



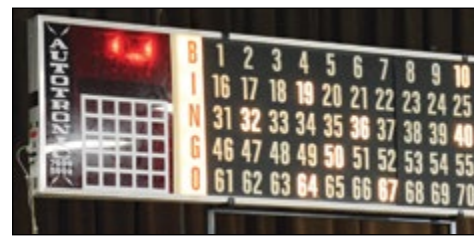
Gathering for the good

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Window art

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Local News
Local Journalists
Local Ownership

The Denison Free Press

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Vol. 1 | No. 21

SERVING DENISON & CRAWFORD COUNTY, IOWA

November 22, 2023

Giving back to the school and the athletes

Lambert honored with state sports medicine award



Dr. Derek Lambert

BY GORDON WOLF

In the 13 years since he graduated from chiropractic school and returned to his hometown, Dr. Derek Lambert has been on the sidelines at all types of Denison High School sporting events, ready to attend to athletes when they get injured.

It is a way for him to give back to the school that gave so much to him when he was growing up.

On Friday, Lambert was notified by the Iowa High School Athletic Directors Association that he will receive the 2024 Sports Medicine Award of the Year for the State of Iowa.

He said he was honored and shocked when he learned of the award through an email from Superintendent Mike Pardun.

The date of the award presentation has not been decided yet.

Through the years, Lambert has gone to every football game, home and away. He is at the home basketball games, and he is there for the cross country and track and field meets. He has a dual role with the latter sport, as

LAMBERT, PAGE 3

Connecting with family history at the McHenry House



PHOTO BY GORDON WOLF

Theresa Thompson, a Denison native who lives in Schleswig, connected with a piece of her family history while attending the McHenry House Festival of Trees preview night on Saturday. She saw this ship in the attic that connects her great-great-grandfather, Chris Denker. According to the card that sits on the boat, the ship was built by Chris Harrison, an old sailor, age 87, of Denison. It was purchased by Chris F. Denker and donated by him to the Washington Park Board to be placed in the log cabin located in the park. The log cabin was the second log cabin built in Crawford County. Thompson said she had always heard something about the boat but had never seen it before. See more photos from the preview night inside this issue on page 2.

Las Posadas in Denison

Sponsors needed for LULAC event



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Grinch was a visitor at last year's Las Posadas event in Denison.

BY DAN MUNDT

"Las Posadas translates to 'the inns,'" said Alma Puga, president of the

Denison chapter of LULAC (League of United Latin American Citizens).

POSADAS, PAGE 3

Volunteers needed

Winter Snowcial is just a week away

BY DAN MUNDT

The 2023 Winter Snowcial is set for Saturday, December 2, in Uptown Denison.

"In a way, it's similar to Hot Summer Nights, but it won't be hot out and hopefully not too cold," said Crawford County Tourism Coordinator Drew Perrien.

"We want to bring the community together in the holiday spirit and remind people that there are plenty of local businesses to shop at."

Perrien said the event will mostly follow the format that has been used in previous years.

"The only real change this time is we combined the Santa Fun Run with the costume contest," he said.

Costumes other than Santa costumes will be welcome to take part in the race.

"Last year, somebody dressed like a Christmas tree," Perrien said. "The fun

SNOWCIAL, PAGE 3

500 animated Christmas figures, 150 vendors

Make plans for the Manilla Christmas Market

BY DAN MUNDT

The Manilla Christmas Market, which is a craft/vendor fair, is set for Saturday, December 2, in Manilla.

More than 150 vendor tables will be set up for the market.

A popular returning feature of the event is the display of more than 500 animated Christmas figures in the basement of Manilla Memorial Hall.

Pat Palmer, one of the organizers of the Manilla Christmas Market, said she

MARKET, PAGE 5

Can we go to the park?

Ellis is new Denison Parks and Rec director

BY DAN MUNDT

"Can we go to the park? Can we go to the park?" Sam Ellis often asked his parents when he was a child in Denison.

"I played in all the parks in Denison, growing up."

Ellis was recently named the new Denison Parks and Recreation Department director by the Denison City Council.

"This is kind of full circle," he said. "You end up where you're meant to be."

Ellis was born and raised in Denison and is a 2000 graduate of Denison High School (DHS).



Sam Ellis

He played Denison Rec/club sports growing up.

At DHS, he ran cross country and wrestled for four years, played soccer for three years and ran in track for one year.

The experience he brings to the new job includes coaching wrestling and soccer at East Sac County High School in Lake View and helping out with youth

programs in Denison.

Since August, Ellis had been the interim Parks & Rec director following the resignation of Brian Kempfert, the former director.

For the year prior to being named the interim director, Ellis was the program coordinator for the department.

"The coordinator job was the absolute favorite thing I've done," he said. "I look forward to using that same work ethic, that same drive, same intensity in the Parks & Rec director job."

Working as the Parks & Rec program coordinator gave Ellis insight into all the moving parts within the department, he said.

It also gave him the opportunity to meet a wide variety of community members and hear their thoughts and opinions about what Parks & Rec could be doing.

When Kempfert announced his exit plans, Ellis knew he wanted to be considered for the director position.

"I absolutely love the program," he said. "Part of it's because the days are never the same – you always get to be creative."

Ellis said he sat down and thought about where the department is right now and where he thought it could go with the help of the Parks & Recreation Commission Board.

"I was really excited about the opportunity to advance and (the) chance to be a part of the community by moving the Parks & Rec Department forward," he said.

He had to hit the ground running even before he got the job.

"My first day on the job as interim, we tore down the playground – the Kids Kastle – and started moving forward with the RFP (request for proposal) process and getting a playground vendor company," Ellis said. "We also had programs going on at the same time. It was organized chaos and I kind of enjoy that, too, because you don't have time to

ELLIS, PAGE 3



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Christmas at the McHenry House



PHOTOS BY GORDON WOLF

Chad Long and Phyllis Lewis chat in the decorated kitchen at the McHenry House during the Festival of Trees preview party on Saturday. Long, from Louisiana, is the interim clinical director at Crawford County Memorial Hospital, working under a contract. Lewis said of all the decorated rooms in the historic house in Denison, the kitchen is her favorite. The Christmas open house dates at the McHenry House are November 25-26, December 2-3 and December 9-10, from 1-4 p.m. each day.



People are invited to put the name of a veteran or someone currently serving in the military on this tree in the attic of the McHenry House.



The "cigar store Indian" watches over two stuffed Christmas bears in the basement of the McHenry House. The cigar store Indian used to sit on the sidewalk in Uptown Denison.



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“Elf” to be shown at Donna Reed Theater

SNOWCIAL, FROM PAGE 1

run is such a short run; it's about the festiveness of the holiday season, so this year it's more of a costume contest with a little bit of a run to keep you warm.”

Awards will be given for best costume, funniest costume and most original costume.

“You can win a \$20 CDC gift card if you have one of the top three costumes,” he said.

The fun run starts at the Donna Reed Theater, goes east a block, takes a left at United Bank of Iowa, goes around the edge of the Safety Zone parking lot to 1st Avenue North, over to North Main Street and then back to the theater.

The entry fee is \$10; the run begins at noon and kicks off the Winter Snowcial.

“You'll get a free drink with that from the Bake Shop,” Perrien said. “The idea is to get out and have some fun.”

Register for the Santa Fun Run at cdcia.org.

“Merry Market in the Mall” will run in conjunction with the Snowcial from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Broadway and Main Mall; about 15 vendors will be on hand to show and sell their wares.

Santa Claus will be at the mall from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and will then move to the Santa House between UBI and Cobalt Credit Union on Broadway from 1 to 4 p.m.

The Bake Shop and Café will provide the beverage garden for the Winter Snowcial.

Flaco's Tacos and Pim's Thai Food will provide tasty food items.

Attendees will be able to roast marshmallows and stay warm at fire pits set up on Broadway; a variety of games will be provided.

A candy cane scavenger hunt, involving the participating businesses, will also take place.

In the Donna Reed Theater lobby, St. Croix Hospice will set up a cookie decorating area and Family Crisis Centers will have craft tables to keep kids busy.

The Women in Business Impact Organization (WIBIO) will provide horse-drawn wagon rides for a freewill donation.

The Snowcial activities on the street will wrap up at about 4 p.m., which is when “Elf,” the popular 2003 film starring Will Ferrell, will play at the Donna Reed Theater.

A lighted parade will take to the streets following the film.

Volunteers are needed to run the Winter Snowcial.

“It's nothing too hard – just help with the kids' games and Santa Fun run and setting up and tearing down during the movie,” Perrien said.

To volunteer, contact Perrien at dperrien@cdcia.org or 712-263-5621.

LAMBERT, FROM PAGE 1

he works with the timing system.

He tries to make it to all the soccer games he can; he said it is a little difficult now that his children are getting older.

And he goes to every baseball and softball game that he can when he is not at his own children's events.

He said being able to work with the athletes is rewarding.

“It's a big part of what I've always wanted to do, to work with athletes,” Lambert explained. “I went to the University of Iowa for athletic training, so this gets me to back to those roots a little bit, and it is something different than what I do at my chiropractic office.”

His job is to find the best way for an athlete to heal, whether that's through him or somebody else.

Being a medical professional at sporting events is kind of a Catch 22 situation, Lambert admitted.

“You want to be there for the kids, and I love sports, but you're only working with the athletes when they are injured. That's a tough part of the job, but it's also the most rewarding because you are helping them in their time of need,” he said.

Lambert's interest in sports medicine came from his own school experiences.

“Dr. (Steven) Oatman was on the sidelines, and Dr. (Lonnie) Pitts was another chiropractic mentor of mine as I was growing up, and they were involved in athletics, as was Dr. (John) Ingram. Just watching them, I knew this was something I wanted to do,” he said.

“When I graduated from the University of Iowa in athletic training and graduated from chiropractic school and came back to Denison, I spoke with the athletic director. From there I started showing up and helping at every event,” he continued.

Lambert had experience in athletic training long before that through his participation in baseball and football at Denison High School.

“But I was too short and couldn't shoot well enough to play basketball, and that's kind of where I got my start,” he said. “I went to an athletic training

camp at Iowa State, and while I didn't play basketball, I still wanted to be part of the team. So, I became a manager and an athletic trainer and taped players. I did that all four years in high school.”

Just as Lambert had mentors as he was growing up, he tries to be a mentor for anybody that wants to go into athletic training or any type of health care field.

“A lot of students have asked questions and/or have gone into chiropractic or athletic training,” he said. “I don't know if that's specifically because of me, but it's been fun to work with the students, to answer their question and guide them to a career field that they might have questions about.”

Lambert enjoys being on the sidelines, but his attention is focused on something different than the average fan. He is always watching to see if an athlete gets injured.

“When you see how an injury happens, that's 90% of telling you what's wrong,” he explained. “If you can see the mechanism of injury, that's going to aid you in finding the best solution or determining what's wrong.”

For Lambert, what he does is all for the student athletes and the school.

“It is fun being with the athletes and seeing them as they come up from a young age all the way through high school,” he said.

A lot of the athletes will call Lambert “Coach” even though he isn't one.

“That is one of the more of the rewarding aspects, even though you're not a coach or teacher, you still feel like you're part of the team and helping out as much as you can,” Lambert said.

Lambert, who is also president of the school board, added that supporting the school is a big part of what he does.

“When I grew up, my mother was a single mom, raising two kids going through school, and all the people who volunteered around the school kind of helped grow me and helped my brother, Daren, so I'm just trying to give back to the school that gave to me,” he said.

He added, “It's an honor to be recognized that maybe I'm doing some of that through giving back.”

Event is fundraiser for LULAC Denison activities and scholarships

POSADAS, FROM PAGE 1

“It's a celebration that commemorates the journey of Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem in search of a safe refuge for Jesus to be born.”

Las Posadas is a religious festival celebrated in Mexico and other Latin American countries.

“Traditionally, for Las Posadas, there is a procession; kids dress up, and musicians and adults follow them to people's homes,” Puga said.

The procession is rejected by many homes but allowed in to one, where a party begins.

“There is a traditional feast and lots of things for kids to do,” Puga said.

The celebration lasts from December 16 through December 24.

On December 16, LULAC Denison will present a smaller version of the event at Western Iowa Tech Community College in Denison.

“Our Las Posadas won't have this procession, but we'll have food, piñatas, caroling, Lotería (a traditional game), and crafts for kids,” she said.

This is the third year LULAC Denison has presented Los Posadas locally.

“It's traditionally a religious celebration in Latin America,” Puga said. “We're making it more of a community event to celebrate Christmastime and get people out to our organization to

hear about what we do and maybe become members. It's our way to recruit members but it's also a way to get the community into the holiday spirit.”

The event is free, but freewill donations are requested.

LULAC Denison is also seeking local support for the event.

“We're looking for business sponsors or individuals who would like to make donations,” she said. “We're hoping to collaborate with the (Denison High School) mariachi group and get them to play again this year. They were a great hit last year.”

Mariachi Reyes del Oeste, the high school's top mariachi band, asks for donations to the group to perform at events.

“We do need people to be able to donate as sponsors so we can donate to the mariachi group,” Puga said.

Donations also go toward food and other items for the Las Posadas event, as well as other events and the scholarships LULAC Denison gives each year.

Donations of appetizers, food, and desserts would be welcomed, she said.

The Las Posadas event begins at 6:30 p.m. on Saturday, December 16, at the Denison Campus of Western Iowa Tech Community College.

Individuals or organizations interested in becoming a sponsor for the event may contact Puga at lulac.denison@gmail.com or 712-267-4891.



Senior Lunch Menu

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

Thursday, November 23:
closed for Thanksgiving

Friday, November 24: closed

Monday, November 27:
scalloped potatoes with ham,
green beans, whole wheat
bread, fruit cup

Tuesday, November 28: ham,
mashed potatoes with gravy,
California blend, whole wheat
bread, chocolate chip cookie

Wednesday, November 29:
chili, whole wheat crackers,
steamed carrots, pears,
cinnamon roll

Thursday, November 30:
herbed crusted pork loin with
carrots and onions, boiled
potatoes, apple slices

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 - NASCAR Collectibles
 - Model Cars
 - Silver Half Dollars

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New Parks & Rec director wants to create more recreation opportunities

ELLIS, FROM PAGE 1

not be busy.”

The Kids Kastle replacement project is a team effort with the Parks & Rec board and the City of Denison, he said.

Working as the program coordinator, he found he enjoys working on all the special events the department presents, from sledding to pee-wee sports and mini golf to movie nights at Washington Park.

“A thing I like about the Parks & Rec Department (is) if you want to do something, you just have to figure out how,” he said. “There are always people wanting to volunteer. That's the best thing about this community; if you ask for volunteers, you're going to get them and they're going to give you 110 percent.”

Ellis said he wants to find a way to create more recreation opportunities.

“I thought back to when I was a kid; what did I want to do? How can we do that now?” he said. “We have a lot of like-minded people in this community.”

Ellis believes the proposed wellness center will be a positive addition to the area.

Parks & Rec's role in the project has not yet been determined, but he said is willing to do whatever is necessary.

“It's way past due,” he said. “Having the wellness center will be a great thing for this community.”

Ellis said he enjoys getting up in the morning and thinking about his upcoming day.

“When I wake up in the morning, it's always ‘What do I get to do today?’ I really enjoy that,” he said. “There is paperwork and other things that are involved, but that's how you build the big picture.”



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Local Calendar

SATURDAY
NOVEMBER 25, 2023

Festival of Trees at the McHenry House in Denison, 1-4 p.m. Every room is decorated for the holiday season. Refreshments available.

Read and 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.

SUNDAY
NOVEMBER 26, 2023

Festival of Trees at the McHenry House in Denison, 1-4 p.m. Every room is decorated for the holiday season. Refreshments available.

TUESDAY
NOVEMBER 28, 2023

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.

CCHappyCats; an anonymous donor will match first \$1,000 on Giving Tuesday (November 28). Call 712-356-8895 or email cchappycats@gmail.com.

Submit events at denisonfreepress.com

WEDNESDAY
NOVEMBER 29, 2023

Popcorn sales at the Crawford County Courthouse to support the Christmas Crusade for Children, 9 a.m. to noon.

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 30, 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.

Fireside Book Discussion at Norelius Community Library Fireside Room, 2-3 p.m.

Second grade musical, Denison High School Fine Arts Center, 7-8 p.m.

NEWS BRIEFS

Denison City Hall closed Thursday and Friday

In observance of Thanksgiving, Denison City Hall will be closed on Thursday, November 23, and Friday, November 24.

Garbage pickup will be the same for Tuesday. Thursday's pickup will take place on Friday, November 24.

Any questions can be directed to Denison City Hall at 712-263-3143.

Denison library board meeting

The Norelius Community Library Board of Trustees will conduct its monthly business meeting at 5:15 p.m. on November 28, in the Library Fireside Room. Following are the agenda items: trustee training, public forum, review of monthly reports, library director's report, bills, committee reports. Carnegie rooms restoration project, server project updates, facilities updates, finance committee meeting, and inclement weather procedures. Board meetings are subject to Iowa Open Meetings Laws. The meetings are open to the public with the exception of personnel issues. Contact the library at 712-263-9355 for more information.

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Letters
TO THE EDITOR
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To the Editor:

Celebrations are premature for Summit Carbon

Landowners targeted for eminent domain by Summit Carbon Solutions won several victories recently, but our fight is far from over. Summit remains a very real threat to private property

rights. Summit suffered significant blows from regulatory agencies in multiple states. The North Dakota PSC denied Summit's permit, and Oliver County denied its injection well permit. In South Dakota, the PUC denied the permit and upheld county ordinances. Summit has moved senior staff into five key counties to find alternate routes and reapply.

Because of permit denials in the Dakotas, Summit's grandiose plan is a pipeline to nowhere. Company CEO Bruce Rastetter recently announced the launch has been delayed two years, if approved.

Two weeks ago, the IUB concluded its evidentiary hearing on the permit

Gathering for the good of the county

BY GORDON WOLF

The benefits of contributing to a community foundation were emphasized at the Gathering for Good event at Yellow Smoke Park on November 10.

Representatives from the Community Foundations of Southwest Iowa were on hand to tell those that attended about the organization's role to elevate charitable giving and philanthropy in Crawford County.

The Crawford County Community Foundation is part of the Community Foundations of Southwest Iowa.

"We work to identify the county's highest areas of impact, assess the landscape of the nonprofit sector and be intentional about building connections with individuals, families, businesses and family foundations and nonprofit organizations that are doing the work in the communities," Sunni Kamp, Southwest Iowa Foundations director, told The Denison Free Press. "We facilitate conversations about charitable giving and meaningful giving and make those connections so donors can infuse dollars back into the community in a meaningful way."

The Gathering for Good event was a way to celebrate the grants that the Crawford County Community Foundation awarded in 2023. That amount is \$289,266.

Grants are awarded in the spring and the fall.

Donors to a qualified, nonprofit organization like the Crawford County Community Foundation receive a federal tax deduction.

"In Iowa we also have a unique benefit through the Endow Iowa Tax Credit program that provides donors a 25% state tax credit for qualified donations that are made in an Endow Iowa-qualified fund at an accredited community foundation," Kamp explained.

Applications for the spring grant cycle will open on December 15 and

will close on February 1.

"This spring grant cycle is funded through the county endowment fund program, which is a statewide program that is unique to Iowa where a percentage of the tax revenue from casinos gets split up into the different counties that don't have a casino," said Sydney Calcagno, Southwest Iowa Foundations advisor.

"Each spring, we normally have over \$100,000 to give away. I think we're probably going to have closer to \$130,000 this spring, and we really encourage all organizations and government entities that are interested in seeking out grant dollars for projects to apply," Calcagno added. "It's a pretty broad range of projects; there's no narrow scope for this cycle."

Open applications are not done for the fall grant cycle.

"We instead do a proactive funding cycle which means the advisory board comes together and identifies different needs in the communities and makes proactive grants to organizations that are working to meet those needs," Calcagno said.

This year, the fall grant cycle funds focused on mental health initiatives, and two cities that are having anniversary celebrations next year received grants.

More information about the spring grant cycle and the Crawford County Community Foundation can be found at omahafoundation.org/iowa-affiliates/county-listing/crawford-county/.

Advisory board members of the Crawford County Community Foundation are Kelly Sonnichsen, Maura Sailer, Steve Vollstedt, Steve Brownmiller, Deb Garrett, Jace Hawley, Paul Outhouse, Deb Quandt and Sarah Weinbrandt.

In the past 17 years, the Crawford County Community Foundation has made a financial contribution of \$1.9 million to more than 116 nonprofit organizations throughout Crawford County.



PHOTO BY GORDON WOLF

The Crawford County Community Foundation dispersed \$289,266 in grant funds during 2023. Pictured with the ceremonial check are, from right, county foundation board members Deb Garrett and Paul Outhouse, Sydney Calcagno and Sunni Kamp with the Community Foundations of Southwest Iowa, and Kelly Sonnichsen with the county foundation board.

Goodfellows campaign starting

The annual Goodfellows campaign is starting for this season.

Just before Thanksgiving, Christmas trees were placed at Hy-Vee, Fareway, Bomgaars and the Crawford County Courthouse, offering people the opportunity to get involved and help a Crawford County family in need.

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

Cards on the trees list 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 is Tuesday, December 19.

and county permits for wastewater disposal, air quality, road crossings, river crossings, and conditional use. Counties are working on ordinances, and state legislators are discussing eminent domain reform.

Even though the hearing has ended, the fight is far from over. Impacted landowners and concerned Iowans will continue to rally against Summit's unconstitutional land grab and dangerous CO2 pipeline. Celebrations are premature for Summit Carbon Solutions.

Bonnie Boeck Ewoldt,
Milford resident and
Goodrich Township landowner

All the businesses in Manilla open on December 2

MARKET, FROM PAGE 1

and her sister, Mary Underwood, started collecting the figures in the 1980s.

"We started collecting them as a hobby from garage sales," Palmer said. "Her mother-in-law (Mary's) went to Goodwill in Sioux City every day; her passion was to find an animated, fix her hair and redo her."

She said the animated figures are also called "motionettes."

About 12 years ago, the sisters decided to take an inventory of their collection.

"At that time, we had over 250 animateds between the two of us," Palmer said.

The collection has grown to twice that size in the years since.

The current version of the Manilla Christmas Market grew out of the sisters' interest in showing their collection to the public.

"Many, many years ago, Manilla had a big craft fair and it was always known as one of the largest ones, but things go by the wayside," she said. "So, we

rejuvenated that, and we thought that would be a great time to display our animateds. We want to share them so everyone can see them."

The animateds range in height from six inches to five feet.

"About 90% of them are electric, so we have one person in charge of figuring out how we can get them all plugged in so they're running on the day we display them," Palmer said.

Setup will begin on Thursday, November 30, with a crew that includes a lot of family members and friends.

"Everybody we know gets voluntold to come help us. On Thursday we get them out of storage and Friday we set them all out, get them running and arrange them," Palmer said.

The display will be open to the public on Saturday only.

"On Sunday, we put them all away for the next year," Palmer said. "They're not out very long, but we have a lot of people come just to see them."

Though many parents caution their kids about keeping their hands away from the figures, Palmer said that's not a worry she shares.

"We let the kids touch them," she said. "We all have kids of our own; we know how it is."

The Manilla Christmas Market will span three buildings this year: Memorial

Hall, the Manilla Wellness Center and the Little Hawks Daycare next to the Wellness Center.

"The vendors will have just about everything you can imagine: food, crafts, jewelry," she said.

Santa Claus will fly in to make an appearance in the Memorial Hall basement from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Trinity Lutheran Church will have a cookie walk from 9 to 11 a.m., and all the businesses in town, including the Klondike Hotel, will be open from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

"There will be lots of good shopping that day," Palmer said. "It will be a good way to get your Christmas shopping started."

Palmer expects between 1,500 and 2,000 people will visit the event.

"It's our 11th year," she said. "People know about it and know it's worth the drive. It really has a good reputation."

Vendors will come from as far away as Okoboji, Des Moines, and Omaha.

Palmer said the Manilla Christmas Market will be good for all the businesses in town.

"Small towns need to do everything we can to show people what great things we have," she said.

The Manilla Christmas Market runs from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, December 2.

Meeting Minutes

DELOIT CITY
DELOIT CITY COUNCIL MEETING
November 14, 2023

The council meeting called to order by Mayor Braasch and roll call were Anderson, Kelly, Lorenzen, Mulligan, and Schillerberg. Absent: None.

The agenda was approved by Anderson/Schillerberg. All approved. Reading of last month's minutes was waived by Mulligan/Schillerberg. All approved.

Deanna Campbell was not present and the land she was questioning had not been surveyed. Brenda Crouch was not at the meeting. A certified register letter will be sent to Brenda stating her presence at the next meeting is required. Carolyn and Dick Lorenzen want the removal of the RR container on 326 Kane Street. The owner of 326 Kane Street stated that he will sell the RR container and get it moved soon. He will get permission to put a building on the land of 326 Kane Street. Dick Lorenzen how about clean up the town for example Sally Casey's house. We are working on that problem. The Mayor is not happy with Thrasher. He called them but has not received a responded back. The City Clerk will call and see if we get pay back for the tile, glue, and Doug's time before and after from Thrasher. Ann Hikins want the burn pile cleaned up by the end of November. The burn pile has pumpkins, roof shingles, large stump of trees and plus more stuff. If not clean up, she will not let us burn there. The Annual Finance Report (AFR) was approved by a motion by Lorenzen/Schillerberg. All Approved

Maintenance report as given. Financial reports was read and moved by Schillerberg/ Anderson. All approved.

Bills were read and paid moved by Anderson/Lorenzen. All approved.

Bill: Bomgaars \$32.97, Denison Bulletin \$319.18, The Denison Free Press \$100.00, Denison Do It Best \$55.66, Frontier Comm. \$122.56, Growmark \$458.42, Gworks \$1597.00, Iowa League of Cities \$50.00, Lowes \$179.85, MidAmerican Energy \$515.11, Order My Checks \$83.43, Rasmussen Lumber Co. \$10.14, Wal Mart \$200.99, Payroll \$3018.52, Payroll Taxes \$1330.22, Verizon Wireless \$49.35, Water: Core & Main \$1522.80, Foundation Ana. Lab. \$201.50, Frontier \$25.00, Gworks \$2033.00, IA Finance Authority \$115.28, IA Rural Water Association \$305.00, MidAmerican Energy \$123.45, Taxes \$127.31, Walmart \$37.28, Garbage: Craw. Co. Landfill \$281.00, 4M Auto Repair \$1157.79, Sewer: Bomgaars \$12.99, IA Finance Authority \$2850.00, MidAmerican \$34.04, Sunquist Engineering \$63.00, Walmart \$9.94, RUT: UBI \$1169.98

Meeting adjourned by Schillerberg/ Kelly

Corrine Kinney-Mehaffey, City Clerk
Tyler Braasch, Mayor



Wall-to-wall animated Christmas figures will be on display in the basement of Manilla Memorial Hall during the Manilla Christmas Market on December 2.

Water Watch remains in place

BY GORDON WOLF

The board for Denison Municipal Utilities (DMU) on Monday decided to keep the Water Watch in place. It has been in place continuously since June.

DMU General Manager Rory Weis said that readings on the wells on Monday morning showed another half-foot drop in the levels.

He added that the current well levels are very close to the levels in February and that there has been some fluctuation in the levels through the year.

The recommendation by Weis and the water department manager was to lift the Water Watch at this time because there is no outside watering of lawns and gardens taking place now.

However, board members decided to keep the Water Watch in place.

The Water Watch is the least restrictive of the three measures of the DMU Water Conservation Plan. Customers are encouraged to limit or curtail all non-essential uses of water.

One of the restrictions is no watering

of lawns, shrubs or gardens between 8 a.m. and 7 p.m.

Board member Chad Langenfeld asked what effect the removal of the water conservation measure would have.

"I don't see where it's helping or hindering right now, in November," Weis said.

"My only concern is that it will give people the idea that we're fine. Obviously, we've got water issues," Langenfeld said.

He added that if the Water Watch were to be lifted that DMU officials would have a conversation with the large customers, encouraging them to conserve water.

Brian Ettleman, another board member, said he didn't know if it was worth removing the Water Watch, and board members Dane Dammen and Leslie Feekes agreed.

Langenfeld said conversations about conservation with DMU's large customers would still be helpful.

DENISON POLICE DEPARTMENT MONTHLY ACTIVITY REPORT TO CITY COUNCIL

OCTOBER 2023

Total Hours Worked: Police: 1,247 hrs
Communications: 572 hrs.

Total Miles Traveled: 4,742 miles
Total Fuel Used: 534

INVESTIGATIONS:	OCTOBER 2023	YTD 2023	OCTOBER 2022	YTD 2022
Burglary	0	5	2	15
Thefts	6	35	2	102
Vandalism	0	0	2	54
Drug/Alcohol	11	105	14	93
Accidents	11	113	11	113
General Calls	380	3016	287	2213
Total Activity	408	3274	318	2590

CHARGES FILED:	OCTOBER 2023	YTD 2023	OCTOBER 2022	YTD 2022
Felony-Adult	2	34	4	34
Felony-Juvenile	0	1	0	3
Misdemeanor-Adult	25	257	39	342
Misdemeanor-Juv	9	16	3	35
Total Arrests	36	308	46	414

TRAFFIC CITATIONS:	OCTOBER 2023	YTD 2023	OCTOBER 2022	YTD 2022
Written Citations	39	577	85	651
Written Warnings	36	405	78	481
Verbal Warnings	7	110	22	162
Total Traffic	82	1092	185	1294

ASSISTANCE:	OCTOBER 2023	YTD 2023	OCTOBER 2022	YTD 2022
Persons	278	2394	229	1907
Other Agencies	5	51	4	51
Public Programs	0	0	0	3
Persons Attended	0	0	0	49
Total Assistance	283	2445	233	2007



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The latest edition of The Denison Free Press can be found online

Check out our e-edition!
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31 DMS students perform with honor band

Two eighth-graders selected for All-Iowa band

Thirty-one Denison Middle School seventh and eighth grade band students were selected to participate in this year's Southwest Iowa Bandmasters Association Middle School Honor Band. The honor band was hosted at Atlantic High School on Friday, November 10. The students rehearsed with their bands throughout the day and performed a concert for families and friends that night.

Two of the eighth grade students, Paola Sartun and Lauren Lambert, found out they had been selected for the All-Iowa Eighth Grade Honor Band. The All-Iowa band comprises the top students from each of the six regional honor bands in Iowa. The All-Iowa band performance will be May 9 at the Iowa Bandmasters Conference in Des Moines.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Pictured are the Denison Middle School eighth grade students who performed with the SWIBA honor band.



Paola Sartun (left) and Lauren Lambert will perform with the All-Iowa Eighth Grade Honor Band in May.



These seventh grade Denison Middle School students performed with the honor band.

Ten Denison FFA members attend national convention

Denison FFA sent 10 members to the National FFA Convention, conducted November 1-3 in Indianapolis, Indiana. The FFA members had the opportunity to meet many new people and attend workshops and sessions.

The national convention was a great way for members to get out of their comfort zone and meet new people to

relate to.

The Denison FFA members attended an industry tour at Kinze Manufacturing and were able to meet with many colleges and business representatives at the Expo Center.

Cole Carlson and Emily Frazier received their American Degree. Less than one percent of FFA members receive their American Degree from across the country. (Note: A photo of Carlson and Frazier was published in the November 9 issue of The Denison Free Press.)



FOR SALE BY SEALED BID:

2012 Ford 550 Regular Cab Truck with Versalift VST-471 single bucket boom attached.

Platform height is 47 FT. (bottom of the bucket). It is up to date on the dielectric and load testing.

This truck can be seen at 721 Broadway, or we can send pictures of it.

Minimum bid is \$33,000.

Any questions please contact Mike Wight at (712)269-0554

Bids will be received until December 14th at noon. Please mark envelope: 2012 Ford 550

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LAND TRANSACTIONS

November 10-16, 2023

Warranty Deeds

- Derek Soll and Christina Soll to Darren Bruck: Lot 8 and 9, Block 21, City of Dow City; \$28,000.
- William K. Truitt and Hope L. Truitt to Hope L. Truitt Trust, Hope L. Truitt, Trustee: W1/2 SW1/4 Section 30, Paradise Township; E1/2 SW1/4 Section 30, Paradise Township; E1/2 SW1/4 Section 25, Willow Township; NW1/4 SW1/4 Section 30, Paradise Township.
- William K. Truitt and Hope L. Truitt to William K. Truitt Trust, William K. Truitt, Trustee: W1/2 SW1/4 Section 30, Paradise Township; E1/2 SW1/4 Section 30, Paradise Township; E1/2 SW1/4 Section 25, Willow Township; NW1/4 SW1/4 Section 30, Paradise Township.
- John Blom and Joy Blom to 1st 3 LLC: Lot 1 and 2, Block 29, City of Manilla; \$22,000.
- S&S Construction Company LLC, S&S Construction to Kyle Paul Hast: NE1/4 NW1/4 Section 32, Paradise Township; \$70,000.

Quit Claim Deeds

- William Anderson, Darlene Ann Anderson, Darlene Mohr to Darlene Ann Anderson: Lot 70 and 71, City View 5th Addition, City of Denison; \$1.00.
- Carolyn K. Sievers to Carolyn Sievers Living Trust, Carolyn K. Sievers, Trustee: NW1/4 SW1/4 Section 13, Westside Township; SW1/4 SW1/4 Section 13, Westside Township; SE1/4 SW1/4 Section 13, Westside Township; NW1/4 NW1/4 Section 24, Westside Township.
- Curtis Thompson to Thompson Family Revocable Trust, Curtis

Thompson and Renee Thompson, Trustees: SW1/4 Section 36, Union Township; W1/2 SE1/4 Section 36, Union Township; E1/2 NE1/4 Section 34, Union Township; E1/2 NE1/4 SE1/4 Section 34, Union Township; NE1/4 SE1/4 Section 34, Union Township.

• Erik P. Koenigs and Tonja S. Koenigs to Erik and Tonja Koenigs Revocable Trust, Erik P. Koenigs and Tonja S. Koenigs, Trustees: NW1/4 Section 18, Soldier Township.

• Michael Koenck and Shannon Koenck to Shannon Koenck and Michael Koenck: NE1/4 SE1/4 Section 18, Jackson Township.

Court Officer Deed

• Kenneth S. Macgregor Estate, Rhonda L. Macgregor, Executor to Gloria Alvarez and Victor Hugo Rocha: Lot 3, Block 34, City of Denison; \$100,000.

Federal Tax Lien

• Internal Revenue Service, United States Department of Treasury against Doug Rice. Amount: \$3,068.52.

• Internal Revenue Service, United States Department of Treasury against Carrie Polley. Amount: \$33,748.44.

State Tax Lien

• Iowa Department of Revenue against Kim J. Plough. Amount: \$97,217.21.

Miscellaneous Deed

• Helen C. Henkelman Revocable Trust, Joseph J. Henkelman, Trustee to Joseph J. Henkelman and Janette L. Vesterfelt: W1/2 SW1/4 Section 8, Jackson Township; S1/2 NE1/4 Section 7, Jackson Township.

COURTHOUSE NEWS

November 10-16, 2023

CORRECTION

• The November 16 edition of The Denison Free Press incorrectly listed a small claims judgement of \$417.83 and \$115 in costs against James Andrew Blair, of Deloit, in favor of AMVC Veterinary Services. The correct listing is that the case was dismissed without prejudice. The Denison Free Press apologizes for the error.

SMALL CLAIMS

• Against: David Gene Neville, Odebolt. In favor of: Totten's Plumbing and Heating. Amount: \$3,564.00 plus \$95 costs.

TRAFFIC

- Kayleah Ann Goetzinger, Carroll, dark window or windshield, \$135.50.
- Raul Carmelo Vargas Zarza, Omaha, NE, no valid driver's license, \$354.00.
- David Gene Neville, Odebolt, operation without registration card or plate, \$135.50.
- Victor Alfredo Melchor Santacruz, Denison, no valid driver's license, \$354.00.
- Jordan Elliot Riester, Dunlap, failure to maintain or use safety belts, adult, \$135.50.
- Jorge A. Landa Gonzalez, Denison, failure to have a valid license or permit for operation of motor vehicle, \$285.00.
- Josias Martinez Saborit, Denison,

operating non-registered vehicle, \$135.50.

SPEEDING (21 MPH OR OVER)

• Angelo Vitale Miller, Fort Dodge, \$89.50.

SPEEDING (11-15 MPH OVER)

• James Dean Lemon, Denison, \$175.75.

SPEEDING (6-10 MPH OVER)

• Michael Richard Schrunk, Spirit Lake, \$118.25.

• Ernesto Castro Sanchez, Audubon, \$118.25.

• Maria Cristina Vargas Barroso, Denison, \$118.25.

• Raul Carmelo Vargas Zarza, Omaha, NE, \$118.25.

• Michelle Rose Schneller, Ricketts, \$118.25.

SPEEDING (1-5 MPH OVER)

• Derrick Lee Behrendsen, Schleswig, \$89.50.

• Jorge Lopez Marquez, Omaha, NE, \$89.50.

• Jenna Ann Krohnke, Charter Oak, \$89.50.

• Shannette Leticia Lemus Corona, Denison, \$106.75.

• Benigna Ortiz Partida, Omaha, NE, \$89.50.

• Victor Daniel Garcia, Denison, \$106.75.

• Cesar Puga Flores, Ames, \$106.75.

• Gustavo A. Machado Del Sol, Omaha, NE, \$89.50.

It's The Candy Cane Kid to the rescue at second grade musical

The Denison Elementary School second graders will present the musical, "Christmas at the O.K. Corral," at 7 p.m. on Thursday, November 30.

No admission is charged.

The plot involves the townspeople of Snowy Gulch who are preparing to celebrate Christmas with their annual festival at the O.K. Corral on the edge of town. Bubble Gum Bart, who is very annoyed by all the noise and happiness, tries to stop the celebration

by threatening to cover the whole town in bubble gum. Frightened and desperate, the townspeople telegraph Santa Claus for help, so he sends The Candy Cane Kid to the rescue. The Kid confronts Bart with his most powerful strategy: communication. Bart breaks down and admits to The Kid that he doesn't really hate Christmas; he's just lonely and feels left out. The townspeople hear this and respond by welcoming Bart into their celebration and into their town.

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Open House and Recipe Walk



PHOTOS BY DAN MUNDT

A long line formed at the cash register at Reynold's Clothing early in the Open House and Recipe Walk in Uptown Denison on Sunday.



Henry Deal, of Dow City, chooses a croc charm at The Cottage as sister Harper looks on.



Quinn and Macie Klein, of Earling, wait patiently for Mom and Grandma to finish shopping at the Broadway and Main Mall.



Crawford County Tourism Coordinator Drew Perrien prepares map/recipe holders for participants of the Open House and Recipe Walk.

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Bingo! It's turkey time



PHOTOS BY GORDON WOLF

People went to Memorial Hall in Manilla on Sunday for lunch and a chance to win one of 22 turkeys given away during "Bingo for Turkeys," an event of the Manilla Chamber.



Maverick Smith helps his mother, Allie, play her card, while his sister, Marlee, plays her own card. They are from Manilla.

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



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



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Ribbon Cutting at Tiney's



PHOTO BY LORENA LÓPEZ ALTAMIRANO

The Chamber & Development Council of Crawford County conducted a ribbon cutting ceremony at Tiney's Steakhouse in Vail last week Thursday. Pictured, owner Rick Krueger gets set to cut the ribbon.

Christmas shopping at the library



Deb Burk, of Denison looks for Christmas décor at the Recycled Christmas Book and Bake Sale at Norelius Community Library in Denison. The event took place on Friday and Saturday.



Britney Vega is entertained by a music Christmas tree held by her mother, Stella. Britney is seven months old.

Taking shape



PHOTO BY GORDON WOLF

The two halves of the tank for the new water tower in Denison are pictured. At Monday's Denison Municipal Utilities Board meeting, Rory Weis, general manager, said it is anticipated that the tank will be raised sometime before the end of December. McGuire Iron, of Sioux Falls, South Dakota, is the contractor on the water tower project.

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Monarch Sports

DENISON-SCHLESWIG MONARCHS BOWLING

Boys return two bowlers, girls four for 2023-2024 season

Returning varsity members Jake Fink and Ethan Totten for the boys, and returning varsity members Brianna Musgrave, Brittany Musgrave, Nevaeh Brandt and Alexis Hartwig for the girls, form the nucleus of the Denison-Schleswig bowling teams this year.

Head Coach Shelby Brawner said she is looking forward to several things this year.

"One is the number of freshmen that

have joined the team, with knowledge and a drive to improve their skills," she said. "Be on the lookout for some of their names this season."

She and the team members are also looking forward to a tournament they will host on February 1. The tournament will be in the same format as the state qualifying meetings. It will feature 15 baker games with a lane rotation after every five games. Six teams have been

invited for the competition, which will feature both boys' and girls' teams.

Following are members of the girls' team, according to grade level.

Freshmen: Maria Bowman, Grace Collins, Hailey Galvin, Daisy Koch, Haley Lutz and Abbigail Ratliff.

Sophomores: Dianne Castillo, Alice Koch, Ashton Randeris and Isabel Westphalen.

Juniors: Tayla Brodersen and Alexis Hartwig

Seniors: Nevaeh Brandt, Maggie Hennings, Chloe Koch, Brianna Musgrave, Brittany Musgrave and

Taylor Totten.

Following are members of the boy's team by grade level.

Freshmen: Grant Fink, Logan Harper, Trae Hartwig and Jackson Steinkuehler

Sophomores: Anthony Cabrera, Malachi Esteves, Jett Paulsen, Gavin Schmadede, Tyson Stoppel and Ethan Totten

Juniors: Haiden Fineran, Tagdow Okwer and Adyn Zenk.

Seniors: Joel Barroso, Blaine Brodsky, Jake Fink, Cammerin Palmer and Lucien Stienkuhler

DENISON-SCHLESWIG MONARCHS WRESTLING

Monarch girls complete week of wrestling

The girls' wrestling team from Denison-Schleswig placed a number of members on the podium Saturday at a meet at West Monona High School. The team placed third overall.

"We wrestled much better as a team on Saturday in Onawa. It was great to see how quickly girls are applying what they are learning in practice and meets," said Head Coach Jacob Brawner. "We talk about focusing more on the process than the results, but we had five girls in the finals and two - Daniela Salinas (100) and Angie Rivera (140) - were

able to take home first place honors."

Salinas won by fall in two matches, and Rivera won by fall in three matches.

"There is more to wrestling than where you finish on the podium, but these results are nice to see. We were able to get every girl quality mat time and a few were able to pick up their first wins of the season," Brawner added. "That's always a nice feeling to get on the board in the win column and get that boost of confidence."

On Monday, the girls were back in action at Council Bluffs Thomas

Jefferson. The team placed fourth out of 12.

Salinas and Rivera again placed first in their weight classes.

"We are still just scratching the surface on how good we can be, but we certainly are tough - and that's a great start to being a wrestler," Brawner said.

He added, "Taylor Totten was runner-up at 190. We had a few other good performances where kids showed some guts. Giana Garcia went six minutes with the top seed before losing and then ripping off three straight wins to get third. Grace Collins, Remigia Raymundo, Andrea Alcaraz, Kasandra Barroso, and Alexa Tremblay all battled

through the back sides of their brackets to place in the top four."

He continued that Taya Adams wrestled incredibly tough in the best bracket in the tournament, and Andrea Lupian picked up her first win as a freshman while tagging along to a varsity tournament.

"We're really happy with our progression through the first week of the season, but there is still a long way to go so we need to keep our focus on the big picture," Brawner said.

The team will have its only home meet of the season on Monday, November 27. The Monarchs will host Carroll, Audubon and Hinton.

Local News Local Journalists Local Ownership



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Rowedder honored for 22 years on school board



PHOTO BY GORDON WOLF

Kris Rowedder (center, with plaque), who has served on the Denison School Board for 22 years, received a plaque at Monday's meeting. Rowedder chose not to run for another term this fall. With Rowedder are family members. From left, brothers Dave and Doug Wiebers, Kris Rowedder, sister Leesa Kinzer, and Kris's husband, Marc. The plaque reads "Our children are living messages we send to a time we will not see. We thank Kris Rowedder for her 22 years of outstanding commitment and service as a member of the Board of Education on behalf of the children of the Denison Community School District."

In Remembrance



Julie Kristin Strait

December 1, 1946 - November 6, 2023

Julie Kristin Strait, 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.

Thank you

There are not enough words to express my gratitude for all the love I received during the 50th anniversary celebration of my business, Don's Inc.

THANK YOU TO ALL!

Here are the winners of the raffle:
 1st. prize: Coletta Weeda
 2nd prize: Diane Miller
 3rd prize: Troy Groth

The winners of the children's drawing for the cross pendants are Remington Clark and Fiona Erlbacher

Both of our locations will be closed Thursday & Friday, November 23 & 24

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8:00 AM - 4:30 PM

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.

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Painting the town

BY GORDON WOLF

Business windows in area towns, including Manilla, are looking Christmassy, thanks to the talent of a Logan woman.

Sarah Epperson, whose business is Board Creators, has been busy applying paint and her creativity to the windows.

It started in the fall of 2022 after Epperson painted the window of her front door and posted a picture of it on social media. A businessperson in Missouri Valley saw the post and wanted Epperson to paint the business's windows.

"And from there it snowballed," she said.

She added the idea of painting windows was a way to earn extra money for her daughter's participation in competitive gymnastics at Platinum Gymnastics in Logan, and her son's participation in Lo-Ma youth wrestling and his guitar lessons.

Epperson has also painted fall, spring and Independence Day art in area towns.

Some people have a specific idea they want Epperson to paint, but many leave it up to her creativity.

A bakery in Dunlap wanted the painting to be pink, so she painted a pink coffee cup and pink cookies.

"Some want a winter scene, not Christmas, so it lasts longer," she added.

Epperson's artistic talent developed by paying attention to general shapes of objects and then deciding what details are important to make the painting look right.

"Most things are pretty basic if you can break them down," she explained.

She took art in elementary school and high school with two very talented teachers and is now paying that back by volunteering for a community art program in Logan.

"I can't say I excelled a ton at art, but



PHOTOS BY GORDON WOLF

Sarah Epperson paints snowflakes on the window of Yesway in Manilla on Sunday.

I enjoyed it," Epperson said. "I've always been crafty and love to create pretty things. It comes in all forms - sewing, crocheting, drawing, painting, and do-it-yourself projects."

She said the difficult part of painting windows is to resist the urge to add too many intricate details.

"They aren't really needed for this type of art and just take extra time, which costs people extra money," Epperson explained.

One of Epperson's more intricate designs was a Christmas train on Midlands Dental in Missouri Valley.

"It turned out awesome, but it was a

lot of detail and colors - one of those times I should have left out some minor details, but you learn as you go," she said.

She said a Christmas village she painted on the CHI clinic window in Dunlap last year was much the same with a lot of details.

"They had a very specific theme in mind and the clinic, as well as most of Dunlap, were thrilled with the results," Epperson added.

In addition to Manilla, Dunlap and Missouri Valley, towns where Epperson's Christmas and winter window art can be seen are Crescent,

Logan, Woodbine and Irwin.

"My favorite part about all of this, and what makes painting in freezing conditions worth it, is seeing people stop to enjoy them, or having kids see them and love them," Epperson said.

"I love it when kids walk past me and have questions on what I'm doing or why I do something while I paint," she added. "I always make sure to ask them if there is anything missing. Kids are honest and will tell you. Sometimes it's something I really did overlook, and sometimes they are using their imaginations to make the painting bigger and better - and I welcome it!"

Pictured are a number of windows that Epperson has painted in Manilla this season.



Planters in Manilla have been decorated for Christmas and the winter season. This snowman planter mirrors the painting on the door in the background.