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Local News
Local Journalists
Local Ownership

The Denison Free Press

Print Sample 02

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SERVING DENISON & CRAWFORD COUNTY, IOWA

June 29, 2023



PHOTO BY DAN MUNDT

Rhonda Rauch has been taking pictures of events in Crawford County for a dozen years. Starting this week, she will bring her skills to the Denison Free Press.

A passion for photographing kids

Rauch joins the Denison Free Press

BY DAN MUNDT

Denison photographer Rhonda Rauch joins the Denison Free Press this week as the newspaper's chief photographer.

Rauch, who owns RhondaR Photography in Denison, is well known to area residents for acting as the community's photographer at events of all types.

"Rhonda is perfect as photographer for our newspaper because of the years of her experience," said Lorena López, owner of La Prensa Hispanic Newspaper and The Denison Free Press.

"I hope I can bring some value to the newspaper by continuing to cover sports in the area," Rauch said.

"When kids to go to state in a sport

RAUCH, PAGE 3

A celebration of immigration



PHOTO BY GORDON WOLF

Music, dancing and smiles graced the stage during the Immigration Heritage Festival on Saturday in Denison. Pictured above, Las Ceibeñas, a group from Denison, performs at the Washington Park bandshell. Eight acts representing a number of cultures performed from 3 to about 6:30 p.m. The Immigration Heritage Festival is an event sponsored by the League of United Latin American Citizens – Denison 381. See more photos on Page 14



A booming good way to celebrate

BY GORDON WOLF

In just a few more days, Denison's "Red, White, & Boom!" event will return to celebrate Independence Day.

The annual observance organized by the Chamber & Development Council (CDC) of Crawford County takes place on July 3, which this year falls on a Monday.

Yellow Smoke Park east of Denison will be the site for most of the events.

Exceptions are the Bill Riley Talent Contest beginning at 1 p.m. at the Washington Park band shell, and the parade in uptown Denison. The parade will begin at 3:30 p.m.; lineup will be 3 p.m.

A new activity this year will be a glow beach volleyball tournament beginning at 8 p.m. Teams of six players may register for \$10 per team. Each member of the winning team will receive a CDC gift card.

All the perennial favorite activities are returning to Yellow Smoke Park, said Tourism Coordinator Shani Bonner.

The scavenger hunt will begin at 12 p.m. Check-in will be at the CDC

BOOM, PAGE 3

Reporting on the America beat

German journalist sees a reflection of the world in Denison



PHOTO BY DAN MUNDT

German reporter Kerstin Kohlenberg is in Denison this week to gather information for a book about issues in America today.

BY DAN MUNDT

"The sentiments here that drive the feeling of the people and their political decisions are very similar to what we have in Germany and in the former East (Germany)," said Kerstin Kohlenberg, senior reporter for the feature section of Die Zeit (The Time) German Newspaper.

"The same sort of identity issues come up."

Kohlenberg is in Denison this week to work on a book about three

people she met in the United States while working as Die Zeit's USA correspondent over a seven-year period.

"For me, they represent a lot of what America is about and what America is fighting over right now," she said.

One of her subjects is a Black Lives Matter member who lives in the Bronx borough of New York City, New York.

The second is a man who was the first person to jump the fence at the

United States Capitol on January 6, 2021.

The third individual is a member of a Latino family in Denison.

"I tried to combine these stories to tell a little bit about America and the 30 years that lead up to the next election," Kohlenberg said.

She didn't want to talk more about the contents of the book, because it is a work in progress and she is somewhat superstitious that talking about it before finishing it is bad luck, but agreed to talk about reporting on the United States and why she continues to return to Denison.

Kohlenberg's current visit here is her fifth; her first was in 2016.

"I wanted to tell the story of a small town – and see how a town that voted for Obama changed and where it was in 2016," she said.

She picked Denison after finding the book "Denison, Iowa" in a library in Brooklyn, New York.

Kohlenberg lived there at the time with her husband, Robert, who is an American journalist; they met in 2003 in Dallas, Texas, where they were both reporting on an international video game tournament.

"I was doing the German version of the story: look at all the kids that play computer games – they're making our kids crazy," she said. "He was doing the American version of the story: look at all these kids – look how much money they can make."

Kohlenberg attended graduate school at The New School University in New York City.

She, Robert and their daughter have lived in New York and in Germany for stretches of years at a time; they

JOURNALIST, PAGE 9

Zupp writes briefs in support of wrongful discharge suit against state

A win for freedom of information

BY DAN MUNDT

Denison attorney Jessica Zupp, of the Zupp and Zupp Law Firm, helped write two successful amicus briefs in the case of Polly Carver-Kimm, former communications director of the Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH), versus Gov. Kim Reynolds, Pat Garrett (Reynolds's communications director), and the State of Iowa (hereafter as "the state").

The amicus briefs were presented as part of a hearing that resulted in the Supreme Court of Iowa denying a motion by the state to dismiss a wrongful discharge claim brought by Carver-Kimm.

Zupp wrote one of the briefs for the Iowa Freedom of Information Council, and co-wrote the other, along with Urbandale lawyer Peter E. Larsen, for the Iowa Association for Justice.

Her briefs were in support of Carver-Kimm's use of Iowa's open records/open meetings laws as the basis of a

ZUPP, PAGE 3



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Rauch is always looking for a different angle

RAUCH, FROM PAGE 1

and there's no coverage, it's disappointing to the parents."

Pictures in a newspaper are sometimes the only way family members will get to experience an event, she said.

Rauch enjoys documenting kids' sports activities, in part, because she grew up in the Amana Colonies, where they didn't have football, volleyball, wrestling or tennis.

"We didn't have a lot of this stuff," she said.

Rauch graduated from high school

(from what is now Clear Creek Amana High School) with a class of 19 in 1986.

She has a 1990 degree in accounting from the University of Northern Iowa.

Although she is passionate about photography, she also has a completely separate career.

On July 5, Rauch will begin her 34th year at Professional Computer Services in Denison, where she is a project analyst.

She and her husband, Mike, have been married for 26 years; they have two adult children.

Rauch was interested in photography in college, but her current path as a photographer started about 12 years ago.

Rauch bought a point-and-shoot camera to catch action shots of her kids when they were small.

"I progressed to a DSLR (digital single-lens reflex) and started taking pictures of my son in upper elementary school," she said.

Her love of photography blossomed from her time taking pictures of her children's sports activities.

Today, she takes senior and family photos, and enjoys snapping pictures of other miscellaneous subjects.

Rauch covers local sports and takes individual and team pictures for the Denison and Mapleton schools.

"I thoroughly enjoy that," Rauch said. "My kids are gone, so it keeps me busy."

She also makes an effort to take pictures at activities such as the FFA tractor days, and mariachi band and show choir performances.

"Not everybody does sports," she

said. "They all have their different thing, so I try to involve as many kids as I can."

Rauch works hard to get the right shots and keep her photographs interesting.

"You get a feel for how the game is played, so you know where you should be standing. You're trying to get that great shot, all the time," she said. "I'm always trying to look for a different angle."

Her work with the Denison Free Press will not be her first experience shooting for a newspaper.

Rauch occasionally filled in for long-time Denison Bulletin and Review sports photographer/writer Todd Danner when he was unavailable.

"I want to get the shots the parents are hoping to see in the newspaper and go from there," she said.

BOOM, FROM PAGE 1

booth at the beach. The first three teams or individuals to complete the scavenger hunt will receive CDC gift cards. But people are welcome to participate in the scavenger hunt throughout the day, just for fun, Bonner said.

Other events at the beach during the day will be the sidewalk chalk art contest for kids and adults, the sandcastle/sand sculpture building contest and the ever-entertaining "Sink or Float" cardboard boat races.

Most of the contests feature CDC gift cards or trophies for prizes.

People interested in entering the cardboard boat races should contact the CDC office at 712-263-5621 or Bonner at 712-263-6622 for rules and regulations.

Those who want a more leisurely time at Yellow Smoke can rent kayaks near the boat ramp from 4 to 6 p.m. and paddle around the lake.

The Yellow Smoke nature center will host its carnival from 7 to 9 p.m. The carnival is a major fundraiser for the nature center programs.

The finale to "Red, White, & Boom!" will be the fireworks show that will begin at 10 p.m.

The CDC will have numerous glow merchandise items and beverages for purchase at the beach.

More food options will be available at the top of the hill north of the beach. Bonner said these include Tropical Sno; a vendor that will sell pupusas, hamburgers, hotdogs and other food options; and a vendor that will sell tacos, nachos, sticky rice and carne asada.

"Everything except the food and beverages is free," said Bonner. "However, freewill donations at the gate will be appreciated. The proceeds support Red, White, & Boom! and Crossroads of Crawford County, which is providing volunteers to help with the events."

Carver-Kimm: removal of her duties created danger to public

ZUPP, FROM PAGE 1

claim of wrongful discharge in violation of public policy against the state.

Zupp said the court's decision affirmed Carver-Kimm's right to state the wrongful discharge claim using Iowa's open records law (the public policy) as a supporting basis, which Zupp said is new legal territory.

"It's the first case in the country that says if you are a records custodian - and get fired for producing the records that your superiors didn't want produced - then you can sue for wrongful termination of your job," Zupp said. "She gets to produce the records that are requested regardless of whether somebody else doesn't want her to produce those records or whether those records might be embarrassing."

She said the decision was "a win for freedom of information."

West Des Moines attorney Thomas J. Duff presented Carver-Kimm's argument before the Iowa Supreme Court.

"He argued that Polly was essentially like a whistleblower; she was coming forward and producing records that she was required by law to produce," Zupp explained. "If she didn't produce those records, she could be sued under (Iowa Code) Chapter 21/Chapter 22; open meetings/open records. She was simply producing records that she was required to produce."

Zupp noted that Iowa is an at-will employment state, which allows employers to fire employees for any reason or no reason.

Whistleblowers are an exception, she said.

Zupp said that the proceedings on the motion to dismiss were on the question of whether Carver-Kimm should be able to state a claim for wrongful termination, and not on the validity of the claim, Zupp said.

According to the Iowa Supreme Court opinion filing, "Carver-Kimm alleges that she was forced out of her job because of her refusal to stifle public records requests to the department (IDPH) during the early months of the COVID-19 pandemic."

The filing states that Carver-Kimm's duties to provide information to the public were reduced during the pandemic.

In early June 2020, "Carver-Kimm was removed from responding to all open records requests" and in mid-June,

she "was no longer allowed to respond to media requests involving COVID-19 or any other infectious disease."

Carver-Kimm expressed her opinion at the time that the removal of her duties "amounted to mismanagement and abuse of authority, and that it created a danger to the public given the ongoing pandemic," according to the filing.

In July 2020, Carver-Kimm provided statistics showing an increase in Iowa pregnancy terminations to a Des Moines Register reporter; the newspaper's story attributed the increase to Reynolds's decision to end participation in a federally-funded family planning program, according to the filing.

"A few days later, Carver-Kimm was told that due to restructuring, she could choose to resign or have her employment terminated," the filing states.

Carver-Kimm chose to resign to preserve "certain accrued employment benefits" and filed a lawsuit against the state in September 2020.

"There's no allegation that the data shouldn't have been produced, or she overproduced or she underproduced," Zupp said. "The allegation is that she was fired because it was embarrassing to her superiors and it made them look like they weren't doing a good job."

The state moved to dismiss the lawsuit, arguing that Reynolds and Garrett couldn't be liable for wrongful discharge "because they lacked authority to discharge her, that they're protected by qualified immunity, and that Iowa's open records statute doesn't support a claim for wrongful discharge in violation of public policy."

The district court denied the motion to dismiss; the state appealed under the qualified immunity statute.

It was for the appeal that Zupp wrote the amicus briefs.

In its decision, the Iowa Supreme Court denied the appeal of the motion to dismiss but accepted an appeal that resulted in Reynolds and Garret being dismissed from the lawsuit.

Zupp said the court's ruling means Carver-Kimm may get a trial if her claim survives the next hurdle, which she said will likely be a motion for summary judgement.

A motion for summary judgement will likely hinge on the question of whether Carver-Kimm was the legal records custodian at the time the records requests were received, and at the time the records were produced, she said.

Zupp said her involvement in the case is complete at its current stage.

"I'll continue to be involved to the extent anyone wants me to be involved," she said.

For more information and a schedule of events, go to the Visit Denison & Crawford County Facebook page.

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Local Calendar

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. Accepting applications for food producers as well as artisans, craftsmen and small businesses; no fee charged. Call 712-269-6796 or email marketinthepark@gmail.com.

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

TUESDAY JULY 4, 2023

Euchre Night at Ricketts Community Building, 7-8 p.m. Card playing, socializing, treats and beverages. Card game will start at 7 p.m. Entry fee is \$5. No need to bring a partner.

WEDNESDAY JULY 5, 2023

Euchre Night at Charter Oak Community Building, 7 p.m. Players will be partnered randomly throughout the night.

WEDNESDAY JULY 5, 2023 continued

Community Giant Coloring Page, Norelius Community Library, 9 a.m.-8 p.m. People are invited to add their artistic talent towards a magical and giant coloring page.

THURSDAY JULY 6, 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. Accepting applications for food producers as well as artisans, craftsmen and small businesses; no fee charged. Call 712-269-6796 or email marketinthepark@gmail.com.

Fairy Tale Story Time, Norelius Community Library, 10-11 a.m. A magic reading through traditional fairy tales at the Children's Library. Will include a special craft.

ISU Insect Zoo at Norelius Community Library Children's Library, 2-4 p.m.

Anime Activity Night, Norelius Community Library Fireside Room, 6-7 p.m. A variety of anime- and manga-themed activities.

SUNDAY JULY 9 -WEDNESDAY, JULY 12, 2023

Charter Oak Achievement Days at Charter Oak Park grounds. Food, games and activities for kids, livestock shows, 4-H projects and more.

MONDAY, JULY 10, 2023

Annual meeting of the Chamber & Development Council of Crawford County 5:30-6 p.m., Boulders Conference Center, Denison. Social hour at 5 p.m. Meeting to start at 5:30 p.m. Members should contact the CDC at 712-263-5621 or go to cdcia.org to register.



Submit events at denisonfreepress.com

In Todd's Eyes



PHOTO BY LORENA LÓPEZ ALTAMIRANO

The Denison Free Press made a serious effort to get Todd Danner to come work with us. We would have loved to have had Todd bring his eye as a photographer and skill as a writer to our new endeavor. Dan Mundt even went to his house and played the theme from Kong: Skull Island on a boombox to try to get him to change his mind. Unfortunately for us, Todd has decided to move on to a new career in education. We wish him the very best.

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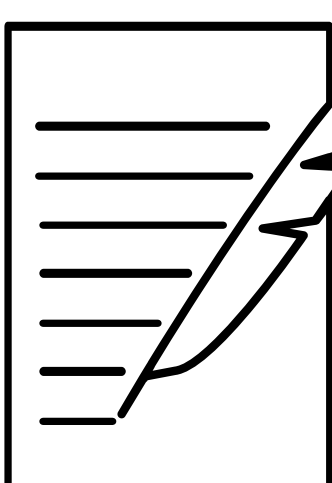
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The Andersons Denison Ethanol dives in to solve problem at outdoor pool



PHOTO BY GORDON WOLF

From June 7 through June 15, the outdoor pool at the Denison Aquatic Center was closed due to the failure of a pump and motor that circulates the water. That problem has been fixed temporarily to keep the pool open for the rest of the summer, but The Andersons Denison Ethanol jumped in to provide a new motor and pump to operate the outdoor pool for years to come. The new equipment will be installed once the outdoor pool closes for the season. Pictured with the new pump and motor are, from left, Brian Kempfert, director of Denison Parks & Rec; Joe Mefferd, purchasing and inventory at The Andersons Denison Ethanol; Dustin Logan, manager of plant operations at The Andersons Denison Ethanol; Eric Martens, director of public works for the City of Denison; Denison Mayor Pam Soseman; and Mike Vogt, street commissioner for the City of Denison.

BY GORDON WOLF

For kids, summertime means days of riding bikes, playing baseball and softball and going to the pool to swim and cool off.

But a disappointing turn of events began on June 7 at the Denison Aquatic Center. The outdoor water attractions closed due to an equipment failure. The pump that circulated the water developed a crack and the motor that operated the pump failed.

The pump and motor control the main circulation for all of the outdoor water; the pool, kiddie pool, and the slides all use the same water, explained Brian Kempfert, director of Denison Parks and Rec.

"Without it, we're dead in the water," he added, with the pun intended.

The crack in the pump was repaired by Joe's Welding and a temporary motor was installed, so on June 16, kids could



PHOTO BY GORDON WOLF

A closeup view of the new pump and motor. The pump is on the left side of the photo.

resume their fun of splashing and diving in the water and cooling off from the hot summer sun.

Kempfert explained that he can't gauge the age of the pump and the motor that failed because it was in place when he started as the aquatic center director 10 years ago. He offered, however, that pumps and motors like the one at the pool work hard through the summer and might last 10-12 years before they need to be replaced.

He continued that what happened is that a plug from a different pump let loose overnight. When that happened all the water went straight to the pump that cracked, and the motor was drowned in water.

The Andersons Denison Ethanol jumped to the assistance of the community to provide a more permanent fix. The Andersons procured and paid for a new pump and motor to assure that kids will have uninterrupted fun at the outdoor pool in years to come.

Jeff Sis, process operator at The Andersons Denison Ethanol and an advocate of Denison Parks & Rec, was the catalyst for the company's donation, said Dustin Logan, manager of plant operations.

Logan said Ricardo Campos, plant manager, saw that providing a pump and motor was a great opportunity for The Andersons Denison Ethanol.

"We got a call that the pool was down, and probably nobody in Crawford County handles more pumps and motors than we do," Logan explained.

Joe Mefferd, with purchasing and inventory at the ethanol plant, sourced the pump and the motor.

Through its supplier, The Andersons Denison Ethanol was able to have a pump and motor delivered after only three to four weeks of lead time, instead of a more typical 11-week wait.

Mefferd said the cost of the new equipment is just a little under \$14,000.

Logan is also a member of the Denison City Council, which gave him additional insight into the gravity of the closure of the outdoor pool.

"I don't know how many calls and texts I got," he said. "What are my kids going to do? Are swimming lessons going to be cancelled?"

"The outdoor pool is really a staple for the kids in the community and surrounding communities," Logan added.

He said the cost of the new pump and motor would have been a budgetary issue for the city.

"Finding the money out of the city's budget for what this pump and motor could have cost – it would have gotten done but it would have been challenging. We didn't plan for it," Logan explained.

The repaired pump and temporary motor will remain in place until the outdoor pool closes at the end of the swimming season. Then the old equipment will be swapped out for the new pump and motor.

Logan said that when the new pump and motor are installed, city staff will look at other key parts and pieces of equipment that will need to be replaced in the future and get replacement parts on the shelf.



PHOTO BY GORDON WOLF

The Andersons Denison Ethanol sign joins signs from other businesses that support the swim team at the Denison Aquatic Center.

First Print Edition

July 6, 2023

Current List of Pick-up Locations

Denison

- Pronto Market
- 810 4th Avenue South
- One Stop Shop
- 306 N 7th Street
- Casey's
- 1608 4th Avenue South
- Hy-Vee Grocery Store
- 1426 Broadway
- Fareway Grocery
- 609 Arrowhead Road

Westside

- Walmart Supercenter
- 510 Avenue C
- Denison Do It Best Hardware
- 527 IA-39
- Dollar General
- 522 IA-39
- Ampride
- 506 US-59
- CCMH
- 100 Medical Parkway

Vail

- Sparky's One Stop
- 101 US-30

The Denison Free Press

ON THE SCANNER

June 12: The Crawford County Sheriff's Office received a report about an incident of fraud or theft that happened to subjects in Charter Oak.

June 21: Irvin David Martinez, 33, of Denison, was arrested for domestic abuse causing bodily injury for an incident that occurred at East End Apartments in Denison earlier that day. He was also charged with interference with official acts. A no-contact order was issued. Bail in the amount of \$1,000 on an unsecured signature bond was posted on June 23. A preliminary hearing was set for 9:30 a.m. on July 3.

June 23, 5:17 a.m.: The Crawford County Ambulance, Westside EMS and Westside Fire Department responded to a vehicle that had overturned in a ditch at 201 Eagle Street, Westside.

June 23, 1:50 p.m.: The Crawford County Sheriff's Office responded to a report of a small silver SUV, with its flashers on, traveling at 70 to 80 miles per hour westbound on Highway 30 from Vail. The report said the vehicle was passing everything in sight and almost hit three vehicles head-on while passing. Law enforcement was unable to locate the vehicle.

June 23, 5:20 p.m.: The Schleswig Fire Department responded to a small fire in the 5000 block of A Avenue. The small fire started when a person was welding on a storage container.

June 23, 4:52 p.m.: The Crawford County Sheriff's Office received a report from a person who had lost an axle on a wagon at Highway 59 and G Avenue, Denison.

June 23, 6:05 p.m.: The Crawford County Ambulance and Manilla Fire Department responded to an incident in which a male subject had been hit by a cow that got loose.

June 23, 10:14 p.m.: At a traffic stop at Highway 141 and 160th street near Charter Oak, Dawson Donald Casey, 21, was arrested for driving while barred. A \$2,000 surety bond was posted on June 26.

June 24, 9:25 a.m.: The Crawford County Ambulance and the Dow City-Arion Fire Department responded to a medical incident in the 3000 block of Early Road.

June 24, 11:31 a.m.: The Crawford County Sheriff's Office received a report of male subjects trespassing on property in the 2000 block of Highway 59, Denison.

June 24, 10:02 p.m.: The Crawford County Sheriff's office received a complaint about fireworks being shot in Deloit.

June 24, 10:15 p.m.: The Crawford County Sheriff's Office investigated a vehicle versus deer accident that happened south of Denison on Highway 59. Ronald Songer 78, was driving a white 2021 Chevrolet Equinox LT when his vehicle struck a deer. The vehicle received damage to the front end but could still be driven.

June 25, 10 a.m.: The Crawford County Ambulance and the Manilla Fire Department responded to a medical incident in the 100 block of North 5th Street, Manilla.

June 25, 9:14 p.m.: The Crawford County Sheriff's Office received a complaint about fireworks being shot off in Deloit. The caller said the incident had been going on for two hours at the time of the call.

June 25, 10:19 p.m.: The Crawford County Sheriff's Office received a complaint about fireworks being shot off near Deloit.

June 25, 11:40 p.m.: After a pursuit of a possible intoxicated driver, law enforcement arrested Casey Daniel Karsten, 26, for OWI 1st offense and speeding. The criminal complaint filed in district court says that he was riding a motorcycle east on Highway 30 west of 380th Street. Deputy Miller with the Crawford County Sheriff's Office clocked the motorcycle traveling at 95 miles per hour in a 55-mile-per-hour zone. A blood alcohol test given subsequent to the traffic stop registered 0.151. Bail of \$1,000 was posted on June 28.

June 26, 1 p.m.: Michelle Denise Thies, 51, of Ute, was arrested on a Crawford County warrant in a case for which she is charged with theft-5th degree and interference with official acts, filed on November 28, 2022. An unsecured signature bond of \$600 was posted on June 28.

June 26, 1:24 p.m.: Deputy Melby with the Crawford County Sheriff's Office transported Jesse Arthur Thies, 36, to Ida County for an Ida County warrant.

June 26, 3:58 p.m.: A report was received about horses being stolen from an address in the 2000 block of U Avenue, Denison.

June 26, 6:37 p.m.: The Crawford County Law Enforcement Center received a call from a Manilla resident concerning a neighbor's dog.

June 26, 7:58 p.m.: A caller advised that two pit bulls were attacking one of his cows. The report said that attempts were made to get the dog off the cow but the dog would not release. The dogs were put down by the caller prior to the arrival of law enforcement from the Crawford County Sheriff's Office. The incident took place in the 2000 block of E-16, Schleswig.

June 26: Dustin Lee Bigley, 43, of Denison, was arrested on two Crawford County warrants in connection with failure to appear.

June 27, 12:13 a.m.: Officer Clausen with the Denison Police Department investigated a two-vehicle accident that happened at Monogram Foods. Jeffery John Stephens, 47, of Arion, was backing a silver 2004 Pontiac Grand Prix GTP out of a parking stall, backing towards the southwest. Ku Say Paw, 31, of Denison was backing a maroon 2017 Honda CR-V LX to the northwest. Paw's vehicle backed into Stephens's vehicle, causing \$1,000 in damage. No injuries were reported. Paw's vehicle received \$1 in damage.

June 27, 2:09 p.m.: Officer Ten Eyck with the Denison Police Department investigated a two-vehicle accident that happened at Highway 30 and South 11th Street. Virginia Mae Langford, 87, of Denison, was driving a white 2010 Ford Focus, was traveling east on Highway 30 and was attempting to make a left turn onto South 11th Street. A westbound vehicle was also making a left turn onto South 11th Street, and Langford did not see a silver 2021 Toyota traveling in the right westbound lane of Highway 30. Langford made the left turn and the Toyota struck her vehicle on the passenger side. The Toyota was being driven by Miguel Hernandez, 40, of Bell, California. He was not injured and his vehicle received \$5,000 damage to the front driver side corner. Langford received possible injuries (complaint of pain). Her vehicle received \$10,000 damage, was considered totaled and was disabled. She was transported to her home by a sheriff's deputy, and an officer arranged for her vehicle to be towed.

June 27, 8:06 p.m.: Adrian Magana, 31, of Denison, was arrested on a warrant on an order for probation violation.

June 28, 3 p.m.: The Crawford County Sheriff's Office transported a subject to the Harrison County line. The Denison Police Department had picked up Lexi Dorhout on a Harrison County warrant. Custody of the subject was exchanged in Dunlap.

June 28, 3:15 a.m.: The Crawford County Ambulance and the Dow City-Arion Ambulance were paged for a medical incident at a residence on Myrtle Street, Dow City.

June 28, 8:34 p.m.: The Crawford County Sheriff's Office picked up a prisoner from Monona County who was wanted on a Crawford County warrant.

June 28, 10:15 p.m.: Joseph Michael Bainbridge, 40, turned himself in on a Crawford County warrant.

June 28, 10:24 p.m.: A number of people called in reports about a two-vehicle accident that happened at 2045 Highway 39, Denison. As a result of the investigation, Diana Negrete was arrested for OWI-1st offense and failure to maintain control.

Public safety officials remind residents to have a safe July 4th

PRESS RELEASE

With the arrival of summer and the 4th of July holiday just around the corner, the Denison Police Department and Denison Fire Department would like to take this opportunity to remind everyone to have a safe and enjoyable holiday.

With the increase in travel and traffic, we remind everyone to drive the speed limit, wear safety belts and drive defensively. Please do not drink and drive and do consider the use of a designated driver.

Finally, we want to make sure everyone is aware of our fireworks ordinance. Although it is lawful to purchase fireworks in the City of Denison, the use of consumer fireworks is prohibited.

The owner or person in control of a property is subject to a fine (\$250, 1st offense) if they allow fireworks to be used on their property.

If you have any questions regarding the use of fireworks, you may contact city hall, the fire department or the police department for clarification.

Tony Trejo, Chief of Police
Cory Snowgren, Fire Chief

A copy of the fireworks ordinance may be found on the City of Denison website, www.denisonia.com. The fireworks chapter and section is 40.15 or simply type in the word "fireworks" in the search menu.

Behrendt and Reimers begin duties at ISU Extension and Outreach Office

Two new and friendly faces are at the Crawford County Extension office.

Dunlap native Nicole Behrendt began her work as the Crawford County Youth Coordinator on June 1. As County Youth Coordinator, Behrendt will have the responsibility for delivery of youth development information and 4-H programs in Crawford County. Her focus will be to support the volunteer leaders and youth involved in the Crawford County 4-H Program.

Behrendt comes to the position with a strong background in agriculture and 4-H. She is a 2023 graduate of Iowa State University where she earned a bachelor's degree in Agricultural Communication.

"I bring lots of knowledge about the 4-H program as a 10 year 4-H member here in Crawford County. I believe I

can bring personal experiences and motivation for Crawford County youth," said Behrendt.

The Extension office also welcomed Cassie Reimers as the County Youth Outreach Coordinator. She began her work on June 5. Her work will support the operation of both the office and the 4-H program.

Reimers brings an education background and strong desire to build on the many programs and activities that Crawford County Extension is already known for.

People are invited to stop by the Crawford County Extension Office at 35 South Main Street in Denison and welcome Behrendt and Reimers to their new positions and to contact them with any questions, as well as any suggestions for new programs the Extension Council should consider.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

As County Youth Outreach Coordinator. Cassie Reimers will support the operation of both the office and the 4-H program. Submitted photo



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Nicole Behendt, the new Crawford County Youth Coordinator, is from Dunlap.



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Cronk's Restaurant will be reborn like the Phoenix



PHOTO BY LORENA LÓPEZ ALTAMIRANO

The new owner of Cronk's Restaurant, Ramon Patiño, plans to open to the public in July.

BY LORENA LÓPEZ ALTAMIRANO

Ramon Patiño, the owner of the historic Cronk's Restaurant in Denison, said the business would soon be open to the general public.

"We are putting the final interior touches on the restaurant for the grand opening I have planned for next month, if we don't find any other surprises," he said.

Patiño said that after he bought the restaurant, his initial plans were to make the necessary repairs to be open as soon

as possible.

"But every time we fix something, something else needs to be fixed, replaced or rebuilt," he said.

Patiño has installed new flooring, electrical and lighting systems, air conditioning and refrigeration. In addition, the restaurant has been painted and the ceiling has been replaced.

"Now we realize that we must repair some parts of the roof because, with the recent rain, many pieces (of the ceiling)

were damaged," he said.

Patiño said the expense to redo the parking lot has been "manageable" but that it was necessary because of the poor condition of the existing surface.

"We are renovating not only the concrete part of the parking lot, which includes the dividing lines of the cars as well as the lighting of the parking lot, but we are also building a second retaining wall on the north side of the parking lot since the previous one was

about to collapse," he said

Patiño explained that when he bought the restaurant, he was clear about the expenses and repairs that he had to carry out, "but the truth is that more and more things are coming up. That's why I haven't opened, and I apologize to the public, and at the same time I guarantee that the wait will be worth it because Cronk's will be reborn like the Phoenix."

Patiño said that the specialty on the menu will be meat.

"Especially the steak and the prime rib. We will also combine the menu with dishes from Mexican cuisine, and on Sundays, we will offer an exquisite brunch-style breakfast with the best of American and Mexican food."

Patiño invites all people interested to apply for positions ranging from general manager, chefs or cooks, and servers.

"I always tell applicants that if they like what they do, they'll have a job as long as they want, but if they don't like the functions they're going to perform at my business, they're wasting their time. Because what interests me is an employee who enjoys their work so that they can offer excellent customer service, which is my first principle as a businessman," Patiño said.

Cronk's Restaurant is steeped in its history, dating back to the historic Lincoln Highway (now Highway 30). It has been where many politicians from all parties have visited, not only to eat but also to campaign.

Cronk's was also a stop for Hollywood actress and Denison native Donna Reed when she returned to her hometown to visit.

Cronk's was founded by L.J. Cronk in 1929.



PHOTO BY LORENA LÓPEZ ALTAMIRANO

Patiño shows the new wooden floor in one of the restaurant's rooms.



PHOTO BY LORENA LÓPEZ ALTAMIRANO

The parking lot and retaining wall are undergoing total reconstruction.

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Tea, anyone? The Mad Hatter is hosting
 Norelius Community Library in Denison hosted the Mad Hatter's Knight & Princess Tea Party on Friday for people ages 12 and older. Thirty guests showed up for tea and goodies, a trivia session, a scavenger hunt and card games.

PHOTOS BY GORDON WOLF



From left Summer Lamak, library page; Katie Guthrie, youth services coordinator; and Michelle Hoffman, programming librarian, show the proper etiquette for drinking tea. Guthrie is dressed as the Mad Hatter, of course, and Hoffman is dressed as Alice.



Cathy Frederickson made the centerpieces, which were given away as door prizes.



A colorful array of goodies was featured at the tea. Michelle Hoffman made the cupcakes and tarts. Sandy Velasquez, a member of the library board, created the sugar cookies served at the tea, and Summer Lamak and her mother made cucumber sandwiches.



The Queen of Hearts was Cathy Frederickson, of Charter Oak, and the Cheshire Cat pictured is Desary Tracy, of Denison. Fredrickson said she found the oversized cards for her collar at a secondhand store. She hot glued them together and tied them with a ribbon. Tracy applied her own makeup and found the clothes in her closet.



Teams for the scavenger hunt were divided according to the suits of the giant cards that served as their placemats. Regular-sized cards were used for the card games, of course.

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Kohlenberg: rural/urban divide is the same in Germany

JOURNALIST, FROM PAGE 1

currently live in Berlin.

Kohlenberg returned to Denison on other occasions to write about immigration, the sale of Smithfield to a Chinese company, and the 2020 caucuses.

She sees the same dynamics here that she sees playing out in Germany.

"There is a rural identity versus a big-city identity - and the fear of being pushed to the side and maybe over the edge," Kohlenberg said.

"More and more you see that to make a political point you have to play one side against the other. That seems to be the dynamic of creating the motivation

to vote; it is us versus them, all the time." Kohlenberg believes social media is part of the reason.

"People don't talk to you as a person anymore, and don't see who you are," she said. "They only see what you represent." Conversations quickly devolve into yelling and cause hurt that drives people apart.

Germany also has a divide between the rural areas and "liberal big city values," Kohlenberg said.

People engage in zero-sum thinking that makes them believe "if they get this, we lose out on that," she said.

"It's never together - it's always against each other."

Kohlenberg said a current discussion about reducing traffic in Berlin has resulted in fears among rural and suburban residents that owning a car is being discouraged.

"Nobody takes your car away if you

live in an area where there is no public transportation," she said.

"These issues become so loud that they overshadow everything else, and talking to each other becomes difficult."

Kohlenberg said she has always been drawn to the United States.

"I did a lot of stories in the U.S. and always liked it," she said.

"Two years ago we moved back to Berlin and somehow I can't really let go of this bear - America."

Kohlenberg finds a microcosm of the world when she arrives in Denison, which is why she keeps coming back.

"There is a lot of basically global politics playing out in Denison," she said.

In a previous visit, she felt rushed and forced to gather information and write quickly.

She is here for a week this time and feels a little more relaxed.

"I actually have a little bit more time," Kohlenberg said. "It's interesting how much I know about the city, already."

When someone asked her if she knew anything about construction in the area, she was able to respond that she had been to the shooting range with Ten Point Construction owner KR Buck.

"One of the things that I find interesting here is that I know more about rural life in America than I know about rural life in Germany," she said.

The rolling fields around Denison remind Kohlenberg of her area of Germany.

"It is very soothing, somehow, and I like it," Kohlenberg said. "I actually felt, 'why do I live in a big city?' when I drove down here. Isn't it nicer to live in a small town? I think those are two feelings everybody has at some point in their lives."

Rasmussen enters race for sheriff



PHOTO BY DAN MUNDT

Roger Rasmussen, Crawford County Sheriff's Office chief deputy, is seeking the Republican nomination for Crawford County Sheriff.
BY DAN MUNDT

Roger Rasmussen said he has always had the goal of running for Crawford County Sheriff.

"I was born and raised in Crawford County," Rasmussen said. "I love it here."

He entered the race two weeks ago as a candidate for the Republican nomination.

Rasmussen has been with the Crawford County Sheriff's Office for 19 years and has been the chief deputy for five.

His law enforcement career began in 1995 when he joined the Pottawattamie County Sheriff's Office as a reserve deputy.

In 1999, he became a police officer in Shenandoah.

He returned to Crawford County in 2004 to take an opening in the sheriff's office under Sheriff Tom Hogan.

"When I was younger, I really never thought about law enforcement," Rasmussen said.

One of his friends was the son of former Manilla Police Chief Bob Titus, which led to Rasmussen taking rides in his police car.

"Ever since then, I felt that was my calling; I wanted to help people," Rasmussen said. "I wanted to see if I could make a difference in the lives of citizens wherever I worked at that time."

Since 2006 he has worked part-time as a police officer for the city of Manilla.

He has a 2012 bachelor's degree in criminal justice administration through Bellevue University in Bellevue, Nebraska.

He and his wife, Heather, who is

the chief quality and ancillary services officer at Crawford County Memorial Hospital, live in Manilla.

Their son, Zach, is a paramedic and is the emergency services coordinator at Iowa Western Community College.

A good relationship with the community is the basis of Rasmussen's philosophy of law enforcement.

"I want the citizens to trust us," Rasmussen said. "I want them to feel like it's OK to come to us with whatever problem they have. We may not be able to solve them all, unfortunately, but I want them to feel that if they need help they can call and we'll be there for them."

Mental health is a concern that needs to be addressed going forward in Crawford County, he said.

The drug problem is a primary issue for law enforcement in the county, but he noted that it is an issue just about everywhere.

The sheriff's office needs the help of residents to effectively deal with such issues in the county, he said.

"We're a small office of 11, and we do 12-hour shifts," Rasmussen said. "There are usually just two or three of us on at a time, so we rely on the input from citizens to help solve any crime

that they see. Without help from the community, some crimes may not get solved."

Rasmussen would like to start a school resource officer program in which a deputy would serve all the schools in the county on a rotating basis.

One focus for Rasmussen as sheriff would be outreach to the various ethnic communities in Crawford County.

"I want everyone to feel comfortable talking to us, and reach out to us if they have any problems," Rasmussen said.

Community events are a good place for members of the sheriff's office to connect with all the residents of the county, he said.

"We're a small enough county that the citizens pretty much know everybody that's on the sheriff's office already, so that's an advantage," Rasmussen said.

He has ideas for other programs that he plans to talk about as his campaign continues.

Rasmussen said he wants to take his years of experience in law enforcement, and his experience in Crawford County, to the role of sheriff.

"It's a great opportunity to continue leading the sheriff's office forward," he said.

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Yovan Cárdenas launches candidacy for Crawford County Sheriff



LA PRENSA IOWA PHOTO ARCHIVE

BY LORENA LÓPEZ ALTAMIRANO

Denison Police Officer Yovan Cárdenas has officially launched his candidacy to run for Crawford County

Sheriff in next year's race.

The current sheriff, Jim Steinkuehler, is retiring.

Cárdenas will be running against current Deputy Sheriff Roger Rasmussen in the Republican primary.

Cardenas said that if he wins the election, his primary mission would be "Serve with responsibility, integrity, and professionalism to meet the community's needs in any capacity necessary."

Cárdenas added, "I'm running as a Republican because the party's conservative values are very similar to mine. I am a man of faith. God is the cornerstone of my life and my family."

Cardenas is a Denison High School graduate and graduated from Iowa State University, where he earned a Bachelor of Arts in sociology. He currently is a sergeant with the Denison Police Department and is a lieutenant in the Iowa National Guard.

Cardenas is married to Cassidy, and together they have two children.

Kiwanis Club lottery drawing

The Denison; Kiwanis Club conducted a lottery drawing on June 28. The following winners each receive \$25.

Crawford County Bank, Denison; Robert H. Whiting Jr., Brandon, South Dakota; Kathi Gustafson, Denison; Cassandra Bradley, Denison;

Bryan Phillips Onawa; Ten Point Construction, Denison; Trevis Beeck, State Farm Insurance, Denison; Julie Schmidt, Denison; Janet Iversen, Vail; Denison Drywall, Denison; Darel Bernholtz, Denison; Jeremy Brown, Carroll; Donald Groth, Denison; Cobblestone - Oak Ridge, Denison; Sandy Ploeger West Des Moines; Mike Goodin, Schleswig; Lori Wight, Denison; Gavin Schmadeke, Denison



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Major grant awarded for replacement of bridge on Donna Reed Road

Project will likely begin in 2025

BY DAN MUNDT

The U.S. Department of Transportation on June 22 announced grants totaling \$24,760,000 to replace deteriorating bridges in nine Iowa counties.

Crawford County received \$2,480,000 for the replacement of the bridge over the Union Pacific Railroad tracks on Donna Reed Road just south of Highway 30.

The City of Denison and Crawford County have entered into an agreement to share responsibility for replacing the bridge, which has been deteriorating in recent years.

"It's still safe to travel on, but it has been load restricted," said Crawford County Engineer Paul Assman.

The bridge was built in 1935; a major rehabilitation project, which included widening the bridge and adding a new deck, took place in 1994.

Although the bridge is within Denison city limits, Assman said the county is participating because it is on a farm-to-market road that is the responsibility of the county.

"It's a farm-to-market extension and we feel it's important that we work together on it," he said.

The federal grants for the project are Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and

Equity (RAISE) discretionary grants funded by the federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act that was passed in 2021.

Clay, Lucas, Lee, Pottawattamie, Wright, Page, Henry, and Mitchell counties also received RAISE grants for bridge projects.

Assman, who led the grant application effort, said a combination of local issues helped make for a successful grant application.

"The Denison community is in a historically disadvantaged census tract, which helped, I believe, with sustainability and equity, and the fact that the bridge is a collaborative entity between the city and the county probably also helped," he said.

The different modes of involved transportation (highway, rail, agriculture) were also key elements.

"I think that all helped in our application," Assman said. "I think our project was what they were looking for."

The project is also eligible for \$500,000 in city bridge money from the state.

"Cities apply for that on an annual basis; the city will be eligible to receive those dollars to supplement the federal grant dollars that will be



PHOTO BY DAN MUNDT

This bridge, which passes over the Union Pacific Railroad tracks just south of Highway 30 on Donna Reed Road, will be replaced with the help of a major federal grant received last week.

coming," he said. "The total dollars that will be coming to this project for construction are \$2,980,000."

He estimated the total construction cost will be about \$3,100,000.

The city and the county will split the costs not covered by federal and state funds.

"It's a complicated project," Assman said. "There are a lot of other things that have to be done to move it along."

Assman expects a year or two

will be needed to develop the bridge replacement project.

"We've been working on that already in hopes that the grant was going to come through," he said. "We'll continue working with the consultant and the Union Pacific Railroad to put together the design, develop the project, and get it ready for a letting."

He hopes to have the bridge project underway in the 2025 construction season.



PHOTO BY DAN MUNDT

The bridge was built in 1935 and has been deteriorating in recent years. The replacement project is a cooperative effort between the City of Denison and Crawford County.

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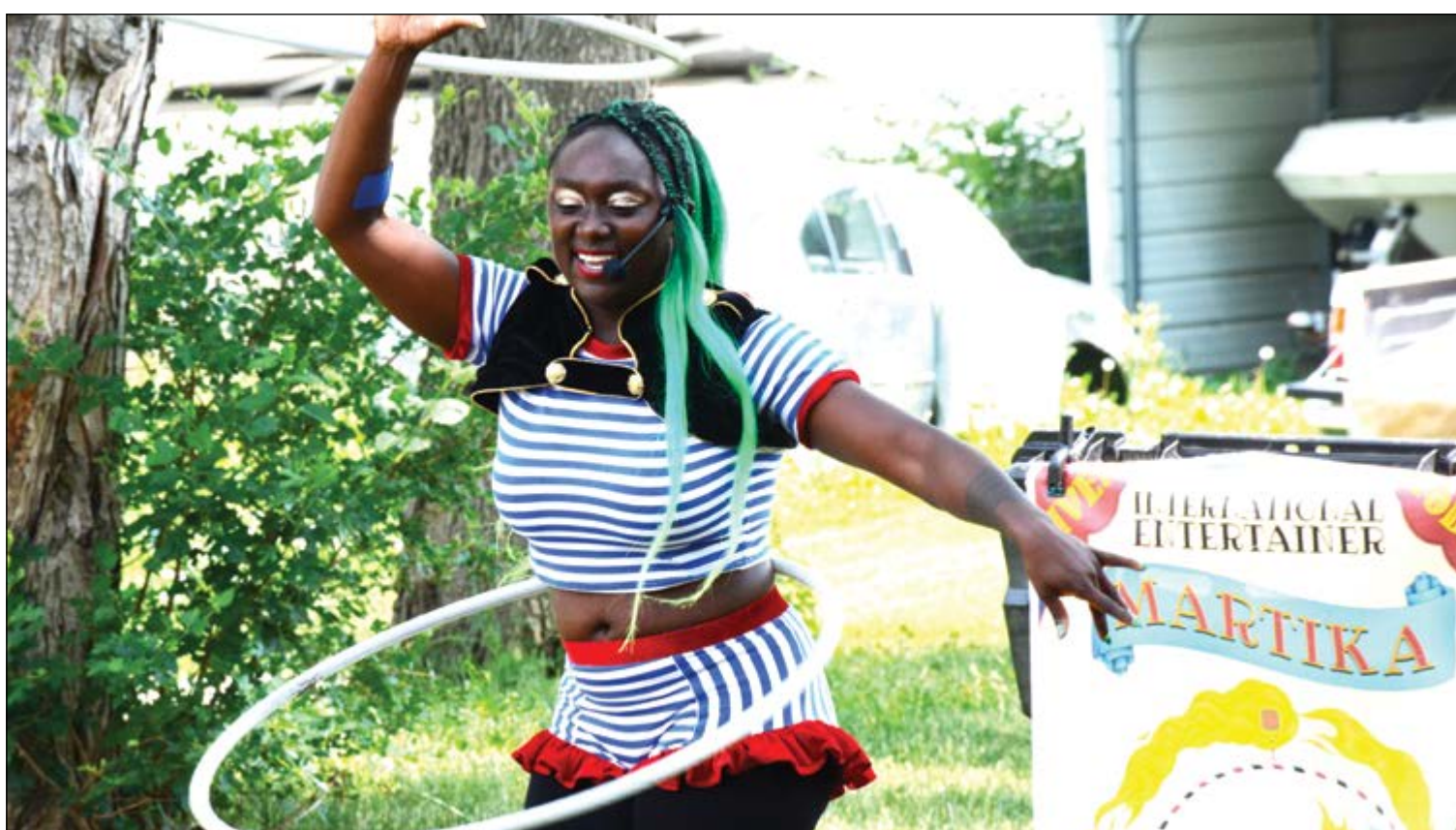
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Daniels brings variety show to library

Martika Daniels brought her circus variety show to the lawn at Norelius Community Library on Thursday, June 22. She is pictured performing with hula hoops and encouraging youth to perform with flags. Daniels is also a sword-swallower, fire-eater and an escape artist. She has been a professional entertainer since 2009, and has performed in the past at Norelius Community Library.

PHOTOS BY GORDON WOLF



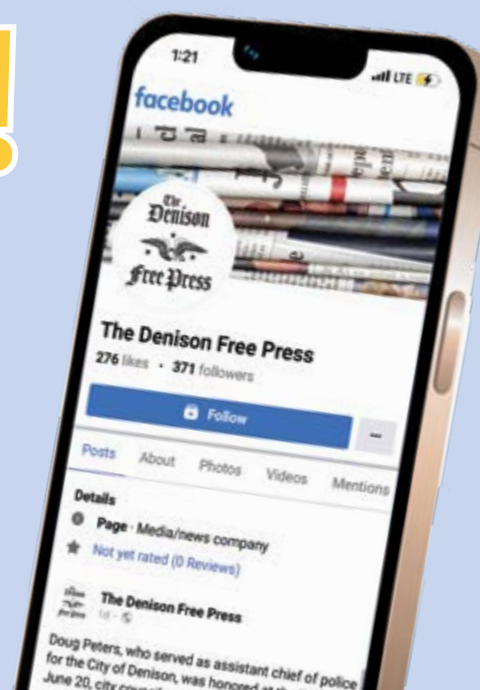
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Immigrant Heritage Festival brings cultures together

PHOTOS BY GORDON WOLF



Alma Puga with League of United Latin American Citizens – Denison 381 captures performances of the Immigrant Heritage Festival on her phone. LULAC sponsored the festival that took place on Saturday at Washington Park in Denison.



The Boyer River Band, based in Denison, was the final act to perform on Saturday.



This young fellow puts all his effort into hitting a piñata.



Youngsters dash for candy after a piñata is broken open.

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A group of dancers representing the culture of El Salvador makes the turn from Main Street to Broadway during the Immigrant Heritage Festival parade.



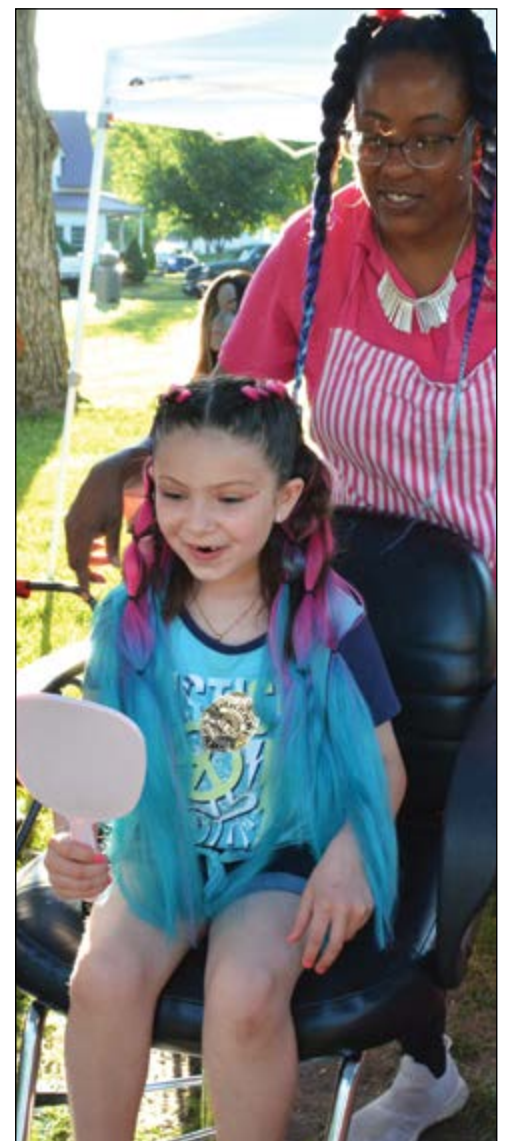
Joe Fuchs with Omaha Pipes and Drums dressed the part to play the bagpipe.



Performers from Gurkulam Center for Indian Arts fascinated the audience with their dance and their colorful costumes.



Shaved ice provided a tasty treat at the festival. Pictured are Vielman Zuniga, Ashley Villa, Jose Villa and Johan Zuniga, all from Denison.



Sirina Neys, from Harlan, patiently waits for Rashun Peterson with Braids Galore, of Denison, to add to her hair style. The second picture shows Sirina's reaction.



JP Montano points the microphone toward the crowd for some audience participation during a song.



A performer from the African Culture Connection, of Omaha, twirls his robe around his neck during a dance.

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