

Ackley World Journal

VOL. 129 | WEEK 31 | \$1.50



Prepare for Park Fest fun

BECKY SCHIPPER
EDITOR

Prepare for fun, food, and adventure during Park Fest 2023. The event is scheduled to take place beginning Friday, Aug. 11 and continuing through Sunday, Aug. 13 at Prairie Bridges Park. Some events require prior registration. Registration can be made online at: <https://www.prairiebridgesparkfest.com/copy-of-event-registration>.

Friday, Aug. 11:

The fun begins at 5 p.m. with the opening of the food stand in the Back Forty. The beer garden will also open at 5 p.m. and at 6 p.m. the funnel cake stand will open. At 6:30 p.m. be on hand for the opening of Sky Kone ice cream.

At 8:30 p.m. Glow Volleyball will start at the sand volleyball court. Register online in advance to take part. Cost is \$5 per player and funds can be paid the night of the event. A minimum of six team members is required.

On stage Friday evening is The Jason Kincel Band (country) performing from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m.

Saturday, Aug. 12:

The fun begins at 8 a.m. with breakfast served in the Back Forty shelter. The meal by freewill donation and is cooked up by Chuy Flores and friends. You'll have to eat quickly to make it to the Kid's Fishing Derby at the ponds in the north segment. Fishing begins promptly at 8:30 a.m. No pre-registration is required. At 10 a.m. construction of the cardboard boats is set to begin near the fenced area by the stage. Construction materials are provided by the park. Participants have just one hour to construct a boat to enter in the cardboard boat race which will be held on the north side of the park at the beach beginning at 11:30 a.m.

At 11 a.m. Sky Kone will open for the day, along with the beverage garden and food stand. Fun for the kiddos begins with a robotics demonstration at the stage in the Back Forty.

Also at 11 a.m. Money in the Straw (ages 6 to 12) takes place, as does the Kid's Treasure Dig (ages 0 to 5). Both events will be held behind the food stand. The fun continues with a Gaga Pit tournament at the pit in the Back Forty at 12:30 p.m. The tournament is for individuals as well as teams.

Sand volleyball will get underway at 1 p.m. Register online before Aug. 12 to take part. The cost is \$5 per player. For those who aren't quite ready for volleyball, the horseshoe tournament is scheduled to begin at 1 p.m. as well.

Also beginning at 1 p.m. is the Park Fest Mini Cruise which will start at the beverage garden. Cars, trucks, UTV's and anything with wheels that is street legal can take part.

All that fun will require sustenance, which can be achieved by taking part in the Washington Reformed Church Slice of Pie sales starting at 2 p.m. behind the stage. These slices go fast, so get there quickly!

Also, at 2 p.m., the Kids Scavenger Hunt begins. Those participating should gather at the stage for the start of a good time. Beginning at 3:30 p.m., be sure to be on hand for the annual duck races. This event will begin at the Bradford Bridge. Entry fee is \$10. Ducks will be sold beginning Aug. 11 in the beer garden and winners need not be present to win.

A lip sync battle begins at 4 p.m. on stage. Register online at the above address before Aug. 11 to take part. Costumes and props are encouraged, and performances should be done in good taste, remember that children will be present. There is no cost to take part, pre-registration is only required so that songs can be ready for participants.

What celebration is complete without funnel cake? The stand will be in place near the ticket booth and opens at 4 p.m.

At dusk, be on hand for a wonderous fireworks display.

On stage on Saturday evening is 3rd Offense (rock) beginning at 5 p.m., followed by Tyler Richton and The High Bank Boys at 9 p.m. and continuing to 1 a.m.

Sunday, Aug. 13

The fun once again begins with breakfast pizza served up by The Funky Pepperoni. Serving takes place from 8 to 11 a.m.

At 11 a.m. the food stand and beverage garden will open, as well as Sky Kone ice cream. A DJ will be providing music for all to enjoy.

The festivities will end with a bags tournament beginning at 1 p.m. Sign up with Terry Smith from 11 to 11:45 a.m. in front of the stage to take part. Double elimination is planned. The cost is \$40 per team. No corn or powder filled bags are allowed.

The final event of Park Fest 2023 is Barn Quilt painting at the Back Forty shelter. The event begins at 1 p.m.

To volunteer to help out with any event, please contact Jess Schipper at 319-239-5815. Volunteers are always needed and appreciated. ●



BECKY SCHIPPER/ACKLEY WORLD JOURNAL

Kalvin Scholte is serving as the new pastor at Ackley United Methodist Church. He began his role there on July 1.

Scholte begins role as UM pastor

BECKY SCHIPPER | EDITOR

Serving a congregation as pastor has been a long-time dream of Calvin Scholte. At the age of 67, Calvin fulfilled that calling and is now serving the congregation of Ackley's United Methodist Church.

As a child, Scholte attended St. John's United Church of Christ in Ackley, where his Sunday School teachers frequently told him he would make a great minister. Even with their encouragement, he never pursued it, rather found another 'calling' as an auto mechanic.

"Cars and motors stole my heart," Scholte told. "I had go-karts and a mini bike and I loved working on them beginning at the age of ten."

In 2000, Calvin and his wife, Teresa, began attending the UM church where Pastor Jerry Kramer offered a lay speaker course.

Kalvin took the course, full of desire, knowledge and a commitment to the doctrine, heritage and life of the church, and more importantly ready to serve his church through witnessing to the Christian faith.

One course led to another and another, until Calvin had taken courses on how to pray, how to work with the elderly and those in nursing homes,

how to preach, and so on. Eventually becoming a certified lay speaker through his work, love, and dedication.

"As a lay speaker, you can fill in for pastors on vacation in your own and others' churches, so I began by doing that," Calvin said. He's substituted for over 12 years, keeping up his certification with additional courses.

He's already done two private weddings and several graveside services since becoming a certified lay speaker.

His dedication and ability to reach others through sharing of the gospel as well as the retirement of the previous pastor, David Wagner, provided him with an opportunity to serve the congregation in his current role. He officially began his new role as of July 1.

"Of course, I thought, and prayed, about it before accepting," Calvin said. "And talked to Theresa - it will affect her too. I was nervous - asking myself if I could really do this...it's a huge responsibility."

He met with the church's district supervisor and the church council and then learned that the congregation had said 'yes' to his taking on the role.

His preferred method of providing a sermon to the congregation is to step out from behind the pulpit and being on the same level as those who are attending.

"I come down to the people, I don't stand behind the pulpit,"

Kalvin began. "I find it to be a more personal experience, for both myself and the congregation."

All those years ago, when he'd first considered and been encouraged to enter the ministry, he'd hesitated because he says he doesn't spell or read well. Today, rather than writing out his sermons, he prepares by composing the message in his head and his heart.

He begins by getting an idea, memorizing verses, and relating his thoughts to the gospel and relating the idea to current times.

"It's like a mustard seed - if a mustard seed can grow into a tree, how can your faith not grow?" he asked. "Each one of us is one of God's children and we too can do amazing things!"

As he grows into his new role with the church, Calvin has already begun to implement changes he want for his congregation - he's starting the children's message again, something he feels is extremely important. He also hopes to take part in the ministerial association's writing of devotionals for the newspaper.

Kalvin and Theresa are the parents of six, grandparents of 30, and the great-grandparents of five.

Ackley UM Church holds worship each Sunday at 10 a.m. with fellowship following. ●

Thinking of running for office?

File nomination papers beginning Aug. 28

BECKY SCHIPPER
EDITOR

Local city and school board elections are planned for Tuesday, Nov. 7. Nomination papers for positions on those councils and school boards may be filed beginning Aug. 28 and continuing through 5 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 21.

Local cities - Ackley, Geneva, Steamboat Rock, and Wellsburg, each have members with expiring terms. In Ackley, the terms of Michael Nuss, mayor (two-year term) and those of Mike Abbas and Joe Wessels, council persons (four-year term) will expire.

In Geneva, the terms of the mayor, Todd Olmstead, and all five council members will expire. Currently on the council are Jenn Gleisner-Brown, Todd Pilchard, Larry Kreimeyer, Jessie Viet, and Jim Zacharias.

Steamboat Rock will have three council seats expiring as well as that of mayor. Tim Stearns, Mayor of Steamboat Rock, has notified the community that he will not be seeking re-election to the position that he has filled since January of 2020. Along with Stearns, the terms of three council members will also

expire. Those positions are currently filled by Adam Blackburn, Jon Schurman, and Dave Mull. Both Schurman and Mull were appointed mid-term following vacancies on the Steamboat Rock council.

In Wellsburg, the positions of Mayor (two-year term), currently held by Eric Minter, along with terms (four-years) of JR Kennedy and Lance VanHeiden, will expire.

AGWSR board terms expiring include those of Chris Sailer (at-large), Steve Bartling and Tim Diamond (District 1), and Matt Rose (District 2).

Anyone interested in running for seats on their city council, or on the AGWSR school board may do so if qualified. Qualifications include being an eligible elector in the city or school district at the time of filing and of the election. They must be at least 18 years of age, a resident of Iowa, and may not be convicted felons (unless voting rights have been restored).

In a city election, candidates must complete and submit and Affidavit of Candidacy - which includes their name, office sought, type and date of election and the candidates home address, and signature, with their nomination papers. This affidavit must also be notarized. Ten signatures of eligible electors - individuals living with the city, along with address (including a house number,

street name, and city) are required on the Nomination Petition.

In Ackley, nomination papers must be delivered to the Hardin County Auditor's Office at 1215 Edgington Ave., Suite 1, Eldora, not the Ackley City Hall.

Nomination papers for Geneva candidates may be delivered to the city clerk. Papers should be filed with the Geneva City Clerk at P.O. Box 217, Ackley, IA 50601 or by calling 641-420-3439 to set up a time to turn papers in, or at the September Geneva city council.

For candidates of Steamboat Rock, papers should be filed with the Hardin County Auditor, and in Wellsburg, nomination papers should be filed with the Grundy County Auditor at 706 G. Ave., Grundy Center.

Those seeking positions on the AGWSR School board should return their nomination papers to Deb Barker, Board Secretary.

Copies of candidates guide to city and/or school elections are available online at the Iowa Secretary of State website at www.sos.iowa.gov and clicking on the Elections tab, then on Schools and Cities. A PDF of the State of Iowa Affidavit of Candidacy is also available on the website as is a Nomination Petition.

The first day to file nomination papers is Aug. 28, and the final date to file is Sept. 21. ●

