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Local News  
Local Journalists  
Local Ownership

# The Denison Free Press

FREE  
TAKE ONE!

Vol. 1 | No. 26

SERVING DENISON & CRAWFORD COUNTY, IOWA

December 28, 2023

## DMU Board approves another \$250,000 pledge to wellness center

Wants city and county to share in a second \$250,000 requested by wellness center committee

BY GORDON WOLF

Following a December 18 regular meeting at which they were asked to pledge an additional \$500,000 toward the Crawford County Wellness Center project, the members of the Denison Municipal Utilities (DMU) Board voted in special session on December 21 to pledge \$250,000 and that DMU would provide one-third of the other \$250,000 if the city and the county would each provide a third – roughly \$83,000 each.

DMU had already pledged \$500,000 from its surplus funds for the project, to be paid over three years beginning the year after the commencement of construction of the wellness center.

DMU's additional pledge will be stretched out over years 4 through 8.

Representatives of the Crawford County Wellness Center Committee are trying to raise an additional \$1 million in donations and pledges before a Community Attractions and Tourism (CAT) Board meeting on January 4, the next time a \$1 million CAT grant for the wellness center project would be addressed.

Renee Vary, DMU finance manager, explained how the utilities' pledges would come from surplus funds and the calculations used to determine if surplus funds exist.

She later added that the pledge amounts would have to be built into the DMU budgets.

Chad Langenfeld, chairperson of the DMU Board, proposed the additional \$250,000 pledge and the equal one-thirds split of the other \$250,000 by DMU, the city and the county.

"I believe this is a great project, something that the community has

DMU, PAGE 5

## Monitor system installed at Denison City Hall

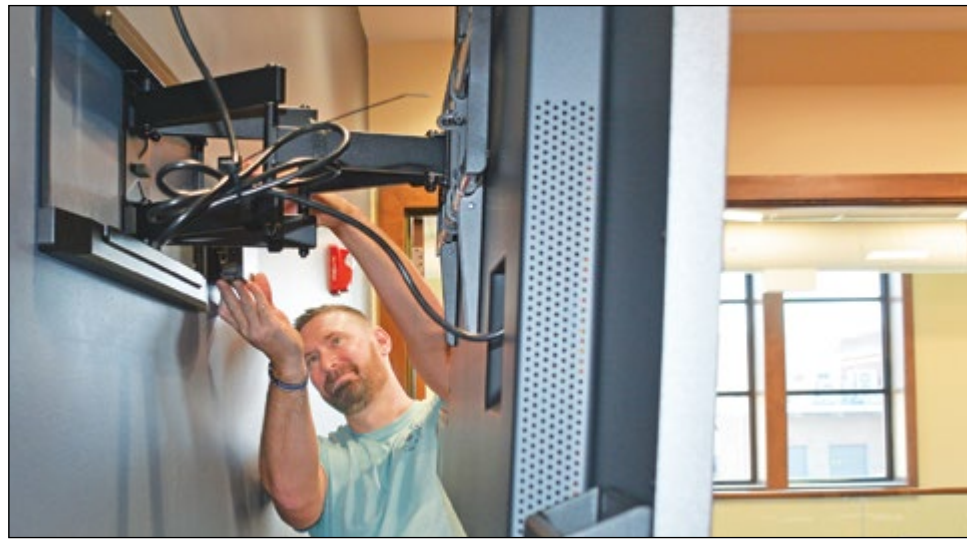


PHOTO BY GORDON WOLF

For years the Denison City Council searched for methods to have the public watch meetings via the internet and to have a professional presentation system for council meetings. Those discussions did not come to fruition until City Manager Jessica Garcia and City Clerk Jodie Flaherty asked the council if they could shop for bargains to bring audio-visual equipment to city hall. Within the past weeks a monitor has been installed in the small meeting room on the first floor of city hall, along with a 65-inch monitor with a microcomputer at the front of the council chambers and a smaller monitor on the back wall of the chambers. Pictured, Mitch Flaherty, husband of the city clerk, installs a microcomputer to the 65-inch monitor. The installation work was done for free. There is discussion about a test run at the next council meeting and if all goes well, zoom meetings could be conducted shortly thereafter.

## CCHappyCats has successful year

More than 250 cats fixed

BY DAN MUNDT

In August 2021, Marcia Bachmann, of Denison, announced her intention to open a center dedicated to reducing cat overpopulation and suffering in Crawford County.

Just over two years later, CCHappyCats is up and running and delivering on that idea.

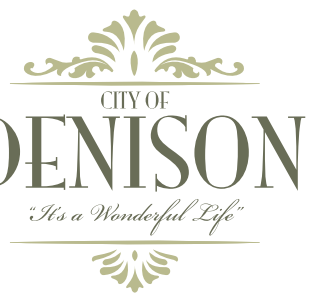
Nancy Voggeser, a language arts teacher at Denison High School and a lead organizer of the service, said

CATS, PAGE 4



Though CCHappyCats focuses on spaying and neutering cats, the service also provides space for adoptable cats and kittens.

## New public works director joining city staff



BY GORDON WOLF

Rod Olson was hired as the new director of public works for the City of Denison last week Tuesday.

He will fill that position on January 29, but as of last week Tuesday he became a seasonal worker for the public works department.

Olson is a highway tech assistant with the Department of Transportation (DOT) office in Denison, and before that was a senior equipment operator with the DOT.

"He wanted to give a 30-day notice to the DOT but wanted to be able to help with snow removal right away," said City Clerk Jodie Flaherty.

His wage as a seasonal public works employee is \$21.80 per hour. As the director of public works his salary will be \$79,800.

The City of Denison has been without a director of public works officially since November 29, with the resignation of Eric Martens.

The city has also been without a street commissioner since November 6 with the resignation of Mike Vogt.

The street commissioner position will not be filled. Instead, the city decided to hire a full-time maintenance worker.

Antonio Trevino was hired as Maintenance Worker II at the December 19 city council meeting. He started his job on December 21, at a wage of \$24.16 per hour.

The city filled other vacancies in the public works department at the December 19 meeting.

Derrick Janssen was hired as Maintenance Worker 1, at an hourly wage of \$21.80, effective December 26, and Dean Thomsen was hired as a seasonal public works employee, at an hourly wage of \$21.80, effective December 19.



Meriah and Evan Blakley aboard their boat Novella on the first day of their 6,000-mile journey.

The Great Loop

## Blakleys leave Denison, begin 6,000 mile water voyage

BY DAN MUNDT

Part 1 of 2

"It definitely started with me," said Evan Blakley of the voyage that he and his wife, Meriah, began on December 2 at Pickwick Landing, Tennessee.

That was the day the couple began the first leg of the "Great Loop," which is a water voyage on continuous waterways that includes major rivers in the United States, Gulf Coast and East Coast waterways, the Great Lakes and Canadian Heritage Canals.

Evan is the former executive director of the Chamber & Development Council (CDC) of Crawford County.

Meriah, a graphic designer, is the owner of Roo Bea Design Co.; among her many clients are La Prensa Hispanic Newspaper and the Denison Free Press.

Evan first heard of the Great Loop on a podcast he discovered about two years ago.

"I've always been interested in sailing, and on a whim I started to look up sailing podcasts," he said.

"I settled on one where a couple guests were talking about how they just completed the Great Loop; they described the way they cut their ties and started traveling full time, and this

LOOP, PAGE 8

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from your Denison Subway!*



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in 2024!

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### Las Posadas at St. Rose



PHOTO BY GORDON WOLF

Mary and Joseph (Daniela and Jeremiah) stand outside the parish center at St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church during the Las Posadas celebration on December 21.



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### Goodfellows donation and volunteers



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Pictured is a representative of Smithfield Foods with the 14 cases of ham donated to this year's Goodfellows program. In addition to the many donors that made this year's drive a success, Goodfellows would like to recognize Mahoney & Gotto for donating the use of its building for the organization and distribution of packages to 156 children. A special thanks goes to the volunteers from the First United Methodist Church and Denison Kiwanis Club who organized the packages of gifts and the United Methodist Church Lap Robe Quilters for the quilts they gave.



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# Enhancing the patient experience

## CCMH expansion/remodel designs revealed

BY DAN MUNDT

At the December meeting of the Crawford County Memorial Hospital (CCMH) Board of Trustees, CCMH President and CEO Erin Muck showed a set of images depicting how the clinic

space will look following a \$25 million expansion/remodeling project set to begin next year.

Invision Architects, of Des Moines, the firm hired to create CCMH's

new master facility plan, created the renderings.

Muck told the Denison Free Press that the purpose of the project is to improve the patient experience at CCMH by revamping the clinic spaces.

“What we really want is something that feels welcoming,” she said. “Our providers and staff give maximum progressive care and we want our building to reflect that, as well.”

“It will focus more on patient experience and creating a more intimate setting where patients and families can sit together in their own area while they’re waiting to see a physician,” said Don Luensmann, CCMH executive director of marketing and development.

Muck said she expects the construction project will begin in August/September 2024 and be completed in the spring of 2027.



The new clinic entrance area will feature a large overhang above the walkway to protect patients from the weather. The walkway will run parallel to the clinic waiting room.



The entryway will feature a large vestibule where wheelchairs will be available.



This image shows the area from the new clinic greeter desk, located just inside the entrance, to the original main entrance greeter desk.



After registering, patients will wait in an area near their physician’s office. The waiting room features separated seating areas, large windows and natural light.



Patient privacy will be enhanced by new registration bays with sliding frosted glass doors just inside the new clinic entrance. A total of eight of the new registration bays will serve the CCMH clinic, specialty clinics, lab, radiology and physical therapy.

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Sealed bids will be accepted until noon on January 12th, 2024.

They can be mailed to Denison Municipal Utilities, PO Box 518, Denison, Iowa 51442 or be dropped off at front desk at 721 Broadway.



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# Local Calendar

**SATURDAY**  
**DECEMBER 30, 2023**

**Klondike Hotel Holiday Open House**, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Soups, sandwiches, goodies and refreshments served. 332 3rd Avenue, Manilla.

**SUNDAY**  
**DECEMBER 31, 2023**

**Little Hawks Daycare Fundraiser on New Year's Eve.** Tickets are \$40 and include dinner, silent/live auction and entertainment by 2 1/2 guitars. 753 Main Street, Manilla.

**TUESDAY**  
**JANUARY 2, 2024**

**Color Me Calm at Norelius Community Library**, 5:30-7:30 p.m. Ages 19 and up.

**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**  
**JANUARY 3, 2024**

**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**  
**JANUARY 4, 2024**

**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**, 5:30-7:30 p.m.



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

## NEWS BRIEFS

**Hunger Fighters distributes to 215 families**

The Crawford County Hunger Fighters served 215 families in its December 19 drive-through food distribution. Over 9,000 pounds of food went to 282 adults and 156 children from the 215 families. The numbers include 38 home deliveries.

**Denison Kiwanis Lottery drawing results**

The following winners in the December 13 Denison Kiwanis Club lottery drawing each received \$50. CC Happy Cats, Denison; Sharle Grill, Denison; Jessica Martens, Denison; Team Auto, Denison; Cherith Thelen, Denison; Klynn Slechta, Denison; Ten Point Construction, Denison; Melanie Coenen, Denison; Connie Crawford, Denison; Terri Martens, Denison; Quality Truck Service, Denison; Terri Martens, Denison; Taylor Ritter in care of Jen Ritter, Omaha, Nebraska; Crawford County Bank, Denison; Team Auto, Denison; Reynold's Clothing, Denison; Greg Gallup, Denison; Team Auto, Denison; Majestic Hills Cobblestone Inn & Suites; Denison; Steve Rogers, Denison; Bud Borcharding, Denison; Hy-Vee, Denison; Lana Henningsen, Denison; Bank Iowa, Denison; Travis Beeck, State Farm Insurance, Denison; Dave Nemitz, Denison; Addison Schillerberg, Deloit; Pauley Jones Funeral Home, Denison; Walmart, Deison; Ampride, Denison; Cherith Thelen, Denison; Katja Ambrose, Denison; Roger Dozark, Denison; Fellers Furniture, Denison; Bohlmann Inc., Denison; Scott Lampman, Manning

# 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.

# CCHappyCats will put on a pancake supper at the Denison Senior Center on January 16

CATS, FROM PAGE 1

CCHappyCats processes an average of about 15 cats per month through their low-cost spay and neuter clinics; in the spring months, or kitten season as Voggesser calls it, the clinic will process around twice that many per month.

During the last year, CCHappyCats has spayed or neutered more than 200 cats through the clinic, and spayed/neutered another 55 cats in a trap/neuter/release (TNR) program.

"We have a physical shelter that we do have some cats and kittens in, but our focus right now is not on adoption; our focus is on the spay and neuter programs," she said.

Voggesser worked with the Harrison County Humane Society for about 20 years when she lived in Logan.

"When Marcia found out that I was moving back to Denison, she asked me if I would be part of CCHappyCats," she said.

Voggesser said the organization, in its first year and a half of existence, has provided a valuable service to Crawford County.

"We have done a really great job of getting cats spayed and neutered, keeping the cat population down, and helping families take care of cats and kittens that need help," Voggesser said.

A little more time will be needed before the results are easily visible in neighborhoods around the county.

"It takes a community effort to make sure we are taking care of the cats that need to be taken care of, but in small pockets we do see an effect," she said.

"The people who do most of the trap, neuter and release have been focusing in Manilla, lately, and they are seeing a difference in those targeted areas where we're getting the cats fixed and we're keeping the population down."

TNR has been used in a few small pockets of Denison.

"Some individual people might be feeding four or five cats outside, and we go in and we help them take care of those cats," Voggesser said. "It's too early to see, but those cats are not multiplying now, and they should see a decrease in the number of kittens coming up here in March and April."

Donations at all times of the year are important for CCHappyCats.

"For every cat we fix, it costs us about

\$80, so when you're talking about a population that might have about 10 cats, that's \$800," she said. "If we go into a situation where we're spending \$800, \$1,000, \$1,500 on one location, that takes a big hit from the donations we've already gotten."

CCHappyCats asks that residents provide support to the TNR programs in another way.

"What we would like from the public is when we are doing trap/neuter/release programs, if it's in your neighborhood and you're feeding those cats and kittens, you could help us to watch those traps and let us know when the cats are trapped so we can come get them and take them to where they need to go," Voggesser said. "I think it's important for people to understand that, even if you're calling cats 'stray cats,' if you're feeding them and they're coming to your home, they're your cats. When we come in and we help with trap/neuter/release, we will be asking if the family can make a donation. Not everybody can afford to do a donation, and we get that, but if you can afford to help us out with a little bit of that cost, that would be great."

Volunteers are also needed in the CCHappyCats shelter, located at 720 Broadway in Denison.

"We do have some cats and kittens in the shelter, and we have four or five volunteers who come regularly to do chores. They get a little burned out doing that every single day," she said.

"Most of these kittens come in from outdoor environments and they're a little skittish of people. We work to get them socialized so they can find good indoor homes."

She said CCHappyCats had a good day on "Giving Tuesday," which is the first Tuesday after Thanksgiving.

"We had a great amount of donations and an anonymous donor matched the first \$1,000," Voggesser said.

On Tuesday, January 16, the organization will put on a pancake supper at the Denison Senior Center for a freewill donation.

The event will include a raffle and a silent auction.

To volunteer or make a donation to CCHappyCats, call 712-356-8895, email [cchappycats@gmail.com](mailto:cchappycats@gmail.com), or stop by the shelter from 9 a.m. to noon on Saturdays.



CCHappyCats needs volunteers to help with chores in the organization's shelter and to spend time socializing cats and kittens for eventual adoption.



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**DMU, FROM PAGE 1**

tried several times, and this is as close as we've gotten," he said.

He added that DMU will be giving free electric utility services for the wellness center once it is constructed, and that DMU is also gifting some dirt for the project.

At the December 18 meeting, it was mentioned that the amount of the free utilities would be \$100,000 to \$150,000 a year, and that the gifting of dirt from the North 18th Street water tower site would save \$100,000 in wellness center construction costs.

DMU Board member Tonya Eller liked the idea of motivating the city and the county to split the second \$250,000 with DMU.

Board member Dan Dammen pointed out that all of DMU's pledges will come from its budget, while of the \$1 million each pledged by the county and the city, \$750,000 is coming from American Rescue Plan Act funds.

Board member Leslie Feekes said she liked the idea of splitting the second \$250,000 as an incentive for the city and the county.

"When you look at the gifting of the dirt of approximately \$100,000 and then with another \$250,000 in a pledge, that still gets us close to the \$400,000 to \$500,000 range that we will be participating in for the second time," Feekes said.

"I like the part that it holds them (the city and the county) liable, but my opinion is to hold their feet to the fire and make them split the \$250,000," said board member Brian Ertleman. "Forget our \$83,000. That's \$40,000 (more) apiece. That's not big dollars at the end of the day, in my opinion. I think we've been pretty generous when you look that our utilities are going to cost five times what the swimming pool costs potentially per year (\$34,000 in pool utilities). That is a huge expense that gets put on our rate payers forever. That's my concern.

"We've said since day one - county-wide wellness center. They (the city and the county) have given \$250,000 out of their general budgets. Another \$125,000 is not the end of the world. It's \$40,000 more than you are proposing," Ertleman said, addressing Langenfeld.

DMU General Manager Rory Weis reminded the board members of issues that were brought up at the December 18 meeting and again on December 21.

"I'm 100% in favor of this project," he said. "I just don't know how much of it should be the burden of our customers."

He continued that board members and staff have seen increased costs with everything that DMU is buying,

and the utility rates going forward are going to have to reflect those increases at some point. He added that transformers alone cost five times more than they used to cost.

In addition, the Western Iowa Power Association is talking about a wholesale power supply increase, and at its January meeting the DMU Board will have to consider a wage scale review, which Weis said is necessary for DMU to remain competitive and keep quality employees.

Vary spoke about a 10% increase in water rates implemented this year and that a financial advisor said it appears the water rates need to increase another 10% based on what is in DMU's capital improvements project budget. She added that wastewater utility rates increased by 5% in the past month and increases in the future are possible.

Dammen said he is falling more in favor of providing the extra incentive to the city and county on the second \$250,000.

"I'd have no problem giving more cash, maybe the whole \$500,000, if we didn't have to provide utilities every year," Ertleman said. "It's not a five-year commitment for the utilities. It's a 20-, 30-, 40-, 50-year commitment."

Langenfeld pointed out that what DMU is offering in free utilities is in lieu of taxes. An investor-owned utility would be paying taxes to the city.

But he added, "It's additional fees that we don't have before the wellness center is built."

Weis added that some DMU customers are barely getting by now.

Dammen said it is important that the city involve Weis and Mike Wight, the DMU electric utility manager, in the placement of the utility systems to make sure the most efficient equipment is being installed.

"If the city involves Rory and Mike with the project engineers and they come up with some decisions on putting in the most efficient systems instead of just electric systems, that goes a long way down the line for extra things," Dammen said. "If they don't, I would start to put on the brakes on future funding for that."

Weis said that Missouri River Energy Services, through its Bright Energy Solutions, is helping DMU look at the most efficient equipment for the project and that this needs to be brought to the attention of the wellness center committee again.

Dammen made the motion to fund the \$250,000 to the wellness center plus an additional third of the other \$250,000 that the wellness committee had asked for, contingent upon the county and city providing equal shares.

The vote was 4-1 with Ertleman voting no.

**ON THE SCANNER**

**12-8, 7 p.m.:** While it was attempting to turn around, a semi hit a vacuum machine at Pit Stop Auto Wash on Highway 30 in Denison. According to the accident report, it appeared to have been a Berger Cattle Company livestock trailer. The owner of Pit Stop Auto Wash contacted the trailer owner and they agreed to handle the settlement of the incident. The auto wash owner asked for an accident report to be filed. Damage to the auto wash property was estimated at \$10,000.

**12-10, 10:41 a.m.:** The Denison Police Department investigated an accident that happened on Broadway. Judith Ann Brodersen, 77, of Denison, was driving a white 2014 Chevrolet Impala traveling east on Broadway. Her vehicle struck the passenger side of a blue 2000 GMC Sonoma that was being driven south on 16th Street by Neal William Ahart, 65, of Denison. Both stated they made a complete stop at the intersection. Ahart had a complaint of pain but was not transported for medical treatment. His vehicle received \$5,000 damage to the middle passenger side. Brodersen's vehicle received \$10,000 to the front middle.

**12-11, 9:41 a.m.** The Crawford County Sheriff's Office investigated a report of a possible break-in. The office window was broken out of a building on U Avenue, Denison. It appeared someone entered the building through the window but the owner did not see any items were missing.

**12-13, 8:17 a.m.:** Crawford County Secondary Roads reported on December 12 that a bridge south of E16 on 110th Street had been struck, causing damage extensive enough so that the bridge had to be closed. It appeared that the bridge was struck by a semi traveling south. Workers with secondary roads followed the tracks to G Avenue where the tracks were lost due to the volume of traffic. The bridge had to be closed for an extended period of time.

**12-13, 12:42:** The Denison Police Department investigated an accident that happened on North 16th Street. A white 2018 Dodge Charger being driven by Omar Campa, 17, of Denison, backed into a white 2012 Honda Civic that was being driven south on North 16th Street by Mu

Toh, 34, of Denison. The Toh vehicle received \$3,500 damage to the rear driver side. The Campa vehicle received \$2,000 damage to the rear passenger side corner. No one was injured. Campa was cited for unsafe backing on a highway.

**12-15, 9:17 a.m.:** Jose Coronado Rubio, 56, was arrested on a sex offender registration violation.

**12-15, 5:16 p.m.:** The Crawford County Sheriff's Office investigated a report that a trailer damaged the railroad tracks at the Highway 30 and Lincoln Way railroad crossing.

**12-16, 12:37 p.m.:** The Denison Police Department investigated an accident that happened on Highway 30. Gerardo Zaragoza, 22, of Denison, was driving a black 2010 Chevrolet Silverado pickup east on Highway 30. Noralba Ochoa Munoz, 40, of Perry, was driving a red 2014 Toyota Corolla behind the Zaragoza vehicle. Zaragoza slowed down to turn into the parking lot at El Michocano while signaling. The Ochoa Munoz vehicle struck the Zaragoza vehicle in the back driver side corner. Ochoa Munoz sustained a possible injury (complaint of pain). Both parties declined the use of ambulance services. The Ochoa Munoz vehicle received \$5,000 damage and the Zaragoza vehicle received \$1,500 damage.

**12-17, 4:06 p.m.:** The Crawford County Sheriff's Office received a call about a white pickup driving through fields at R Avenue and 210th Street, Denison.

**12-17, 4:18 p.m.:** The Denison Police Department investigated an accident that happened in the drive-through at McDonald's. Jacob Ryan Halsey, 22, of Denison, was driving a silver 2007 Chevrolet Impala and was stopped, facing north in the drive-through. His foot slipped and his vehicle struck the rear middle of a white 2006 Ford 500 behind operated by Josie Marie Heese, 16, of Dow City. The driver of each vehicle did not see any damage.

**12-18, 12:22 a.m.:** Travis Scot Clark, 34, was arrested on a warrant for violation of probation on the original charge of operating a motor vehicle without owner's consent. Bail in the amount of \$4,000 was posted on December 19.

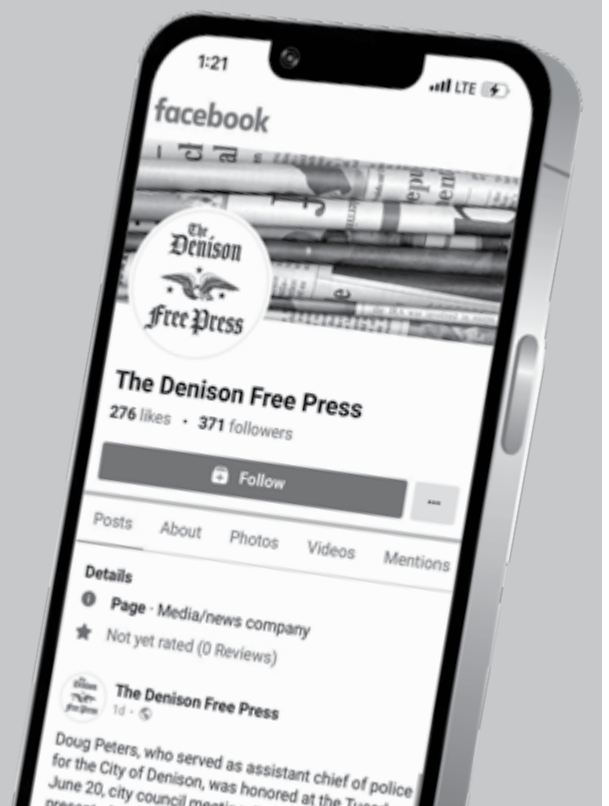
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## COURTHOUSE NEWS

December 15-21, 2023

## SMALL CLAIMS

- Against: James Irvin Fishback Jr. and Michelle Renee Fishback, Manning. In favor of: Hauge Associates Inc. Amount: \$2,812.99 plus \$95 costs.
- Against: David Kleinberg and Leeann Marie Kleinberg, Denison. In favor of: LF Noll Inc. Amount: \$1,293.91 plus \$95 costs.
- Against: Maximillian Christopher Wenderoth, Denison. In favor of: Denison Municipal Utilities. Amount: \$197.37 plus \$115 costs.

## NON-SCHEDULED TRAFFIC

- Keely Elena Forcier, Denison. DUS-driving while license denied, suspended, cancelled or revoked; \$347.50.

## SCHEDULED TRAFFIC

- Ernesto Juarez Solis, Dow City, failure to provide proof of financial liability; \$615.63.
- Ernesto Juarez Solis, Dow City, operating non-registered vehicle; \$175.75.
- Jason Andrew Gorden, Dow City, failure to maintain or use safety belts, adult, \$135.50.
- Kara K. Jessen, Denison, failure to maintain or use safety belts, adult, \$135.50.
- Melissa Dawn Willenborg, Denison, operation without registration card or plate, \$135.50.
- Kelsi Ann Wessel, Denison, failure to maintain or use safety belts, adult, \$135.50.
- Zachery J. Meiners, Denison, failure to maintain or use safety belts, adult, \$135.50.
- Lexas Marie Petersen, Denison, operating non-registered vehicle, \$135.50.
- Jonathan Ishmael Hernandez, Ute, passing contrary to highway sign or marking, \$210.25.
- Nathan Gerard Lally, Granger, restrictions on taking game, deer and turkey, \$210.25.
- Gerard Lally, Denison, hunting, unlawful use of mobile transmitter, \$135.50.
- Gerard Lally, Denison, restrictions on taking game, deer and turkey, \$210.25.
- Nathan Gerard Lally, Granger, hunting, unlawful use of mobile transmitter, \$135.50.
- Wesley R. Cunningham, Earling, restrictions on taking game, deer and

- turkey, \$210.25.
- Wesley R. Cunningham, Earling, hunting, unlawful use of mobile transmitter, \$135.50.
- Alexander William Vennink, Manning, failure to maintain or use safety belts, adult, \$135.50.
- Toua Colin Chieng, Denison, person under 21 years of age using tobacco/vapor product, first offense, \$70.
- Yakin W. Lorenzo Moreno, Omaha, NE, operation of motor vehicle with expired license, \$175.75.
- Juan Gomez Flores, Denison, failure to have a valid license or permit for operation of motor vehicle, \$285.00.
- Sayra Mishel Valdez Herrera, Denison, operating non-registered vehicle, \$135.50.

## SPEEDING (21 MPH OR OVER)

- Allan Giovanni Acevedo Anador, Denison, \$598.38.
- Rakaila Nicole Pauley, Denison, \$227.50.

## SPEEDING (11-15 MPH OVER)

- Ernesto Juarez Solis, Dow City, \$236.13.
- Olga M. Hernandez, Storm Lake, \$175.75.

## SPEEDING (6-10 MPH OVER)

- Carlos Rey, Omaha, NE, \$149.88.
- Yobani Soc Hernandez, Omaha, NE, \$118.25.
- Randy C. Clemens, Omaha, NE, \$118.25.
- Teresa T. McDonald Lee, Lincoln, NE, \$118.25.
- Mason Lee Brungardt, Denison, \$118.25.
- Robert Duane Segebart, Denison, \$149.88.

## SPEEDING (1-5 MPH OVER)

- Sharon Kay Bieret, Wall Lake, \$89.50.
- Juan M. Medina, Harlan, \$89.50.
- Jose Mauricio Lucas Vail, Denison, \$89.50.
- Dane M. Lee, Denison, \$89.50.
- Darrell Ray Larson, Kiron, \$89.50.
- Sheray Christi Schrunck, Dow City, \$89.50.
- Brian Edward Witzel, Mapleton, \$89.50.
- Sofia Elizabeth Diaz, Denison, \$89.50.
- Pauline Mae Cross, Denison, \$89.50.

## Funeral Notices

## Richard Boell

Funeral Services for Richard Boell, 90, of Denison, will be conducted at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, January 3, at St. Paul Lutheran Church, Hanover Township, Charter Oak, with burial at the Morgan Cemetery in Schleswig.

The Huebner Funeral Home in Denison is in charge of arrangements where friends may call from 5 to 7 p.m. Tuesday, January 2, with a prayer service at 7 p.m.

He passed away Monday, December 25, at the University of Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha.

Survivors include his children, Mary and her husband, Dave Bruck, of Denison, Andy Boell and his significant other, Melissa, of Council Bluffs, Alan Boell and his significant other, Gina, of Missouri, Mike Boell, of Nebraska, and Lynette Reeder and her husband, Ronnie, of Missouri; 13 grandchildren; 19 great-grandchildren; one great-great-granddaughter; a sister, Ella Mae Muenchow, of Arcadia; and many nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

Services are entrusted to the Huebner Funeral Home in Denison.



## Democrats to caucus on January 15

The Iowa Democratic Party Crawford County caucus will take place Monday, January 15, at 7 p.m.

Participants must be in line or signed in by 7 p.m. to participate.

Crawford County Democrats will meet at the Denison High School library.

At this year's caucus, participants will take the following actions.

- Discuss and adopt proposed resolutions to be added to the county platform
- Elect unbound delegates and alternates to the county convention
- Elect precinct committee persons to the county central committee

All Iowa Democrats are encouraged to attend, especially those who will be 18 on election day, November 5, 2024.

Because the Iowa caucuses are no longer allowed to announce presidential preference, there is an option to express preferences with preference cards. People can request a Presidential Preference Card online through the Iowa Democratic Party website, <http://iowademocrats.org>. The card will be mailed on January 12, prior to the January 15 caucus, and should be returned by February 19. The results will not be released until the Super Tuesday primaries on March 5.

For answers to questions, call Larry Peterson at 712-269-0919 or the Iowa Democratic Party helpline at 515-216-3893.

## LAND TRANSACTIONS

December 15-21, 2023

## Warranty Deeds

- Jerry Lilleholm, Trustee for A. Faye Clark Marital Trust to Jason Rasmussen: NE1/4 SW1/4 Section 25, Goodrich Township; SE1/4 Section 25, Goodrich Township; \$353,750.
- Donald D. Lafrentz Trust, Donald D. Lafrentz and Joyce A. Lafrentz, Trustees to Adam Ullrich and Levi Ullrich: W1/2 NE1/4 Section 23, Otter Creek Township; NW1/4 SE1/4 Section 23, Otter Creek Township; \$983,110.
- MJW Hawkeye LLC to Christine L. Ludwig, Jenny Tiefenthaler and Jasen Tiefenthaler: NW1/4 SE1/4 Section 11, Stockholm Township; NE1/4 SE1/4 Section 11, Stockholm Township; SE1/4 SE1/4 Section 11, Stockholm Township; SW1/4 SE1/4 Section 11, Stockholm Township; \$983,606.25.
- MJW Hawkeye LLC to Kirk W. Roecker: NE1/4 SW1/4 Section 11, Stockholm Township; E1/2 SE1/4 SW1/4 Section 11, Stockholm Township; \$224,840.
- Secretary of Veterans Affairs to Jaclyn Christine Valdez and Rogelio Valdez: NW1/4 Section 21, Morgan Township; \$125,100.
- Eunice E. Hollander to Eunice E. Hollander Trust, Eunice E. Hollander, Trustee: S1/2 SW1/4 Section 14, Washington Township; NW1/4 Section 14, Washington Township; W1/2 NE1/4 Section 14, Washington Township; N1/2 SW1/4 Section 14, Washington Township; Lot 13, Northwood Second Addition, City of Denison.
- Douglas Jenson and Nancy Jenson to Nancy K. Jenson Revocable Trust, Nancy K. Jenson, Trustee: E1/2 SE1/4 Section 2, Willow Township; W1/2 SE1/4 Section 2, Willow Township; E1/2 SE1/4 Section 35, Boyer Township.
- Jerry Lilleholm, Trustee for A. Faye Clark Marital Trust to James F. Reiser and Denise M. Reiser: SW1/4 SE1/4 Section 25, Goodrich Township; SE1/4 SE1/4 Section 25, Goodrich Township; \$521,462.15.

- Jerry L. Lilleholm and Lois K. Lilleholm to James F. Reiser and Denise M. Reiser: SE1/4 SE1/4 Section 25, Goodrich Township; \$168,616.24.

## Contract

- Kevin L. Gridle and Lynette E. Grindle to Miguel Angel Perez Cardenas and Jamie Castillo: NE1/4 SE1/4 Section 10, Denison Township; \$100,000.
- Moeller Hogs LLC to H&S Services LLC: SE1/4 SE1/4 Section 26, Hanover Township; \$407,683.
- Gary L. McCurdy and Virginia D. McCurdy to Scott A. Brus and Carol K. Brus: S1/2 SW1/4 Section 5, Denison Township; NW1/4 SW1/4 Section 5, Denison Township; SW1/4 Section 5, Denison Township; SW1/4 NW1/4 Section 5, Denison Township; \$706,890.
- Christian Brandt Trust, Mary Ann Brandt, Trustee to Jerry Brandt, Nathan Brandt and Adam Brandt: SE1/4 SE1/4 Section 9, Iowa Township; NE1/4 SE1/4 Section 15, Iowa Township; NW1/4 SE1/4 Section 15, Iowa Township; SE1/4 Section 15, Iowa Township; W1/2 NW1/4 Section 15, Iowa Township; SW1/4 Section 15, Iowa Township; \$840,957.99.

## Court Officer Deed

- Stephen A. Sundquist Estate, Kyle S. Sundquist, Executor to Kyle S. Sundquist: SE1/4 SW1/4 Section 35, Goodrich Township; SW1/4 SE1/4 Section 35, Goodrich Township.

## Quit Claim Deeds

- Demetrio Elizalde to Dominga Elizalde: Lot 1 and 2, Block 21, Swanson's Second Addition, City of Kiron; Lot 2 and 3, Block 108, City of Denison.
- Terry L. Soll aka Terry Soll to Terry L. Soll, LE and Derek Soll: Lot 9, Block 69, City of Denison.

## State Tax Lien

- Iowa Department of Revenue against Raul Rosales: \$196,905.08.

## Meeting Minutes

DELOIT CITY  
SPECIAL DELOIT CITY COUNCIL  
MEETING  
December 18, 2023

The council meeting called to order by Mayor Braasch, and roll call were Mulligan, Lorenzen, Schillerberg, Kelly, and Anderson.

The agenda was approved by Mulligan/Schillerberg. All approved.

Discussion on having Mulligan fill the vacant spot. We found out from Terri Martins that the phone decline by Matt Gosch is not accepted and passed the dead line for letter on declining the position. The Council will have to wait and see if he is sworn in before or on January 2, 2024.

Meeting adjourned by Mulligan/Schillerberg.

On December 12, the City Clerk sworn in Mayor Jerry Mathies, and Council Person, Gloria Anderson, John Kelly, and Jerry Lorenzen after regular Council meeting. We are waiting to be sworn in Matt Gosch and Libbie Schillerberg before or on January 2, 2024.

Corrine Kinney-Mehaffey, City Clerk  
Tyler Braasch, Mayor

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# Monarchs Sports

## DENISON-SCHLESWIG MONARCHS BASKETBALL

### Monarch girls score decisive victory over Red Oak

The Denison-Schleswig girls' basketball team outscored Red Oak 70-35 last week Tuesday night and evened up its season and conference records at 4-4 and 2-2 respectively.

The Monarch girls led 18-7 after one period and 36-19 at the half. They followed that with a big 27-point third quarter, taking a 63-28 lead into the fourth quarter.

Kiana Schulz registered a double-double with 32 points and 11 rebounds. She also had one assist, six steals and two blocked shots.

Whitlee Auen scored 11 points and had three each in rebounds, assists and steals.

Following are the stats for the other players.

- Quinlan Bygness: 2 points, 3 rebounds
- Addison Inman: 4 points, 3 rebounds, 1 assist, 1 block
- Samantha Chandler: 3 points, 2 rebounds, 4 assists, 1 steal
- Kamden Bruhn: 3 rebounds, 2 assists
- Claire Leinen: 2 points, 5 rebounds, 1 assist
- Lola Mendlik: 1 rebound, 1 assist
- Mayah Slater: 8 points, 8 rebounds, 4 assists, 4 blocks
- Gaby Cardenas: 2 points, 3 rebounds, 2 blocks
- Sara Mun: 6 points, 2 rebounds, 1 assist, 2 steals
- Norah Huebert: 1 rebound

### Monarch girls rebound in fourth quarter for 48-41 win over East Sac

The Denison-Schleswig girls advanced their season basketball record to 5-4 with a 48-41 victory over East Sac County last week Thursday (August 21).

The Monarchs led 18-10 after one quarter and then were outscored 13-4 and 13-10 in the next two periods. The girls' rebounded 16-5 in the final quarter.

Kiana Schulz led in scoring with 19 points. She also had five rebounds, two assists and four steals.

Sara Mun followed in scoring with 9 points. She also had three rebounds, 1 assist and 1 steal.

Mayah Slater scored seven points and had four rebounds and one block.

Following are statistics for the rest of the team.

- Addison Inman: 5 rebounds, 1 assist, 2 steals
- Samantha Chandler: 5 points, 2 assists, 2 steals
- Claire Leinen: 1 rebound, 2 assists, 2 steals
- Whitlee Auen: 3 points, 4 rebounds, 3 assists, 1 steal
- Gaby Cardenas: 5 points, 1 rebound, 1 steal
- The JV Monarchs topped East Sac 49-35. Ann Wessel paced the Monarchs with 15 points.

### Monarch boys take 20-point win into the break

The Denison-Schleswig boys' basketball team secured a 20-point victory over Red Oak last week Tuesday, 76-56.

The win put the Monarch boys' conference record at 3-1 and their overall record at 3-5.

The Monarchs led 23-11 after the first quarter, 41-25 at the half and 56-44 after three periods.

"We really got out of the gate offensively by pushing the ball in transition, making the extra pass, finding open guys inside and dominating

the paint," said Head Coach Derek Fink. "Once we started getting stops defensively, we were able to increase our lead from a two-possession game to a five- to six-possession game."

"In the second half when we got stops, we were able to extend the lead," Fink added. "We did have a couple of lapses. But all in all, I was very proud of the way we finished this game, and our last two games before the break."

Top scorers for the Monarchs were Lance Arkfeld with 22, Jake Fink with 19 and Luke Wiebers with 16. Gage Head added eight points, Easton Emery scored six, Kole Towne had four and Chandler Perrien scored one point.

The JV boys dropped their game to Red Oak, 70-63.



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- the staff  
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## Boat tested on Branched Oak Lake in Nebraska

LOOP, FROM PAGE 1

was one of the things they were going to do.”

Their voyage had also been an introductory course in sailing and boating, which they said was not advisable.

“Their story was really inspiring to me and the Great Loop was interesting, even though it’s not advisable to learn how to sail doing it,” Evan said.

“At that time, I had no idea if it was feasible for us to do, but it became something to daydream about. I mentioned it to Meriah; I was trying to convince her to start thinking about how we could live a life of adventure, and that’s really what I was craving at that point in my life.”

The Blakleys built their life around travel.

“Every time we go on vacation, he’s reading books about sailing or boating or ocean adventures,” Meriah said. “But I’m terrified of the open ocean. That’s scary – I don’t want to be out there.”

“No, we’re fine,” was her initial response to the idea.

“I always thought he just wanted to bob around in the ocean,” she said. “That’s what I thought he was talking about.”

When he first suggested selling their house and heading for the ocean, her answer was “Nope.”

“But then he started to talk about it more and more,” Meriah said. “I would hope more than anything that Evan gives this up. I just want him to stop talking to me about the ocean and stop talking to me about sailing, because I loved our house and enjoyed our life. I’d love to travel more, but I didn’t really think that was possible.”

When Evan suggested the idea again, Meriah decided to try to figure out why she was so opposed to it.

“I probably took a night to think about it and figure out what my apprehension really was,” Meriah said.

“I thought about it and I was like, ‘Guess what – we’re going.’ I didn’t want to be old one day and realize it was my fault that Evan never got to do the thing he was really passionate about.”

“At that point, it became real and she came back and had to convince me,” Evan said. “I would say, ‘What about this?’

What about this?’ She said it doesn’t matter – we’re going. She said, ‘this is your dream and it sounds like fun. You talked me into it, so you’d better figure out how we’re going.’”

Evan gave six months notice at the CDC and joined Meriah at Roo Bea Design Co. to build a video production service for his next career.

In October 2022, they bought an inexpensive sailboat, located on Lake Michigan, on an eBay auction.

They borrowed space in a neighbor’s back yard to store the boat and began outfitting it this spring.

Evan added an 800-watt solar array, a Starlink internet antenna, and communications and navigation systems.

They named the boat Novella because of Evan’s love of reading seafaring adventure stories.

Novella is just 25 feet from bow to stern.

During the past summer, Evan and Meriah tested out the boat at Branched Oak Lake near Lincoln, Nebraska.

Beyond finding out whether it would float, they had to test out whether Meriah could continue to efficiently lay out the pages of the two newspapers, design their ads and take care of her other business needs while traveling on water.

The test went well and they moved forward with their plans to leave Denison at the end of November.

“It was a mad rush to get started,” Evan said. “We had a seasonal window that was going to close and we’d have to wait a whole year to start. That just wasn’t an option.”

A lot of steps were involved as they closed out their old lifestyle to step into the new one.

“At the same time I was transitioning careers, I was outfitting this boat for a journey it wasn’t intended for,” he said.

The Blakleys sold their house on November 30, but they had already left Denison a week before then, and launched Novella in Tennessee on November 27.

After spending six days making final preparations, they set off on the Great Loop; their planned voyage will take them to Mobile, Alabama, along the Florida Gulf Coast, up the East Coast to New York City, to Canada, across the Great Lakes and then back down the river systems of the Midwest.

Read about the first weeks of the Blakley’s journey in next week’s Denison Free Press.



The Blakleys borrowed space in a neighbor’s back yard to outfit their boat for a year-long journey.



The Blakleys launched Novella at Pickwick Landing, Tennessee, on November 27.



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

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## Dancers perform



PHOTOS BY GORDON WOLF

The Guadalupe Dancers performed at Silveridge and The Homestead on December 16. Pictured are the Guadalupe Dancers at Silveridge and folk dancers at The Homestead.



## LULAC Las Posada



The League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC), Denison Chapter, conducted a Las Posadas celebration on December 16. Pictured, the mariachi band from Denison High School performed in the sanctuary at New Life Church, and the breaking of pinatas took place in the church's fellowship hall.



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# Christmas movie themes decorate courthouse office doors

A number of departments at the Crawford County Courthouse participated in the first-ever door decorating contest for Christmas, based on the theme of Christmas movies.

The Auditor's Office chose "Home Alone." The Recorder's Office and Veterans Affairs each chose "The Grinch." The Engineer's Office chose "The Island of Misfit Toys." The Treasurer's Office chose "Elf" for its two doors. And the Sheriff's Office chose "Christmas Vacation."

The Sheriff's Office decorations placed first, for which a trophy was awarded along with the theme-naming rights for next year's contest.



The Auditor's Office door with inset photos of office staff.



The Recorder's Office door with inset photos of office staff.



The Veterans Affairs door.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Amy Segebart and Suzi Blume with the Crawford County Sheriff's Office are pictured with their trophy and board of supervisors members Craig Dozark, Jean Heiden and Ty Rosburg.



The two doors of the Treasurer's Office.



The Engineer's Office door.

# Carolers in Denison



PHOTOS BY GORDON WOLF

Carolers graced the streets and businesses in Uptown Denison on Friday with a variety of seasonal songs. Pictured are students from Unity Ridge Lutheran School singing at Broadway Dental and students from St. Rose of Lima Catholic School singing outside of The Cottage.

