on the Rockets' freshman volleyball team.

"As the high school grows, we will be adding basketball and cross country. Obviously, you need more players for soccer and football, so that might take a little more time," said Sump. "When you begin a high school, it probably takes 10-20 years to have 100 to 200 students," she added. "I don't think Unity Ridge will ever be a 3A/4A school, but Unity Ridge is open and available for parents who want to send their sons and daughters to a Christian school."

Sump said the Unity Ridge Board members are in the process of looking at land.

"But we have to get our feet on the ground, first, and in reality, you don't build overnight," she added. She continued, "It's important that people know that we are open for them if they are looking for a Christian-based school. People can feel free to enroll their children no matter their denomination, and even if they do not belong to any church. That's a part of our educational ministry."



The Unity Ridge logo can be found throughout the school and in the hall outside the principal's office.



High school students in class at Unity Ridge.

PHOTO BY GORDON WOLF



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CDC welcomes Homestead of Denison



PHOTO BY GORDON WOLF

The Chamber & Development Council (CDC) of Crawford County welcomed Homestead of Denison to the community on Thursday last week. The assisted living facility was previously named Reed Place and was renamed when it came under the ownership of Midwest Health. Above, at center, taking part in cutting the ribbon are Ashlee-Killian-Foster, executive director of Homestead of Denison, and Trisha Brewer, regional vice president of assisted living. Holding the ends of the ribbon are Drew Perrien, CDC tourism coordinator, and Paul Plumb, CDC executive director. Homestead of Denison is Midwest Health's 13th community in Iowa. Brewer said Midwest Health is well represented in southeast and southern Iowa and that the company is excited to now have sites in the western and northern parts of the state. Algona and Estherville are the closest Iowa sites to Denison. Midwest Health facilities are also located in Kansas, Illinois, Missouri, Nebraska, and Oklahoma. Homestead of Denison employs 20 people and has a capacity of 42 residents.

UBI donates to LULAC Denison

Funds to be used for legal assistance

BY GORDON WOLF

United Bank of Iowa (UBI) on Thursday donated \$2,036 to the League of United Latin American Citizens in Denison (LULAC Denison), which will use the money for its Legal Assistance Fund.

The donation came at the suggestion of the employees at the UBI site in Denison, with matching funds from UBI, through its Community Cause Day program.

According to information from UBI's website (unitedbk.bank), the Community Cause Day program gives employees the opportunity to make a difference and support people in need

in the communities the bank serves. UBI employees from all 35 locations have the option to donate \$5 to wear their "United Together Makes the Difference" t-shirts with jeans to work on the second and fourth Fridays of each month. The bank matches the employee donations up to \$1,000. The total is donated to one cause, randomly drawn from suggestions from all 35 locations.

To date, total donations from the program have amounted to \$159,052.

LULAC Denison's Legal Assistance Fund awards money to Latinos and people of other minority groups who are in financial need, to help

with citizenship costs, legal expenses related to deportation and other legal issues, such as lease applications, health insurance forms, safe-housing assistance, and other, similar needs.

The award of funds is decided on a case-by-case basis by the Legal Assistance Fund Committee, which meets quarterly.

Members of the Legal Assistance Fund Committee are Alma Puga, Mario Flores, Virginia Navarro, Georgia Hollrah, Jennifer Zupp-Smith, Lorena Lopez and Pam Soseman.

Applications for legal assistance are available at the offices of Zupp and Zupp Law Firm, La Prensa Hispanic newspaper and LULAC Denison, located at on the second floor of the UFCW building at 46 North Main Street. Application forms are also available at lulacdenison.org.



PHOTO BY GORDON WOLF

United Bank of Iowa, through its Community Cause Day program, donated \$2,036 to the League of United Latin American Citizens in Denison (LULAC Denison). Pictured in front, at right, Kaylie Koch, customer service representative at UBI in Denison, presents the check to Alma Puga, president of LULAC Denison. Pictured in back are Pam Soseman, Ken Blair, Mario Flores and Virginia Navarro. Soseman, Flores and Navarro are members of the LULAC Denison Legal Assistance Fund Committee. Blair is the office manager at UBI in Denison, and Navarro is also with UBI in Denison.

In Remembrance



Julie Kristin

December 1, 1946 - November 6, 2023

Julie Kristin, daughter of Clarence and Burnita (Nielson) Kortman, was born December 1, 1946, in Ute, Iowa. She grew up in Charter Oak and graduated from Charter Oak -Ute High School in 1964. Julie then went to Wayne State and earned her bachelor's degree in Elementary Education.

On December 21, 1967, Julie was united in marriage with Loren Strait at the United Methodist Church in Charter Oak. When Loren was first in the service, Julie taught school in Durant, Iowa. She then joined him while he served in Georgia and Louisiana. While Loren was serving overseas, Julie taught in Sioux City, Ia. Upon his return, Julie taught in the Wisner-Pilger, Nebraska area while Loren went back to college. She also taught at the Elk Horn Valley school in Meadow Grove, Ne. When they started their family in 1971, Julie became a stay-at-home mom. They made their home in Columbus, Ne and then Crawford, Nebraska where they owned and operated a family clothing store. In 1984, they returned to Charter Oak and shortly thereafter, Julie completed her Masters in Elementary Special Education. In 2011, she retired from teaching after 25 years with the Charter Oak-Ute Schools.

Julie was a devoted member of the United Methodist Church. She enjoyed camping, gardening, and tending to her houseplants. She volunteered at and served on the board at the Charter Oak Library. Julie and Loren were selected as the Charter Oak Citizens of the Year in 2016. Julie cherished the time spent with her grandchildren.

On Monday, November 6, 2023, Julie passed away at her home in Charter Oak, following a three-month battle with pancreatic cancer, at the age of 76 years, 11 months and 5 days of age.

Julie is survived by her husband Loren Strait of Charter Oak; three sons: Bradley (Erin) Strait of Spring Hill, Kansas; Brian (Carrie) Strait of Joplin, Missouri; and Christopher (Christy) Strait of Sioux City; Grandchildren: Alexander, Isaac, Colin, Jillian and Kellen Strait; Bonus grandchildren: Raylee, Hunter and Owen Gamble; a sister Judith Cloeter of Michigan; and a brother-in-law Ronald Sorensen of Omaha.

She was preceded in death by her parents; an infant son; a brother John Kortman; Loren's parents: Anna Strait Jensen and Dow Strait; his stepfather John Jensen; and her in-laws: Lawrence (Ruth) Strait, Mary Ann Sorensen, and George (Muriel) Starcevic.

Memorial Services were held 11:00 A.M., Friday, November 10, 2023 at United Methodist Church in Charter Oak, Iowa, with Rev. Kristin Boysen and Kirk Manchester officiating. Organist Brenda Christiansen provided accompaniment for congregational hymns "How Great Thou Art" and "In the Garden." Serving as honorary pallbearers were Julie's Grandchildren. Inurnment was held in the St. Clair Cemetery in Ute, Iowa. Immediately following the service, the family invited everyone to the Charter Oak Community Building for a time of fellowship and lunch. Services were entrusted to the Huebner Funeral Home.

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A Celebration of Life gathering will be held for Richard "Rick" Cornelius of Authur, IA on Sunday, November 26, 2023 at the Depot in Moorehead Park in Ida Grove, IA from 1-4 pm.

Please come and help us celebrate his life by sharing happy memories and good times you had with Rick. Rick passed away after a long battle with COPD on October 5, 2023. Kathy and Rick's family would love to see you to help them celebrate Rick and all the happiness he brought to so many people.



Monarch

DENISON-SCHLESWIG MONARCHS BASKETBALL

Denison-Schleswig girls scrimmage against Boyer Valley



PHOTOS BY RHONDA RAUCH

Mayah Slater with a move to the basket during Tuesday's scrimmage.



The Denison-Schleswig girls scrimmaged against Boyer Valley on Tuesday. Pictured, Sara Mun gets the rebound and looks to put the ball back up.



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Six letterwinners return for Monarch girls' basketball

With six letterwinners returning, the Denison-Schleswig girls' basketball team will have a good amount of experience for this season, said Head Coach Adam Mich.

"Our letterwinners, along with our returning players, have started the season off right," he said. "We are knowledgeable in our systems, which gets us off to a good start. We will have

very competitive practices which will lead to kids having to compete hard each night to earn playing time."

He added that the players with less experience will have to learn on the fly in order to give the team more depth as the season progresses.

"We are hoping we can stay healthy early in the year in order to give these players proper time to adjust to their roles," Mich said.

Returning letterwinners are Whitlee Auen, Samantha Chander, Addison Inman, Claire Leinen, Kiana Schulz and Mayah Slater.

Experience will be key factor in Monarch boys' season

The Denison-Schleswig Monarchs boys' basketball team returns experience from last year's successful season.

The roster features seven seniors, among them three starters - Jake Fink, Luke Wiebers and Lance Arkfeld. Wiebers and Arkfeld were all-conference players.

"We will rely on their experience to help get our senior-laden team off to a strong start this year," said Head Coach Derek Fink.

He anticipates the seven seniors will all play major roles this season.

"Being an experienced and older team helps to give us the upper hand in most of our matchups, especially early in the year," Fink said.

He added that with any new team, roles will need to be defined and some players will need to take on bigger roles.

"Additionally, we will need to develop depth for our team, coming from our junior and sophomore classes, and anytime you make a jump in levels in basketball, there is a learning curve," said Fink. "So how quickly we can get those underclassmen up to speed will impact our success this season."

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Sports

DENISON-SCHLESWIG MONARCHS WRESTLING

Strength in numbers: 43 on D-S boys' wrestling team

The strength of the Monarch boys' wrestling team this season will be in the numbers, said Head Coach Nick Bradley.

The Monarchs fielded 43 wrestlers. "This is amazing for our program," he said. "We will have some great inter-divisional competition, which will make us better against competition."

"Another strength for us this year will be our knowledge. We have a lot of kids who made the transition from middle school to high school wrestling," Bradley continued. "These guys understand how to wrestle already, and we will be able to move at a quicker pace at the beginning of the year. This will also allow us to spend more time fine-tuning the moves as opposed to teaching the moves. This will have a tremendous impact on the program."

He said another team strength is the returning veterans.

Among the veterans are the following seven letterwinners: Ismael Alfaro, Jayden Bradley, Francisco Escalante, Jaxson Graeve, James Lemon, Joel Murillo and Garret Plagge.

"All these kids have varsity experience and understand what it takes to wrestle at a high level. We will look to them for leadership throughout the season," said Bradley, who is starting his 16th year as the head coach for the boys' wrestling team.

Joining him are Nate Desy, who is starting his second year as an assistant coach, and Parker Preul, who is in his first year as an assistant coach.

Bradley said Preul is a great addition to the program. He wrestled for Denison High School and Buena Vista University, and he coached the last

two seasons for the Ridge View school system in Holstein.

Bradley said a concern for this season is not being able to fill all the varsity spots, despite the number of boys out for the sport. Currently, the team is unable to fill two of the lower weight classes.

"Giving points away at the varsity level makes it difficult to win duals," he said. "Varsity wrestling is tough, and we have to match the intensity of our opponent. As coaches, we have to prepare our kids both mentally and physically to compete against upperclassmen."

Following is the team roster, divided by grade level.

Freshmen: Trae Hartwig, Enrique Santos, Anthony Arita, Anthony Salgado, Xander Santamaria, Alex Arita, Daniel Garcia-Paz, Tony Zamora, Bryon Acosta, Sawyer Neeman

Sophomores: Aden Esquerra, Jayden Bradley, Jaxson Graeve, Luis Lopez, Chase Williams, Chris Lovan, Victor Arroyo, Eli Snowgren, Javier Medina, Izak Argotsinger, Arturo Marquez, Max Chapa, Richard Cruz-Nieto, Aidan Eggeling, Aiden Medrano

Juniors: Myo Min Thu, Francisco Escalante, Giovannie Hernandez, Ismael Alfaro, Joel Murillo, Eric Flores, Alex Correa, Oscar Coronado, Gabe Henningsen

Seniors: Noe Gonzalez, James Lemon, Angelo Perez, Andy Alvarenga, Christ Vera Nieto, Angel Chapa, Luis Chan, Garret Plagge, Israel Garcia

Bradley is anticipating a great season. "The days are long, and the season is grueling. However, our guys are up for the challenge. If kids stick with the process, they will see success," he said.

He added that competition in the Hawkeye 10 Conference is extremely tough, as always, and that the Monarchs have the talent and the knowledge to be in the mix this year.

D-S girls' wrestling boasts two state qualifiers 10 letterwinners return for 2023-2024 season

The Denison-Schleswig girls' wrestling team this season boasts two returning state qualifiers and 10 returning letterwinners.

Daniela Salinas, wrestling at 100 pounds, and Angie Rivera, wrestling at 135 pounds, are looking to get back to the state tournament at Coralville.

Head Coach Jacob Brawner said the team has high expectations and will lean on the experience of Salinas and Rivera to help the girls at the weights around them improve to become a solid varsity lineup.

Returning letter winners are the following.

Yarecze Rodriguez (grade 11)

Ana Castillo (11)

Taya Adams (12)

Angie Rivera (10)

Jessica Cabrera (12)

Remigia Raymundo (11)

Nallely Rivera (11)

Adrianna Lupian (12)

Kasandra Barroso (11)

Taylor Totten (12)

Freshman wrestlers are Shelby Lima, Alisson Barroso, Marisol Granados, Grace Collins, Jaslyn Vasquez, Briana Perez, Belinda Garcia, Andrea Lupian, Andrea Alcaraz, Katherine Ramirez, Samantha Espinoza and Guadalupe Ramos.

Other sophomores are Addison Ransom and Giana Garci.

Other juniors are Daniela Salinas, Alexa Tremblay, Nyamun Koang, Miranda Estrada and Alexis Hartwig.

Other seniors are Zoey Gonzales and Aremy Santos.

Joe Brawner is the assistant coach,

and managers are Zahyra Flores and Chyenne Vang.

"The major strengths of our team are the number of girls we have out as well as the blend of youth and experience throughout the team," said Brawner. "We should be able to fill nearly every weight class, and that will make us more competitive from a team standpoint."

"We have returning wrestlers with some experience that are going to understand how things work a little bit, but they are also getting challenged by some newcomers. Our practice room is going to a place where we don't shy away from competition, and it's expected that our varsity/upperclassmen/returning wrestlers get pushed by everyone else."

Brawner said the true test will come in varsity competition; wrestling in practice doesn't give a true understanding of the quality of the lineup.

"Wrestling, and especially girls wrestling at this stage, is a unique sport in that you could wrestle a first-year wrestler one match and a state qualifier 30 minutes later," he said. "The importance of how we respond to the physicality and mental/physical grind of varsity competition is something that we are very open about and something we will continue to stress."

This is the second year for girls' wrestling as a state-sanctioned sport. Over 100 schools host a girls' wrestling program, according to information from the Iowa Girls High School Athletic Union.

The first practice date was October 30 and the initial meets began on Monday, November 13.

The state tournament will take place February 1 and 2 at Xtream Arena in Coralville.

Monarch girls open wrestling season

The Denison-Schleswig girls wrestled against teams from Ridge View, Algona and Spencer on Tuesday, falling 3-0 in matches.

After the competition, Coach Jacob Brawner said the meet was an eye-opening experience.

"It showed where we are and where we want to be," he said. "We wrestled three good teams and got it handed to us physically, but our girls showed their fight and toughness. We were tough to turn many times throughout the night, and there were a few times where we were winning or in a close match that ended in a loss by fall."

"We're still a young team in both grade level and experience level, and it's important that we take our frustration and use that as fuel to improve. It's okay

to be frustrated after a night like tonight, but the sun will rise tomorrow, and we'll get back to practice after school," Brawner added.

Against Ridge View, Daniela Salinas won by a 7-4 decision, and Alexa Tremblay won by forfeit.

Against Algona, Angie Rivera won by forfeit, and against Spencer, Salinas and Rivera both won by forfeit.

Brawner said a couple points of emphasis moving forward will be to limit damage in terms of not letting takedowns lead to back points and learning how to extend a match to keep in it.

"We also need to prepare for the physicality of varsity competition to be ready for next time out on Saturday at West Monona," he said.

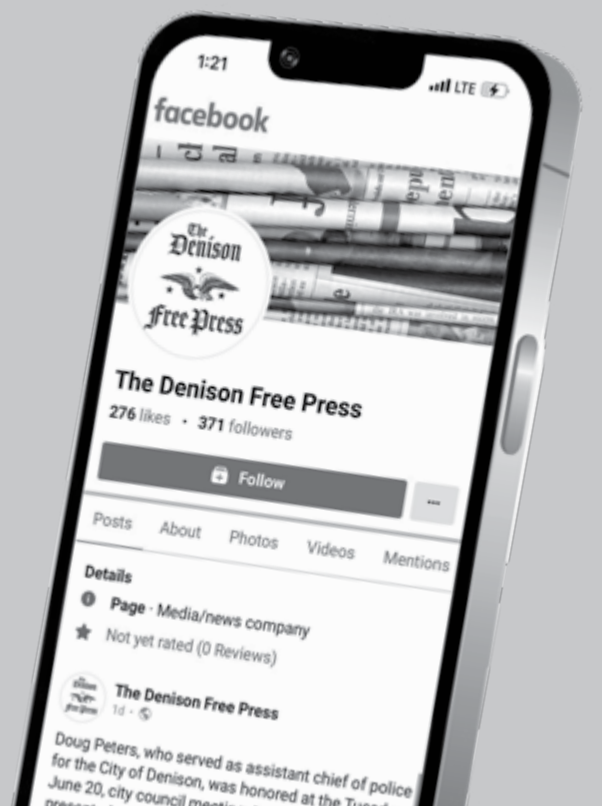


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VETERANS DAY, FROM PAGE 1

counselor, received a response that brought her to tears.

When she was greeting veterans as they arrived at the school, saying "Thank you for your service," one veteran's response was "You are worth it."

With emotion in her voice, she told the students, "When you think about this, all these people (veterans attending) did that for us to have what we have today."

Principal Chris Schulz emphasized Beeck's conversation when speaking to the students during the closing minutes of the program. He reminded them that they are worth it.

"When they (members of the military) go to defend our country or stand up for freedom, they don't quite know what the future will be. And when they look down at you guys and see you wearing the colors of our flag, they hear you singing songs about our country, they see Daizie coming up and giving her grandfather a hug, that's worth it. You guys are worth it."

Daizie is Daizie George, a first grader at the school, who helped introduce her grandfather, Colin Gierstorf, as the guest speaker, and she gave him a hug.

Gierstorf spoke about members of the military helping people out.

He said members of the military go all over the world to help people out, but that he was able to experience that in the United States when responding to the needs of people affected by Hurricane Andrew in 1992.

According to information from the National Park Service, the hurricane wrought unprecedented economic devastation through the northwestern Bahamas, the southern Florida peninsula and south-central Louisiana.

Gierstorf described some of the devastation that he saw when responding as a member of the Army to southern Florida.

At one point, someone showed up with a chain saw and asked if anybody knew how to operate it. Gierstorf said he did and began using it to help a person get into his house.

The person who had the chainsaw then gave it to the house owner so he could help other people.

"That's why you help each other and go and try to help other people, and somebody else can help while you're helping somebody, and it just kind of grows," Gierstorf told the students. "That's great. That's what we want to do."

He continued that if everybody tries to help others, it will be better for the whole world.

Students could relate to this message, as the school's motto is "Be responsible. Do your best and help the rest." All together, they recited the motto to Gierstorf.

Gierstorf also told the students that in some countries there is no school for children, something that was referenced in a video made by students especially for Veterans Day.

"That's why we should be happy and proud of where we're at and where we're from," he said. "It's so great that you can be in school and that you're taking full advantage of it, and that's what we really want to do."

Veterans Day at Broadway

At Broadway Elementary School, Scott Meyer, who served 21 years in the Army, gave the Veterans Day address on Friday. He said the United States has about 17 million veterans, somewhere under 7% of the population, which makes those who served in the military a pretty elite group. Those in uniform today number a little over one million in a country of over 350 million people, he added.

During his address, Meyer spoke about the service of a number of veterans in the audience, including Jacqueline Scheuring, Kenny Davis and Barry Bergamo.

Scheuring was a truck driver in the Army and saw action in Iraq, including one incident when she drove her truck through a fire fight.

Davis enlisted in the U.S. Navy just after World War II and traveled the world. His ship hit a magnetic World War II mine and suffered a massive amount of damage.

Bergamo became an Army Ranger and requested duty in Vietnam. He earned three Purple Hearts and turned down several others. He also earned two Bronze Stars and one Silver Star. After 9/11 he wanted to enlist again.

Meyer also spoke about his daughter, Olivia, who joined the U.S. Navy, and an Army Guardsman friend of his, Master Sergeant Scott Carney.

Carney volunteered for duty in Afghanistan. Meyer, who was about to retire from the National Guard, asked his friend why, and Carney responded, "Somebody had to do it. It might as well be me."

He died in action after the Humvee he was in hit an improvised explosive device and rolled down the side of a mountain.

Meyer said he thinks of the words his friend said - somebody had to do it.

"That is why we honor the veterans around us," Meyer said.



PHOTOS BY GORDON WOLF

Jazmyn Keokenchan, a preschool student at Denison Elementary School, excitedly presents her colored picture to Ed Cutler, a veteran attending the Veterans Day program at the school on Friday. Jazmyn's teacher, Melissa Sanders, helped her students bring the pictures around to the veterans.



Rex and Ruth Garside are greeted by their great-grandson, Kinnick Nielsen, a first grader, after the Veterans Day program at Denison Elementary School on Friday.



Veterans and family members were hosted at a Veterans Day breakfast Friday by members of the Denison Middle School Student Senate. Pictured from left are Kambrie Dau and Parker Preul, student senate sponsors; Matthew and Jeff Mendenhall; William Mathies and Barry Bergamo; Scott Meyer; Dennis Koenig and Mason Koenig; Dennis Schmidt; LaWayne Gronau; Dave Mahlberg; Raegan Lambert, Lauran Lamberg; Lois Mahlberg; Marica Moeller and Gaylord Moeller.



Pictured separately at Denison Middle School are Brianna Benjamin, BrookeLynn Green, RaeLynn Bruck and Dave Bruck



Just prior to the Veterans Day program at Denison Elementary School on Friday, veterans gathered for photo.



Colin Gierstorf gets a big hug from his granddaughter, Daizie George. Gierstorf was the guest speaker at the Veterans Day program at Denison Elementary School.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Most of the veterans who attended the Schleswig school Veterans Day program are pictured above. Front, from left: Devin Jepsen, John Houston, Gerald Pedersen, Ronald Zeimen, Bonard Christiansen and Bob Andresen. Middle: Steve Holt, John Fineran, Jason Schultz, Glenn Wigg, Tim Stoppel, Wayne Bliesmann, Roger Bumann, Jerry Langholdt, Gale Cose, LaWayne Gronau and Ron Streck. Back: Drew Perrien, Evan Kunkel, Brandon Wigg, Richard Hanlin, Larry Abbe and Vern Wood.



Scott Meyer served in the Army for 21 years. He spoke at the Broadway Elementary Veterans Day program.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Schleswig third and fourth graders perform "You Are Our Heroes."



Barry Bergamo listens as Scott Meyer tells the story of his military service.



Jacqueline Scheuring is pictured in the foreground.



Kenny Davis, in center, served in the U.S. Navy.

Broadway gym building cornerstone, time capsule salvaged

BY GORDON WOLF

Before the Broadway Elementary School gym building was demolished last week, a worker could be seen chipping away at the southwest corner of the building where the building cornerstone and time capsule were located.

The time capsule had been sealed but weather had gotten in and caused some damage to the contents.

Superintendent Mike Pardun said the board has not had time to decide how the cornerstone, time capsule and its contents will be preserved.

The cornerstone from the old Central Building, removed many years ago also from what is now the Broadway Elementary campus, had been saved and is part of the landscaping near the high school's bowl football field.

The gym cornerstone with the time capsule was dedicated on Labor Day (September 6) in 1926.

According to an article in the Wednesday, September 8, 1926, Denison Bulletin, the Grand Lodge of the Masons conducted the laying of the cornerstone.

The article listed the following items that were placed into the time capsule.

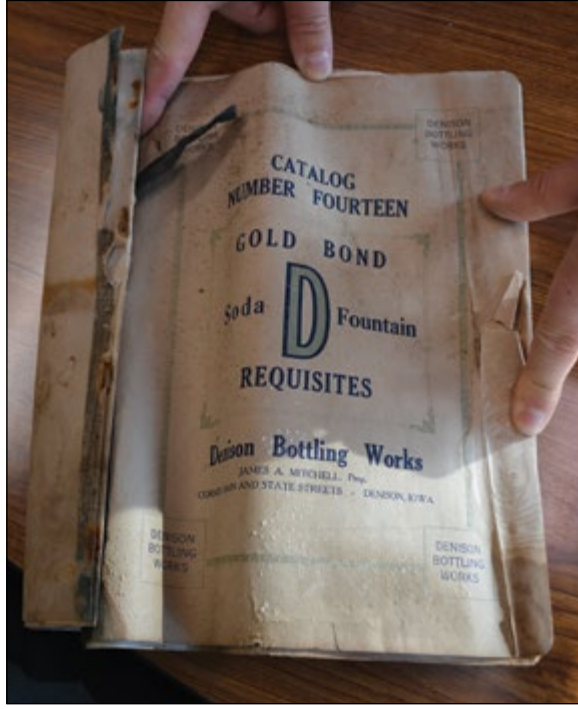
- Roster of Sylvan Lodge A. F. & A. M.
- Roster of the O. E. S.
- Roster of the directors of the Independent School District of Denison
- Roster of the faculty of the Denison schools,
- Copy of the Denison Review
- Copy of the Denison Bulletin
- Catalogue of the Denison Bottling Works



The face of the Broadway gym building cornerstone is shown in this photo.



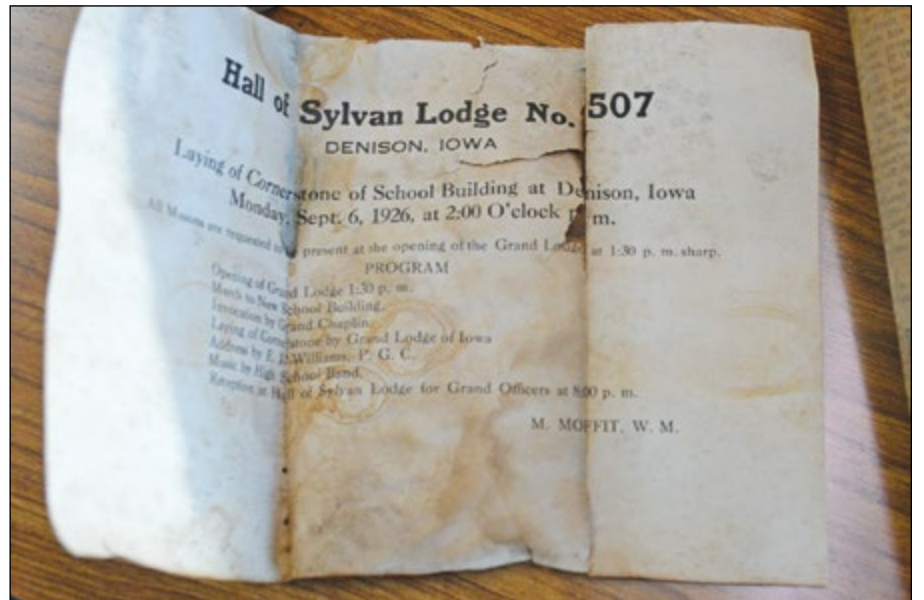
The left side of the cornerstone says, "Gymnasium and Grade Building." The hole in the bottom is where the time capsule was located. The side of the capsule at the opening to the hole had rusted.



This Denison Bottling Works catalogue contains a wealth of history about Gold Bond beverages and accessories.



A letterhead lists the officials of the Independent School District of Denison.



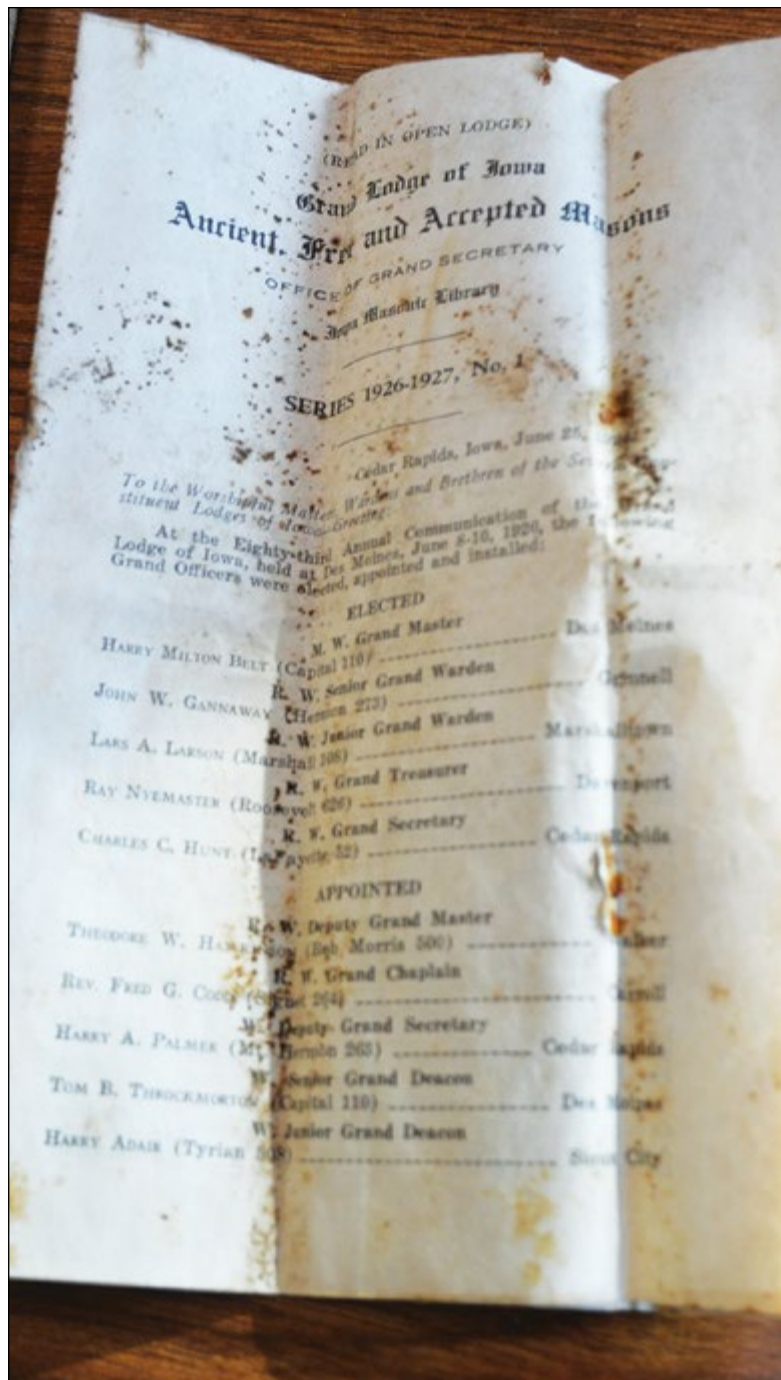
Included in the time capsule is the program for the laying of the cornerstone.



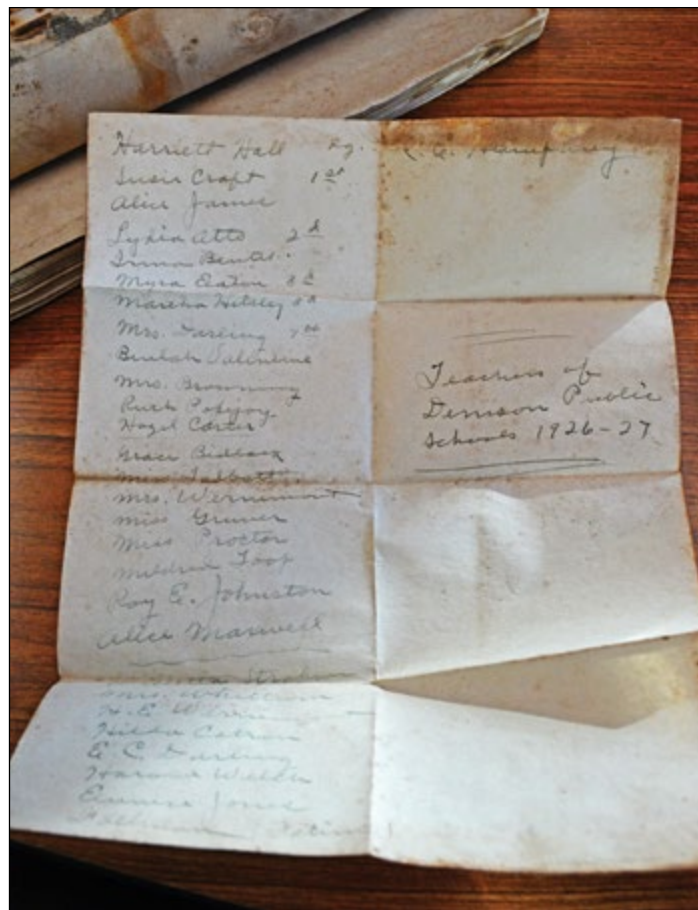
Copies of Denison newspapers were in the time capsule. The middle paper contains the story about the laying of the cornerstone.



The time capsule container had been sealed but weather had affected the container and the contents.



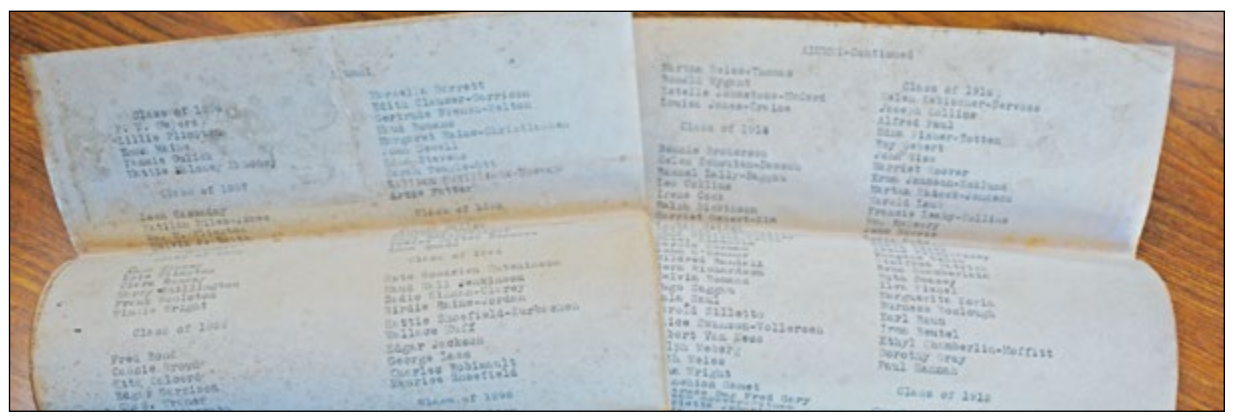
Pictured is the roster of the Grand Lodge of Iowa.



This sheet of paper lists school faculty.



One item not listed in a 1926 article about the time capsule contents is this scrap of paper from L.T. Petersen's company, now Petersen Manufacturing.



Lists of school alumni were in the time capsule.