



GALLAGHER EARNS HONOR PAGE 1B

Dyersville Commercial

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Mike Putz • Staff Photo

Dog gone cold

Clarabelle sits on the back of the Mausser Auto float with Meg Krapfl, left, and Carrie Krapfl, right, during the New Vienna Farmer's Day Parade. See page 16A for additional photos.

FEMA grant will facilitate flood study

Could improve city's odds at federal dollars

BY DYLAN KURT
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The last several weeks have brought some strange weather, to say the least.

Within that timeframe, the City of Dyersville has declared two snow emergencies and also experienced a flood significant enough to impact traffic.

On Feb. 27, nearly two-and-a-half inches of rain fell in the area, swelling the North Fork of the Maquoketa River out of its banks and over the road, forcing the Dyersville Police Department to close off three areas to traffic.

"Fire, EMS and public

works all did a great job shutting down the area," Police Chief Brent Schroeder said in his report. "For several people, it was their first experience with a flood, and all handled the situation great."

Luckily, roads were opened again by 7 p.m., and the flood waters caused minimal damage. But in Dyersville, this wouldn't always have been the case.

"Events like this historically were catastrophic for the homes that used to exist in the flood-buyout areas now a part of Westside Park, but they are now more of a nuisance, though an expensive nuisance," Public Works Director John Wandsnider said. "Most of the clean-up has been done by city crews, but some of it has, and will, require special equipment."

A stretch of the ditch on 3rd

Street SW near Westside Park accumulated enough sand that it was referred to as "Dyersville's new beach," but city crews will be able to remove it. However, the large deposits of sand in the North Fork won't be as easy to clean and will require a contractor to disperse.

While floods are never a welcomed occurrence, the most recent was an opportunity to see how the new oxbows and other flood mitigation features constructed as part of the Bear Creek project would hold up.

City Administrator Mick Michel said Impact 7G has already done an analysis and has posted its findings on social media.

"Our monitoring camera along Bear Creek captured the restoration project behaving precisely as designed; stormwater spilled beyond

the creek's banks and into the enhanced floodplain, providing flood storage and essential ecosystem services," a 7G Facebook post states.

But even to the casual observer, Michel said the differences in damages to the Bear Creek area versus the North Fork are clear.

"You see a lot of sediment and debris in the North Fork, but in Bear Creek, you really don't see as much," Michel said.

The city's long-term goal is to replicate a Bear Creek-style project on the banks of the North Fork, but cost is a major factor.

However, thanks to a grant the city received nearly two years ago that it is now finally able to utilize, the city could potentially find more funding.

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Epworth students compete in Special Olympics

Spring Classic offers chance to shine and show off basketball skills

BY ERIN LABELLE
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Three Epworth Elementary students are Special Olympics champions following the Spring Classic in Coralville, March 11.

Sisters Piper Gauley and Mila Gauley, of Epworth, and Ray Welter, of Holy Cross, trained last fall with special education teacher Jen Fuller and paraprofessional Lindsey Demmer in preparation for the recent basketball skills event at the GreenState Family Fieldhouse.

The group learned to dribble, shoot and throw the ball at targets, leading them to qualify for the state competition at the regionals held in Eldridge earlier this year.



Erin LaBelle • Staff Photos

Piper Gauley, 10, of Epworth, poses with her Special Olympics Basketball Skills medal earned at the Spring Classic in Coralville. Despite being in a different group than her sister, which she feels affected her confidence, Gauley persevered and enjoyed the experience.

Fuller, who refers to herself as a life skills teacher, practiced with her students once each week during their adaptive

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Mila Gauley, 8, of Epworth, holds the medal she won during the Special Olympics Spring Classic Basketball Skills competition in Coralville.



Ray Welter, 8, of Holy Cross, shows off his Special Olympics Basketball Skills medal he won at the Spring Classic in Coralville, March 11.

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