

## Dodge, duck, dip, dive, and dodge



NEWS CHRONICLE PHOTOS BY JONATHAN MEYER

Members of the winning team, from left to right. Back row: Diego Victor, Cyrus Mathes, Curtis Keahna, Rudy Papakee, and Nolan Upah. Front row: Luis Nunez, Ethan Cruikshank, Eddie Garcia, Drew Mellies, Macael Bear, and Jesus Cervantes.



Jesus Cervantes enthusiastically cheers on teammate Ethan Cruikshank during the tournament.

## STC holds annual dodgeball prom fundraiser

JONATHAN MEYER | CORRESPONDENT

On Tuesday, March 21, the annual Prom Dodgeball Tournament returned to the STC Roundhouse. The event is the biggest fundraiser the Prom Committee puts on, and teams of up to 12 signed up and paid to be a part of the action.

Two months of planning went into making the event a success for everyone. This year marked a new high for participation.

**DODGEBALL | P8**

## Downtown funk

### Toledo council discusses downtown housing prospects

MICHAEL D. DAVIS | CORRESPONDENT

The March 27 Toledo City Council meeting and public hearing saw much talk over making the first floors of downtown properties residential. Turning the ground floors from storefronts into apartments is not a new idea.

Last discussed in 2016, the thought of putting apartments in downtown has two schools of thought. On one hand, property owners made the argument that making their buildings residential would mean more money for the town and giving people opportunities, especially as there haven't been many retail businesses willing to set up shop due to the smaller size of the community and the location.

On the other hand, there are worries about what making these buildings into apartments would mean for parking and loitering in high trafficked areas. Downtown Toledo property owner Will Hiles said that he puts money into his building with nothing coming back. The council decided to have a meeting of the Housing Committee with some downtown Toledo property owners before any decision is made.

Toledo Police Chief Dan Quigley reported that between March 13 and March 26, they received 126 calls for service with 11 arrests. Lieutenant Nathan Wunn

**HOUSING | P3**

## WEEKEND FORECAST:

**Saturday: MOSTLY SUNNY**  
High: 46 / Low: 25

**Sunday: CHANCES OF RAIN**  
High: 57 / Low: 33



INSIDE:  
Weekly Journal.....2  
Your Government.....3  
Opinion.....4  
Church and Obits.....6  
Local News.....8

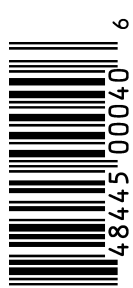
**AREA DEATHS:**  
Carol Jaeggi  
Linda Moore  
Renelle Young Bear

### Contact Us:

Tama-Grundy Publishing  
PO Box 1300  
Marshalltown, IA 50158

For general inquires  
call 641-753-6611

For billing or  
subscriptions  
641-753-6611



Printed with  
Color Soy Ink  
Read and Recycle



NEWS CHRONICLE PHOTOS BY JONATHAN MEYER

The cast and crew of South Tama High School's upcoming production of "You Can't Take It With You."

# The play must go on

## STC Drama to present 'You Can't Take It With You' after scrapping 'August: Osage County'

MICHAEL D. DAVIS and  
JONATHAN MEYER  
CORRESPONDENTS

"The play must go on" is a phrase that has been used over and over since the 19th century, but rarely has it been more applicable than this spring here at South Tama County High School.

The drama department was originally slated to perform "August: Osage County," a Pulitzer Prize winning play written by Tracy Letts in 2007, before the district's administration and school board intervened and Director Dixie Forcht voluntarily agreed to stage a new production in lieu of a formal directive.

"August: Osage County" deals with themes of death, suicide, verbal abuse, addiction, racism, love, and family in rural Oklahoma, a sort of modern take on the type of play Tennessee Williams wrote back in the 1940s and 50s. STC Superintendent John Cain commented that he thought the community was not prepared for the play.

"The play was not appropriate for the majority of the high school students and certainly anybody younger. It was beyond rated PG," he said.

The award-winning play has been performed in high schools all over the country, including students using selected scenes and speeches for state competitions. Cross Plains, Texas, a community of less than 1,000 people, and their high school put on a production of "August: Osage County" back in 2017. Teri Brown, the editor of the Cross Plains Review, did not recall any similar problems arising around their production of the play, which was performed at the school auditorium.

For those not familiar with the Pulitzer and Tony award-winning play,



From left to right, Sam Heck, Libby Albright, Lily Wacha, Ryden Forcht, Jimena Nunez and Amare Chavez.



Alex Carrera, as Donald, proudly holds up his box of Corn Flakes.

a Hollywood film adaptation was released in 2013 and garnered two Academy Award nominations, one for Meryl Streep and another for Julia Roberts. In determining the necessary action to be taken over the play, Cain and high school administrators

watched the movie, which Cain described as "concerning." Cain also remarked that he hadn't processed the whole play, so he was basing some of his opinions off of the movie.

**PLAY | P10**

# The Safe Track to success

## STC teachers develop app to increase communication during crisis situations

MICHAEL D. DAVIS and  
ROBERT MAHARRY

In light of yet another horrific school shooting, this time in Nashville, Tenn., school safety and security are back in the spotlight, and teachers, administrators and law enforcement officials are taking it more seriously than ever before, even at places like South Tama County.

What started as just a conversation between two STC teachers could now be a lifesaver in the event of an active shooter situation. High School Industrial Arts Teacher Jeff Niederman and former STC High School Principal Mark Grotelushen met to talk after an



PHOTO BY MICHAEL D. DAVIS

The Safe Track App Founders Scott Bolen, Joe Miller, Ben Adams, and Jeff Niedermann talk to a group on the middle school bleachers during the app's first test.

Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate (ALICE) training and decided they needed something better to increase communication because "seconds matter." The result is The Safe Track App.

How does it work? The school or business would

purchase the app, and then any student or employee would be able to get it free on their phone.

If and when any emergency situation — from an active shooter to a bomb threat to a fire — would arise, the proper authorities would be alerted with just

the pressing of one button, which either the police or STC staff would be able to push. The Safe Track app turns the phone into a walkie-talkie, so that no matter where one is during the emergency, they would be

**SAFE TRACK | P3**