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WALKER TO CHAIR 2023 SUPERVISORS

By CALEB NELSON
Adair County Free Press

Jerry Walker of Bridgewater was elected chairman of the 2023 Adair County Board of Supervisors during their organizational meeting Monday, Jan. 2 at the courthouse.

The supervisors named John Twombly of Greenfield vice chair for this calendar year. Walker was vice chair in 2022.



Nathan Baier of rural Orient joined the board for his first meeting, after being elected in November to represent District 4SE.

Goals for Walker in the new year are for the supervisors to oversee

another successful budget season.

"I think last year went really well. This year we'll hopefully get the budget figured out in the first two or three weeks of the year. Hopefully we can get everybody a decent raise after we find out what's coming in. We've got two bridges that are out right now and it will be good to see them get started on those," Walker said. The bridges he referred to are in Washington and Richland townships.

"I like how we all work together," Walker said. "Other than that, it's just going to be a new experience for me [to lead the board]."

The board appointed themselves to various boards for the upcoming year. Committee appointments included:

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Fatal house fire Sunday in Casey

Firefighters pulled a deceased male from a burning home at 103 W 3rd Street in Casey approximately 7:20 a.m. Sunday, Jan. 1.

First units on scene witnessed heavy smoke coming from the home. Firefighters breached the front door, where they found flames on the back kitchen wall and up into the attic.

"There was heavy smoke. We

determined there was a deceased 63-year-old male, and we were able to get him out," said Casey Fire Chief Travis Corder midday Monday. KJAN Radio later identified the man as Roger Draman. "We extinguished the fire, had the State Fire Marshal come in, and the cause was ruled undetermined but non-suspicious. We're waiting on a call back

from the State Medical Examiner."

Firefighters cleared the scene sometime early afternoon, Corder said. Casey Fire Department was assisted by Adair Fire and Rescue and the Guthrie County Sheriff's Office.

"It's always good to have teamwork. In a small community with a house fire, teamwork is key," Corder said.

Accident near Adair claims life of Atlantic man

According to an Iowa State Patrol accident report, at approximately 9:19 a.m. Thursday Dec. 29, a 2018 Chevrolet Cruz collided head-on with a 2003 Peterbilt semi in Adair County, leaving the driver of the Cruz with fatal injuries.

The Cruz, driven by Adam Skog, 36, of Atlantic was northbound on the 1100 block of White Pole Road near

the Jesse James Historical Monument southwest of Adair, when, for unknown reasons, crossed the centerline and hit the southbound semi, driven by Cody Hughes, 20, of Scranton, head-on.

According to the report, Skog was not wearing a seatbelt and died at the scene. The accident is still being investigated by Iowa State Patrol.



■ A man's secret to losing over 100 pounds and keeping it off

By CALEB NELSON
Adair County Free Press

If your primary New Year's resolution is to shed some pounds in 2023, Nate Maiers believes that you can do it. He did last year, and he feels much better now that he has.

While it wasn't a New Year's resolution, Maiers knew that ridding his 5-foot-11 frame of a few pounds would probably be a good thing.

"It was something I had been telling

MAIERS
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Greenfield
Fareway
assistant
manager Nate
Maiers holds one
of the workout
shirts he's grown
out of since he lost
over 100 pounds.

ACFP photo by CALEB NELSON

Bridgewater family grateful for support after fire

By CALEB NELSON
Adair County Free Press

Doug Miller of Bridgewater is thankful, as the new year begins, that not every tragedy ends in a sad story.

Miller is very grateful to the area community for the outpouring of support he and his son Hunter, 11, have experienced after the kitchen of his home he was renting caught fire Friday night, Dec. 23.

One of Miller's biggest concerns was Hunter's Christmas gifts, which did not make it through the fire. That's where Miller's niece and sister, Amanda Symms and Deb Gevock, respectively, sprang into action and put a call out on social media for donations to the family.

"To lose Christmas, it was in totes and boxes. They carried the Christmas tree out of the house in flames. It was devastating," Miller said. "I called Hunter the next day, and I told him Christmas



Contributed photo

Doug (right) and Hunter Miller open gifts Christmas morning that were donated after Doug's home caught fire the night of Friday, Dec. 23.

wasn't going to be the same. What I didn't know was that my sister and niece were getting texts from people who wanted to donate."

The Millers were able to have their Christmas at Gevock's home in Fontanelle. It was there that Miller learned the magnitude of what had been given in his family's time

of need.

"I'm not talking small toys. I'm talking complete LEGO sets, a Hot Wheels track...very, very nice toys," Miller said. "What amazed me was a slot cars track I had bought Hunter, somebody replaced it, not knowing that was a gift I had gotten Hunter. For him to unwrap some of those things was truly

overwhelming."

Miller said the carrier of his rental insurance will determine dollar amounts of loss soon, however he knows whatever was in the kitchen was ruined. Heavy smoke damage has likely impacted the rest of the home's contents. He's currently looking for a place to relocate to in the area. Miller is a registered

nurse, however he hasn't been able to work for the last two years because he is awaiting hip-replacement surgery. The electric scooter he uses was also destroyed.

He said that he had just sat down after being in the kitchen, and Hunter was not home. It was then that he heard a glass-shattering pop. When he turned around, billowing black smoke was coming from the kitchen. He was able to evacuate with his coat and the keys to his pickup. Emergency personnel were on scene in a very quick manner, including firefighters from Bridgewater and Fontanelle, and others.

"I like doing things for the community but it is humbling, to say the least, to accept so much gratitude from other people," said Miller, who is a former volunteer firefighter himself and is the organizer of the group "Take Back Bridgewater, Iowa." "I

have never had a time in my life that I've had to, but it is simply overwhelming to have that much gratitude [shown to you] from the community. We're blessed beyond imagination on the support we've gotten from the community since the fire."

There is a GoFundMe page for the Miller family. It can be found by searching "Miller fire Bridgewater" on most search engines.

WEATHER

WEATHER REPORT

	Max.	Min.	Precip.
Tues.	32	30	
Wed.	51	31	
Thurs.	40	23	
Fri.	44	29	
Sat.	44	31	
Sun.	40	31	
Mon.	40	29	1.31

