



Mr. Stinky Feet visits the library

PAGE 5



Tuition assistance available for fall EMT class

PAGE 6



Humanitarian awards presented

PAGE 14



Dinosaurs in Kiron on Friday

PAGE 13

The Denison Free Press

Local News
Local Journalists
Local Ownership

Print Example 01

Vol. 0 | No. 0

SERVING DENISON & CRAWFORD COUNTY, IOWA

June 22, 2023

Water Watch back on for DMU, West Iowa rural water customers

BY GORDON WOLF

The board of Denison Municipal Utilities (DMU) on Monday voted to immediately reinstate the Water Watch due to the low level of water in the wells.

Even though the area has received some rain, and the water level in the wells was better in June than it was in the previous month, the levels are still very low compared to what they should be, said Luke Gillmor, manager of the water utility.

The most recent U.S. Drought Monitor map, released June 15, shows that nearly all of Crawford County is in a severe drought (D2) with only the southeast tip in a moderate drought (D1).

WATER WATCH, PAGE 3



PHOTO BY GORDON WOLF

The Big Stomp

Hunter Hansman, of Denison, takes a mighty leap before powering his rocket skyward, using the air he is about to stomp out of the pop bottle on the ground. His brother, Conner (in green shirt) is among the NASA Astro Campers waiting in line. Read about the Astro Camp on page 3.

Homestead tax exemption applications flow in to assessor's office

Crawford County could lose \$300,000 to new state law



PHOTO BY DAN MUNDT

Crawford County Assessor Duane Zenk looks at the large stack of homestead tax exemption applications on his lap. A new Iowa law has created lots of extra work for his office, and may cost the county hundreds of thousands of dollars of tax revenue.

BY DAN MUNDT

Crawford County Assessor Duane Zenk told the county board of supervisors on June 6 that his office has been inundated with applications for the new homestead tax exemption created by the Iowa Legislature.

On May 4, Gov. Kim Reynolds signed a new law establishing a homestead tax exemption for claimants 65 years of age or older.

Zenk showed the supervisors a stack of applications that was five to six inches high.

"This is the number of applications we have, to date," Zenk said.

Chief Deputy Assessor Cindy Goslar told the Denison Free Press on Monday that she did not have an up-to-date count of applications the office has received, but the stack of applications was noticeably taller than when Zenk showed it to the supervisors two weeks ago.

Goslar said the applications continue to flow in; she expects to receive many

HOMESTEAD, PAGE 9



PHOTO BY DAN MUNDT

This banner features Uptown Denison's new logo in the lower right corner and shows the renewed use of "It's a Wonderful Life" as a slogan.

New banners with new Uptown Denison logo pop up around town

Murals and other uptown improvements are next

BY DAN MUNDT

In the culmination of a project that began in 2020, banners featuring Uptown Denison's new branded logo started going up around town on June 6.

Sara Woerdehoff, chairperson of the Denison Uptown Improvement Committee and marketing assistant and manager at WESCO Industries,

said she is happy that residents can see tangible results of the committee's efforts.

"A lot of blood, sweat and tears went into the banners," she said. "We all worked together on this - I can say that I'm the chair but I don't do anything more than anybody else does."

Brand guidelines and logos for the banners were created by Destination by Design, the North Carolina-based company chosen in December 2020 to give Denison a branding makeover.

Evan Blakley, of Roo Bea Design Co., of Denison, put the final touches on the banner designs, Woerdehoff said.

The banners are part of a project intended to help people discover Denison's businesses and attractions.

"A lot of passers-by don't know where uptown Denison even is," she said. "We're hoping that our banners, combined with some wayfinding signs, will give people a good idea of where to go in town, and that's not just uptown, but where to find other things in

BANNERS, PAGE 9

A growing Immigrant Heritage Festival is Saturday

Volunteers still needed

BY DAN MUNDT

"The word is getting out there," said Alma Puga about the second annual Immigrant Heritage Festival, which will take place on Saturday.

The event is a production of the Denison chapter of the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC).

Puga, president of Denison LULAC, said this year's event is going to be bigger than last year's.

"We got the word out a little bit sooner with the Facebook ads, and we promoted it a lot sooner than last year,"

she said. "We've had many calls from radio stations and newspapers."

Puga was interviewed by Hola America, of Des Moines, which she hopes will result in individuals from that area coming to Denison this weekend.

"We're hoping a lot more people can join us and celebrate," she said.

About twice as many vendors as last year will be on hand.

"We're looking at about 30, so far," Puga said. "We've been getting a lot of vendors from Carroll, as well."

Several new groups will perform at Washington Park during the festival.

Las Ceibeñas, a local group, will perform a dance from Honduras.

The Gurkulam Center for Indian Arts, based in Omaha, Nebraska, is also new and will perform a dance from India.

Other performers include Omaha Cultural Connection; KonKultura, of Storm Lake; Omaha Pipes & Drums; JP Montano (a late replacement); and the Boyer River Band.

Puga said the event is a way to celebrate all the different cultures in the local community.



PHOTO BY LORENA LOPEZ

The Immigrant Heritage Festival will take place at Washington Park this Saturday. The event is a celebration of all the different cultures that make up the local community.

"We all have different heritage groups or cultural groups that we are part of. We all have different backgrounds," she said. "We want this to be inclusive and welcoming to everyone."

The Immigrant Heritage Festival is a fundraiser for scholarships provided by LULAC Denison.

Last year's festival raised about \$6,000, which allowed LULAC

FESTIVAL, PAGE 9



This newspaper will not succeed without advertising dollars.

Promoting your business here will be a good way to increase your company's visibility while helping ensure continued local journalism in Crawford County.

Please consider calling our ad sales representative today.

712-790-1563
sales@denisonfreepress.com



SERVING DENISON & CRAWFORD COUNTY, IOWA
The Denison Free Press
1305 Broadway, Suite 201
Denison, Iowa
712.790.1563

Contact Our Staff

News & Feature Writer: Gordon Wolf
gwolf@denisonfreepress.com

News & Feature Writer: Dan William Mundt
dmundt@denisonfreepress.com

Publisher & Sales: Lorena López
sales@denisonfreepress.com

Design Director: Meriah Blakley
sales@denisonfreepress.com

DENISONFREEPRESS.COM

@THEDENISONFREEPRESS

The Denison Free Press is a free weekly publication focused on the news and events of Denison and Crawford County, Iowa. Published every Thursday. The Denison Free Press reserves the right not to publish any advertisement that contains libelous materials. All material published in The Denison Free Press is copyrighted and may not be used without the prior written permission of The Denison Free Press.

EDITORIAL



Message To Our Readers

Today we launch the first edition of The Denison Free Press. We are humbled by the words of encouragement

we have received from so many of you about this endeavor.

We are long-time journalists and residents of Crawford County. Our mission is simple: we want Crawford County readers to receive accurate and up-to-date local news reporting — and that is what we are about, local news -- stories on your friends and neighbors, what is happening in the county's schools, its city councils.

The Denison Free Press will be on farms and in small businesses telling stories of successes and challenges.

We are your paper. This is our county. We will cover it without fear or favor. Mostly, we will celebrate the county, but

there are times when we will report the hard truths. That's what a newspaper does.

Community newspapers have been shattered over the last decade by a constellation of forces, most notably social media companies, which operate as "platforms," meaning, quite simply, that they are not responsible for the content users put in places like Facebook in the way that newspapers are.

We will stand behind every word in this newspaper — and we will own our mistakes, admit them and correct them. You know us, you can find us.

We need your help to keep this project going. First, give us your story

ideas. Know of something interesting or important happening? Let us know.

And then, please, support The Denison Free Press by advertising in it.

That is the best way to sustain this newspaper, to keep it alive and thriving, elevating the voices of Crawford County.

Yes, we write the stories, take the photos, but this is your paper, the chronicling of our lives here in Crawford County. We will never forget that essential truth.

LORENA LOPEZ, Publisher
GORDON WOLF, Co-Editor
DAN MUNDT, Co-Editor

Local youth launch into learning with NASA's Astro Camp

FROM PAGE 1

On Tuesday, local youth worked toward an understanding of space exploration at the NASA Astro Camp hosted by the Iowa State University Extension Crawford County office.

The camp members powered their own rockets, floated Mars helicopters off into space, and engineered launching towers.

The purpose of the Astro Camp Community Partners is to provide NASA's unique STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) engagement activities and experiences to youth, families and educators in their own communities.

The campers were involved in the following activities throughout the day.

- Reviewed what is known about space
Learned about galaxies and solar systems and took part in an activity to show just how big our solar system is
Designed their own mission patches
Created cosmic art
Engineered and built towers using index cards and minimal tape, while employing these steps: imagine, plan, create, improve and ask
Crafted helicopters to learn about the flying power of the Mars helicopter
Learned about propulsion through the making and launching of "Stomp Rockets"

Following are goals of Astro Camp.
To inspire youth, families, and educators to explore the realms of space and science, technology, engineering and mathematics, increasing and sustaining youth and public engagement through authentic NASA STEM experiences.

- Present nationally-aligned math and science principles — based on NASA missions, current and past —



PHOTO BY GORDON WOLF

Youth watch as their helicopters twirl their way to the floor.

through fun, hands-on activities that teach teams of youth to work together

Integrate NASA's unique resources and expertise through exposure with prepared educational materials, presentations, and connections to NASA scientists, astronauts, and engineers.

Inform campers about the most current NASA missions focusing on human explorations in space, targeting the return to the Moon and on to Mars.

Spark all students' interest in learning the unique basics of NASA Earth and space science, technology applications, engineering, rocketry, robotics, and computer science, focusing program outreach to historically underserved and under-represented groups

Track the increase and quality of STEM learning opportunities with exposure to NASA STEM career possibilities for the future while having fun.



PHOTO BY GORDON WOLF

Tower-building was another of the activities at the NASA Astro Camp at Iowa State University Extension in Denison.

WATER WATCH, FROM PAGE 1

The Water Watch is the least restrictive of the three measures of the DMU Water Conservation Plan.

The others are the Water Warning and the Water Emergency.

Under the Water Watch, DMU water customers are encouraged to limit or curtail all non-essential uses of water.

Following are the standards that customers are asked to comply with.

- No watering of lawns, shrubs or gardens between 8 a.m. and 7 p.m. (Note: In past years the hours had been 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.; the one-hour change allows people to water lawns and gardens when it is still light out.)
No water should be used to fill private swimming pools or any other outdoor pool or pond.
No water should be used for non-essential cleaning of commercial and industrial equipment, machinery and interior spaces.
No water shall be used to wash streets, parking lots, driveways,

sidewalks or building exteriors.

Water should be served at restaurants only upon the request of the customer.

West Central Iowa Rural Iowa Water customers will also be asked to take the same Water Watch measures because some of the rural water system's supply is purchased from DMU.

Penalties for violating the Water Watch are the following.

For a first violation, the utility will issue a written and/or verbal notice of violation to the water user violating the water use restrictions.

For any subsequent violations within a 12-month period, a \$50 surcharge will be added to the customer's water bill.

In recent history, the DMU board implemented Water Watches on June 9, 2021, and May 16, 2022, due to the ongoing drought and low water levels in the wells.

Steps in the DMU water conservation plan can also be triggered by equipment

failure that creates a potential threat to meeting the needs of the customers.

The Water Watch is triggered by the system operating at 75% of pumping capacity, a moderate decrease in the pumping water level of wells, or a moderate decrease in the recovery rate of water level in wells.

The Water Warning is triggered by the system operating at 85% of pumping capacity, a significant decrease in the pumping water level of wells, a significant decrease in recovery rate of water level in wells or severe system emergencies such as a chemical spill or major system failure in the feeder mains or treatment plant.

The Water Emergency is triggered by the system operating at 95% of pumping capacity, serious decrease in the pumping water level of wells or serious decrease in the recovery rate of water level in wells.

DMU administration and board members discussed some proactive steps that could be taken to increase sources of water for the DMU wells.

One solution could be low-level

dams or rock-riffle dams placed in the river at a strategic location to increase the water levels in the wells.

DMU General Manager Rory Weis said that he and Gillmor visited a rock-riffle dam site along the East Nishnabotna River recently with Jason Meredith, general manager of West Central Iowa Rural Water. They were told by Meredith that the rural water system has seen some benefit to the well levels because of the rock-riffle dam.

Gillmor explained to board members that DMU's only source of water is ground water.

In 2013-2015 DMU did test drilling and also searched for deep well water sources. This was in response to the drought that began in 2012 and extended into 2014. The result was that DMU installed three new wells on the Reimers family property north of the Crawford County Fairgrounds, which is the same general location as a number of other DMU wells. Work on the new wells began in 2016 and was completed in 2017.

Advertisement for the First Print Edition of the newspaper on July 6, 2023. It lists current pick-up locations for Denison, Westside, and Vail, including stores like Pronto Market, Walmart Supercenter, and Sparky's One Stop.

Local Calendar

SATURDAY JUNE 24, 2023

Ida Grove Heritage Days continue, Food, beer garden, live music, fireworks, craft and vendor fair, car and motorcycle show, parade and more. Events and activities from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Dakotah Collins Co-Ed Softball Tournament, 8 a.m. at 7th Street ball fields in Denison. Entry fee is \$150; \$100 will go toward the Dakotah Collins Scholarship Fund. Call Michael at 712-263-9786 for more information.

Immigrant Heritage Festival, hosted by LULAC Denison. Help celebrate the many vibrant cultural groups – new and old – that make Denison and West Central Iowa home. Parade in uptown Denison at 2:30 p.m. followed by a celebration with food and performances at Washington Park through 8 p.m.

SUNDAY JUNE 25, 2023

Final day for Ida Grove Heritage Days, Outdoor church service (9 a.m.), Dad’s Belgian Waffle brunch (9 a.m.-12 p.m.), free pool party (1-6 p.m.), Don Poggensee’s Summer Images (\$10 per ticket to see award-winning images at King Theatre), co-ed slow-pitch softball and homerun derby (5 p.m.)

TUESDAY JUNE 27, 2023

Robotics Day Camp, for grades 4-8, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at Crawford County Extension Office, 24 South Main, Denison. Call 712-263-4697 for more information.

Slime Making at Norelius Community Library, in Denison. Explore the science of making slime. Two sessions – one at 2 p.m. and the other at 3 p.m. Slime will need to remain in its container if you come into the library.

Magic Tricks Tutorial at Norelius Community Library, in Denison, 6-7 p.m. Learn a variety of simple magic tricks.

Euchre Night, Ricketts Community Building, 7-8 p.m.

WEDNESDAY JUNE 28, 2023

Chalk It Up at the Park, at Washington Park, 10a.m.-12:30p.m. Chalk is provided.

Submit events at denisonfreepress.com

WEDNESDAY JUNE 28, 2023 continued

Community Puzzle at Norelius Community Library, 9 a.m.-8 p.m. See how many puzzles can be completed in one day.

Kids Club, 9 a.m.-12 p.m., First United Methodist Church in Denison. A morning of fun, friends and learning.

ABC Agriculture Program, presented by the Crawford County Farm Bureau at Charter Oak Library, 2-3 p.m. Snacks will be provided.

Euchre Night at Charter Oak Community Building, 7 p.m.

THURSDAY JUNE 29, 2023

Center Street Market, (a Market in the Park event). Produce, meat, jams, baked goods, arts, crafts and more. On Center Street north of Crawford County Bank, 3-6 p.m. *Each Thursday through September 28.*

Mistake to Masterpiece, presented by Crawford County ISU Extension at Norelius Community Library in Denison, 2-3 p.m. Learn about the magic of making a mistake at this art program.

Teen & Adult Switch Challenge, 6-7 p.m., Norelius Community Library. Video game challenge.

SATURDAY JULY 1, 2023

McHenry House in Denison open, 1-4 p.m. Refreshments available.

SUNDAY JULY 2, 2023

McHenry House in Denison open, 1-4 p.m. Refreshments available.

MONDAY JULY 3, 2023

Red, White & Boom! Celebration in Denison. Scavenger hunt at Yellow Smoke Park. Parade uptown at 3:30 p.m. (line up at 3 p.m.). Sidewalk art contest, sandcastle contest and cardboard boat races at Yellow Smoke Park after the parade. Kayak rentals from 4-6 p.m. Nature Center carnival 7-9 p.m. Food vendors at park. Fireworks at dark.



Peters honored for service to police department



PHOTO BY GORDON WOLF

Assistant Chief Doug Peters, who recently retired from the Denison Police Department, was honored for serving the people of the community for nearly 18 years. The plaque, presented on Tuesday by Mayor Pam Soseman says “Assistant Chief Doug Peters, in recognition of your dedicated service to the City of Denison, July 28, 2005 to April 28, 2023. Your commitment to the city will always be remembered.”

Crawford County Solid Waste expands plastic recycling to include #5 plastics

Recently the Carroll County Solid Waste Management Commission (CCSW) received a grant from the Recycling Partnership and the Iowa Department of Natural Resources to purchase and install a baler and conveyor to remove #5 plastics from the waste stream.

“It’s exciting to have the capability to include #5 plastics in our existing program of recycling #1 and #2 plastics,” said Mary Wittry, director of Carroll County Solid Waste and West Central Iowa Solid Waste Management Association. “Many food containers are #5 plastic, the ability to recycle these materials reduces waste and protects our natural resources from over harvesting.”

Crawford County Solid Waste is a member of the West Central Iowa Solid Waste Management Association, working cooperatively with Carroll County Solid Waste, Guthrie County Solid Waste and Shelby County Solid Waste to provide environmentally sound solid waste management in the West Central Iowa service area.

All recycling and waste materials from Crawford County are collected and temporarily stored at the Crawford County Transfer Station. Materials are managed onsite until they are loaded onto semi’s and transported to the Carroll County Solid Waste Management Commission in Carroll, for final recycling management or waste landfilling.

Once recyclable plastic materials from Crawford County Solid Waste arrive at the recycling center they are sorted and baled into a 1,200-pound bale. The bales are sent to the recycle mill, where they will become battery

cables and cases, brooms, brushes, bicycle racks and ice scrapers.

“We anticipate the addition of #5 plastics to our recycle program will be a big step toward increasing the life span of the landfill in Carroll. CCSW anticipates around 20 tons per year of these plastics. This weight amount is not a clear indicator of the space that will be saved. #5 plastics may weigh less than some plastics, but the shape and size takes up a larger volume of space in the landfill. We are very excited to have the capabilities to recycle and remove this plastic from the landfill,” Wittry said.

Residents can now recycle many plastic food containers such as yogurt, butter, ice cream, and sour cream containers with lids. This also includes fast food and convenience store drink cups, food trays and food storage containers with the #5 in the recycle symbol.

“Plastic containers look and feel very similar, but they are often made from different materials. With all plastic recycling, make it a habit to check the number in the recycle symbol for #1, #2 or #5 before dropping it in the recycle bin,” Education Coordinator Karen Monical said. “If plastic does not have a recycle symbol or has the numbers 3, 4, 6 or 7, it belongs in the trash.

“There is always innovation in the works for developing and recycling plastics. While we hope and look forward to seeing more numbers added to plastic recycling in the future, at this time only put plastics with a recycle symbol and the numbers #1, #2 and #5 in your recycle bin,” she added.

ON THE SCANNER

JUNE 20, 2:30 P.M.: Lt. Kluender with the Crawford County Sheriff’s Office responded to a report that a dog on Date Street in Schleswig did not have shade or water. Kluender reported that the dog had food and water but that the owner was not at home.

JUNE 20, 4:08 P.M.: Carroll County dispatch requested the Manilla Fire Department for manpower and water for a barn fire at 1130 100th Street, Manning.

JUNE 20, 5:59 P.M.: Schleswig Fire reported that it was doing a controlled burn at 1320 190th Street, Schleswig, and requested the Ricketts and Charter Oak fire department to assist in training.

JUNE 21, 12:43 P.M.: Christopher Ryan Benson, 28, of Denison, was taken into custody and charged with criminal mischief in the 2nd degree, assault with a dangerous weapon and reckless driving. According to the criminal complaint filed in district court, Benson used his black 2006 Nissan Altima to run into

the side of the victim’s 2011 Ford F-150 pickup that was passing it on a two-way highway. Benson attempted to push the victim’s vehicle off the road, and the victim had to force his way back onto the roadway.

JUNE 21, 1:15 P.M.: A caller reported that a semi kicked up a rock that cracked the windshield on his vehicle. The incident occurred at Highway 39/G Avenue, Kiron. The caller was told to report the incident to his insurance company.

JUNE 21, 4:41 P.M.: A caller reported an incident of road rage in northbound traffic at the Highway 59/141 south junction in Denison. Chief Deputy Rasmussen with the Crawford County Sheriff’s Office was unable to locate the subject.

JUNE 23, 12:18 P.M.: The Crawford County Ambulance and Charter Oak Fire Department responded to a medical incident in the 500 block of 5th Street South in Charter Oak.

Letters
TO THE EDITOR

To submit a letter visit, denisonfreepress.com

Advertise here!

Contact our sales department to place an ad in this publication

sales@denisonfreepress.com

This is an example of an:

1/8 Page Ad
5.1667 x 5 in

Jim Cosgrove brings the joy of music (and his stinky feet) to the Denison library



PHOTO BY GORDON WOLF

Jim “Mr. Stinky Feet” Cosgrove was rockin’ the cool steps of this volunteer member of his backup band at Norelius Community Library in Denison on June 15.

BY GORDON WOLF

He is known as “Mr. Stinky Feet,” but Jim Cosgrove, of Kansas City, has a portfolio and mind full of additional children’s songs that he performs on his tours of the United States and other countries.

His 25-year-long love affair with children’s music brought him to Norelius Community Library in Denison on Thursday, June 15, where he had children and adults moving to the tunes.

As Cosgrove explained, “Mr. Stinky Feet” is certainly not a name his parents gave him or that he gave to himself. The nickname is the byproduct of his extremely popular song “Stinky Feet,” which was released in 1999 and re-released in 2002.

A video of the song went online in 2007, which means the children featured in the production are now old enough to have their own children who can enjoy the tune and the video, something that Cosgrove said is just fine with him.

The video can be found at jimcosgrove.com/videos/#11 or can be found simply by searching for “Stinky Feet song” on the web. At last check, the video had 2.4 million views.

“Stinky Feet” was obviously one of the songs that Cosgrove performed at the Denison library. He said it is in celebration of stinky feet, not against people who have stinky feet, although children in the audience enthusiastically chimed in on the “P-U” part of the lyrics. His first song was “Bop Bop

Dinosaur,” released in 1998 and re-released in 2005. Cosgrove transformed the whimsical tune about a wind-up dinosaur, a toy polar bear and a toy

grasshopper into a children’s book of the same name.

Cosgrove based two other children’s books on his hit songs, “Sullen Sally” and “Hark! It’s Harold the Angel.”

He performed “Bop Bop Dinosaur” at the Denison library, backed by a band of willing volunteers who were given a variety of instruments to shake and tap.

Cosgrove also performed songs from his 10th music album, “Scoops of Love,” his first album in over 10 years.

Along with recording and performing children’s songs and writing books for children, Cosgrove is a motivational speaker and has written two books for adults. “Everybody Gets Stinky Feet” is a collection of 37 essays Cosgrove wrote as a parenting columnist for The Kansas City Star. “Ripple: A Long Strange Search for A Killer” is a true crime book that Cosgrove started more than 26 years ago as a feature writer for the Albuquerque Journal. Cosgrove investigated a cold-case crime about the disappearance of a family friend, Frank McGonigle.



PHOTO BY GORDON WOLF

The well-ventilated feet of Jim “Mr. Stinky Feet” Cosgrove stand ready to operate the pedal attached to this tambourine. Cosgrove’s band, “The Hiccups,” is sometimes part of the tour but at the Denison library, Cosgrove relied on his tambourine and children armed with percussion instruments to provide the backup.



PHOTO BY GORDON WOLF

For a song about love, Jim Cosgrove turned his face toward the sky to spread the positive message around the world.



PHOTO BY GORDON WOLF

Jim Cosgrove cues Charlotte Allyn, of Denison, to sing her part of the song “Bop Bop Bop Dinosaur.” Allyn was a hit with the four words she was told to sing: dinosaur, polar bear, grasshopper and underwear. The whimsical song tells about Cosgrove’s dream that his windup dinosaur, wearing underwear, began dancing at night. A toy polar bear and grasshopper were the dinosaur’s dancing companions.



PHOTO BY GORDON WOLF

Children and adults enjoyed the performance of Jim Cosgrove, who is also known as “Mr. Stinky Feet” because of his popular song.



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

The Denison Free Press survives off two sources of revenue: advertising, and donations from readers like you. There’s no ownership in some far-off city, just your local friendly journalists doing what we were born to do. We don’t ever want your local news to slow down, so if you find value in what we do, please consider a one-time or recurring donation today.

The Denison Free Press
1305 Broadway, Suite 201
Denison, Iowa 51442
www.denisonfreepress.com

Fall EMT class at WITCC can be stepping stone

Tuition assistance available

BY DAN MUNDT

Crawford County and many areas of the country are in need of emergency medical technicians (EMTs); filling that void is one of the purposes of the EMS-217 Emergency Medical Technician class at the Western Iowa Tech Community College (WITCC) Denison campus this fall.

Course instructor Rachel Burns said the class is for anyone interested in volunteering with emergency medical services (EMS) or a career in other areas of medicine.

"I think it would be good for anybody who is interested in the medical field," Burns said. "It's a good stepping stone for other medical jobs or to find out if it's something you want to do."

Burns runs Kiron Speech Path in Kiron, is a firefighter/EMT and the EMS service director for the Kiron Fire Department.

"It is open to anybody who is interested in emergency medical services in terms of working with a volunteer department in the future, working as a paid EMT in the future, or possibly for firefighters that would like to become EMTs," Burns said.

"It's also a prerequisite for paramedic school – so it's a good stepping stone to see if it's something you enjoy and are good at before you consider taking paramedic training."

The EMT class takes place from 5 to 10:30 p.m. on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from August 24 to December 19.

A skills test at the WITCC Sioux City campus on December 16, a Saturday, will be the only class period

that does not take place in Denison.

The course is worth seven college credits.

"It's a nice way to enter into the world of college if you're not sure it's for you," Burns said. "It does come with a certificate when you've completed (the class) that is helpful for an occupation or to serve your community."

With an EMT certification, an individual can work as a paid EMT while taking classes in the paramedic program, Burns noted.

The EMT class features a combination of academics and hands-on skill instruction.

"There is a lecture portion of class and there is a portion of class when you're practicing skills with mannequins or people," she said.

When Burns started in EMS, she had no intentions to do anything other than volunteer.

"But, as with other fields, I think you can find your niche; find what you enjoy and align that with your strengths," she said. "For me, it's education."

Burns took a course to become an EMT instructor last summer; she has been teaching the EMT class at Iowa Western Community College in Council Bluffs and has been an assistant for EMT classes at WITCC in Sioux City and Denison.

The class this fall will be her first as an instructor at the Denison campus.

She said individuals from her EMT class have gone on to be dispatchers; one is in the local area and one works for the Iowa State Patrol in Storm Lake.

Burns continued her education path and recently took coursework to become a medical examiner investigator.

"Medical examiner investigators assist the medical examiner for the county with investigating out-of-hospital deaths or unexpected deaths," she said.

Individuals must have two years of medical licensure to take the coursework

and must be appointed to the position by the board of supervisors of a county.

Burns has been appointed as a medical examiner investigator in Crawford and Ida counties.

The total cost of tuition and fees is \$1,711, which does not include books, uniforms or national testing fees.

Jessica Garcia, director of the WITCC Denison Campus and Southern Service Area, said a variety of funding assistance is available for students who want to take the class.

"They can apply for financial aid, there is a GAP (tuition assistance) program they can apply for, and there are some employers that are willing to sponsor people if they need additional money," Garcia said.

She noted that Crawford County Memorial Hospital (CCMH) and several fire departments have stated willingness to sponsor individuals taking the class.

"There are a lot of different routes that people can go in order to pay for this course," Garcia said.

Individuals interested in taking the EMT class and finding tuition assistance should contact Garcia at WITCC at 712-263-3419.

"I would prefer that they talk to me because there is some other paperwork to get done in order to sign up for the class, as well," she said. "There are some things they have to do before they can register; the sooner someone comes talk to us, the better."

The school needs at least eight to ten students to sign up for the class to take place.

Don Luensmann, CCMH executive director of marketing and development, said CCMH is committed to funding three \$500 scholarships for the fall EMT class for a total of \$1,500.

"We would ask that those individuals apply through CCMH, and they can do that by emailing wecareforlife@ccmhia.com," he said.

Scheuring awarded Bishop's Scholarship to Briar Cliff



Derek Scheuring

PRESS RELEASE

BY DAWN PROSSER, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS

Bishop Walker Nickless selected two graduating high school seniors to receive Bishops Scholarships to Briar Cliff University in Sioux City beginning with the 2023-24 academic year.

One of the recipients is Derek Scheuring, of Defiance, a graduate of Denison High School, who attends St. Rose of Lima Parish in Denison. He is interested in pursuing a degree in elementary education.

All Bishop's Scholars are eligible to renew their scholarships each year by maintaining a 3.0 cumulative grade point average and may receive a total \$29,500 over four years. The scholars receive a \$5,000 award in the freshman year, \$6,500 in the sophomore year, \$8,000 in the junior year and \$10,000 in the senior year.

Scheuring attended St. Rose of Lima School in Denison from kindergarten through fifth grade. He has been active in his parish. School activities included athletics, speech, FFA and National Honor Society. Scheuring is also a 4-H member and volunteers as an altar server and lector at St. Peter Church in Defiance.

In his scholarship application, Scheuring explained how important his faith is to him, which strengthened over the years.

"My faith does not take a back seat to school or my activities, but rather my faith leads the way. When I feel stressed or upset because of school, I often find myself in prayer. I am led by God, and my schoolwork and activities are done for the glory of God," he wrote.

Scheuring provides a positive role model in the community, noted Fr. Michael Cronin, pastor of St. Rose of Lima Parish.

"Derek is a kind, caring, faith-filled young man of integrity and compassion," Cronin wrote in his recommendation letter. "He is diligent with his education as well as his service to the community. Derek is an all-around positive role model for all ages and would make an excellent educator in our diocesan Catholic schools."

Scheuring expressed his gratitude for the scholarship as he prepares to begin studies at Briar Cliff in the fall.

"I am very grateful to receive this honorable scholarship. I am looking forward to getting to know the bishop and grow spiritually during my time at the Cliff," he said.

Advertise your shop's next big

SALE!

Contact our sales department!

sales@denisonfreepress.com

This is an example of a:

1/4 Page Ad
Vertical: 5.1667 x 10.1667 in

"We're here to pick up this week's Denison Free Press!"

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

From big to small, we have ad sizes for all!

Contact our sales department!

sales@denisonfreepress.com

This is an example of a:

1/16 Page Ad
Vertical: 2.5 x 5 in

STAY INFORMED

Sign up for our newsletter

denisonfreepress.com

Safe Streets for All

County aims for major road project grant



PHOTO BY DAN MUNDT

County Road L51 will be the subject of a major improvement project if Crawford County lands a \$10.3 million federal grant.

BY DAN MUNDT

Crawford County is pursuing a major grant to rework 22 miles of county pavement, according to County Engineer Paul Assman.

County Road L51, from E16 through Ricketts to Charter Oak, and south all the way to Highway 37 just north of Dunlap, will be the subject of a major improvement project if the funds are received.

Assman is working toward submitting an application for a Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) grant.

"Of the criteria for selection, number one is safety," Assman said.

"We've identified safety issues on the segments of roadways we are looking at submitting the application for - they're identified in what's called a local road safety plan (LRSP)."

The Secondary Road Department developed an LRSP in 2018 and completed an update earlier this year.

"It identifies roadway segments that score high in terms of crash history, geometry, and traffic volume," he said.

"They rank high in terms of needing safety improvements."

Most of the roads identified in the LRSP are older paved roads that are 20 feet wide and traverse rolling hills.

County Road E16 west of Schleswig, Donna Reed Road and County Road E59 from Dow City to Highway 59 were identified; widening/resurfacing projects have already taken place on those roads.

Projects on those roads included adding paved shoulders, shoulder and centerline rumble strips, a safety edge, increased lane widths and enhanced signage.

"We've been picking these off and we've implemented a lot of the items in the local road safety plan," Assman said.

"We're proposing to go in and pave the shoulders, put in rumble strips, pave a safety edge on the edge of the pavement, and create lane widths of 11 feet," he said.

"We feel it's a good project because it's been identified in the road safety plan, we've been implementing those things identified there, and we have a history of doing it on our own. We think it fits well with the major criteria, which is about addressing safety."

Assman said the project is also a good fit for SS4A grant criteria concerning how a project would address inclusion and diversity.

"That area is in a census tract that's identified as an area of persistent poverty - there are not a lot of those in the state of Iowa," he said. "Most of the roadway area we're applying for is identified in the safety plan but it's also in an area that is socially disadvantaged: rural population, aged population, and in an area of persistent poverty according to the census tract data."

Assman said SS4A grants are also intended for use in diverse population areas such as Denison.

"The hub of economic activity and the jobs here are in Denison, and this (the L51 project) is an important part of safety for people commuting to and from their place of business," he said.

Effective practices and strategies make up the third area of concern in the SS4A grant criteria.

"We check all the boxes: safety issues, area of persistent poverty, proven record of effective practices," Assman said. "And it's in line with the strategic goals of the DOT - which is zero fatalities."

The county has hired engineering consultant firm Kimley-Horn for about \$20,000 to help develop the grant application.

"I think it's money well spent because they know at that federal level all the t's that have to be crossed and the i's that have to be dotted," he said. "I don't want to have a misstep. I'm working with them very closely about how we're drafting the narrative."

He noted that a lot of the grant application work is still being done in-house at his department.

"We worked throughout the winter," he said. "The roadway plans are done and we're shovel-ready."

The total estimated cost of the project is \$12,931,000; the county will ask for \$10,345,000 of SS4A grant funds, which are federal dollars.

The project could also be eligible for a Transportation Safety Improvement Program (TSIP) grant; each of the previous road projects listed above received TSIP funds of about \$500,000.

The balance of funds for the L51 project would come from the county.

Assman is working with Kimley-Horn to wrap up the application-writing process in the next two weeks; applications are due by July 10.

If the county receives the grant, the L51 project would likely be put on the calendar for the 2025 road construction season.

"This would be huge for us," Assman said.

Donating Made Easy!

Use this QR code to go straight to our PayPal donation page.

The Denison Free Press is operated under its parent company, La Prensa, LLC. All donations collected through this PayPal account will be allocated directly and only to the publication of The Denison Free Press. Please support our efforts to bring fresh, local journalism to Crawford County with a one-time donation or monthly, sustaining contributions.



Hiring? Let us help!

Contact our sales department to place an ad in this publication
sales@denisonfreepress.com



Hutchinson in Denison to campaign for GOP presidential nomination



PHOTO BY GORDON WOLF

Asa Hutchinson, who announced his candidacy for president in April, speaks at a gathering at Bella Sera restaurant in Denison on Monday.

BY GORDON WOLF

Asa Hutchinson, former governor of Arkansas, campaigned at Bella Sera restaurant in Denison on Monday, talking about his experience and ability to run the nation and his slate of policies and plans.

Hutchinson said he would be the best president because he has the most experience from federal, state and enforcement levels.

He served as the 46th governor of Arkansas from 2015 to 2023. His federal experience came as a member of Congress from 1997 to 2001. Prior to that, he was the U.S. attorney for the Western District of Arkansas.

"I was governor of Arkansas for eight years and have a consistent conservative record," he said. "When you look at the future of our country, we need a pro-growth energy policy that produces energy, like they do in Iowa, even from biofuels. Secondly, we need to secure the border and thirdly, we need to make sure that we enforce the law in our cities and through our prosecutors to reduce violent crime in our country," he said.

Hutchinson would also focus on the economy and said he would make sure that federal spending and inflation are reduced, and that interest rates are lowered.



Your contribution helps ensure quality journalism lives on in Denison and Crawford County.

\$2 / Issue

Consider becoming a Sustaining Partner today.

Sustaining Partners can be either individuals or businesses, and will be invited to an annual "thank you" event. These supporters will also have their name displayed on the website and in occasional print issues (or may choose to remain anonymous.)

If you would like to support our work, please mail a check for 6 months (\$52) or 12 months (\$104). Please make checks payable to: "The Denison Free Press". In the memo, please write how you would like to be listed or if you'd prefer to remain anonymous.

Send checks to:

The Denison Free Press
1305 Broadway, Suite 201
Denison, Iowa 51442

Greater amounts will be recognized at additional levels of support. Contact us for more details: sales@denisonfreepress.com

Online donations accepted soon: www.denisonfreepress.com

Local News Local Journalists Local Ownership



Dan Mundt
News & Feature Writer



Lorena Lopez
Publisher & Sales



Gordon Wolf
News & Feature Writer

It would be difficult to adequately cover local news if we didn't have experienced journalists living right here in our community. Thanks to your support, we can employ local professionals that continue to call Crawford County home. Since our paper is free, we depend on contributions from readers like you, as well as local advertising from businesses looking to connect with thousands of readers in print and online.

Please help us continue to offer local journalism: sales@denisonfreepress.com

Murals and other uptown improvements are next

BANNERS, FROM PAGE 1



PHOTO BY DAN MUNDT

The slogan “It’s a Wonderful Life” is displayed in a total of six languages on the new banners.

Denison, too.”

The new Uptown Denison logo features a circle with a capital D and the phrase “It’s a Wonderful Life” surrounding it with “Denison” written below.

In a half-dozen color combinations, the banners feature the Uptown Denison logo, the words “eat,” “play,” “dine,” “shop,” “welcome,” or a large version of the phrase “It’s a Wonderful Life” written in one of six languages.

The languages chosen are those spoken by students in the Denison Community School District: English, Spanish, Dinka (South Sudan), Hmong (Laos region), Karen (Burma/Myanmar) and German.

“Kelsey Lally, who is a member of the (Uptown Improvement) Committee, worked very hard to make sure the languages that we chose were translated

correctly,” Woerdehoff said.

Denison Mayor Pam Soseman and the city worked to repair or replace the banner arms attached to light poles around town.

“Some were broken, some were missing, and the city is currently putting them up for us,” she said.

The banners are being printed by bluespace creative of Denison.

When the project is complete, 101 will be on display.

“They will continue to be put up as they are printed,” Woerdehoff said.

The banners are being placed along Main Street, Broadway, South 14th Street, First Avenue North and First Avenue South.

Prior to Independence Day, many poles in town will feature the Flag of the United States; the rest of the banners will take those spaces later in July.

They will stay up for most of the summer; some will be replaced by Tri City BBQ Fest banners as that event approaches.

“After this, we would like to work on murals and other types of things for uptown to make it look better and brighter, beautify it a little bit, and give the community a greater sense of pride,” Woerdehoff said.

She said seeing the banners in place, after nearly three years of work, makes her smile.

“I’m a very impatient person, so this has been taxing on me,” Woerdehoff said. “I felt relieved that they’re up.”

She said a lot of good things are happening now in Denison, such as the “Hot Summer Nights” events organized by Taylor Borkowski of The Cottage in uptown Denison.

“A lot of people are getting excited about what’s going on, but there’s still plenty to do,” she said.

Individuals interested in helping the Denison Uptown Improvement Committee may contact Woerdehoff at WESCO at 712-263-6141 or swoerdehoff@wescoind.org.



PHOTO BY DAN MUNDT

One of the purposes of the new banners is to direct visitors to businesses and attractions around town.

Board chair unhappy with how state handled tax exemption

HOMESTEAD, FROM PAGE 1

more in the next two weeks.

The application deadline is July 1, but because of the Independence Day holiday, applications will be accepted through July 3, Goslar noted.

Zenk told the supervisors that the process for manually entering the homestead tax exemption application data is time consuming, as each application requires a multi-step process.

He noted that the supervisors are required by Iowa Code to approve all the applications by about July 7.

“That’s obviously not going to happen because I don’t see us getting them done by then,” Zenk said.

He said the Iowa Department of Revenue will put a red check on his assessor certification for not getting them done in time.

Zenk noted that all the extra work for his office will interfere with how the county manages end-of-fiscal-year vacation day and comp time use.

He said the county policy is typically to have employees’ accumulated comp time down to one week on July 1 and vacation days down to 10 at the employee’s work anniversary.

“Well, I have two people (whose) anniversary is right around July 1,” Zenk said.

He said the employees’ comp time and vacation would not be down to the county’s limits on July 1 – and the extra work may take through July and August to complete.

Zenk said the new law has also had the result of bringing many older individuals to the courthouse.

“We’ve seen people from all over the county that probably shouldn’t be walking up steps come sign up for it,” he said.

They often go up the main stairway and end up in the auditor’s office, he and Amy Pieper, HR, payroll and election deputy auditor noted.

“All we ever heard on the campaign trail was ... ‘that little old lady needed a tax credit,’” said supervisor Dave Muhlbauer.

Zenk pointed out that Crawford County is not reimbursed by the state for the homestead tax exemption.

He said he had looked at the numbers and would not be surprised if the exemption costs the county \$200,000 to \$300,000 in tax revenue.

According to the Iowa Department of Revenue, for the assessment year beginning on January 1, 2023, the exemption will be for \$3,250 of taxable value. For assessment years beginning on or after January 1, 2024, the exemption will be for \$6,500 of taxable value.

The Department of Revenue notes that “an exemption is a reduction in the taxable value of the property rather than a direct reduction in the amount of property tax you pay.”

Board Chairman Ty Rosburg said he was not happy with the way the state handled the issue.

Supervisor Kyle Schultz said that during budget discussions in January, Chuck Ettleman, who prepares the county budget, presented revenue numbers that were about \$300,000 more than expected.

“That’s gone,” Schultz said.

New festival committee members, fresh ideas sought

FESTIVAL, FROM PAGE 1

Denison to award five scholarships.

During the festival on Saturday, community members will have a chance to vote for their three favorite entries in the “Immigration is Beautiful” art contest. The theme is “sharing the story of your culture or heritage.”

Chelsey Phipps, Denison High School art teacher, and Denison artist Haley McAndrews are in charge of the art contest.

The art contest has two age groups: 12 to 17, and 18 and up.

Puga thanked the Immigrant Heritage Festival Committee for their efforts in organizing the event.

“We’ve been at it for months and I’m very thankful for the festival committee and our sponsors,” she said. “Without them, we wouldn’t have this festival and

we wouldn’t have money to go toward the scholarship program.”

The committee’s members are Christina Villalovos, Grant Fineran, Pam Soseman, Lorena López, Maria Valdez, Patricia Ritchie, Reyna Wilenberg, Damaris Galdamez-Houghand, and Puga.

“The committee is open to anyone,” Puga said. “We might start recruiting for it earlier next year because we want fresh ideas. We want to continue this festival for years to come.”

This year’s festival is still in need of volunteers.

“We really need help,” Puga said. “Anyone interested in being a volunteer should contact our coordinator, Maria Valdez (712-292-9578). Anyone who volunteers gets a free t-shirt.”

The Immigration Heritage Festival begins on Saturday with a parade at 2:30 p.m. Lineup begins at 2 p.m. by the post office.

Anyone may join the parade.

The parade will make its way to Washington Park, where the festivities begin at 3 p.m.



Our news is also published online!

Featured stories and more at
DENISONFREEPRESS.COM

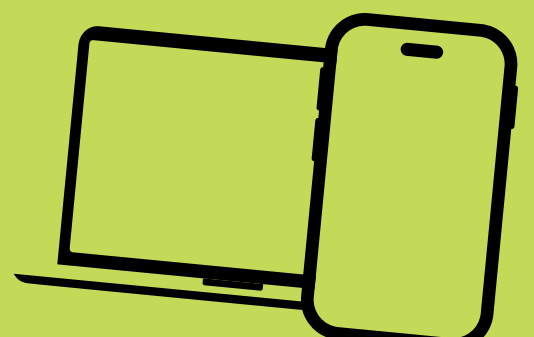
We offer PRINT and ONLINE advertising for your business or organization!

Contact us today!

sales@denisonfreepress.com



This is an example of a:
1/4 Page Ad
Horizontal: 10.5 x 5 in



The Donna Reed Foundation Children's Musical Theatre Workshop June 5-10 culminated with the performance of "Disney's Frozen Kids" at the Denison High School Fine Arts Center on the final day. The performance involved a cast and crew of hundreds.

PHOTOS BY GORDON WOLF

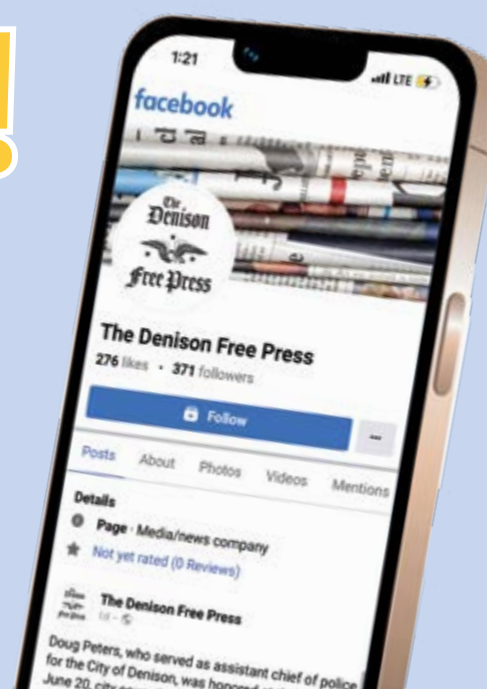


GIVE US A LIKE!

Follow The Denison Free Press for the latest news & updates



@DENISONFREEPRESS



Flag Day observed in Dow City

PHOTOS BY GORDON WOLF

Dow City American Legion Post 444 observed Flag Day on June 14 with speeches honoring the meaning of the flag, and the respectful retiring of unserviceable flags during a burning ceremony.

The Ceremony of Disposal of Unserviceable Flags was passed by the 19th National Convention of The American Legion in New York, September 20-23, 1937.

Dow City American Legion members also performed the folding of the flag, with the meaning for each of the 13 folds read.

The 13 folds and their meanings are the following.

- The first fold is a symbol of life.
- The second fold signifies our belief in eternal life.
- The third fold is made in honor and tribute of the veteran departing our ranks.
- The fourth fold represents our weaker nature as citizens trusting in God.
- The fifth fold is a tribute to our country.
- The sixth fold is for where our hearts lie, with our allegiance to the flag.
- The seventh fold is a tribute to our armed forces.
- The eighth fold is a tribute to the one who entered into the valley of the shadow of death, for our freedom.
- The ninth fold is a tribute to

womanhood, and the faith and love they bring.

• The tenth fold is a tribute to the father, who has given his sons and daughters for the defense of our country.

• The eleventh fold, in the eyes of Hebrew citizens, represents the lower portion of the seal of King David and King Solomon.

• The twelfth fold, in the eyes of Christian citizens, represents an emblem of eternity and glorifies God.

• The thirteenth fold, when the flag is completely folded, the stars are uppermost reminding us of our nation's motto, "In God We Trust."



* * *

Wouldn't it be nice to choose what you want to pay every time you need something? The world doesn't work that way, but that's how it works at The Denison Free Press. No subscriptions. No fees. But if you find value in what we do, and you choose to help us stick around, consider making a one-time or recurring donation.

www.denisonfreepress.com

* * *

**This space
shouldn't
be blank –
it should
be filled
with an ad
for your
business.**

**Contact our sales
representative today.**

sales@denisonfreepress.com



Dinosaurs finally arrive in Kiron

“Jurassic Park” is Kiron’s first Movie in the Park for 2023

BY DAN MUNDT

The Kiron Community Club, which puts on the towns summer “Movie in the Park” event, had planned to play “Jurassic Park” as the July movie in 2022.

Those plans fell apart when the community club started the process of getting a public-performance license for the film.

Because “Jurassic World Dominion” was in theaters last summer, the studio didn’t want competition from the original movie in the series, and public performances were not allowed.

That restriction is not in place this year and “Jurassic Park” will be shown at Kiron’s South Park this Friday, June 23.

The film, which is rated PG-13, features artificially-created dinosaurs chasing and eating some of the tasty humans trapped on an island.

The movie runs 127 minutes.

“There will be a concession stand in the shelter house along with bathrooms,”

said Jen Hoaglund, Kiron City Council member.

“People will need to bring their own lawn chairs to watch the movie. It will be starting around 9:30 (p.m.) or whenever it gets dark enough.”

The movie received the most votes in a survey conducted earlier this summer on the Kiron Community Club Facebook page.

“Twister” received the second-most votes and will be the movie shown on July 21.

Hoaglund said the Jurassic World films are popular with younger people, which is probably part of why the first film in the series is still popular.

“Movie in the Park” is a free event.

The Kiron Community Club is asking for a freewill donation that will go toward the Kiron 125th anniversary celebration, which will take place in August 2024.

Collectible tractors draw a crowd

PHOTOS BY GORDON WOLF



A number of collectible tractors sold at the Pauley Brothers 1st Summer Consignment Sale on June 13. JR Pauley raises his hand to catch a bid on a 1948 8N Ford with tracks.



Another photograph shows JR Pauley and Tom Pauley (at left) selling a white 1950 Farmal C Demonstrator.



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

Check out our e-edition!

denisonfreepress.com



Do you like what you see in today’s newspaper?

The Denison Free Press

Help to keep local journalism alive by making a donation to The Denison Free Press today.

Visit our website to learn more denisonfreepress.com



The Denison Free Press

Let everyone know about your upcoming event!

Contact our sales department to place an ad in this publication

sales@denisonfreepress.com

Rauch, Houston and Kennedy first recipients of Scott Schurke Humanitarian Award



PHOTO BY GORDON WOLF

Recipients of the inaugural Scott Schurke Humanitarian Awards were announced at Tuesday's Denison City Council meeting. Pictured from left are Larry Struck, a member of the selection committee; Scott Schurke, for whom the Bill Wright family named the award; and recipients Rhonda Rauch, Dave Houston and Karen Kennedy.

BY GORDON WOLF

Anyone who worked at, was a student at or visited Denison High School knows who Scott Schurke is.

The 1980 Denison High School graduate was a custodian at the school and was admired for the dedication he exhibited toward his work. But more so he is known as a selfless individual who put others above himself, who would put his work on hold for a bit to help someone with an immediate need.

Last year, the Bill Wright family established the Scott Schurke Humanitarian Award as a way to give back to the community that has meant a great deal to them.

Community Schools, starting as middle school teacher and coach in 1969 and retiring as the superintendent on June 30, 2004.

The purpose of the award is to provide a financial gift to individuals who have displayed selflessness in their interactions with others, to go above and beyond to make the Denison community a better place for all people.

The recipients were nominated by non-family members.

The certificate of appreciation given to each award recipient says, "Your personal ripple effect is the power of one generating hope and change in

Schurke epitomizes dedication and selflessness:

BILL WRIGHT FAMILY

On Tuesday, three people who exemplify the work ethic and character of Scott Schurke became the inaugural recipients of the award.

Rhonda Rauch, Dave Houston and Karen Kennedy were called to the front of the council chambers during the Denison City Council meeting to each receive a certificate and a \$1,500 check from Larry Struck, a member of the selection committee.

Other members of the selection committee are Craig Dozark and Tonya Eller.

Houston is a social sciences teacher and Kennedy is a business teacher at Denison High School. Rauch can be seen taking photographs at nearly every sporting event and activity involving Denison Community School students.

The Wright family named the award after Schurke, who they said epitomized the dedication and selflessness that all people should strive to replicate. Bill Wright was an educator at Denison

others for a better world. Like ripples radiating across the surface of a pond when a pebble is tossed in, kindness is powerful and has far-reaching, positive ramifications that will last long after you are gone."

When Mayor Pam Soseman thanked Schurke following the award presentation, he humbly replied, "You're welcome. I haven't done anything greater than anyone else. I just show up and do what I have to do."

Award recipients can be Denison Community School students from fourth grade on up, all faculty and staff and administrators at the school, and any community adult that has a relationship with the school district.

Information about nominations for the Scott Schurke Humanitarian Award will be available beginning in January of each year. The Denison Community Schools administers the award, and the forms are online.

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



BECAUSE COMMUNITY JOURNALISM MATTERS.

Did you know? We offer FREE ad design!

Contact sales to learn more - sales@denisonfreepress.com

This is an example of a:

1/16 Page Ad

Horizontal: 5.1667 x 2.4167 in

Buckskinners camp at Dow House

The extensive yard south of the Dow House was transformed into a mountain man rendezvous for the Pioneer Rendezvous June 8-11.



PHOTO BY GORDON WOLF

Richard Rose, of Dunlap, scrapes the hair from a deer skin. Rose is going to brain tan the skin after the hide is scraped. He has been at buckskinners' camps in Fremont and Norfolk, Nebraska, Council Bluffs and Correctionville, to name a few. In the past, a buckskinners' camp had taken place annually at the Lewis and Clark Festival in Onawa, but last year was the final time for that event. That opened up a date for the buckskinners to camp at the Dow House.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Those involved in the Pioneer Rendezvous stand on both levels of the Dow House.



PHOTO BY GORDON WOLF

Dave Bradley, of Council Bluffs, began joining buck skin camps in 1984. His specialty is assembling knives, which he started doing 10 years ago.



PHOTO BY GORDON WOLF

Pie and ice cream were served up pioneer style.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Casey Cary, president of the Dow House Board, presented Jodi Head, member of the board and volunteer for over 20 years, a key to the Dow House.



PHOTO BY GORDON WOLF

Ask anyone at the buck skinners camp where they got their furniture, and they all point to Bill Spiers. The Anthon man has been fashioning rustic-appearing mountain man furniture for years.



PHOTO BY GORDON WOLF

Mark Berrier, of Deloit, tests his hawk throwing skills. He traveled a long way, figuratively, to be part of the buckskinners' camp at the Dow House. He was born in Ohio; then his family moved to California. On the way he saw the Black Hills and the mountains in Montana and old forts, and he decided the mountain man age was where he belonged.

**This
could be
you!**

Contact our sales
department to place an
ad in this publication
sales@denisonfreepress.com

The  **Denison Free Press**