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Local News
Local Journalists
Local Ownership

The Denison Free Press

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Vol. 1 | No. 22

SERVING DENISON & CRAWFORD COUNTY, IOWA

November 30, 2023

Holiday season in full swing

A variety of events this weekend

Activities for kids and adults will spring up around Crawford County this weekend as the holiday shopping season arrives.

In Denison, the Winter Snowcial and the Merry Market in the Mall arrive in the uptown area on Saturday.

The Manilla Christmas Market and the Schleswig Craft Fair will also take place on Saturday.

On Sunday, the Charter Oak Craft Fair and the Ron Kuhlmann Memorial Toy Show will take place in Charter Oak.

Santa Claus will make appearances in Manilla, Schleswig, Charter Oak and Denison over the course of the weekend.

See the stories on page 13 of this edition.

Santa Claus is coming to town (four times)

One visit will be for special-needs children

BY DAN MUNDT

"I have talked to Santa and he's very excited to come to Denison this year," said Mariah Nutt, office manager of the Chamber & Development Council (CDC) of Crawford County.

Santa's visits to Denison are sponsored by the Women in Business Impact Organization (WIBIO), which maintains Santa's House between United Bank of Iowa and Cobalt Credit Union.

WIBIO has arranged for Santa, who is very busy at present, to stop in Denison four times during December.

Saint Nicholas has definite feelings about where Denison falls on his naughty-or-nice list.

"Because everyone is so generous and supports the community so well, whether it's through donations or volunteering or attending events, people here make such a positive

SANTA, PAGE 3

Cronk's reopens

The legacy continues under new ownership

BY GORDON WOLF

The reopening of Cronk's Café on Monday was welcomed by a steady stream of customers.

That included about 50 people who came for breakfast, said owner Omar Patino.

Omar is the son of Denison businessman Ramon Patino, who bought the Cronk's early in 2023.

Ramon said when he bought the restaurant, it wasn't just to own a business but to invest in people's memory of a restaurant that means a lot in Denison's history.

The landmark restaurant, located at the intersection of Highway 59/141 and Highway 30, was started by L.J. Cronk in 1929.

The pandemic closed the restaurant in March 2020, and two months later owners Eric and Terri Skoog decided to put it up for sale.

Now, under new ownership, Cronk's Café is adding a touch of the new while preserving the restaurant's past.

Patrons will be welcomed by familiar sights when entering the restaurant.

CRONK'S, PAGE 12



PHOTO BY GORDON WOLF

After being closed a few months shy of four years, Cronk's Café reopened in Denison on Monday. Pictured are Omar Patino, the owner, and Guadalupe Herenandez, the general manager.



PHOTO BY GORDON WOLF

Easton Ogren reacts after Leiza Mendez programs a Bee-Bot to go forward the correct number of spaces during an introductory lesson in a preschool class at Denison Elementary School. Students learned how to erase the Bee-Bot's memory and program it to move forward and to hit the start button. Later on they will learn how to make it go in reverse and to the left or the right.

Computer science begins with preschool

Denison Elementary approaching five years since start of new initiative

BY GORDON WOLF

In the world of computer science education and coding, the earlier the better.

That is something instructors at the Denison Community Schools took to heart. This is the third year that preschoolers have been doing computer science and coding.

Originally a K-3 initiative, computer science also expanded upward to include the fourth and fifth grades at Broadway Elementary.

It was just about five years ago that a new computer science initiative started

CODING, PAGE 5



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Eric Kumm was named the Iowa Hero at the Iowa-Nebraska football game on Friday, November 24. At left is Iowa Athletics Director Beth Goetz; at right is his wife, Michele.

Impacting his community and inspiring others

Denison native is Iowa Hero

BY DAN MUNDT

Denison Native Eric Kumm, a 1984 Denison High School (DHS) graduate, was honored as the "Iowa Hero" at last week's University of Iowa vs. Nebraska football game.

The game, called the "Heroes Game," was the 13th annual meeting between the Hawkeyes and the Cornhuskers.

According to Pioneer, the title sponsor of the game, the purpose of selecting individuals from both states is to recognize and celebrate "local heroes who exemplify the goal of positively impacting their community and inspiring others."

Eric was recognized for his role in helping students achieve careers in agriculture.

He has a degree in agriculture education from Northwest Missouri State, and has served as an ag teacher and FFA advisor for nearly 35 years.

Eric taught at West Sioux High

School and Hartley-Melvin-Sanborn High School before landing at South O'Brien High School in 1995.

His wife, Michele, is the art director of the Sanford Museum in Cherokee.

Eric said he appreciates the education he received at DHS.

"I had Randy Kuhlmann as an ag teacher and enjoyed taking classes there and being involved in FFA activities," he said. "There were many other instructors at Denison High School that had an influence on my career in education; I think we were pretty lucky in Denison to have outstanding teachers."

For the last 15 years, he has taught agriculture and industrial tech classes.

"We're a little bit smaller school," Eric said. "When I first got to South O'Brien, there were about 90 kids in a class, and we're down to about 42 kids in a class."

HERO, PAGE 2

Winner says award is recognition of school and communities

HERO, FROM PAGE 1

When the previous industrial tech instructor left, Eric was asked to take on some of his responsibilities.

"In this past year, they passed a bond issue to build a new facility for ag and industrial tech, and part of the plan is to hopefully hire a full-time industrial tech teacher once again," he said. "Career tech education is coming back around - people are finding it's kind of important to have graduates in these areas."

Eric said he believes he is in the right place.

"It's a good school system; they've been very supportive of what we wanted to do with the program," he said. "There are always ups and downs with anything, but for the most part we've had a pretty good run here. It's something different every day. The ag part of it is intracurricular with the FFA, instead of an extracurricular, so what we do in the class ties in with FFA and vice versa. It's fun working with the kids no matter what careers they end up going into."

Eric said his teachers in Denison were good role models.

"I don't think anyone that had gone through Denison during our time would question the quality of teachers we had; we were pretty lucky," he said. "They made learning fun. They challenged you to try to do your best and be your best and showed that they cared. I think that made it a good experience - and I'm sure they have good instructors there, now."

A former student, now a Pioneer dealer, nominated Eric for the Iowa Hero award.

"I was visiting with him this summer and he said, 'Do you mind if I throw your name into a nomination for something?' and I said go ahead," Eric said.

He was surprised when a representative from the University of Iowa Athletic Department told him he was a finalist.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Iowa Hero Eric Kumm, left, and Nebraska Hero Josh Hicks hold their Heroes awards with the Heroes Game trophy between them. Iowa won the game by a score of 13-10.

"I didn't know what he had nominated me for; it was kind of neat to find that out," he said. "For the past two weeks, they were lining things up and getting everything organized for the day."

He and Josh Hicks, the Nebraska Hero, were recognized at the game, which was played at Memorial Stadium in Lincoln, Nebraska.

Josh helped rescue a passenger from a submerged vehicle in a lake.

Eric said he felt honored to have received the award - but it also made him uncomfortable.

"Because I do like to stay behind the scenes and let the kids have the recognition - but it's nice to be recognized for work that you do," he said. "You don't always know what impact you've had on kids throughout a teaching career, so it's very humbling that there are people that thought I did

a good job."

He doesn't see the award as an individual recognition.

"Things like this happen because there has been tremendous support from family and friends and the communities around here that support our programs and support our schools," Eric said. "I think it's more of a recognition for our school system and our communities."

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SANTA, FROM PAGE 1

impact that he thinks our town is mostly on the nice list," Nutt said.

Mrs. Claus will accompany her husband on two of the visits.

"She doesn't go to every town, but Denison is on her list of towns she loves to go to every year," Nutt said.

Though Santa will fly in for each of his visits, Nutt said that his team of reindeer will not be at the Santa House.

"The reindeer will be in a secret, undisclosed location while he's here," she said.

Santa has noted in the past that cleaning up after the reindeer can be a distraction and he wants to give his full attention to the children who come to see him.

"When Santa is here, he'll have the kids come sit on his lap and tell him what they want for Christmas, and each kid will get a little goodie bag," Nutt said.

The jolly old elf's first trip to Denison in 2023 will coincide with this weekend's Winter Snowcial in Uptown Denison on Saturday, December 2; he will be at the Merry Market in the Broadway and Main Mall from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., and at the Santa House from 1 to 4 p.m.

"The Santa House is close to the Snowcial, so it goes together," Nutt said.

His second visit will be from 1 to 3 p.m. on Sunday, December 10.

Santa's third visit, from 4 to 6 p.m. on Thursday, December 14, will have a specific audience in mind.

"That one is for special-needs guests only, which is something new we're doing this year," she said.

"We're excited to see how it turns out. There may be a few tweaks needed before we do it again, but I think it's a great thing to incorporate."

Santa's final visit to Denison for 2023 will be from 5 to 7 p.m. on Thursday, December 21.

Broadway Elementary fifth graders to perform North Pole musical

The fifth graders from Broadway Elementary School will present a Christmas musical at 7 p.m. on Thursday, December 7.

The musical centers on the auditions for the 400th Anniversary of North Pole Musical, which puts everyone in a panic.

The dancing reindeer are "hoofin' it" but don't know what to do with Rudolph and his four left hooves. The elves are tired of always getting the short end of the stick and are singing the blues. The snowmen are "chillin'" but worried about the funky hot lights, and the toys are trying to do the entire Nutcracker Suite in three minutes! The annual Christmas show keeps getting bigger and bigger, but wait, is bigger really better? See how Santa finds a way to remind everyone of the true meaning of the season. Prior to the musical, the Musical Monarchs will perform four songs, singing a classic like "Still, Still, Still," as well as some new tunes such as "Old Man Winter" and "The Holiday Tango!"

ON THE SCANNER

11-16, 12:55 p.m.: An accident happened at Broadway and 17th Street in Denison. Erik Yoshua De La Cruz Garcia, 17, of Denison, was driving a silver 2006 Chevrolet Equinox and failed to yield or stop at the intersection of Broadway and 17th Street, heading northbound. He struck a white 2015 Dodge Grand Caravan that was heading west on Broadway. The Caravan was being driven by Melissa Renae Mathison, 41, of Denison. A passenger in her vehicle, Darlene Marie Schmidt, 88, of Holstein, complained of pain and was taken to Crawford County Memorial Hospital by Mathison. De La Cruz Garcia was cited for driving under suspension and failure to have financial liability. He was given a written warning for operating a non-registered vehicle and for failing to yield or stop at a stop sign. His vehicle received \$3,500 damage to the front passenger side corner. Mathison's vehicle received \$3,500 damage to the front middle.

11-16, 4 p.m.: An accident happened in the Walmart parking lot in Denison. Brisa Marina Diaz, 18, of Denison, was backing a gray 2016 Jeep Patriot from a parking stall when it struck a black 2007 GMC Sierra pickup. Diaz drove off and failed to report and/or exchange information with the owner of the other vehicle. Diaz was cited for leaving the scene of an accident – property damage. Her vehicle received \$300 damage to the rear passenger side corner. The Sierra pickup received \$500 damage to the rear driver side corner.

11-17: Jason Robert Haptonstall, 43, of Denison, was arrested for domestic abuse causing bodily injury.

11-17, 2:23 p.m.: An accident happened on Highway 59 North in Denison. Timothy Walter Cass, 28, of Castana, was driving a green 1997 Dodge R25 pickup, and Travis Renard Brown, 54, of Houston, Texas, was driving a white 2017 Freightliner semi. Both were traveling north on Highway 59 past the middle bucket when Brown initiated a U-turn. The semi encroached on the outer lane, causing Cass to attempt a lane change. However, due to traffic conditions, Cass was unable to switch lanes. Upon realizing the obstruction ahead, Cass attempted to brake but ultimately collided with the semi. Pieces of brake pads from Cass's vehicle were found on the roadway. Brown explained that he missed his turn and was attempting to perform a U-turn. Brown had a complaint of pain but was not transported for medical attention. Cass's vehicle received \$3,000 damage to the front middle and had to be towed. The semi received \$500 damage.

11-17, 3:08 p.m.: An accident occurred on North 18th Street in Denison. Jackson Raymond Steinkuehler, 15, of Schleswig, was driving a white 2012 Ford Edge, heading south in the 600 block of South 18th Street. He came to a stop at the stop sign, looked in both directions but did not see a blue 2005 Dodge Grand Caravan that was traveling east on 6th Avenue North. Steinkuehler's vehicle collided with the Grand Caravan, which was being driven by Kate Lynn Neumann, 50, of Westside. Steinkuehler stated that the sun blocked his view, and he did not see Neumann's van. He was cited for failing to obey a stop sign and yield the right

of way. His vehicle received \$2,000 damage to the front middle. Neumann's vehicle received \$1,200 damage to the middle passenger side. No injuries were reported.

11-17, 9:25 p.m.: John Alan Klein, 63, was arrested for OWI 1st offense after causing a hit-and-run accident.

11-18, 8:04 p.m.: Rene Bernal-Salas, 20, of Denison, was arrested for driving while license under suspension. The location of the offense was on South 15th Street in Denison.

11-19, 1:48 p.m.: An accident occurred in the Walmart parking lot in Denison. Richard Lee Hansen, 59, of Manilla, was backing a beige 2000 Ford F250 Super Duty pickup from a parking stall and struck a gray 2001 Toyota Camry in the left rear quarter panel. The pickup received \$1,500 damage and Hansen's vehicle received \$500 damage to the front passenger side corner.

11-19, 6:15 a.m.: James Felbertoeilia Alan, 55, of Denison, was arrested for assault causing bodily injury.

11-19, 12:21 p.m.: A trailer was reported stolen from Cedar Street in Charter Oak. The trailer description was entered into the National Crime Information Center.

11-19, 4:44 p.m.: A break-in and theft was reported from an address on Main Street in Manilla.

11-20, 12:25 p.m.: A burglary was reported at a residence on 250th Street, Denison. Taken were a 65-inch television and the following firearms: EAA Girsan Regard MC 9mm, Berretta N9-A3 9mm with SilencerCo Hybrid 46M, EEA Girsan Regard MC 9mm, Romarm S.A. WASR-10 7.62x30, and a Sig Sauer P938 SAS 9mm.

11-23, 9:11 a.m.: Mavrick Harris, 29, of Denison, was arrested for driving while barred. The location of the offense was on 1st Avenue South in Denison.

11-23, 10:39 a.m.: An accident happened in the Dollar Tree parking lot in Denison. Ysabel Samon Columbie, 56, of Denison, was operating a black 2009 Ford Escape Limited and was facing south in the parking lot. Monica Alicia Ayala Alonso, 33, of Denison, was driving a black 2013 Ford Fusion west through the parking lot. Samon Columbie back improperly and stuck Ayala Alonso's vehicle, causing \$1,000 damage to the rear driver side corner. Samon Columbie's vehicle received \$1,000 damage to the rear middle. No one was injured.

11-23, 12:11 a.m.: Colbey Michael McEwan was arrested for OWI 1st offense and failure to maintain control. The incident happened at Highway 30 and 310th Street in Denison.

11-23, 9:30 p.m.: Yekson Jesus Acosta, 23, was arrested for OWI 1st offense.

11-25, 6:05 a.m.: An accident happened at 5th Avenue North and North 19th Street in Denison. Erick Ruby Lima, 29, of Denison, was driving a red 2008 Chevrolet Impala

west on 5th Avenue North and was approaching the stop sign at 10th Street. Candelaria Figueroa Leon, 30, of Denison, was driving a red 2012 Ford Explorer and was traveling south on 10th Street, approaching 5th Avenue North. No traffic controls were present. Lima failed to maintain control of his vehicle, resulting in a broadside collision with Figueroa Leon's vehicle. Figueroa Leon's vehicle was redirected across the roadway, struck a raised curb and came to final rest when it struck a Denison Municipal Utilities (DMU) power pole. No injuries were reported. The power pole was still standing but showed signs of damage where it was impacted; DMU was notified. Lima stated he was unable to stop his vehicle due to the fresh snow falling and the downward grade of the roadway. He was cited for failure to obey a stop or yield sign. His vehicle received \$750 damage to the front driver side corner. Figueroa Leon's vehicle received \$2,500 damage to the front driver side. The utility pole received \$2,000 in damage.

11-25, 8:16 a.m.: An accident happened on North 10th Street in Denison. Sean Willaim Ewoldt, 18, of Denison, was driving a silver 2012 Honda and failed to maintain control of the vehicle at the intersection of 10th Street and 3rd Avenue North. His vehicle went off the roadway and stuck a parked red 2008 Chevrolet Colorado pickup on the San Juan Auto Sales lot. Ewoldt was cited for failure to maintain control. Ewoldt had a complaint of pain but was not transported for medical attention. His vehicle received \$2,500 damage to the front middle. The pickup received \$3,500 damage to the front middle.

11-26, 4:57 p.m.: An accident happened on Highway 59 North in Denison. Itzel Andreina Valle Zarate, 29, of Denison, was driving a black 2014 Jeep Grand Cherokee. She rear-ended a red 2005 Toyota Corolla that was being operated by Jane Lynn Duncan, 77, of Denison. No one was injured. Duncan's vehicle received \$2,000 damage to the rear middle. Valley Zarate's vehicle received \$3,500 damage to the front middle.

11-26, 8:03 p.m.: The Dow City-Arion Fire Department was paged to assist with a structure fire on Iowa Avenue, Dunlap. Manpower and water were needed.

11-26, 11:19 p.m.: An accident happened on the ramp from Highway 59 to Highway 30 in Denison. Tristan Laval Kamm, 18, of Columbus, Nebraska, was driving a blue 1996 Buick La Sabre and was traveling east on Highway 30 at the point where it merges with Highway 59. Kamm drove through the intersection, struck a stop sign, traveled off the highway and down an embankment. Kamm reported not being familiar with the roads and being distracted by using the navigation system on an electronic handheld device. He received suspected minor injuries and was transported to Crawford County Memorial Hospital by EMS ground crew. His vehicle received \$20,000 damage to the front middle and was considered totaled.

11-28, 7:19 p.m.: Isabel De Jesus-Castellano, 35, of Denison, was arrested for violating a no-contact/protective order.

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The Denison Free Press

Local Calendar

FRIDAY
DECEMBER 1, 2023

Steak and Pork Chop Fry, 5-8 p.m. at the Schleswig Golf Course is a fundraiser for the golf course.

SATURDAY
DECEMBER 2, 2023

Schleswig Craft Fair, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Schleswig Community Building; Santa arrives at 10 a.m.

Author and Denison native Ann Hannigan Kotz will be at the Charter Oak Public Library 10-11:30 a.m. to talk about her novels "The Journey of Karoline Olsen" and "Sons and Daughters." She will also give a presentation called "Suffrage and WWI: Through the Eyes of Iowa."

Manilla Christmas Market, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in Manilla Memorial Hall, Wellness Center Gym and Little Hawks Daycare. More than 150 vendor tables, 500 animated figures on display and Santa will fly in for pictures. Admission is free.

Snowcial Storytime at Norelius Community Library, 10-11 a.m. Winter-themed book reading, indoor winter games, crafts and scrumptious snacks.

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

Winter Snowcial in Uptown Denison: Merry Market in the Mall, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.; Santa Fun Run/Walk at noon; horse-drawn wagon rides, 1-4 p.m.; kids' activities/games, food trucks, drinks by the Bake Shop & Café, noon-4 p.m.; visits with Santa, 1-4 p.m.; free movie, "Elf," 4-6 p.m.; lighted parade, 6:30 p.m.

SUNDAY
DECEMBER 3, 2023

Charter Oak Holiday Craft & Vendor Show at the Charter Oak-Ute Elementary School building, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Farm Toy Show, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at the Charter Oak Community Building; profits go to Charter Oak Achievement Day Fund, Charter Oak Achievers 4-H, Charter Oak Boosters 4-H, East Monona Explorers 4-H.

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

MONDAY
DECEMBER 4, 2023

Senior Citizen Holiday Meal by the Denison High School CTE (Career Technical Education: FCCLA, FBLA and FFA), 4:30-6:30 p.m. at the DHS cafeteria. A free meal of pork loin, stuffing, mashed potatoes and gravy, dinner rolls and dessert will be provided to senior citizens and a companion. Drive-through available from 5-6 p.m. at the DHS circle drive. Event sponsored by Crawford County Memorial Hospital.

TUESDAY
DECEMBER 5, 2023

Color Me Calm for adults and separate Family & Teen Coloring at Norelius Community Library, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

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

WEDNESDAY
DECEMBER 6, 2023

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

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

THURSDAY
DECEMBER 7, 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.

Anime Club at Norelius Community Library, 5:30 to 7:70 p.m., for teens; featuring "Fruits Basket."



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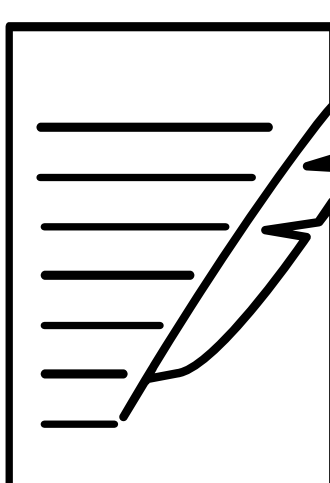
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NEWS BRIEFS

Hunger Fighters serves 218 families
Following are the final numbers for the November 21 Crawford County Hunger Fighters drive-through food distribution. 218 families served, composed of 347 adults and 180 children. The number includes 44 home deliveries.



Letters TO THE EDITOR

To submit a letter visit, denisonfreepress.com

The Denison Free Press is not responsible for the content in the Letters to the Editor section. The Denison Free Press reserves the right to choose not to publish submissions. Letters not be more than 300 words.

CODING, FROM PAGE 1

at Denison Elementary School, Darin Johnson, technology integrationist, told school board members during a presentation last week Monday.

A \$50,000 grant from the Computer Science is Elementary project was the springboard for the computer science initiative at the school.

For the initiative, the computer lab layout and method of learning were redesigned, and the K-3 curriculum was rewritten. Tables with older desktop computers, all facing forward as the teacher delivered content, went away. The lab now features new tables arranged so that students can communicate and collaborate with classmates to do projects and solve problems.

Johnson said many misconceptions exist about what computer science is.

It is not just using a computer and using applications.

It is not keyboarding and not always screen- or robotics-based.

It is not only coding and programming. It is developing technologies that solve problems.

"We all know that our students, with TikTok and social media and even the apps that we use here at school, are very good at consuming technologies that have been made for them, but computer science kind of flips that on its head and encourages them to develop the technology," Johnson explained. "So it's a whole different way of thinking, and the very basic definition is computer science is using the power of technology and other tools to solve real-world problems."

Johnson said that prior to the initiative that started five years ago, the tech classes at the elementary level were predominantly tool based.

"We showed students how to use Google Docs, how to create slide shows and how to use our other applications, and while those applications are important and good for them to know how to use, they're not computer science," he explained.

"Computer science is not just for older students, anymore," he continued. "One of our employers here in town, bluespace creative, told us that the time to get students turned on to this kind of thinking is not in high school. That's too late, so we start all the way down at the preschool level where they are learning how to code."

"It's really cool to see the preschoolers in action there, and it's not always screen based, so we have activities that are considered plugged, which are online activities that require technology, and then we also have activities that are unplugged because it's more about the thinking than it is the technology."

Most important is problem solving using the four Cs – critical thinking, collaboration, communication and creativity, Johnson said.

Another change required by the \$50,000 grant was to incorporate computer science into all subjects.

"Here's where we're at right now: our vision is to continue to increase teacher awareness and expand computer science integration in grades preschool through fifth grade," Johnson said. "Originally, the grant was intended for us to revamp things at the 20th Street school, but now we're starting to push that into fourth and fifth grade at Broadway Elementary."

The school has always tried to emphasize the importance of computer science. For the past seven years, students at Denison Elementary School have participated in the Hour of Code.

The annual Hour of Code campaign, organized by Code.org, is a celebration of computer science with activities for students of all skill levels. It is a global movement, involving more than 180 countries. This year, 13,272 Hour of Code events have been registered so far.

Hour of Code at Denison Elementary will be celebrated the week of December 4-8. This year's theme is "Put the Pieces Together with Computational Thinking" which involves decomposition, pattern recognition, abstraction and algorithms.

To assist with the incorporation of computer science in all subject areas, Steph Prussing, technology teacher, and Johnson developed an engineering cohort in 2019. At that time, 15 teachers, representing nearly every grade level, got together in their free time once a month on Fridays before school to develop ideas to integrate some of the new equipment and new technology into the core subject areas.

Last year, the cohort grew to 27 teachers with every grade level and every department represented.

The engineering cohort is on hold for now because the school received a \$14,000 computer science professional development grant. The money will be used to purchase professional development training from the NewBoCo consortium, based in Cedar Rapids.

"We carve out a couple of hours on every professional development day where 22 volunteers come together and think how they can integrate computer science in math, reading, science and social studies without it becoming an extra thing," Johnson said.

Teachers also receive help through computer science learning labs offered by the Area Education Agency.

To sum up the presentation on the computer science initiative, fifth graders Seth Ullrich and Tay Grover were at the school board meeting to explain their coding project, using Scratch. Students were given a common problem that a fifth grader would have. They had to use Scratch to program how to describe the problem and the solution. Their problem was bullying, and they created a scenario in which a character is bullied and then seeks to solve the situation.

The bully calls a kid a mean name. The kid feels sad and asks for help from a teacher, and an apology is extended by the bully.

"Each part has a different piece of code," Seth explained, adding that Tay chose all the characters. "So we kind of went in there together, and we have to make it go together and so all the timing and everything fits together."

"It's hard for us to get how they (the characters) move," said Tay.

He explained that they had to redo some of the coding.

"It took a while for us just to fix it

because we had to be able to time it right, and we had to go back and fix the time because sometimes it wouldn't work," Seth added.

"Otherwise, they (the characters) talk way too early, and it will go out of order," Tay continued.

Both boys said their favorite part of the project was being able to work together.

"It's hard to code but at the same time it's fun," Tay said.

He added, "We have to at least know how because we're fifth graders and we have to be great role models."



PHOTOS BY GORDON WOLF

Preschool students in Megan Meyers's class gather around Darin Johnson, technology integrationist, as he introduces them to the use of a Bee-Bot. Pictured at right is Jesica Martinez, an associate.



Darin Johnson, technology integrationist at Denison Elementary School, shows preschool students a Bee-Bot.



Tay Grover (in front) and Seth Ullrich watch the animation they programmed during a presentation to the Denison School Board on November 20.

How students learn computer science and coding

According to Darin Johnson, technology integrationist at Denison Elementary School, students in grades K-5 are formally introduced to computer science/coding concepts in the second quarter during the Ed Tech specials, which meet once every six to seven days.

Deanne Drees (4th and 5th grade)

and Stephanie Prussing (K-3rd grade) are the specials teachers. They both use the code.org site, which is a free comprehensive coding curriculum. Students complete a series of lessons for coding concepts such as loops, debugging, events, and algorithms/sequences. This site also hosts the global, annual Hour of Code which

corresponds to Computer Science Week.

Transitional kindergarten and preschool students are introduced to coding with the free Kodable site, which teachers at that level feel is more user-friendly and accessible for early readers.

In the second semester of the Ed

Tech specials classes, K-3 students gain experience with other coding platforms such as Scratch/Scratch Jr. and coding apps that pair with robots such as Finchblox (Finch robots) and Blockly (Dash robots). Students in grades four and five gain experience with BirdBlox (Hummingbird robots).

All decked out



PHOTO BY DAN MUNDT

Main Street in Manilla is adorned for the holidays with strings of lights and ornaments, just in time for the Manilla Christmas Market this weekend.

Villa begins duties as County Extension Educator

Ana Villa is the new County Extension Educator at the Crawford County Extension office. She began her work on November 6.

She will have the responsibility for delivery of information and supporting programs in Crawford County from Iowa State University Extension and Outreach.

Her focus will be to support the

Children Youth and Families At Risk (CYFAR) program delivery in the Crawford County Agricultural Extension District. She will work closely with ISU specialists, particularly in the areas of the human science and 4-H youth development programs.

Villa will also support events and activities taking place at the Crawford County Extension office, along with Office Manager Kathy Thul, County Youth Coordinator Nicole Behrendt and Youth Outreach Coordinator Cassie Reimers.

Villa comes to the position with a

background in customer service. She is fluent in both English and Spanish.

She is a graduate of Penn Foster online schooling and attended Denison High School, where she was active in athletics.

"I am looking forward to encouraging others to give it their all and grow their education, then to move forward and improve," said Villa.

The public is invited to stop by the Crawford County Extension Office at 35 South Main Street, and welcome Villa to her new position. She can also be contacted at 712-263-4697.



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Holiday concert Monday at DHS

The annual Denison Community Schools Holiday Band Concert will be performed on Monday, December 4, at 7:30 p.m. in the Denison High School Fine Arts Center.

Performing in the concert will be the Denison Middle School eighth grade

band, the Denison High School 9-10 Concert Band and the Denison High School 11-12 Concert Band.

The bands are directed by Denison Community Schools Band Directors Peter Bekkerus, Ryan Meyer and Ruben Newell. Admission is free to the public.

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.



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City of Denison to fill three public works positions

BY GORDON WOLF

The City of Denison wants to fill three public works department positions as soon as possible.

Positions to fill are the public works director, full-time maintenance worker and a seasonal laborer for winter.

The need to hire resulted from the resignation of Eric Martens as the public works director around November 14 (his last official day, using vacation time, was November 29) and Mike Vogt as the street commissioner around November 6.

The street commissioner position will not be filled. Instead, the city will hire a full-time maintenance worker to join the other two maintenance workers already on staff with the department.

Two other public works employees had earlier left the department, leading to the opening for a seasonal laborer.

All four left for other employment. At the November 21 city council meeting, City Manager Jessica Garcia said that Fire Chief Cory Snowgren had stepped up to assist in supervising the public works department until a new director starts.

Applications for the three positions closed on Monday, November 27.

On Tuesday the applications for director were reviewed to determine which applicants will be interviewed by a hiring committee. That committee will be composed of Mayor Pam Soseman, Garcia, Councilwoman Jennifer Zupp-Smith and Councilman Corey Curnyn, who will make a hiring recommendation

for the full council to consider.

Garcia said the applications for the maintenance worker position would be decided by herself and an individual from the public works department.

Garcia would likely determine the person who will be hired as the seasonal worker.

She said the city wants to fill the positions as soon as possible but understands that the successful applicants will have to give notice.

"One thing that I ask as a professional courtesy is that if somebody is going to leave us, we receive at least a two-week notice or in a management type position - director or department head - we usually like to have a 30-day notice. I assume whoever will be filling the positions will give a two-week or 30-day notice (to their employer)," Garcia said.

"We are hoping to have the interviews done next week with the jobs also offered next week," she added. "Then it will depend on how much notice they give their employers."

Garcia pointed out it is a busy time of the year for the public works department with snow removal.

"We ran with a skeleton crew right now, and the guys did a phenomenal job," she added. "They covered the entire city with help from Tyler Weller from flood control and Colby Ellis from code enforcement, and Chief Snowgren was out pushing snow as well. But we can't ask those guys to do that with a short crew all winter."

"One thing is we have a great community that is willing to help out, and with private contractors, if we are in a bind, I'm sure they would step up and help out," Garcia continued. "But we need to get our department full again and move forward with our work."

COURTHOUSE NEWS

November 17-21, 2023

SMALL CLAIMS

• Against: Jessica Denise Gonzalez, Denison. In favor of: Carroll Dental Clinic. Amount: \$654.04 plus \$95 costs.

• Against: Kimberly Ann Korwes, Schleswig. In favor of: Hauge Associates Inc. Amount: \$4,206.39 plus \$95 costs.

NON-SCHEDULED TRAFFIC

• Abigail Lurene Lemon, Schleswig, failure to stop in assured clear distance, \$180.75.

TRAFFIC

• Jered D. Head, Dow City, operation without registration card or plate, \$135.50.

• Jered D. Head, Dow City, dark window or windshield, \$135.50.

• Brendyn M. Giemann, Arion, person under 21 years of age using tobacco/vapor product, first offense, \$70.00.

• Tyler Edward Goslar, Denison, failure to maintain or use safety belts, adult, \$135.50.

• Javier Enriquez Tlaseca, Omaha, NE, no valid driver's license, \$354.00.

• Ramon Padilla Hernandez, Denison, failure to have a valid license or permit for operation of motor vehicle, \$285.00.

SPEEDING (11-15 MPH OVER)

• Matthew Paul Bremser, Omaha, NE, \$175.75.

• Vicente Trejo Lopez, Storm Lake, \$175.75.

SPEEDING (6-10 MPH OVER)

• Javier Enriquez Tlaseca, Omaha, NE, \$118.25.

• Joel Carrizales Martinez, Denison, \$118.25.

• Aganos Michael Gatkuoth, Denison, \$118.25.

• Brissa Guzman, Denison, \$118.25.

SPEEDING (1-5 MPH OVER)

• Francisco M. Adame Martinez, Omaha, NE, \$106.75.

• Philip Samuel Sharon, Denison, \$89.50.

• Ann Marie Coleman, Port Orchard, WA, \$89.50.

• Marguerite Marie Tremel, Dunlap, \$89.50.

LAND TRANSACTIONS

November 16-22, 2023

Warranty Deeds

• James Boeckman and Jennifer Boeckman to Juan Murillo and Patricia Flores de Murillo: Lot 21 and Lot 22, Block 60, City of Denison; \$85,000.

• Chris G. Ludwig, Christine L. Ludwig, Jasen M. Tiefenthaler and Jenny M. Tiefenthaler to Mark Alan Stansbery and Laura Beth Whitehall: Lot 9, Boyer Outlot; E1/2 NE1/4 Section 14, Stockholm Township; NE1/4 SE1/4 Section 14, Stockholm Township; \$150,000.

• Stanley J. Bukacek aka Stan J. Bukacek to Laura Martz: Lot 1 and Lot 2, Block 2, Weed's Addition, City of Charter Oak; Lot 1, Block 1, O'Neal Addition, City of Charter Oak; \$130,000.

• Vicente A. Sandoval and Horalia Duarte de Sandoval to Susan Hanson: Lot 7, Block 17, City of Denison; \$183,000.

• Timothy Curnyn and Rebecca Veit Curnyn to Jacob Kliver: W1/2 SE1/4 Section 11, Goodrich Township; \$869,000.

• Juhl W. Peterson and Carol A. Peterson Revocable Family Living Trust, Carol A. Peterson and Lori B. Chambers, Trustees to Aaron Peterson and Sarah Peterson: Lot 1, Block 20, Parcel A, City of Westside; Lot 2, Lot 3, Lot 4, Block 20, City of Westside.

• Juhl W. Peterson and Carol A. Peterson Revocable Family Living Trust, Carol A. Peterson and Lori B. Chambers, Trustees to Carol A. Peterson: S1/2 NE1/4 Section 34, Westside Township; Lot 2, Block 14, City of Westside; Lot 3, Block 20, Parcel A, City of Westside; Lot 4, Block 20, Parcel A, City of Westside; Lot 2, Lot 3, Lot 4, Lot 5, Block 20, City of Westside.

• Carol A. Peterson to Carol A. Peterson

Revocable Trust, Carol A. Peterson, Trustee: S1/2 NE1/4 Section 34, Westside Township; Lot 2, Block 14, City of Westside; Lot 3, Lot 4, Block 20, Parcel A, City of Westside; Lot 2, Lot 3, Lot 4, Lot 5, Block 20, City of Westside.

• Maria Del Carmen Sotelo de Segura to Angel Escalante: Lot 1 and Lot 2, Block 117, City of Denison; \$110,000.

• Marty J. Stein and Angela J. Stein to James Jepsen and Angel R. Jepsen: Lot 5, Block 3, City View Addition, City of Denison; \$260,000.

Quit Claim Deeds

• Dale V. Zimmer and Judith M. Zimmer to DJZ Family Trust, Dale V. Zimmer and Judith M. Zimmer, Trustees: NW1/4 NW1/4 Section 12, Stockholm Township; N1/2 NE1/4 Section 11, Stockholm Township; Lot 3, Lot 4, Lot 5, Block 5, City of Boyer; N1/2 W1/2 SW1/4 Section 13, Stockholm Township; S1/2 SE1/4 Section 14, Stockholm Township.

Contract

• Moeller Hogs LLC to CBT Farms LLC: SE1/4 SE1/4 Section 33, Morgan Township; \$615,000.

Court Officer Deed

• Randy J. Berg Estate, Julie M. Eich, Executor to Daniel T. Eich: SW1/4 Section 1, Westside Township.

• Randy J. Berg Estate, Julie M. Eich, Executor to Daniel T. Eich, Joseph M. Berg and Jason M. Berg: E1/2 NE1/4 Section 7, Westside Township.

State Tax Lien

• Iowa Department of Revenue against Jammy R. Thornock: \$2,926.39.

Scout paper drive on December 9

The Boy Scouts of Troop 55 in Denison will conduct their December paper drive on Saturday, December 9 at the Pronto parking lot.

The Scouts will be there from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. to help unload tied, bundled

or sacked newspapers.

Acceptable papers can be brought in paper bags or cardboard boxes but not in plastic bags.

People are asked to limit the amount of cardboard they bring.

Funeral Notices

William "Bill" Adams

Funeral services for William "Bill" Adams, 72, of Vail, will be conducted at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, December 2, at United Presbyterian Church in Vail with burial to follow at the Vail Cemetery.

Visitation with family greeting friends will be from 5 to 7 p.m. on Friday, December 1, also at the United Presbyterian Church in Vail.

He passed away Wednesday, November 22, at Bergan Mercy Medical Center in Omaha, Nebraska.

Survivors include his wife of 32 years, Barb Adams; daughter, Melissa Adams; two brothers: Dennis (Karen) Adams, of Omaha, Nebraska, and Sam (LuAnn) Adams, of Boone; sister-in-law, Rosella Shelley, of Atlantic; nephew, Aaron (Jennifer) Adams; nieces, Angela Adams, Heather Adams, Nettie (Jon) Bruen, Samantha Adams, and Amber Adams; and a host of other friends and relatives.

Services are entrusted to the Huebner Funeral Home in Denison.

Buay Juk

Visitation for Buay Juk, 27, of Denison, will be conducted from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on Friday, December 1, at the Huebner Funeral Home in Denison, with a funeral service beginning at 2 p.m.

Burial will be at the Oakland Cemetery in Denison.

Survivors include his parents, Duer Door Juk and Nyadhok Bichiok Lam, of Denison; his daughter, Rain Nyadeng Juk, of Minnesota; siblings, Changkuoth Duer Door and his wife Marna Chotkuach, of Vail, Gatluak Duer Door, Duop Duer Door, Duol Duer Door, Mat Duer Door, Nyadhohi Duer Door, and Kuol Duer Door, all of Omaha; and other relatives and friends.

Services are entrusted to the Huebner Funeral Home.



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Your help can make a difference for families in need

Crawford County residents can help families in need this Christmas season by donating to Goodfellows.

This year the Goodfellows campaign will be helping 156 children ages 12 and under from 66 families in the county.

Here's how community members can help.

- Christmas trees are on display at Bomgaars, Fareway, Hy-Vee and the Crawford County Courthouse. Cards on the trees match the Christmas gift wish lists of children, identified by a number assigned to each family.
- People are encouraged to select a card and shop for any or all of the items listed.
- Gifts should not be wrapped.
- The cards need to accompany the gifts. That way, "Santa's Helpers" can make sure the gifts are matched to the children who requested them.
- The new drop-off location for the is the Chamber & Development Council of Crawford County office, located at 109 North Main Street, just south of Denison City Hall.
- People can donate items without selecting a card from a tree. In the past, people have donated quilts, clothing, books and toys and crafts of their own choosing. Cash donations are also accepted. Donations are tax deductible.
- The last day to bring gifts to the drop-off location will be Tuesday, December 19.

Donors so far are Monogram Foods, \$5,000 foundation grant; Walmart, \$1,500 grant; West Central Iowa Collectors Club, \$50; Norma Ricke, gifts for one child; and anonymous, dolls and stuffed animals.

Monarchs

DENISON-SCHLESWIG MONARCHS BASKETBALL

Denison-Schleswig girls top OABCIG in basketball

The Denison-Schleswig Monarch girls won on the road against OABCIG 63-39 on Tuesday.

The Monarchs were up 14-11 after the first quarter, 38-14 at the half, and 52-25 after three quarters.

The win put the girls' conference record at 1-1.

Kiana Schulz led the team in scoring with 19. She also had seven rebounds, two assists and four steals.

Following are the statistics for other players.

- Quinlan Bygness: 1 assist
- Addison Inman: 5 points, 3 rebounds, 2 assists, 3 steals, 1 block
- Samantha Chandler: 1 steal
- Kamden Bruhn: 3 points, 1 rebound
- Claire Leinen: 6 points, 1 rebound, 3 assist, 2 steals, 1 block

- Lola Mendlik: 2 rebounds, 1 steal
- Mayah Slater: 10 points, 6 rebounds, 3 assists, 2 steals
- Whitlee Auen: 7 points, 1 rebound, 3 steals
- Lauryn Turin: 2 rebounds
- Gaby Cardenas: 8 points, 1 rebound, 1 assist, 2 steals
- Sara Mun: 5 points, 9 rebounds, 1 assist, 3 steals
- Norah Huebert: 1 assist

The JV Monarch girls won their game 38-25. Lola Mendlik led the scoring with 16 points. Kamden Bruhn, Sara Mun and Norah Huebert each had four rebounds, and Mendlik and Mun had three steals each.

The Monarch varsity fell in its season opener 39-26 against Atlantic on November 21. Kiana Schulz scored 10 points, Mayah Slater had 7, Samantha Chandler had 5 and Whitlee Auen and Sara Mun had two each.

The JV girls were topped by Atlantic 35-30. Sara Mun led the Monarchs with 10 points.



PHOTOS BY RHONDA RAUCH

Addison Inman goes for the block.

Monarch boys fall to OABCIG in season opener

The Denison-Schleswig Monarch boys fell to OABCIG 77-67 in their season opener on the basketball court on Tuesday.

The Monarchs led 16-15 after the first quarter and 31-27 at the half. OABCIG went up 48-42 after three quarters.

Jake Fink led the Monarchs in scoring with 22 points, and Lance Arkfeld was close behind with 20 points. Kole Towne added eight points, Blaine Grady scored seven points, Gage Head had six points and Nash Langenfeld scored four points.

"First night out, I was really impressed how we responded after some sluggish practices and scrimmages over the break," said Head Coach Derek Fink. "I thought we did a

lot of things well offensively out of the gate.

"In the second quarter, OABCIG turned us over a bit and got a little run to get the lead. I thought we got a little tired and flat footed that got us out of our spots defensively, and we weren't sharp enough on offense during that stretch," he added. "In the third quarter, give credit to OABCIG. I think they hit four of their first five shots, and three of them were three-pointers to open up a double-digit lead.

"But give our guys credit; they responded late in the third quarter and fourth quarter and really fought all the way to the finish. We will continue to get better to help get our roles defined and work on some things on both ends of the court. But even in a loss, there were a lot of things I liked on our first night out."

The J.V. boys fell to OABCIG 42-16. Lincoln Beeck had six points, Santiago Lopez five points, Javin Baker three points and Owen Glavin two points.



Mayah Slater posts up in the paint.



Kiana Schulz goes in for a layup.

Sports

DENISON-SCHLESWIG MONARCHS WRESTLING

D-S girls win in home wrestling meet

The Denison-Schleswig Monarchs girls' wrestling team was the winner against three teams at a home meet on Monday.

The final score was 64-6 against Audubon, 66-12 against Hinton and 46-33 against Carroll.

"It was a great night all around for our girls as we were able to host our first all-girls meet at Denison High School," said Head Coach Jacob Brawner. "It was a great feeling to look around the gym and see the support of so many of our girls' friends, family, teachers, and fellow community members. It's always great to hear that roar and excitement from the crowd during a wrestling meet, and I'm glad our girls could experience that at home."

He added that from a wrestling perspective, the girls wrestled tough, which is the expectation. Daniela Salinas, Alexa Tremblay, Grace Collins, Ana Castillo, Andrea Alcaraz,

Adrianna Lupian, Taylor Totten and Giana Garcia all had unblemished records. Collins and Totten were able to avenge losses from earlier in the season against Hinton.

"I thought we had a little bit of both sudden strikes to get some wins in a flurry along with wins where we had to grind it out a bit," Brawner said. "Both are good - we need to have that ability to finish the match when we lock up a pinning combination, but we also need to start building our gas tanks because those first period pins won't be as common as the season goes on."

"We're going to try and meet our girls where they're at moving forward," he added. "There's a lot of variances in experience and skill but the main focus is improving wherever you're at on that spectrum."

The Monarch girls are now 3-3 overall and will be back in action at Audubon on Saturday.



PHOTOS BY RHONDA RAUCH

Taya Adams works to get out of a hold.



Grace Collins works to put her opponent on the mat.



Angie Riveras keeps her opponent from getting up.

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Lighting up a winter night

Lee and Yvonne Klindt, of Manilla, have gone all out to decorate their farmstead for the Christmas season. The lights are easily seen from 330th Street just north of Highway 141.



PHOTOS BY DAN MUNDT



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CRONK'S, FROM PAGE 1

Still on display are reminders of Cronk's long history, such as a vintage Cronk's sign, a signed basketball from the 1997-1998 Lady Monarchs state runner-up team, and photographs of famous visitors.

The rooms have the same name - Angus for the large room, Gold for the small meeting room and the Lounge for the bar.

The Cronk's stained-glass decoration remains where it has been for decades in the Angus Room.

The interior has been updated with new, colorful paint on the walls.

Omar spoke about some of the other remodeling work.

"We took out all the carpet and installed new flooring, making it easier to clean," he said. "Since the building was closed for a while, a lot of wiring had to be redone. Almost

everything in the kitchen is brand new."

He added, "The remodeling was completed about two weeks ago, and in the last weeks we were waiting for food orders to come in."

"It's been a long process, with redoing the parking lot along with everything else, but now everything is put together," he said.

The menu features a mixture of the Cronk's classics and a full menu of Mexican food. Flipping through the menu, patrons will see familiar names such as Cronk's Burger and the Round Table Special for breakfast.

And, making its grand return will be the Sunday brunch, beginning this Sunday, December 3.

Omar credited his chefs for their abilities in cooking Mexican and American foods.

"I think we have the best people for the job," he said.

Omar understands the legacy he is accepting with the ownership of Cronk's.

"Cronk's has been open for almost 100 years now, and we can keep it open for as long as possible, now," he said.

He added that the plan was always to keep the Cronk's name.

"Everybody from however far away knows that name," he said.

Omar added he is ready for Cronk's to again be the gathering place for family events and meetings.

"We've had people already reserve their Christmas party, and one group that used to meet here all the time asked about meeting at Cronk's again," he said. "Any groups that want to meet at Cronk's are invited to call and make sure the room is open."

The Gold Room is available for smaller gatherings, and the Angus Room still has the partition to divide

the room in half.

For the sound system, Cronk's bought the old movie theater speakers from the Donna Reed Theater. Microphones are available.

Omar said he and his staff are always open for suggestions.

"Somebody suggested having broasted chicken for brunch, so we are doing whatever we can to satisfy everybody," he said.

Cronk's was also known as a place for groups of people to gather for coffee and discussion.

"If people just want to have coffee and talk, the coffee is on us," Omar said.

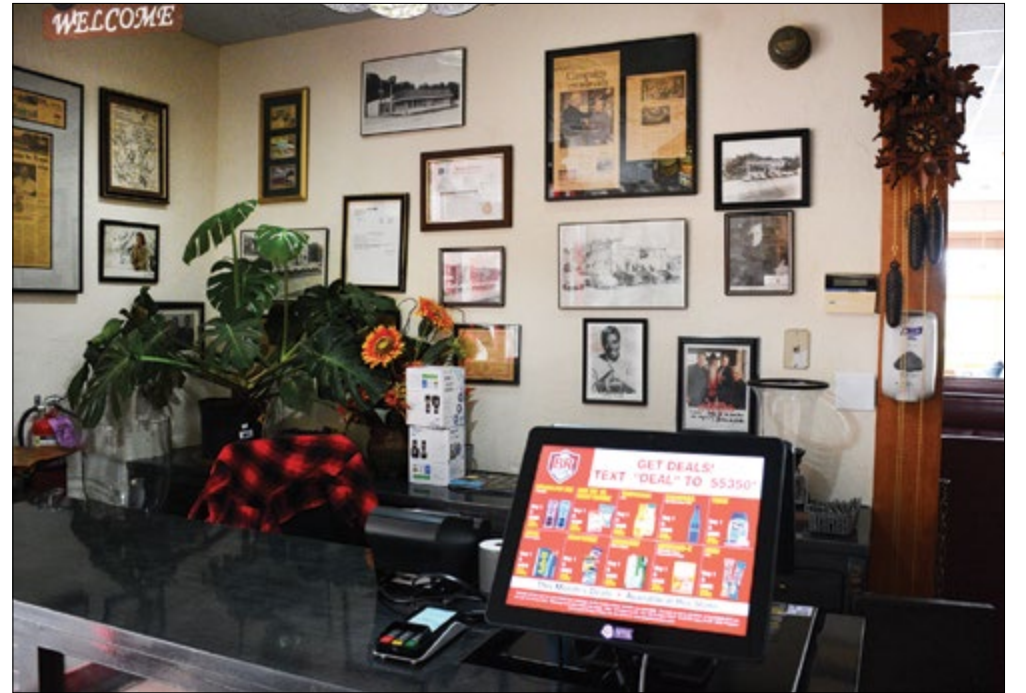
He added, "I hope the community shows the support they've given Cronk's in the past. We just ask for people to give us a try, and I think they will be satisfied and come back."

The restaurant is open from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m., and the bar opens at 4 p.m.



PHOTOS BY GORDON WOLF

A vintage Cronk's Café sign is part of the décor in the hallway leading to the Angus Room.



The wall behind the checkout counter has the same photos of celebrities and important memories on display.



A view of the Angus Room from the raised platform.



Another memorable sign invites people to "Get Cronk'ed"



The stained-glass Cronk's sign remains where it has always been in the Angus Room.



Pictured is the Gold Room.



Mementos from Denison's history are on display at Cronk's, including this basketball signed by members of the 1997-98 Lady Monarchs state runner-up team.

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Unique items from local crafters

Charter Oak Holiday Craft and Vendor Show is Sunday

BY DAN MUNDT

"We've got so many great and talented young business owners and crafters that you're going to find a lot of one-of-a-kind gifts," said Michelle Carlson, organizer of the Charter Oak Holiday Craft and Vendor Show that will take place on Sunday.

"We'll be set up in the gym of the Charter Oak-Ute Elementary School. We'll have lots of handmade items, from tumblers, t-shirts, resin crafts to etched Pyrex dishes; all local."

This is Carlson's first year running the event.

Eleven vendors have signed on with three others possible, she said.

"It's a lot better than shopping at Walmart or Target because you're supporting somebody's dream – a local person's dream – and you'll get a gift that not everyone else has," Carlson said.

"We have so many talented community members among the different communities. We have vendors from Charter Oak, Ute, Mapleton and from a little bit north of there, and some from Denison."

She has participated in shows with many of the vendors and has purchased about 90% of her Christmas gifts from them.

"You would never find them at a store, so I don't have to worry about a duplicated gift because I'm going to give one-of-a-kind gifts," Carlson said. "They are such talented individuals who have so many great things."

The Charter Oak Achievers 4-H club will serve breakfast and lunch from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the event as a fundraiser for their club.

Santa Claus will visit the event from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

"We'll also have door prizes from the vendors and small businesses there," she said. "Anybody that purchases something from one of the vendors will get a ticket for the drawing. At the end of the day, I'll draw winners for the prizes donated from the local vendors that are there."

Charter Oak Holiday Craft and Vendor Show runs from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Sunday, December 3.

Holiday shopping during the Snowcial

A Merry Market in the Mall on Saturday

BY DAN MUNDT

Merry Market in the Mall returns to the Broadway and Main Mall in Denison on Saturday.

"The CDC (Chamber & Development Council of Crawford County) asked me if I would be willing to sponsor the Merry Market in the Mall in conjunction with the Winter Snowcial on Saturday," said Jill Popham. "It was something we had started doing on our own a couple years ago on the same date; this year, we thought we would just merge the two events together."

Popham owns The Boutique in the mall, which is the sponsor of the event. The Boutique and Totally You Boutique, also in the mall, will be open during the Merry Market.

A wide variety of vendors will take part.

"Some of them came to our fall market we had a month ago, and they'll be coming back," Popham said. "We'll have some woodcrafts, baked goods, jewelry makers, wellness products, Pampered Chef," Popham said. "We'll also have a gal with homemade cocoa bombs, Graphic Tees, Discovery Toys for kids and Adam's Chocolate; a young man will be selling chocolates to help pay for his trip to Costa Rica."

Santa Claus will visit with children at the event from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The City of Denison will have a booth at the mall with information about the Brownfields Program.

According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Brownfields are underutilized or abandoned properties where future development

Generation to generation

Ron Kuhlmann Memorial Farm Toy Show is Sunday

BY DAN MUNDT

The 36th Annual Ron Kuhlmann Memorial Farm Toy Show will take place on Sunday, December 3, in Charter Oak.

"The Farm Toy Show started out as a fundraiser for the Charter Oak Centennial," said Jeanne Kuhlmann. "Kevin Pester and my husband, Ron Kuhlmann, had the brainstorm of doing a farm toy show. It was more popular than they ever expected and we can't believe it's been going on for 36 years."

Ron died in 2006, but the show goes on in his memory.

"We have good attendance every year and a lot of interest from a lot of collectors," Kuhlmann said. "We see generations; some of these kids came when they were little and now they're married and bringing their own children. It's rather interesting how it all turned out."

The Farm Toy Show is a good place for families to find unique Christmas gifts for kids.

Many of the same dealers return to the show each year.

"They always say it's a good show, so I

think they make a lot of sales," she said.

Nine vendors will bring their wares to the Charter Oak Community Building for the show. Each will display items on multiple tables.

The Community Building will be completely full.

"Of special interest this year, Harvey Thies from Ute is going to have a display," Kuhlmann said. "He makes tractors from old sewing machines."

Thies's trick is to save the sewing machine but add parts to make it look like a tractor.

"He uses various items to create details and a final paint job along with stencils," she said. "It's very detailed and he has different kinds: International, John Deere, Ford, Minneapolis-Moline. He's going to be there to visit if anyone has questions."

All profits from the Farm Toy Show will go toward the Charter Oak Achievement Day fund, and the Charter Oak Achievers, Charter Oak Boosters and East Monona Explorers 4-H clubs.

"The 4-H kids will sell sandwiches and there will be pie and desserts," Kuhlmann said.

Drawings for prizes will take place during the event.

"You have to be present to win," she said.

The Ron Kuhlmann Memorial Farm Toy Show will run from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Charter Oak Community Building.

Manilla Christmas Market is Saturday

500 animated Christmas figures, 150 vendors



Santa Claus always has a good time meeting children at Manilla Memorial Hall during the Christmas Market.

The Manilla Christmas Market craft/vendor fair will take place from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, December 2, in Manilla.

More than 150 vendor tables will be set up for the market and more than 500 animated Christmas figures will be on display in the basement of Manilla Memorial Hall.

The event will span three buildings: Memorial Hall, the Manilla Wellness Center and the Little Hawks Daycare next to the Wellness Center.

Food, crafts, jewelry, and other items will be for sale.

Santa Claus will 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.

See the story in the November 22 Denison Free Press.

Schleswig Craft Fair is Saturday

Santa to arrive by fire truck

BY DAN MUNDT

More than 30 vendors will be on hand at the Schleswig Craft Fair on Saturday.

"There will be a range of items from Tupperware, to baked goods, and quilts," said Laura Ernst, who is one of the organizers of the event. "We have a guy who makes wooden items that you can give for gifts, and people who make ornaments will be there. It's a variety of everything for Christmas."

Most of the vendors are from the local area and most return to the fair every year, she said.

The Schleswig Craft Fair takes place in the Schleswig Community Building.

"The craft fair starts at 8 (a.m.), Santa will arrive at 10 a.m. by fire truck to visit the children," Ernst said. "Kids can come from 10 to noon to receive a free picture with Santa and a free goodie bag."

The Schleswig Business Club sponsors Santa's visit, which lasts until noon.

"While everything else is going on, we have the mission board of UCC (United Church of Christ) serving food in the basement," she said.

Ernst said a selling point for the event is that a lot of different things take place in the same location.

"You come in and go upstairs and you can browse the craft fair. Kids get to wait outside to watch Santa come in on the fire truck," she said. "Then you can go downstairs and they have hot chocolate, hot dogs and taverns and chips. You can get a full lunch meal, get your picture with Santa, and the goodie bags will have something really fun in them for the kids."

The craft fair can be a one-stop-shop for Christmas shopping, she said.

Ernst said the community response has been strong for the event every year.

"Everybody is always looking for ways to help and volunteer to do what they can to make this one of the best events we can," she said. "The Schleswig Business Club purchases all the items that go in the goodie bags and then the Schleswig Community Club packages it all up during one of their monthly meetings. The Schleswig Enterprise Board lets us use the basement of the Community Building to host it. There are a lot of organizations in Schleswig that make this work."

The Schleswig Craft Fair runs from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, December 2.

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is complicated by the perception or actual presence of environmental contaminants.

The EPA awarded the City of Denison a \$400,000 community-wide assessment grant in 2022.

Popham said past Merry Markets have had a good turnout and she expects the same for this weekend.

"It's another activity for people to enjoy while they're here for the events that are going on with the Winter Snowcial," Popham said.

"It gives our community a variety of gift ideas - not only for the holidays but for the coming year. I'm very supportive of small entrepreneurs that don't necessarily get an opportunity - especially a no-cost opportunity - to set up and vend their crafts and show their talents."

Doors open at 8 a.m. for vendors to set up; the Merry Market in the Mall runs from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Spots are still available.

Vendors who would like to join the event may contact Popham at 712-269-0205.

Winter Snowcial is Saturday

A busy day in Uptown Denison

The 2023 Winter Snowcial will take place on Saturday, December 2, in Uptown Denison.

The event includes: Merry Market at the Mall, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.; Santa Fun Run/Walk and costume contest, noon; beverage garden, kids' games, fire pits, noon-4 p.m.; scavenger hunt, 1-3 p.m.;

kids crafts/cookie decorating at Donna Reed Theater lobby, 1-3 p.m.; horse-drawn wagon rides, 1-4 p.m.; Santa at the Santa House, 1-4 p.m.; free movie, "ELE," at the Donna Reed Theater, 4 p.m.; lighted parade, 6:30 p.m.

See the story in the November 22 Denison Free Press.



The 2023 Winter Snowcial in Uptown Denison will conclude with a lighted parade on Main Street and Broadway.



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Hot Summer Nights adds \$12,000 to wellness center fund



PHOTO BY GORDON WOLF

Taylor Borkowski, who organizes the Hot Summer Nights events in Uptown Denison, presented a \$12,000 check to the City of Denison on Tuesday, November 21. The money is going into the fund for the Crawford County Wellness Center. It was raised through this past summer's series of events. Borkowski thanked the council for allowing the events to take place, the public works department for its help and City Clerk Jodie Flaherty for keeping the accounts for the wellness center. Pictured from right are Jessica Garcia, Pam Soseman, Borkowski and Jennifer Zupp-Smith. Besides being city officials, Garcia, Soseman and Zupp-Smith are on the wellness center committee.

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Grandparents Day at Unity Ridge



PHOTOS BY GORDON WOLF

Grandparents went back to school last week Wednesday for Grandparents Day at Unity Ridge Lutheran School in Denison. Grandparents and grandchildren completed a number of activities throughout the building. Pictured, Dennis Hall, of Logan, completes a worksheet about grandfathers with his grandson, Alex Hall, of Ricketts.



Brooklyn Fink uses wooden beads to make an Indian corn craft. Grandparents Terri Groth and Ronald Fink watch her.



Jack, Luna and Khairo Vazquez, all of Denison, pose for a picture at Grandparents Day. Jack is the uncle of the two children, despite the message on the sign he is holding.



Unity Ridge students gathered at the end of Grandparents Day at their school to sing a song before being dismissed early last week Wednesday.



Three children from the Boeck family – Adeisia, Azariah and Adalai – work on pictures and notes for veterans. With them are their grandparents, Larry and Annette Boeck.



Flag folding demonstrations were done for groups of students and their grandparents.