



Music at the McHenry House

PAGE 2



Water tower constructed

PAGE 7



Shopping spree at church

PAGE 12



Drinks with the Dows

PAGE 13

# The Denison Free Press

Local News  
Local Journalists  
Local Ownership

FREE  
TAKE ONE!

Vol. 1 | No. 24

SERVING DENISON & CRAWFORD COUNTY, IOWA

December 14, 2023

## Hobby gives new life to old sewing machines

Harvey Thies uses his knowledge of tractors



PHOTO BY GORDON WOLF

Harvey Thies is pictured with some of his sewing machine tractors at the Ron Kuhlmann Memorial Farm Toy Show on December 3.

BY GORDON WOLF

Harvey Thies has worked with tractors so long that he can find their shape in other objects – specifically sewing machines.

For the past several years, he has been transforming old sewing machines into replicas of tractors, or sewing machine tractors, as they are sometimes called.

It started when he and his wife, Lynette, were at a flea market and saw that one vendor had a couple tractors fashioned from sewing machines.

“They had just put some wheels on them and painted the sewing machines,” said Harvey. “I thought that was a cute idea.”

He ended up buying three sewing machines that day at the flea market.

“They sat around for maybe a year before I ever got around to trying it, and then I made a couple,” he said.

Harvey added that the tractors he saw at the flea market were somewhat crudely put together, and he wanted to make his better than those.

“So I just kept refining them a little bit,” he said.

To date, Harvey has converted 16 old sewing machines into tractor replicas.

He doesn’t make them to sell. It is just a hobby.

HOBBY, PAGE 3

## Dow City celebrates Christmastime



PHOTO BY GORDON WOLF

The lighted parade is one of the favorite features of the Dow City Hometown Christmas each year. Whether unseasonably warm or extremely cold, people line up to see the lighted entries. This year the weather was on the colder side, so participants bundled up. See more photos from Dow City inside.

A new service for the county

## Kiron Ambulance approved as transport service



PHOTO BY FRANCINA BURNS

From left, Kiron EMTs Megan Lange, William Vargas, Ashley Boger, Rachel Burns, and Josh Burns pose for a group photo at the back of the Kiron ambulance.

AMBULANCE, PAGE 5

## Las Posadas has new venue

Event will be at New Life Christian Church

This Saturday’s Las Posadas celebration will take place at a different location from the location previously announced.

The event will take place at New Life Christian Church at 1019 Ridge Road in Denison.

The Denison chapter of LULAC (League of United Latin American Citizens) created the event as a smaller version of the traditional celebration that commemorates the journey of Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem in search of a safe refuge for Jesus to be born, according to LULAC Denison President Alma Puga.

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

The Denison event will have food, piñatas, caroling, Lotería (a traditional game), and crafts for kids.

The event is free, but freewill donations are requested.

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

The Denison Las Posadas begins at 6:30 p.m. Saturday, December 16.

## Time is of the essence for wellness center

\$1 million gap must be closed by January 4

BY DAN MUNDT

Denison City Manager Jessica Garcia and Denison attorney Jennifer Zupp-Smith, representing the Crawford County Recreation and Wellness Center project, traveled to Des Moines on December 7 to give a presentation to the Community Attraction and Tourism (CAT) Committee of the Enhance Iowa Board.

WELLNESS, PAGE 6

### Operation Christmas Tree

## An old tradition returns to Charter Oak

BY DAN MUNDT

A tradition from the past returned to Charter Oak last Friday when much of the town turned out to witness the lighting of a Christmas tree on Main Street.

“It was done in Charter Oak from 1929 annually until 1978 or 1979, and then it stopped and was done only one other year, which was in ‘91 during the centennial,” said Charter Oak City Council Member Ben Heyne.

Heyne, who is also a member of the Charter Oak Fire Department (COFD), said the idea for a town Christmas tree came up in July when he was talking to COFD member Joleen Schultz.

“We were talking about doing new things in the city and in the fire department and she brought it up as something that Charter Oak used to do,” Heyne said.

Almost as a joke, he said, “Let’s do it again.”

The idea quickly became something they decided to pursue.

Joleen Schultz and her husband, Earl, had donated trees from their farm to be Charter Oak’s Christmas tree in the past; they offered to do so again to help restart the tradition.

Joleen and Earl are the parents of Crawford County Supervisor Kyle Schultz.

“They have 200-plus trees on a property about five miles outside town,” Heyne said.

The trees were planted as a windbreak, not for commercial Christmas tree sales, he said.

Heyne and Jake Hopp, an employee of Charter Oak-Ute Community School District, took a half-day off from work to go to the Schultz farm to get a tree.

Hopp is also the COFD assistant fire chief.

“He and I cut down it down and hauled it back,” Heyne said.

Juan Ornelas, owner of Innovative Construction in Denison, loaned Heyne an offroad forklift to handle the heavy lifting.

“We got it done in an afternoon,” Heyne said.

The project had the full support of the Charter Oak City Council and the COFD, he said.

A call for donations to pay for lights and decorations brought in about \$1,000.

“A lot of people supported it monetarily,” Heyne said.

The lighting ceremony on Friday night was an event that brought the community out and brought them together.

Heyne promoted the event as “Operation Christmas Tree 2023”

TREE, PAGE 5



The new Charter Oak Christmas tree

The family of Bill Adams would like to thank everyone for all of the prayers, cards, texts, phone calls, flowers, and gifts these past few months leading up to and including Bill's passing. The flowers and gifts were beautiful; we know they would have made Bill smile.

We would also like to thank everyone that attended the viewing/funeral. Our family has felt the love coming from all of you. Special thanks goes to Kevin Freese for the wonderful message and service; Jean Ang for all of the music; and Staleys and the ladies of the Vail Presbyterian Church for the wonderful luncheon. Bill would have been so proud.

Finally, a huge thank you to Katie Fitzsimmons and Huebner Funeral Home for all of the loving concern and assistance provided before, during and after the funeral.

*Thank you*

The Denison Free Press is possible in part thanks to the Western Iowa Journalism Foundation



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### Music at the McHenry House



PHOTO BY GORDON WOLF

Clayton Bretey on harmonica, Phyllis Hansen on accordion and Mariah Bretey on guitar create sweet Christmas music for those visiting the McHenry House in Denison on Saturday to view the rooms decorated for the season.

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# HOBBY, FROM PAGE 1

Picking the right type of sewing machine is important. Harvey prefers the newer sewing machines made of aluminum or plastic that have straight sides, not the old-fashioned machines that are not uniform in shape, although he has used some of them.

Harvey has been restoring tractors for 25 years and now does it with his son, John, so he is well acquainted with the shapes of many types of tractors.

"A lot of times if you look at them long enough, something about the sewing machine will remind you of a certain tractor and you just kind of go off that," he said.

When Harvey first started his hobby, he had to search a little bit for old sewing machines. Then the Mapleton paper ran a story about Harvey. The article was seen by a woman in Blair, Nebraska, who ran a sewing machine repair shop.

"She called me and asked how many I wanted," said Harvey. "She had a whole garage full of these old machines. I went to Blair, and she gave me all I could stack in a pickup."

Harvey now has an abundance of old sewing machines for a hobby that he does only occasionally.

"It's just kind of when I get the inkling to do another one," he said. "I kind of have to start getting bored, and I still work in the shop with my son with his tractor restorations, so I'm usually pretty busy. But there are times I get a notion, or I see something that gets me going again."

Harvey has to get creative when it comes to details on the tractors.

"A lot of the fenders are made out of frying pans. For a seat on a tractor, I might use a soup ladle; it's kind of cupped like an old seat," he said. "And I've used fishing sinkers for headlights. You just have to get inventive."

Harvey said the more modern sewing machines are more difficult to transform into tractor replicas.

"They're made of aluminum or plastic, and you can't weld on them. So you have to figure out a way to bolt a steel plate to the machine so you can start building off that steel," he said.

The older style treadle sewing machines have their challenges, too.

"It takes you half a day or a day to clean one up. You have to take everything

out of them, weld the holes shut and smooth them out before you start to build," Harvey said. "There's more to it than people think."

There was one old sewing machine that Harvey had difficulty transforming into a tractor replica because he imagined what it had meant to the person who had used it.

"I just hardly had the heart to tear it apart. It had a cabinet with drawers. The lady who had the machine had all her needles and threads in there, and I thought she probably thought the world of this machine. When I was tearing it apart, I kind of didn't feel good about that."

The projects that stick out in Harvey's mind are the ones he did with his granddaughters, Ashley and Sara Rosener.

Earlier this year, Sara wanted to make a sewing machine tractor that looked like a 1965 Farmall 1206 because Harvey had previously owned that model tractor.

Harvey's daughter, Angie Rosener, explained, "He bought it in December of 1977 from the International dealer in Moorhead. In 1999, after owning it for 22 years, he traded it in for a more modern cab tractor," Angie said.

Before starting on the project Harvey told Sara, "If you're going to make this one, you have to do all the welding."

"She had never welded before, so I had to teach her how," Harvey said. "She did really well, and I was proud of her."

The tractor replica Harvey made with Ashley was a Farmall tractor made out of an antique sewing machine.

"Dad has lived on the farm his entire life (77 years)," Angie Rosener said. "One of his dad's (Elmer Thies') first tractors was a 1920/1930s Farmall Regular, so that's why he and Ashley chose to make that model for her sewing machine tractor."

That project went to the State Fair where it was also entered into a contest sponsored by the International Harvester Collector's Club. Ashley won \$350. That was in 2018.

"She was pretty happy about that," said Harvey. "Even to this day, she's in college and she still remembers all the parts of the tractor we made, so it kind of does my heart good to think maybe I taught her a little bit."



PHOTO BY GORDON WOLF

Pictured are a few of the sewing machine tractors that Harvey Thies had on display at the Ron Kuhlmann Memorial Farm Toy Show.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Ashley Rosener and her grandfather, Harvey Thies, pictured after completing Ashley's sewing machine tractor project in 2018.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Ashley Rosener welds on her sewing machine tractor under the guidance of Grandfather Harvey Thies.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Sara Rosener prepares an old sewing machine to be transformed into a replica of a tractor.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Sara Rosener and Grandfather Harvey Thies show the sewing machine tractor Sara made this year.

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### Only one more week to donate to Goodfellows

Only one week remains to participate in Goodfellows and play a part in helping 156 children, age 12 and under, in the county.

The last day to donate is Tuesday, December 19.

People can choose a card from the Goodfellows trees located at Bomgaars, Fareway, Hy-Vee and the Crawford County Courthouse. Cards on the tree list the Christmas gift wish lists of children, identified by a number assigned to each family.

You can shop for any or all of the items listed on the card. Then bring the gifts, with the card attached, to the Chamber & Development Council of Crawford County office, located at 109 North Main Street, just south of Denison City Hall.

You can also donate without selecting a card, or donate money. The money is used by the Goodfellows volunteers to fill the Christmas wish lists of any child whose card is not selected from a tree.

Donations are tax deductible. Donors so far are Home and

Hobby Club, \$50; Carol and Sherm Bryant, \$160; anonymous, Pokemon cards, Legos, Pokemon toys, clothes for a boy; Our Savior Quilters, \$180; Gayle Chapman, boys clothes, puzzles, miscellaneous items for girls; anonymous, gifts for a child; Audry Larson, gifts for a child; Gene and Carrie Ellis, gifts for children; Lisa Westphalen, gifts for a child; Diane Graeve, gifts for a child; Pam Jacobsen, clothing, toys and shoes; Vicki Mink, gifts for a child; Nolan, Colton and Henry Muff, gifts for children;

Eric Meents, \$100; Laura Seaton, \$50; anonymous, gifts for a child; anonymous, \$500; Shawn and Tamay Tumej, gifts for a child; Breanna Campbell, gifts for a child; Gabi Campbell, gifts for a child; Broadway Elementary fourth and fifth grades, \$400; Richard and Cheryl Bockelmann, \$100; Jerry and Barbara Rasmussen, \$100; Lila Crawford, \$100; Lonya and Lavern Mathys, \$50; anonymous, \$100;

Monogram Foods, \$5,000 foundation grant; Walmart, \$1,500

grant; West Central Iowa Collectors Club, \$50; Norma Ricke, gifts for one kids; anonymous, dolls and stuffed animals; James and Sheri Freml, \$50; Community of Christ Church, hats, gloves and socks; anonymous, baby doll; anonymous, dinosaurs and trucks for a child; anonymous, a Barbie and a kitty for a child; Alec Beymer, coat and a package of pens; Sharon Gaughan, toys for a child; anonymous, variety of toys; Schleswig Sharks 4-H, variety of toys; Sundquist Engineering, \$100.



PHOTO BY GORDON WOLF

Volunteers from the Kiwanis Club and the First United Methodist Church sort out gifts for the children being helped by Goodfellows this year.

### Author at the McHenry House



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Ann Hanigan-Kotz was hosted by the McHenry House on Saturday for a book signing and a discussion about her books, "The Journey of Karoline Olsen" and "Sons & Daughters." She is a 1984 graduate of Denison High School. She retired from teaching high school English after 33 years. Her first book, "The Journey of Karoline Olsen," was self-published in 2021.

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## More drivers, ambulance personnel, firefighters needed

AMBULANCE, FROM PAGE 1

BY DAN MUNDT

In the culmination of a process that began more than a year and a half ago, the Kiron Fire Department (KFD) on December 6 received final approval from the State of Iowa to use their ambulance as a transport service for patients.

The Kiron ambulance is the fourth transport service in Crawford County, joining Manilla, Dow City-Arion and Crawford County Memorial Hospital (CCMH).

The Bureau of Emergency Medical and Trauma Services of the Iowa Department of Health and Human Services gave the final approval to Kiron for a service program authorization to change service levels from non-transport to transport.

“Previously, we were responding to 911 calls in conjunction with a transporting ambulance, which was most often out of CCMH,” said Rachel Burns, firefighter/EMT and KFD EMS service director.

KFD operates an ambulance donated to the service in July by CCMH; it replaced an older ambulance donated by CCMH in 2018.

As a non-transport service prior to last week, Kiron’s ambulance could only be used for the initial care of a patient

“We would generally arrive first and begin assessing the patient; treating the patient as appropriate,” Burns said. “We continued our care while waiting with that patient until the transporting ambulance would arrive to take them to the hospital, if needed.”

The difference with transport authorization is that the Kiron ambulance personnel have the option of taking patients to a hospital.

“We will continue to be dual-dispatched with CCMH for every call in our service area that is part of their larger service area,” she said. “If we are on the very northern edge of our service area, we will be dual-dispatched with the Ida Grove ambulance. From there, we can have the other transporting service continue coming, we can choose to meet them halfway, or we can transport the patient.”

Calling for helicopter transport remains a further option, she noted.

The medical assessment of the patient will be the determining factor on whether Kiron takes on the transport duties.

“If we have something that is at the basic-life-support level, and we’re ready to get going to the hospital, then we’re now able to do that for our community, and anywhere outside of our service area we might be called to, if there’s a need,” Burns said. “If we have a situation where the patient needs IV

(intravenous) medication or cardiac monitoring, we’re really going to want to have a paramedic-level service either meeting up with us or come to us.”

The first step in the process of gaining transport approval was getting more KFD personnel licensed as EMTs.

“After that, we acquired the donated ambulance from CCMH, which helped us keep the ball rolling,” Burns said. “The next biggest hurdle was the insurance situation. I worked with Swanson Insurance in Odebolt and they made that process easy. From there, the state requires a completed application to change service levels from a first-responder service to a transporting service.”

Burns wrote new policies to detail when patients would be transported by the Kiron ambulance and when a higher level of service would be needed.

“We also updated some existing policies with the help of CCMH; we will continue to work very closely with them, so we had to change some of the current policies to align with the new plan of transporting,” she said.

“All that paperwork and the application gets submitted to the state in advance of an inspection; they reviewed everything and approved that, and then we got to schedule an on-site inspection where someone from the state came out and did an interview with a lot of questions and

then checked over the new ambulance, checked our equipment and approved us for transporting.”

KFD currently has five active emergency medical technicians (EMTs) and a few firefighters who are approved to drive the ambulance.

“To transport a patient, or to assess or treat a patient, we need a minimum of one driver and one EMT,” she said. “Those drivers have to have completed first aid and bleeding control training, they have to have CPR and AED (automated external defibrillator) training, they have to have been trained in the communications equipment, including the radios, and they have to have had driver training, as well.”

Burns said KFD is always in need of more firefighters and more ambulance personnel.

“If that is something that interests someone who lives in our service area – even a little bit – we’d love to talk to you about how we can find a spot that works for you,” she said. “Even if you think you won’t be available all the time – or maybe you just want to drive and you don’t want to take EMT classes yet – we are definitely in need and we may be in need of some additional drivers, specifically.”

Interested individuals may contact the Kiron Fire Department at 712-371-3566.

Potential fire department members may also speak to Kiron Fire Chief Josh Burns at Kiron Repair in Kiron.

## Semi accident claims life of Carroll man

Douglas L. Hook, 65, of Carroll, died as a result of injuries sustained in an accident involving two semis at about 4:45 p.m. on Tuesday.

Hook was driving a 2018 Peterbilt semi west on Highway 141 and was crossing the intersection with Highway 59. Hayden H. Leonard, 23, of Millville, Minnesota, was driving a 2015 Freightliner semi north on Highway 59. His semi struck the Hook semi in the northbound lane of Highway 59. The Hook semi came to rest in the northwest ditch of the intersection and the Leonard semi came to rest west of

the intersection on V Avenue.

The Iowa State Patrol report said Hook was not wearing a seatbelt.

During the traffic control efforts at the scene of the accident, a Crawford County Sheriff’s Office vehicle was struck by another semi.

Barry Charles Ostrom of Cassopolis, Michigan, was driving a blue 2021 Freightliner semi south on Highway 59. The sheriff’s office vehicle was parked across Highway 59 with its emergency lights activated. The semi struck the sheriff’s vehicle in the front passenger side, and the semi came to rest in the west ditch. No one was injured. Ostrom was cited for failure to stop in an assured clear distance.

## Community members needed to sustain new tradition

TREE, FROM PAGE 1

on Facebook.

“I would have been happy with any number, but it was amazing to see about 85 show up,” he said. “The pastor (Richard Merrill of St. John Lutheran Church) did a quick prayer and Joleen and Earl Schultz flipped the switch and turned on the lights, and we had a bonfire going.”

A lot of people stayed to hang out, listen to Christmas music and talk after the ceremony.

“It was really neat to see; a lot of the people who don’t normally get together were out there having great conversations,” Heyne said. “We had a really nice night on Friday; the weather was beautiful.”

The next step, which he said is already

underway, will be to form a group to sustain the Christmas tree event from year to year.

“I’m certain, just because of what they’ve seen this year, that we’ll get more involvement,” Heyne said. “A lot of people really enjoyed it. I didn’t hear one negative comment.”



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Donated labor and donated equipment made placement possible for the Charter Oak Christmas tree.

## Fifth graders at the North Pole



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

The Broadway Elementary fifth graders turned the Denison High School Fine Arts Stage into the North Pole for their musical on December 7. The setting was auditions for the 400th anniversary of the North Pole Musical. The characters had to solve a number of problems, and Santa stepped in to remind everyone of the true meaning of the season.



## ON THE SCANNER

**12-5, 11:49 a.m.:** An accident happened on Avenue C in Denison. Dakotah Lynn Vander Vegte, 24, of Denison, was driving a red 2010 Ford Edge north on Avenue C when her vehicle rear-ended a gray 2018 Ford F150 pickup being driven by Zuleima Marlen Licon Zamora, 36, of Denison. Vander Vegte said she was distracted by a baby crying in the back seat. Both drivers refused medical care on the scene. The Licon Zamora vehicle received \$2,000 damage. The Vander Vegte vehicle received \$2,500 damage.

**12-2:** A hit-and-run accident happened on 1st Avenue South in Denison. A gray 2008 Toyota Camry was legally parked in a parking lot along a building, facing north. The owner of the vehicle reported finding his vehicle damaged at 2:30 p.m. on December 2. The last time he saw it undamaged was at 5:30 a.m. on December 2. The damage occurred in a side-swiping manner along the passenger side. The parking lot provides access to 1st Avenue South and the alley to the north. The other vehicle appeared to have either traveled north through the parking lot or starting into the parking lot, reversed into the Camry and then proceed onto 1st Avenue South. The Camry received \$2,500 damage to the rear passenger side.

**12-1, 1:29 p.m.:** An accident happened at the One Stop Shop along North 7th Street in Denison. Jose

Mario Alvaro Angel, 40, of Denison, was driving a gold 2004 Ford F150 pickup, was backing improperly and struck a green 2000 Dodge Durango being operated by Bryan James Wolfe, 31, of Vail. Alvaro Angel’s vehicle had a minor scratch. Wolfe’s vehicle received \$1,500 damage to the middle driver side.

**12-3, 3:27 a.m.:** The Denison Police Department arrested a Jane Doe, age 20 to 35, for disorderly conduct – loud, raucous noise - at Casey’s General Store in Denison. According to information filed in district court, she was asked to leave the store by the store clerk after bothering the store clerk and patrons. She exited the store and sat in the passenger seat of a vehicle. While waiting for a driver, she began honking the vehicle’s horn, played music loudly enough for it to be heard in the patrol vehicle with the windows rolled up and then starting yelling a profane word multiple times. When taken to jail, she refused to identify herself and was booked as “Jane Doe.”

**12-2, 12:15 p.m.:** The Denison Police Department arrested Jorge Lupian, 55, of Denison, for domestic abuse assault – 1st offense.

**11-26, 2 a.m.:** The Denison Police Department arrested Jose Enrique Borroto Barroso, 24, of Denison, for operating while under the influence -1st offense. The location of the offense was on North 19th Street.



Our news is also published online!

Featured stories and more at DENISONFREEPRESS.COM

The Denison Free Press

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# Local Calendar

**SATURDAY**  
DECEMBER 16, 2023

**STEAM Saturday at Norelius Community Library**, 10-11 a.m. Children and tweens ages 8-13 will get to make holiday ornaments. Activities will include science, technology, engineering, art or math themes.

**Los Posadas at NEW LOCATION, presented by LULAC Denison**, 6:30 p.m. at New Life Christian Church, 1019 Ridge Road, Denison. Pinatas, music, food, crafts, and games.

**TUESDAY**  
DECEMBER 19, 2023

**Crafternoon at Norelius Community Library**, 4-6 p.m. Adults, teens and tweens ages 12 and up will get to work on different crafting projects and techniques.

**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.

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

**WEDNESDAY**  
DECEMBER 20, 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 21, 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.

**Santa Visit**, 5-7 p.m. at the Santa House in Uptown Denison. The Women in Business Impact Organization (WIBIO) sponsors Santa's visits.

## NEWS BRIEFS

### Hunger Fighters food distribution December 19

The Crawford County Hunger Fighters food distribution is planned for Tuesday, December 19, at the United Presbyterian Church, 205 North 24th Street in Denison. Drive-through pickup will be from 3 to 5 p.m.

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

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

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

Those who would like to volunteer on distribution day should call the Presbyterian Church office at 712-263-4130.

### Library board to meet December 19

The Norelius Community Library Board of Trustees will conduct its monthly business meeting at 5:15 p.m. on December 19 in the Library Fireside Room.

The agenda includes trustee training, public forum, review of monthly reports, library director's report, bills, and committee reports.

Old business includes Carnegie rooms restoration project, server project updates and facilities updates.

New business includes board meeting calendar, library hours and active shooter training.

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.



## Letters

TO THE EDITOR To submit a letter visit, [denisonfreepress.com](http://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.

## Job Opportunities in Denison

### DEPUTY CLERK POSITION

City of Denison (pop. 8,373) is looking to hire a Deputy Clerk. Individual must be experienced with municipal finance and standard office software.

**Minimum qualifications:** High school education or certified GED equivalent, associate degree in accounting recommended but not required, minimum of two (2) years in the accounting field or related areas or 3 years' experience as City Clerk or Assistant/Deputy City Clerk in city of comparable size can be substituted for academic qualifications.

**Excellent benefit package.**

Applications and complete job description are available at City of Denison, 111 N. Main St., Denison, IA 51442 or at [www.denisonia.com](http://www.denisonia.com).

**Deadline for applications is December 22, 2023 at 4:00 p.m.** Please send completed job application and resume to City of Denison, 111 N. Main St., Denison, IA 51442, Attention Jodie Flaherty or by email [cityclerk@denisonia.com](mailto:cityclerk@denisonia.com).

Position open until filled. E.O.E..



## Crawford County has received only .002 percent of \$43 million CAT grants

WELLNESS, FROM PAGE 1

"The CAT Committee is the one that decides whether or not we receive the \$1 million CAT Grant we have applied for," said Zupp-Smith. "We think it went really well – and we had a lot of positive feedback."

The committee did not award the grant – but also didn't say they wouldn't. Zupp-Smith said their main reservation is the \$1 million gap that remains between funds raised for the project and the total cost of the project.

The project cost is estimated to be \$18.8 million and \$13 million has been pledged by individuals and organizations.

A potential \$3.6 million New Markets Tax Credit (NMTC) for the project and the \$1 million CAT Grant would leave the project about \$1.1 million short.

Zupp-Smith said she and Garcia thought the CAT Committee might award the \$1 million grant with the requirement to secure the NMTC deal by the end of the first quarter; they instead asked the wellness center project to close the \$1.1 million gap by January 4.

"The million we would have raised on the back end, they want to see us raise it on the front end," she said. "That's a huge challenge for a small community like ours – that's a lot of money to raise in a short amount of time."

Only about three weeks remain to reach the fundraising goal.

"However, if everybody who hasn't made a donation yet would make a donation, we'd probably easily hit it," Zupp-Smith said. "Of course, we will go back to other sources who have been asked before but maybe just haven't committed yet, or were kind of on the fence, because now time really is of the essence."

She noted that businesses and individuals should consider making a charitable gift to reduce their tax burden.

Zupp-Smith said if the wellness center project can close the gap – or even come close – it will likely give the CAT Committee the confidence to go ahead and award the \$1 million grant.

She noted that the NMTC deals are a bit complex because they're time-sensitive.

"The entities that have money to invest like to get it off of their books as soon as they can so they can apply next year with the federal government to get more," she said.

The NMTC Program is part of the United States Treasury Community Development Financial Institutions Fund; it attracts private capital into low-income communities by permitting individual and corporate investors to

receive a tax credit against their federal income tax in exchange for making equity investments in specialized financial intermediaries called Community Development Entities.

Zupp-Smith encourages anyone on the fence about the wellness center project to make this the time to donate.

"This is something that is needed badly in our community," she said. "There is almost nothing for people to do for all of the winter months out of the year. This facility would provide amenities for people who want to just go and walk with friends, play a pickup game of basketball or try volleyball for the first time."

Children in the county have the most to gain from it, she said.

"This is going to be something that benefits them all the way through their high school years and help give them that competitive advantage in sports that, frankly, our kids don't get," Zupp-Smith said.

"Our kids are competing against class 4A schools across Iowa; they're expected to compete on the same level when our kids haven't even been given a chance from the very early ages of their upbringing."

The wellness center would help close that gap, too, she said.

"There is nowhere in a 90-mile radius that has access to indoor soccer," Zupp-Smith said. "With the large and successful soccer community that we have here and places like Storm Lake and Marshalltown, the opportunity to drive tourism between the counties is really huge."

She noted that securing the CAT Grant would also even the playing field with some of the larger communities that more often receive CAT funding.

"I did the statistical research on the CAT Grant," Zupp-Smith said. "Since they started it in 1997, they've given away over \$43 million and Crawford County has received .002 percent of that funding. It's all funded by tax dollars, including tax dollars that we pay, so I feel like it's time for us to start doing things that help us put us first instead of sitting on the sidelines. This is an opportunity for us to show why we deserve to have something and help close that gap to actually get it done."

Donations to the project are tax-deductible.

The Crawford County Recreation & Wellness Committee has stated that donations may come in the form of cash, check, money order, cashier's check, or a pledge over a period of years. Stocks, bonds, grain, equipment, land, or anything else of value can be accepted.

Information about how to donate to the wellness center is available at Denison City Hall, 111 North Main Street, Denison; 712-263-3143.



## Senior Lunch Menu

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

**Friday, December 15:**  
goulash, whole wheat bread, broccoli, peaches

**Monday, December 18:**  
ground beef stroganoff, egg noodles, green beans, whole wheat bread, Mandarin oranges

**Tuesday, December 19:**  
chicken and mushrooms, roasted red potatoes, whole wheat bread, asparagus, apple crisp

**Wednesday, December 20:**  
ham, sweet potatoes, California blend, whole wheat roll, pears

**Thursday, December 21:**  
Salisbury patty with mushroom gravy, boiled red potatoes, green beans, whole wheat bread, pineapple upside-down cake

**Friday, December 22:**  
hearty vegetable beef soup, breadstick, lettuce salad, Mandarin oranges

**Monday, December 25:**  
Closed for Christmas  
**Tuesday, December 26:**  
turkey and gravy, dressing, corn, pudding parfait

**Wednesday, December 27:**  
baked chicken Parmesan with noodles, carrots, fruit cup, cookie

**Thursday, December 28:**  
taco casserole, Mexican rice, banana

**Friday, December 29:**  
Swedish meatballs, egg noodles, broccoli, peaches, applesauce cake



More photos on our Facebook page!  
[@denisonfreepress](https://www.facebook.com/denisonfreepress)

## COURTHOUSE NEWS

December 1-7, 2023

### SMALL CLAIMS

• Against: Jerod David Nielsen, Schleswig. In favor of: Discover Bank. Amount: \$2,521.51 plus \$95 costs.

### TRAFFIC

- Christian Max Valles Mauldin, Denison, parks and public lands, closing time exceeded, \$98.13.
- Christian Max Valles Mauldin, Denison, manner of conveyance, loaded gun, \$175.75.
- Christian Max Valles Mauldin, Denison, manner of conveyance, loaded gun, \$175.75.
- Domingo Bonifac Morales Ramos, Dakota City, NE, no valid driver's license, \$354.00.
- Domingo Bonifac Morales Ramos, Dakota City, NE, failure to provide proof of financial liability, \$428.75.
- Domingo Bonifac Morales Ramos, Dakota City, NE, failure to use child restraint device, \$210.25.
- Joshua Michael Harlston, Denison, violation of instruction permit limitation, \$175.75.
- Manyang Atem Cheingkou, Le Mars, failure to yield upon left turn, \$210.25.
- Jose Rene Vargas Rodriguez, Denison, no valid driver's license, \$354.00.
- Landon Jay Borkowski, Denison, failure to maintain or use safety belts, adult, \$135.50.
- Adolfo Vargas Prado, Denison, operation of motor vehicle with expired license, \$135.50.
- Tiffani Marie Ufret Rosario, Denison, failure to obey stop sign and yield right of way, \$210.25.
- Jose Luis Hernandez Gallegos, Denison, no valid driver's license, \$354.00.
- Todd Joseph Cogdill, Dunlap, failure

to obey stop sign and yield right of way, \$210.25.

- Nathan Michael Klink, Denison, failure to maintain or use safety belts, adult, \$135.50.
- Terry Lee Brockman, Denison, failure to maintain or use safety belts, adult, \$135.50.
- Antonio Alvarez Alvarado, Denison, failure to have a valid license or permit for operation of motor vehicle, \$285.00.

### SPEEDING (11-15 MPH OVER)

- David Allen Frum, Earling, \$175.75.

### SPEEDING (6-10 MPH OVER)

- Marcus Alan Robertson, Everman, TX, \$118.25.
- Jamie Lynn Frazier, Vail, \$118.25.
- Elizabeth A. Waszgis, Omaha, NE, \$118.25.
- Davis Otto Blair, Odebolt, \$118.25.
- Randy W. Tremayne, Homer, NE, \$118.25.
- Akot Tor Deng, Denison, \$118.25.
- Taya Christine Adams, Denison, \$118.25.
- Heather Ann Zeimen, Denison, \$118.25.
- Adam Ullrich, Denison, \$118.25.
- Caitlin Michelle Nelson, Denison, \$118.25.

### SPEEDING (1-5 MPH OVER)

- Oscar Oziel Corona, Vail, \$89.50.
- Victor A. Solorzano Oliva, Woodbine, \$89.50.
- Brian Richard Pibal, Rockwell City, \$89.50.
- Javier Martinez, Harlan, \$89.50.
- Charles Andrew Trauffer, Denison, \$89.50.
- Larry Michael Barry, Woodbine, \$89.50.

## New water tower goes up

Just about every day, Don Uker has been at the site of the new 24th Street water tower in Denison, taking still photos, videos and photos from a drone. He also interviewed workers from Maguire Iron Inc. that built the tower. Uker shared the photos on this page with The Denison Free Press.

The new tower, a project of Denison Municipal Utilities (DMU), is located by the senior league baseball field. It replaces the existing tower by the little league field. The new tower will have a capacity of 500,000 gallons.

The tower is one part of the first phase to improve water distribution in Denison. Other parts of Phase 1 are installation of water main pipe and the installation of a booster station by the 18th Street water tower. Phase 1 will improve water pressure for DMU's customers in the northeast and eastern parts of Denison.

Uker received the following information about the tower from a Maguire Iron worker.

The tower is about 160 feet tall. A 500-ton crane was used to lift the pieces of the tower.

The column weighs about 90,000 pounds. The lower part of the spheroid tank weighs 100,000 pounds, and the upper part of the tank weighs 60,000 pounds.

Work to get the tower operational, including the exterior painting, will continue in April.

The photos on this page show the column, the bottom of the spheroid tank and the top of the tank being lifted into place.



## LAND TRANSACTIONS

December 1-7, 2023

### Warranty Deeds

- Deny Delgado Rios to Marin Garcia and Jacqueline Garcia Rodriguez: Lot 10, Block 134, City of Denison; \$140,000.
- Than Zaw Aung to Angel Miguel Hernandez Galdamez and Alanis Gabriele Galdamez: Lot 6, Block 2, Holmes Addition, City of Denison; \$143,500.

### Quit Claim Deeds

- Ricky Martin, Julie Ann Martin aka Julia Ann Martin to Amber Lynn Jon and Cody Frederick Jons Sr: Lot 16, Block 8, City of Manilla.
- Darrell Eugene Hose and Ruth I. Hose to Mackenzie J. Reis and Terrance S. Reis: Lot 3, Block 3, City of Vail.
- Rosie Than to Than Zaw Aung: Lot 6, Block 2, Holmes Addition, City of Denison.

### State Tax Lien

- Iowa Department of Revenue against Triple C Trading LLC. Amount: \$12.46.

### Sheriff's Deed

- Crawford County Sheriff, Randal Leo Schechinger, Troy Andrews, Lisa Renae Otto, Direct Biz Funding Record Company LLC, Record Company LLC, Cheryl Rae Adams, Robert Gale Adams, Patricia Lynn Schechinger, Ikahn Capital LLC, Global Merchant Cash Inc., Great Plains Bank, Brian Schechinger, Last Chance Funding Inc., Nancy Croghan, US Small Business Administration, Corporation Service Company,

Americredit Financial Services Inc., GM Financial, Kurt Martin Seuntjens, Diane Marie Andrews, Gerald Thomas Croghan, Bruce Alan Schechinger, Julie Rae Schechinger, United States of America, Tracey L. Schechinger, Adams Motor Company of Denison LLC, Adams Motor Company, Cynthia Kay Seuntjens, Douglas Dean Schechinger, Grace Marie Schechinger to Grace Marie Schechinger and Denison Land Holdings LLC: SE1/4 Section 32, East Boyer Township, NE1/4 NE1/4 Section 4, Nishnabotna Township, N1/2 NE1/4 Section 15, Nishnabotna Township, SE1/4 Section 34, East Boyer Township, SE1/4 NE1/4 Section 34, East Boyer Township, E1/2 SW1/4 Section 2, Nishnabotna Township, NW1/4 Section 11, Nishnabotna Township, SW1/4 Section 33, East Boyer Township, SW1/4 NW1/4 Section 12, Nishnabotna Township, E1/2 W1/2 SE1/4 Section 4, Nishnabotna Township; \$818,000.

### Contract

- Bah Soe Gay to Gah G. Htoo: Lot 11, 12, 13, Block 43, City of Denison; \$95,000.
- Robert Evan Blakley and Meriah Ruth Blakley to William Daniel Mundt: Lot 6, Block 45, City of Denison; \$166,475.
- Violeta Ortensia Zarazua to Omar Jorge Garcia Macedo and Virginia Navarro Castaneda: Lot 29 and 30, Block 60, City of Denison; \$60,000.
- Lois Blair to Nicholas Weier: Lot 1, 2, 3, 4, Block 8, City of Vail; SE1/4 NW1/4 Section 30, Westside Township; \$124,000.

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## Funeral Notices

### Ruth Huisman

Funeral Services for Ruth Huisman, 103, formerly of Westside, will be conducted at 11 a.m. Wednesday, December 13, at United Church in Westside.

Friends may call from 5 to 7 p.m. Tuesday, December 12, at United Church in Westside.

She passed away Wednesday, December 6, at Spurgeon Manor in Dallas Center.

Survivors include her son, Terry (Lynn) Huisman; daughter-in-law, Gail Huisman; three grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; and several nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

Services are entrusted to the Huebner Funeral Home.



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# Monarchs

## DENISON-SCHLESWIG MONARCHS BASKETBALL

### Monarchs split doubleheader against Glenwood

The Denison-Schleswig boys and girls split a double-header against Glenwood on Tuesday night, December 5.

The girls fell 54-45. Glenwood went up 11-10 after the first quarter and then flipped scoring drives for the next two quarters. Glenwood outscored the Monarchs 17-4 in the second quarter, and the Monarch girls outscored Glenwood 14-6 in the third quarter. Scoring was closer in the final period, 20-17 Glenwood.

Kiana Schulz led the Monarchs with 16 points. She added 7 rebounds, 1 assist and 3 steals.

#### Following are the statistics for the other Monarch girls.

Addison Inman: 5 points, 8 rebounds, 4 steals and 1 block

Samantha Chandler: 2 points, 1 rebound, 4 assists, 1 steal

Claire Leinen: 2 rebounds, 1 assist

Mayah Slater: 6 points, 7 rebounds, 2 assists, 1 steal, 1 block

Whitlee Auen: 6 points, 4 rebounds, 2 assists, 4 steals

Gaby Cardenas: 8 points, 4 rebounds

Sara Mun: 2 points, 3 rebounds, 2 assists, 1 steal

The loss put the Monarchs' record at 2-3. The Denison-Schleswig boys

improved their record to 1-3 overall and 1-0 in the conference with a 53-50 victory over Glenwood.

Head Coach Derek Fink described the game as a defensive slugfest, adding that is something the team hasn't been able to do in the first three games.

"I was really proud of our ability to guard, create deflections and get to loose balls - something we haven't done enough of early in the season," he said. "Offensively, we weren't quite as crisp, but at the same time the game really slowed down in the second half."

Denison-Schleswig went up 18-13 after one quarter and led 32 to 28 at the half. Only 16 points total were scored in the third quarter - 9 for Glenwood and 7 for Denison-Schleswig. The Monarchs edged Glenwood 14-13 in the final quarter.

"Our defensive execution late was pretty good, aside from a couple of breakdowns. On offense we will need to continue to burn the clock a bit while still getting a shoot shot at the end of a possession, something we can surely work on as the season progresses," Fink said. "It was great to see our guys pull out a gritty, gutsy effort and get our first win and get a win in our first conference game of the season."

Jake Fink led the Monarchs with 15 points. Luke Wiebers and Lance Arkfeld added 11 each. Easton Emery scored 8, Kole Towne scored 4 and Chandler Perrien and Gage Head scored 2 points each.

### Monarch girls drop road game to Harlan

The Denison-Schleswig varsity girls' basketball team was unable to overcome a lead built up over three quarters by Harlan and fell 66-55 on Friday.

Harlan led 25-15 after one quarter, 40-25 at the half and 59-36 after three periods. The Monarchs scored 19 points to seven for Harlan in the final quarter.

Whitlee Auen led the Monarchs in scoring with 22 points. She also had five rebounds, five assists and one steal.

Mayah Slater followed with 13 points, eight rebounds, two assists, three steals and two blocks.

#### Following are the statistics for the other players.

Quinlan Bygness: 1 rebound

Addison Inman: 2 points, 4 rebounds, 1 steal

Samantha Chandler: 2 points, 1 rebound, 1 assist, 1 steal

Claire Leinen: 2 rebounds, 2 assists, 1 block

Lola Mendlik: 6 points, 1 steal

Kiana Schulz: 6 points, 3 rebounds, 1 assist, 1 steal

Gaby Cardenas: 4 rebounds, 1 assist

Sara Mun: 4 points, 8 rebounds, 2 assists, 1 block

### Monarch boys fall to Harlan

The Denison-Schleswig varsity boys' basketball team fell to Harlan 63-49 on Friday.

Harlan was up 21-11 after the first quarter, 35-24 at the half and 51-33 after three periods.

Lance Arkfeld scored 19 points and Luke Wiebers followed with 14 for the Monarchs.

Others who scored are Jake Fink, 2; Chandler Perrien, 3; Gage Head, 5; and Kole Towne, 6.

"Harlan came out and made their first four shots, including three three-pointers, and it was 11-0 before we knew what happened," said Head Coach Derek Fink. "Credit to them and their early game plan. I thought we were able to weather the storm a bit but dug too big of a hole to beat a team like Harlan at their place."

"We got a lot of good looks tonight; we just couldn't get the lid off the basket. We do have three practices and 6 days before our next game, so we need to use that time to get better, which I know this team will do so."



## DENISON-SCHLESWIG MONARCHS WRESTLING

### Monarch girls place fourth at wrestling meet

Despite being down a couple varsity starters at the 130- and 140-pound divisions, the Denison-Schleswig girl wrestlers took home fourth place at a meet at Riverside High School on Friday, December 8.

"It was nice to see us still rally and score some points in a tournament setting," said Head Coach Jacob Brawner. "It was also nice to be able to take all of our available girls and get them matches. Some of our girls are still getting some of their first few matches of the season."

He said the highlight of the night went to Taylor Totten; she won the 190-pound bracket.

Angie Rivera and Kasandra Barroso wrestled to third place finishes while Andrea Alcaraz and Aremy Santos each brought home fourth place honors.

"While it was a good night overall, there is still plenty to work

on," said Brawner. "This makes two tournaments in a row that we've had a rough semifinal round of wrestling as a team. Those matches in the semis will be pivotal as the season goes on and we try to get over the hump. They're the difference between placing in the top five in a tournament to placing in the top three or being in contention to win. We also need to continue to get better at understanding the situation during a match."

He explained the girls need to learn how to wrestle when they are up in points and down in points, and that how to wrestle changes depending on the time in the match.

"We need to continue to wrestle through positions, keep our hips high, and run our feet. We spent a little too much time wrestling on our knees tonight and we felt like we let quite a few matches slip away," Brawner said.

### Monarch boys wrestle Cherokee, Sgt. Bluff and Sheldon

In a home meet on Tuesday, the Denison-Schleswig boys' wrestling team lost to Cherokee Washington 42-39, won against Sheldon 33-33 and fell to Sgt. Bluff 72-24.

Denison-Schleswig won against Sheldon because the Monarchs had more wins.

"Tonight was a great first night for our home duals," said Head Coach Nick Bradley. "We wrestled tough. We came out a little sluggish in our first match and didn't pick up the pace until about halfway through the dual. We were able to close the gap, but we did it too late and lost by three to Cherokee."

"Our second dual against Sheldon was a great dual, as well. We ended up tying the dual but won on criteria. We had more wins than they did," Bradley added.

"Sgt. Bluff is a very tough opponent. They have quite a few state-quality wrestlers," he said. "They were tough in all positions. However, we were able to pick up some good wins at 190, 215 and heavyweight. We had some guys out tonight due to sickness and a few guys got banged up during the dual. We need to take care of ourselves this week and manage our health to ensure we are competing at a high level all week."

Against Cherokee, Jackson Graeve, James Lemon, Javier Medina, Luis Chan and Garret Plagge all won by fall. Trae Hartwig won an 11-9 decision. Joel Murrillo won by forfeit.

Against Sheldon, Aden Esquerra and Joel Murrillo won by fall. Jackson Graeve, Izak Argotsinger and Luis Chan won by decision. Chase Williams and James Lemon won by forfeit.

Against Sgt. Bluff, Javier Medina, Joel Murrillo, Luis Chan and Garret Plagge won by fall.

The Monarchs will be in action tonight against Red Oak and St. Albert.

### Monarch boys place seventh in wrestling tournament

The Denison-Schleswig boys' wrestling team placed seventh with 125.5 points at a tournament at Mapleton on Friday.

"The Monarch wrestling team dropped several matches tonight that we should have won," said Head Coach Nick Bradley. "We put ourselves in a great position to win matches, but we just came up short."

"We must do a better job of winning early matches in a tournament to put ourselves into the finals. However, our boys did an outstanding job on the backside of the bracket," he continued.

"Most of our guys bounced back and were wrestling for third place. Again, we came up a little short in several of our placing matches. Our guys are good, and they are learning a ton. They listen and are willing to grow as wrestlers."

Trae Hartwig at 113 pounds, Joel Murrillo at 190 pounds, Luis Chan at 215 pounds, and Garret Plagge at 285 pounds

all placed third.

Fourth place finishes went to Jayden Bradley at 120 pounds, James Lemon at 150 pounds, and Izak Argotsinger at 175 pounds.

Aden Esquerra at 126 pounds placed fifth, and Luis Lopez at 138 pounds and Javier Medina at 165 pounds placed sixth.



Luis Chan goes for the pin.



Jackson Graeve throws his opponent from Cherokee. He won the match by fall.

PHOTOS BY RHONDA RAUCH



# Sports

## DENISON-SCHLESWIG MONARCHS BOWLING

### Denison-Schleswig bowlers top Lewis Central

The Denison-Schleswig boys' varsity bowlers won their match against Lewis Central on Thursday, December 7, 2,851 to 2,618.

High games from the team were Ethan Totten with a 233, Grant Fink with a 203, Blaine Brodsky with a 193, Jake Fink with a 190, Jett Paulsen with a 185 and Gavin Schmadeke with a 185.

Ethan Totten had the high series of 412 with games of 179 and 233. Together they finished with a two-game series total of 1,853.

The varsity boys were up against Lewis Central going into baker games by just 83 pins.

"The boys really wanted to increase the lead they had and threw a 247 Baker game right away," said Head Coach Shelby Brawner. "After that they threw a 188 and a 201. They finished with games of 181 and 181."

The girls' varsity team won their match against Lewis Central, 2,537 to 2,272.

High games from the team were Brianna Musgrave with a 229, Haley Lutz with a 186, Brittany Musgrave with a 178, and Daisy Koch with a 167.

Brianna Musgrave had the high series

of 402 with games of 229 and 173. Together they finished with a two-game series total of 1,689.

The varsity girls were up against Lewis Central going into Baker games.

"The girls started off with a strong game of 182. In their second game they dropped a bit, throwing a 149, but finished strong with games of 173, 171, and 173," said Brawner.

#### J.V. results

The boys JV team won their match against Lewis Central 2,587 to 2,002. High games from the team were Cammerin Palmer with a 268, Logan Harper with a 213, Tyson Stoppel with a 170, Lucien Steinkuehler with a 162, and Adyn Zenk with a 161.

Cammerin Palmer had the high series of 450 with games of 182 and 268, his new personal high game. Together they finished with a two-game series total of 1,752.

The JV boys were up against Lewis Central going into Baker games. The boys started off Bakers with two high scores of 185 and 207. After that they finished with games of 150, 142, and 151.

The girls' JV team won their match against Lewis Central 1,751 to 1,652. High games from the team were Ashton Randeris with a 161, Chloe Koch with a 123, and Alice Koch with a 121.

Ashton Randeris had the high series



PHOTOS BY RHONDA RAUCH

Brittany Musgrave concentrates on her approach during a bowling match this week.



Ethan Totten throws the ball down the lane. He bowled the high series in a meet against Lewis Central on December 7.

of 277 with games of 116 and 161. Together they finished with a two-game series total of 1,163.

The JV girls were up against Lewis Central going into Baker games by just

52 pins. The girls started off the bakers with a 112. Then they bowled games of 134 and 132 which helped them almost double their lead. After that they finished with games of 97 and 113.

## Bell Log Cabin to be restored, moved

### County approves move to Dow House location

BY DAN MUNDT

Heritage Woodworks, Inc., of Clemons, has delivered their estimate for the cost of preserving and restoring the historic Bell Log Cabin located at Washington Park in Denison.

Tracy, Philip and David Grossmann of Heritage Woodworks, Inc. visited Denison in mid-November to take a look at the cabin at the invitation of archaeologist Christy Rickers, of Vail, who is a member of the Crawford County Historic Preservation Commission (CCHPC).

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

"The cost they came up with is about \$77,000," Rickers said.

That total would include the cost of completely disassembling the cabin, cleaning and treating the wood and then reassembling it.

She said the Grossmanns have determined that some elements of the cabin can't be reused.

"There are some logs that are going to have to be replaced; they are too rotten and soft to be saved," Rickers said. "Part of the problem the cabin is having is that it's shifting and the logs are being displaced, and the entire roof is too rotten to be saved; they will have to build a completely new roof for it."

Rickers noted that the estimated cost does not include the cost of a new foundation or any work associated with the cabin's fireplace.

"The Grossmanns determined there were too many stress fractures on the fireplace; the outside cladding and the inside brick are falling apart. There is no way the fireplace can be moved in one piece," she said.

"The only hope is we could try to save the fieldstone in the fireplace exteriors and reuse it for a new fireplace, or we could construct a different type of fireplace. That has yet to be determined."

Restoration of the cabin, a new foundation and work on the fireplace would likely raise the total cost of the project to around \$100,000, Rickers

said. Rickers and Amy Pieper, also a member of the CCHPC, visited the Denison Parks & Rec Commission meeting last week to talk about transferring the log cabin to the county.

Parks & Rec has stated in recent meetings with CCHPC that the Bell Log Cabin doesn't fit into future plans for Washington Park.

The cabin has been closed and unused for decades.

"We presented them (the Parks & Rec Commission) with the estimate and they said they still feel their funds would be better spent on other things at the park," Rickers said. "They gave us permission to move it."

Pieper and Rickers then met last week with the Crawford County Conservation Board to discuss whether the county would provide a new location for the cabin.

In previous meetings with the conservation board, Pieper and Rickers have discussed relocating the cabin to a place where it could be used for educational purposes.

The Neal Moeller Environmental Education Center at Yellow Smoke Park and the Dow House in Dow City have been considered as options; both are owned/managed by the county.

"They did say that they would give the cabin a place at the Dow House in the very back yard area," Rickers said.

The cabin would have its own area that would not detract from the Dow House, she said.

"We have to work out ownership and what to do with some of the items that are inside the cabin, yet," she said.

Rickers said that the restoration project will have to be accomplished with donated funds; no public money will likely be available.

"We'll need to do a lot of fundraising and grant-getting," she said.

Donated funds will be managed through the Friends of the Dow House.

"Donations will be tax deductible - the money will be earmarked for the cabin," Rickers said.



PHOTOS BY DAN MUNDT

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



The cabin's fireplace can't be saved in its entirety; some of the fieldstone could be removed and reused, or a new fireplace could be constructed.

CCHPC will be in charge of raising funds for the restoration and facilitating the project.

Volunteer labor and donations of materials will be sought for the new foundation and work on the fireplace.

Rickers said Heritage Woodworks would like to disassemble the cabin in 2024 and rebuild it in 2025.

Donations for the Bell Log Cabin

restoration project may be sent to: Conservation Office

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2237 Yellow Smoke Rd.  
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Checks made payable to: Friends of the Dow House

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

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## Crawford County Farm Bureau receives honors at annual meeting



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Pictured from left are Brent Johnson, Iowa Farm Bureau Federation President; Mark Riesselman (accepting the award for Jeremy Stangl, Crawford County Farm Bureau President); and Sharyl Bruning, IFBF Board of Director for District 4.

### Crawford County Farm Bureau honored for excellence

Crawford County Farm Bureau was recognized as an "Outstanding County Farm Bureau" during Iowa Farm Bureau Federation's 105th annual meeting December 5-6 in Des Moines.

This designation is awarded to Farm Bureaus that connect with community members and elected officials about today's family farm practices and engage in local, philanthropic activities.

"Our organization's success starts at the county level," said Brent Johnson,

Iowa Farm Bureau president. "That's what it means to be grassroots, and it cannot be stated enough the important role our members play in advocating for agriculture and creating vibrant rural communities."

### Farm Bureau 'Membership Toppers' honored

Larry Boeck of Crawford County, Linda Comstock of Lucas County and Wayne Kramer of Dubuque County have been named Iowa Farm Bureau Federation's 2023 membership toppers.

They were each recognized during the Iowa Farm Bureau Federation's 105th annual meeting December 5-6 in Des Moines for recruiting the most new county Farm Bureau members between April 2022 to March 2023. Kramer signed 39 new members; Comstock, 28; and Boeck, 15.

"We're fortunate to have members who believe in our organization's mission at a level where they want to invite others to be part of it," said Brent Johnson, Iowa Farm Bureau president. "Farm Bureau's grassroots efforts and diverse membership would not be what it is today without these folks sharing about our values and community efforts."



Larry Boeck

### Crawford County Farm Bureau receives membership award

Black Hawk, Crawford, Iowa and Winnebago County Farm Bureaus were named recipients of the 2023 Leo Waggoner Award. Each county was recognized during the Iowa Farm Bureau Federation's 105th annual meeting December 5-6 in Des Moines

and will receive \$2,000.

This award celebrates county Farm Bureaus with the highest percent increase of membership over the previous year and a minimum of 50 volunteer points during their membership drive. It is dedicated in memory of Leo Waggoner who devoted his life to Iowa Farm Bureau.

### Farm Bureau agents honored with Community Partnership Award

Denise Van Dusen of Ida and Crawford County and Bobby Liebsch and Zach Osborne of Buchanan County were named recipients of Iowa Farm Bureau Federation's Community Partnership Award.

This award recognizes agents who collaborate with their county Farm Bureau and promote the organization as a valuable member of the local community.

Van Dusen was nominated for her support of local organizations, events and youth programs. Liebsch and Osborne were nominated for their community work and desire to put Farm Bureau members' needs first.

The agents were recognized during Iowa Farm Bureau Federation's 105th annual meeting December 5-6 in Des Moines.



Denise Van Dusen

## Madilyn Blunk joins Lambert Family Chiropractic

BY GORDON WOLF

A seemingly isolated incident can send a person on a defining path in life.

That's what happened to Madilyn (Kessel) Blunk, who has been interning at Lambert Family Chiropractic in Denison since November 1.

Madilyn is a 2017 graduate of Charter Oak-Ute High School, where she was involved in basketball, volleyball, student council, FFA, band and choir.

"When I was in elementary school, I got hit in the jaw while playing basketball," she said. "For months my jaw clicked whenever I ate to the point that my parents could hear it when we ate supper at night. My mom took me to a chiropractor in Carroll (Dr. Angie Cross). She kind of took me under her wing and started teaching me a lot about chiropractic. That got me interested. I was amazed at the things she did and what she was teaching me while I was there."

"She talked a lot about chiropractic, what it entails and how it can affect everything in the body. It's not just what everyone thinks it is - cracking your back and making your back feel better. She explained to me how chiropractic is so much more than that, how it helps your body function in general," Madilyn added.

When Dr. Cross left Carroll, Madilyn started going to Dr. Lambert's clinic where she became further interested in a career in chiropractic.

"He taught me a lot of things, and throughout high school I shadowed him," she said. "That's when I decided this is what I wanted to do; that it would be a good way for me to be able to help people."

The job-shadowing was not through a school assignment but through Madilyn's own initiative and interest in chiropractic.

"I was able to see Dr. Lambert treat a lot of patients and see how quickly they got better," she said. "I thought this is a great profession to be in because he was able to help so many people every day, and that is something I want to do - help people."

While attending Midland University in Fremont, Nebraska, Madilyn shadowed other chiropractors.

"I wanted to figure out what kind of chiropractor I wanted to be, to find the things I like and don't like, and take something from each person," she said. "I had great learning experiences in every office I was in."

After receiving a Bachelor of Science degree, Madilyn continued her career path at Palmer Chiropractic of



Chiropractic in Davenport.

"I chose Palmer because I wanted to stay in Iowa," she said. "It is one of the closer schools to home. Family is important to me and my husband, so we wanted to be able to be a part of that."

Madilyn also chose Palmer because it would help her become a well-rounded doctor through the variety of chiropractic techniques taught at the school.

Madilyn's internship with Dr. Lambert will finish her course of studies at Palmer. She will graduate on February 23 and will work at Lambert Family Chiropractic in Denison a couple days a week and then will spend a couple days a week at a new clinic Dr. Lambert will be opening in Dunlap.

Madilyn and her husband, Ben Blunk, and their son, Jaxtyn, born in August, moved from Davenport to Denison. Ben is a Denison High School graduate and just started working in maintenance at Crawford County Memorial Hospital.

Madilyn said her career goal is to help people become more fulfilled through chiropractic health care.

"You have to listen to patients, take in that information and decide how you can best help them," she said. "Each patient is different, and what works for one might not work for the next."

She continued that chiropractic could help anybody.

"We are also very good about knowing when it's time to go on to the next thing. We're primary care physicians; we can treat any patient and we're a good first step for a patient," Madilyn said. "I think a lot of people see us as low back pain doctors but we're so much more than that."

Madilyn said she hopes to see a lot of moms and babies come into the clinic for the care they need.

"Chiropractic can help pregnant women and babies," she said.

Madilyn added. "It's amazing to see all the things that chiropractic can do, and I hope to be able to help the community with that, help people understand all that chiropractic can do for them."

## Old bridge gets new life



PHOTOS BY DAN MUNDT

This bridge, which had been located south of Buck Grove since 1945, was installed at Yellow Smoke Park last week to replace a trail bridge that was worn out. The Crawford County Bridge Crew installed the bridge; Crawford County Conservation employees helped remove the old bridge. The bridge is located just across the lake from the main campground.



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## Shopping at the toy show



PHOTO BY GORDON WOLF

Not all items at the Ron Kuhlmann Memorial Farm Toy show on December 3 were farm related. Above, Jacob and Joseph Sorensen and Sofia Jepsen look at Hot Wheels cars for sale. At right is Deanna Sorensen.

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## In Remembrance

**Treva Sue Bassett**  
December 31, 1960 - December 5, 2023

Treva Sue Bassett, Champaign, Illinois, formerly Denison, Iowa

Treva Sue Bassett, passed away on December 5, 2023, at the age of 62 in Champaign, Illinois. She was born to Stan Kracht and Beverly Saunders on December 31, 1960, in Denison, Iowa.

Treva's commitment and loyalty to her country were evident throughout her military career. She served with honor and distinction, retiring from the U.S. Army as a Master Sergeant. Her unwavering dedication to the service was an inspiration to her colleagues and a testament to her character.

Besides her military achievements, Treva graduated from Denison High School in 1979 and pursued her education further by graduating from Wayne State College and eventually earned her Masters Degree. She believed in the importance of continuous learning and set an example for others to follow.

Known for her joyful and caring nature, Treva was deeply loved by her family and friends. She had a thoughtful and selfless personality that touched the lives of those around her. Her generosity knew no bounds as she always went above and beyond to support her loved ones.

Treva is survived by her son Thomas Anthony Bassett, her daughter Jasmine Brielle Bassett, granddaughter Aiyana Penelope Bassett, and grandson Avyan Micah Bassett. They were treasured members of Treva's life whom she held dear to her heart.

To honor Treva's memory, a Funeral Service will be held at Ernst Funeral Home in Waukee, Iowa on December 12, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. followed by interment with military rites at Iowa Veterans Cemetery, Adel, Iowa.

The passing of Treva Sue Bassett leaves behind a void that will be felt by all who had the privilege of knowing her. Her legacy as a devoted soldier and a loving individual will continue to inspire future generations. May she rest in peace surrounded by eternal gratitude for her sacrifice and love for her country and loved ones.

**JoAnn Lea Reisz**  
September 5, 1947 - December 4, 2023

JoAnn Lea Reisz was born on September 5, 1947, in Denison, to her parents Bryce and Ella (Retman) Wingrove. She graduated from Dow City High School in 1965. She dedicated 17 years of her life working for Jo-Mart Motel & Steak House and another 10 years at Midwestern College, both in Denison. Her commitment and hard work left a lasting impression on those she worked with and served.

On December 28, 1977, JoAnn married Ralph Reisz at Zion Lutheran Church in Denison. Together they made a home in Denison, where they created a warm and loving home filled with laughter and cherished memories.

A woman of deep faith, JoAnn embraced Catholicism on May 20, 2009. She was an active member of St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church in Denison, where her strong faith served as a guiding light in her life. JoAnn had many passions and hobbies that brought her much joy. She had a knack for gardening where she had beautiful flowers and bountiful vegetable gardens. Her enthusiasm extended to the kitchen as well where she enjoyed cooking.

JoAnn was a loving and devoted wife. Her kind nature and caring presence touched the lives of all who had the privilege of knowing her. She had a vibrant personality and always showed genuine kindness towards others. She possessed an extraordinary ability to touch the lives of those around her through acts of compassion and selflessness. Her love and generosity knew no bounds.

JoAnn passed away peacefully on Monday, December 4, 2023, at Gracewell - Eventide Lutheran Home in Denison, Iowa, attaining the age of 76 years, 2 months, and 29 days. In addition to her parents, Bryce and Ella Wingrove, she was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Ralph Reisz and her brother, Bob Wingrove.

JoAnn leaves behind her sister-in-law, Lucille and her husband Myron Eggers of Whitney, Texas; many nieces, nephews, other relatives, and many friends who will miss her dearly but also cherish the time they shared together. She built strong connections throughout her life and touched the lives of many with her kindness, compassion, and unwavering love.

Mass of Christian Burial was held 10:30 A.M. Tuesday, December 12, 2023 at St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church in Denison, Iowa. Fr. Shinoj Jose served as Celebrant of the Mass with interment in the Dow City Cemetery. Organist Jean Cornelius provided accompaniment for the St. Rose Choir and congregational hymns "On Eagle's Wings," "Precious Lord, Take My Hand," "Here I Am, Lord" and "How Great Thou Art." Randy Grossman served as lector, Ian Morales & Kendra Ochoa served as mass servers. Serving as pallbearers were David Reisz, Gary Reisz, Tom Pauley, Richard Hanlin, Mark Kremin and Ron Manz. Following Mass, the family invited everyone to the parish center for a time of fellowship and lunch. Services were entrusted to the Huebner Funeral Home.

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### A sweet time at the Gift-Giving Workshop



PHOTOS BY GORDON WOLF

Mateo Reyes, of Denison, decorates his tongue as well as a cookie at the Gift-Giving Workshop at the Denison First United Methodist Church on Saturday afternoon. Children from preschool through fifth grade could go to the church and purchase gifts for family members for 25 cents apiece. The cookie decorating was a sweet way to have fun after shopping.



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Gabi Campbell, of Denison, places candies on her nativity stable, fashioned from graham crackers.



Juan and Luis Mancilla, of Denison, get their gifts wrapped. Their mother, Hilda, is at the right.



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### Dressed for Christmas



PHOTO BY DAN MUNDT

The dinosaur at the 141 One Stop in Charter Oak is dressed for the season and ready to take Rudolph's place on Christmas Eve.

### A jolly occasion; Drinks with the Dows



The Dow House was open for tours during the Dow City Hometown Christmas on Saturday. Each room was decorated in a holiday theme. Above, from front to back, Henry, Colton and Nolan Muff, of Dunlap, look at the colored strings that weave through the children's room at the Dow House. In the string maze, children had to follow their string which was attached to their present.

PHOTOS BY GORDON WOLF



Marty Sandberg, of Kiron, admires the Christmas tree in the upstairs hallway while visiting with Megan Mitchell-Anderson, who is formerly of Dow City and now lives in Webb.



KC Cary, playing the part of Abner Graves, serves a glass of Abner's Cranberry Surprise to Raquel Mumm.



Sandy Terwilleger and Linda McCutcheon, of Dow City, sample cookies that were served.

### St. Rose sings about "The First Christmas"



St. Rose of Lima Catholic School presented its concert, "The First Christmas" last week Tuesday (December 5) at the Denison High School Fine Arts Center. Students sang 11 holiday songs. The finale to the concert was the singing of "Feliz Navidad" by the students and the audience.

PHOTOS BY GORDON WOLF



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### Dow City celebrates its hometown Christmas



PHOTOS BY GORDON WOLF

The gingerbread house contest was new this year at the Dow City Hometown Christmas. A total of 22 houses were entered. After she entered her gingerbread house in the contest (No. 22 in the photo), Fiona Erlbacher points to an entry next to hers. She is with her mother, Katie Tremel. Her house was named the most unique among the kids that entered.



Robin McCoid and Ron Bedsaul show their winning gingerbread house. It represented an extra effort to enter the contest; their dog ate the first version.



Harvey Roberts, of Woodbine, looks as if he is trying to say "Ho, ho, ho" while sitting on Santa's lap.



Rylan Muff, of Dow City, looks curiously at the jolly old elf that is holding him.



Making letters to Santa are Brittany Schaben (left), of Westphalia, her children Eve and Addi, and Ryker Outhouse sitting on the lap of his grandmother, Jean Croghan. Jean is the grandmother of the two Schaben girls, as well.



Decorating cookies at the fire hall are Avah, Laylah and Mariah Trevino, of Dow City.



Grant Mitchell, of Dow City, fills his container during the cookie walk.



Bingo at the Dow City Community Building is more than a game; it is a chance for fellowship and laughter. Sitting around this table are Carol Beermann, Kristi Stephens, Courtney Hast, Tanner Reimer and Cammey Hast, all from the Dow City and Arion area.



Olden Dehner looks over jewelry at the vendor fair in the Dow City Community Building on Saturday. He is with his mother, Nicole. In the background is Becky Ahart, a family friend.



Youngsters and adults participating in the live nativity at the Dow City Hometown Christmas also joined in the lighted parade.



Joseph and Mary stay by the manger in the live nativity presentation. Joseph is looking at the approach of the three wise men.