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### FEBRUARY

(continued from page 1) 5 Maximum Property Tax Dollars for Affected Tax Levies for Fiscal Year 2023.

#### RAGBRAI planning underway

Riders won't descend on Ida Grove for a few months yet, but organizers are working on the planning details for RAGBRAI's overnight stop in Ida Grove. RAGBRAI Director Matt Phippen and Marketing Director Anne Lawrie met with Ida Grove executive and advisory committee members Feb. 7 to discuss planning essentials. Ida Grove's big night will be Sunday, July 24, its fourth time hosting the big event.

#### Mural project will welcome Ida Grove visitors

Visitors to downtown Ida Grove will be in for a sight in the near future as fundraising moves ahead for a project next to Godbersen Park. With a local designer

for a rough outline already in place, organizers are hoping to soon have the next step in the process.

"We're at the point of looking for an artist," said Heather Bogue, an organizer. Once the details are determined, supporters can figure out cost for fundraising.

"Our goal is to have it done by RAGBRAI," said Bogue.

#### Holstein Auxiliary names two to Girls State

Exposure to the ins and outs of the American political process will be in store for two local youths. The Holstein American Legion Auxiliary Unit #225 has announced two girls have been chosen for Iowa Girls State at Drake University. Kiara Dutler and Grace Venteicher are this year's honorees.

#### OABCIG, Ridge View earn WVC Championships

The OABCIG boys bas-

ketball team captured the Western Valley Conference tournament championship. The Falcons did so in dramatic fashion, as Griffin Diersen knocked down a three-pointer just before the final buzzer to give OABCIG a 46-43 victory over Kingsley-Pierson. With the win, the Falcons avenged a season-opening loss to the Panthers.

The Ridge View girls basketball squad took home the Western Valley Conference tournament championship title, defeating Westwood 47-45. The Raptors led by nine points after three quarters, then withstood a Westwood rally in the fourth quarter to claim a two-point win and the conference title. Ridge View was led by Madison Stowater with 14 points, and Emma Vohs with 13 points and 10 rebounds. With the victory, the Raptors avenged an earlier loss to the Rebels.

### MARCH

#### Welding business has opened in Ida Grove

After years of working full-time in welding for others, Josh Johnson is offering welding services on his own.

"I just started a week ago," said Johnson. A full-time employee of the CN Railroad, Johnson is working part time with his new business venture. The business, Johnson's Welding, is being run out of his shop right now, but Johnson has hopes for down the road. If business is good, Johnson wants to acquire a mobile welder and a truck to service welding needs of customers across the area.

#### Ida Grove mayor seeking supervisor seat

Devlun Whiteing, of Ida Grove, has taken out papers for the Ida County Board of Supervisors race. The Ida Grove mayor is a resident of District 3, which with re-districting includes the City of Ida Grove, all of Corwin Township and part of Grant Township with its sections one to six with electors north of 290th Street. Supervisor Rhett Leonard has announced he will not seek re-election.

#### Battle Creek will see RAGBRAI!



Photo by Jenny Seuntjens • Ida County Courier

City Hall getting demolished.



Photo by Brent Harm • Ida County Courier

Community Hall demolished.

With the details of RAGBRAI XLIX details being finalized, the route is shaping up as Battle Creek is joining the list of towns that will see RAGBRAI. RAGBRAI kicks off July 23 with Sergeant Bluff and then heads to Ida Grove before moving to Pocahontas, then to Emmetsburg, on to Mason City, heading to

Charles City, next to West Union and ending in Lansing.

As RAGBRAI works through Ida County, Ida Grove will not be alone in joining the fun. "Yes, we will be a pass through town," said Diane Lansink, city clerk for Battle Creek.

#### Ida Grove City Hall, Community Hall demolished

The Ida Grove City Hall and Community Hall were demolished last week, as well as the adjacent Ivers-en Radio and TV building. The city hall, which was built in 1906, will be replaced with a smaller building in the same location. The new building will contain offices and council chambers, but no event center. It will most likely be a one-story building. The Ida Grove City Council has been operating in a temporary office located at the Rec Center since February of 2021. The Council had discussed renovating the old City Hall, but bids for the project came in too high over budget, so the Council made the decision to demolish.

#### Lansink retiring from Army after 22 years of service

Mickey Lansink, who grew up on a farm near Battle Creek, is retiring from the Army after 22 years of service and six overseas deployments. Lansink, who graduated with the BC-IG Class of 2001 and will be 39 years old on St. Patrick's Day, had achieved the rank of Chief Warrant Officer Three in the Army. He celebrated his retirement by flying a military helicopter (continued on page 3)

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