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Inside: Owen Larson scores 43 points in ELC's win over Storm Lake

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ELC sets hearing for 2023-24 calendar

Board OKs contract for government teacher with Storm Lake

By DAVID SWARTZ
MANAGING EDITOR

The Estherville Lincoln Central School Board set the public hearing on the 2023-24 Academic Calendar for its next meeting.

At its regular meeting Monday, the board reviewed a calendar that has kindergarten through eighth grade intake conferences on Aug. 23 with all students starting class on Aug. 24.

The first semester will end on Dec. 20, 2023 with classes resuming on Jan. 4.

Graduation in 2024 will be on May 19 with the second semester ending on May 20. Cancelled days may be made up at the end of the year.

The public hearing on the calendar will be within the agenda of the board's 5:15 p.m. regular meeting on Monday, Feb. 13.

Government teacher

In other business Monday, the board approved an agreement with the Storm Lake School District for a government teacher. Frank Christianson had taught the first two quarters, but his contract ended at the semester. The government course will be online for ELC students.

ELC Superintendent Tara Paul said a teacher couldn't be found and this solution presented itself during one of her weekly meetings with Lakes Conference superintendents. Storm Lake stepped up to help.

Updates

ELC High School Principal Brad Leonard reported the high school has "many new students, primarily non-English speakers."

"We are excited to have

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WORTHY ROCKER WAITS FOR HIS TIME IN HALL OF FAME

Iowa Rock & Roll Hall of Fame board president says Wallingford drummer is worthy nominee, but 2023 is not his year

By AMY H. PETERSON
STAFF WRITER

There is an abundance of great musicians who live in or come from or contributed to the music industry in Iowa. There are even so many people in Iowa music who could be considered legends, that the Iowa Rock & Roll Hall of Fame couldn't possibly induct all of them within the framework of their selection process. It's an important but imperfect program that carries the risk of disappointing some people whose work should absolutely be included, according to leaders at the organization. The Iowa Rock & Roll Music Association's headquarters and music museum are located in Arnolds Park, Iowa.

Randy Warrington grew up in Wallingford and recalls stories of blocking off Main Street from Highway 4 so the police couldn't get into town on Halloween, disassembling a hay wagon, placing it on top of one of the Morton Buildings and reassembling it, tipping over a certain neighbor's outhouse every year until its owner bought shotgun shells filled with salt. Warrington said these were Wallingford legends he heard as a child; he was much too young to have been involved with anything like that.

"A few months ago, I was thinking about Wallingford, and if Heaven is a place, I hope mine is Wallingford, Iowa," Warrington said.

Warrington told the Estherville News last summer that he hopes his story will give faith to dreamers everywhere. He did ask for nominations to the Iowa Rock & Roll Music Association Lifetime Achievement Award with a request: "Please only nominate me if you believe I deserve it, and it will help people."



Above, Randy Warrington plays drums at one of the many concerts over the years.

At left, Randy Warrington with his first snare drum, received when he was a tot in Wallingford.

At right, Randy Warrington gets ready for a gig in 1989.

Photos submitted

Community College to major in music, perform with the ensembles, and start a 12-piece horn band called Spitfire with college classmates. Warrington arranged the music for the band, and helped make Spitfire known for its final set, which was a full hour of 1950s music dressed in full costume. He learned horn, bass, and guitar, filling in on the parts.

Randy Yackle, now musical director at Estherville United Methodist Church, invited Warrington to play in a musical at a theater in the Black Hills.

Warrington then subbed in for The Upson Downs, a popular band in the Lakes area in the 1970s and '80s. He moved

to Sioux City and formed The Other Band, then joined Hot Rod Chevy Kevy and The Flashback Band. This band connected Warrington with childhood heroes, including Tommy Roe, Bobby Vee, Del Shannon, Danny and the Juniors, Johnny Tillotson, The Shirelles, and Jimmy Rogers.

Warrington has already been inducted into the Iowa Rock & Roll Hall of Fame through associations with these bands: 2003 for the Sensational Soul Company, 2010 for The Upson Downs, 2011 for The Sticks and Stones, and 2013 for Hot Rod Chevy Kevy.

"These were bands where people showed up at 6:30 for a

9:00 show. These are bands you couldn't get in to see them on a Friday or Saturday night," Warrington said.

When Warrington and the Estherville News began a conversation last summer, Warrington shared that he feels fortunate to have lived the life he has.

"I have been truly blessed to have had such a wonderful life and to have made so many great friends. I owe it all to my Father God," Warrington said.

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Supervisors stay firm on Level B road upgrade policy

By MICHAEL TIDEMANN

With its many miles of unpaved roads, the Emmet County secondary roads department is tasked with the challenge of not only maintaining, but upgrading, those roads.

For several years, the county has had a policy for Level B roads – those roads used infrequently, without a rural residence and often serving animal confinements.

At its Tuesday, Jan. 24 meeting, the Emmet County Board of Supervisors stood firm by their current policy of upgrading Level B roads to Level A. Under the policy, property owners who want an upgrade must pay 50 percent of the cost.

Emmet County Engineer Walter Davis-Oeth discussed an animal confinement on a Level B road with the supervisors Tuesday. Davis-Oeth said the landowner had never paid the agreed-upon 50/50 cost share for maintenance. As a result, the engineer said he again began treating the road like a Level B road with no snowplowing. He said though he could open up the road in case

of emergency.

"I don't think we're responsible for opening it at all," said Supervisor John Pluth, also incidentally a former Emmet County secondary roads equipment operator.

Davis-Oeth said Level B signage stating that drivers are entering at their own risk has covered county liability for years.

Supervisor Jeff Quastad said other landowners wanting Level B upgrades have had to pay.

Davis-Oeth said he preferred the current practice. He said Pluth and Quastad had both visited the site and visited with the landowner who did not respond to invoices.

Board Chair Todd Glasnapp said county policy is clear and needs to remain consistent. Supervisor Tim Schumacher agreed, saying landowners need to work with secondary roads and follow current county policy.

In other business, Glasnapp reported on an E-911 and emergency management meeting the previous night and on

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Pipeline legislation introduced

By MICHAEL TIDEMANN

Following are synopses of five carbon dioxide pipeline regulation bills introduced by Sen. Jeff Taylor this session.

Senate File 100 – Requires that pipelines seeking eminent domain include in their application the names of pipeline project investors and their addresses and amount of investment.

Senate File 101 – Takes away the power of eminent domain by the Iowa Utilities Board.

Senate File 102 – Removes a provision allowing a pipeline company to enter upon private land for the purpose of surveying and examining the land by giving 10 days written notice to a landowner.

Senate File 103 – A pipeline company will not engage in easement negotiation with a landowner unless the landowner grants prior signed, witnessed and notarized written permission.

Senate File 104 – A pipeline company seeking a permit and right of eminent domain shall acquire consent from 90 percent or more of real estate parcels necessary for the project.

Taylor, District 2 state senator, lives in Sioux Center where he teaches at Dordt University.

U.S. Senator could join Warrior Ruck in Estherville

Ernst said she has completed rucks before and would love to join fellow veterans and community members for Estherville's event

By AMY H. PETERSON
STAFF WRITER

U.S. Senator Joni Ernst visited Estherville on an icy afternoon last Wednesday to tour the National Guard Armory and Regional Wellness Center with invited guests from the Guard and the local educational sector. The RWC, which is owned and operated by the Estherville Lincoln Central School District, represents hope for the health and well being of the next generation of youth, the senator said.

During the Armory tour, recruiters reported to Senator Ernst that high school students who showed an interest in military service were having

trouble meeting height/weight proportion requirements and were unable to easily pass the ASVAB, the standardized entrance test for acceptance to the military.

While recruiters said Senator Ernst's position on the U.S. Senate Armed Services Committee would help them get new recruits qualified to enlist, Senator Ernst said there were issues with pushing candidates through that impacted the service side. Ernst, a combat veteran, addressed similar problems in the Army officer pipeline.

"They are not passing height/weight, they're not passing the ACFT, they're being passed

on – and they're going out and taking platoons, and they still can't pass those requirements and they're leading soldiers. So that's a knock on the officer pipeline. I don't know that it's true that we are in such a crunch now that we can't get recruits, that they're trying to send [less qualified] people forward, trying to keep them in uniform. I don't know that it's the right thing to do. We just need to emphasize that they need to be able to pass the standard," Senator Ernst said.

Sgt. Dave Jones said the Guard could use infrastructure funding to improve the facility, including building in locker rooms and restrooms for the

growing number of female guard members.

After a tour of the National Guard facility, Jen Hough, co-director of the RWC, led its tour.

Hough said the RWC is based on fee-paying members and works closely with the school to provide swimming lessons, the after-school program, and extra space for practices and pool workouts. The RWC also has program partnerships with the National Guard, Hough said.

"We team up with the National Guard. We've worked with them to help them for their showering, and it works

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Senator Joni Ernst visited the combined National Guard Armory/Regional Wellness Center in Estherville last week.

Photo by Amy H. Peterson

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Senator Joni Ernst, center, takes a moment with leaders in Estherville and Emmet County's education and business sectors. From left, Jennifer Hough, co-director of the RWC; Sandy Fandel and Tony Condon, ELC School Board members; Senator Ernst, Jeff Soper, CFO of Iowa Lakes Community College; Tara Paul, ELC Superintendent; Bob Grems, retired director of the RWC; Kay Woods, ELC Board Secretary; and Lyle Hevern, Estherville and Emmet County Economic Director.



Senator Joni Ernst, center, takes a moment with some of the Iowa National Guard members who showed her around the Armory and RWC. From left: Captain Anthony Dvorak, SSGT Eric Schmidt, MAJ Anthony Loween, Senator Ernst, SSGT Joe Suhr, 1 SGT Dave Jones, 1SGT Corey Diischer, SSGT Joe Winge.

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out great. The partnership has always been a great partnership between the school and the Guard for the not quite 20 years that we've been partnering," Hough said.

Some of the ways the partnership works include both parties being able to expand programs between the two adjacent gymnasiums – one large space each for the RWC and the Guard that can be opened up to create twice the space. The Guard members run on the indoor track, and the proximity to the

Guard unit means high school students become familiar with the Guard while they are working out for their sports.

Senator Ernst said she ran rucks when she was in the National Guard, then began running just for fun with her Senate staff, then opened it up to other senators and their staffs, including Martha McSally when she was senator from Arizona, Roger Marshall of Kansas, and eventually to any congress members and their staffs from the House of

Representatives. "I don't care what committee they are on, or who they are," Ernst said.

Senator Ernst said if her schedule worked out, she would love to join Estherville's Warrior Ruck March in the fall.

Of the RWC/National Guard Armory facility, Senator Ernst said, "The RWC blew me away that we see this cooperation from the community and the National Guard. The sharing of the facility, the sharing of activities is a really great way to utilize space that otherwise

would not be used on a normal timeframe. I'm just so glad to see this and maybe be able to promote it in other communities."

The shower issue is one that Senator Ernst said she understands as a female veteran. "As we see more and more women enter into combat arms, we will need to make sure they do have space in the facilities, that they have shower rooms and locker rooms. That will be really important as we continue to recruit women into these types

of units. The I-194 is an exceptional unit, and we heard from some of those guard members today on some of those challenges...it's definitely something I will be looking into."

Senator Ernst was recently named Legislator of the Year by the Wounded Warrior Project.

"I was so honored to receive that, I mean, that to me was a very big deal. [As a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee] I do a lot of work for veterans' organizations. I

do a lot of work for disabled veterans as well as those that are currently serving in our Armed Services. To me, it's an honor and a privilege as someone who has worn the uniform now to be able to support colleagues, friends, and family members that are now serving our country. So that was a great honor for me. I'm glad to do it, and I'll continue working for those men and women that choose to serve our state and nation," Senator Ernst said.

The senator also addressed

the project time and budget overruns from the Army Corps of Engineers.

"We're trying to narrow down on these projects that are over budget and over time, and they do have to report those back to us. We want to make sure that we are meeting the guidelines that are set forward...it can be the Army Corps of Engineers or it can be any other federal agency," Senator Ernst said.

A successful solution for the Army Corps of Engineers issues could be a model for other

agencies, Senator Ernst said.

On returning to Estherville for the Warrior Ruck March in the fall, Senator Ernst said, "I would encourage lots of folks from Estherville or the surrounding communities to come out...I think it's good to get involved with the community, that the community members see people who want to be in uniform, and it's just great exposure for the National Guard, and great exposure for Armed Services," Senator Ernst said.

COUNTY, Continued from Page 1A

a Northwest Iowa Housing meeting.

In other business, Pluth discussed the Iowa Workforce region. He said one member county was dropping out because of excess state control.

Schumacher said he was encouraged by legislation sponsored by Iowa State Sen. Jeff Taylor regarding carbon dioxide pipelines. Taylor is introducing Senate Files 100-104 that address the pipelines.

Supervisor Lisa Hansen said Early Childhood North Central Iowa seemed willing to help with a \$10,000 request by Cherokee Public Health for assistance for the Child Health and Oral Health program.

"They are thinking about giving us some of the money," Hansen said.

The board later made no motion on the funding request, pending a decision by Early Childhood North Central Iowa.

Quastad said the county will have to sign off on a grant application by Peterson Point Foundation to the Iowa State Historical Society since the county owns the property. He said the matter would be on the Jan. 31 agenda.

Emmet County Attorney Melanie Summers-Bauler said she had received a draft of the pipeline ordinance from Ahlers & Cooney law firm. She said the ordinance would have to pass through county planning and zoning before the supervisors could act on it.

The board held a public hearing on Resolution 2023-06 for a deed exchange for Ingham-Okoboji Bible Camp then approved the resolution which clears up a land description.

Quastad updated the board on Courthouse renovation plans. He said the engineer will do a walk-through this spring.

Emmet County Assessor Barb Bohm requested and received approval for rescheduling a Peter's Subdivision hearing for 9:30 a.m. Feb. 14. Bohm said since the subdivision is within two miles of Estherville that Estherville Planning and Zoning would act on the matter Thursday, Jan. 26 before the matter is referred to the county. County approval had previously been set for Feb. 7.

In his road report, Davis-Oeth said crews had been doing a lot of snow plowing. He said ice under snow remained a challenge. The engineer also said he had filled one open secondary roads position and will have another position open.

Davis-Oeth said Don Reffer, owner of B&W Control Specialists Inc., had passed away. The business is now permanently closed. Reffer died weed control for the county.

The engineer also discussed drainage legislation that raised bid thresholds from \$50,000 to \$190,000.

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10 early retirees from Iowa Lakes announced

Professor Rosenberg and star student provide highlights

By AMY H. PETERSON
STAFF WRITER

The Trustees of Iowa Lakes Community College approved 10 early retirement applications at its latest regular meeting on Jan. 18. Trustees President Jan Lund said, "We're going to miss their service." The 10 have worked for a total of 269 years for the college.

Human Resources Director Kathy Muller named the retirees: Mary Anderson, admissions specialist, Emmetsburg campus (42 years); Dawn Bernhard, RSVP director of the Algona Campus (10); Mary Faber, Director of Spirit Lake and Spencer campuses (28 years); Delaine Hiney, executive director of facilities management (31 years); Dianne Hough, financial aid specialist (20 years); Laurie Miller, nursing faculty (17 years); Steve Olerich, dining services supervisor, Emmetsburg (22 years); Cindy Oviatt, administrative assistant to the president and board secretary (21 years); Julie Williams, executive dean of students (38 years); and Annette Wimmer, business faculty, Estherville (38 years).

Bob Leifeld, vice president of administration, introduced Mark Rosenberg, a New Yorker who came to Iowa Lakes in 2017 by way of Los Angeles to head the college's graphic design program.

Rosenberg said he found that the Iowa Lakes graphic design program lacked some needed courses and had redundancy and overlap in others.

In preparation for designing new courses, Rosenberg said he visited other Iowa community college campuses that had graphic design courses, and found that many of them had courses Rosenberg wanted.

"One [course] was digital color theory, which has been a very interesting course, and it's been successful. The other one was typography. Those are just two parts of any graphic designer's portfolio," Rosenberg said.

Color theory is Rosenberg's favorite class to teach, he said, because it's technical and it's very difficult, resulting in the students feeling empowered when they complete it.

Other changes included changing the sequence of some courses and removing a few courses that were more general interest than an art class for a designer.

Enrollment numbers for the program mirror those of the college as a whole; the numbers are bouncing back.

"I'm happy to say we're bouncing back from the time during the peak of COVID when our numbers, along with other programs went down a bit. The graduating students have been a continual nice flow. We've also had several take advantage of an articulation agreement that we have with UNI," Rosenberg said.

Students in the graphic design associate of arts program have courses accepted for credit at University of Northern Iowa, along with the general education credits. Rosenberg said a number of students have taken graphic design at Iowa Lakes and went on to UNI's art education program.



Mark Rosenberg, Graphic Design Program Coordinator at Iowa Lakes Community College, and Vanessa Reardon, Graphic Design student, spoke at the Board of Trustees meeting on January 17.

Rosenberg introduced Vanessa Reardon as the star student of the program.

Reardon said, "We have many different kinds of classes connecting to different aspects that we need in graphic design. There are many opportunities and fun projects – one of my favorite ones was designing a postcard then sending it to [Rosenberg] to get credit for it."

Reardon said the combination of technical classes and state of the art equipment in the labs, along with fine arts courses from John Leopold have enhanced her experience in the program.

Rosenberg thanked the trustees for the new computers in

the lab in 2022.

"We need to stay abreast with the machines, and I really appreciate that," Rosenberg said.

Rosenberg continues to grow the program by visiting area schools to recruit students.

"I sat in on an art class and the students were very, very receptive and very kind and asked good questions and were attentive and I wouldn't be surprised if I ended up getting a couple of students from recruitment," Rosenberg said.

Rosenberg said he experimented with the fun factor in learning difficult concepts.

"I read some studies where experts in education have come up with the idea based on their research that a game is a great way to teach difficult concepts

in the classroom, that it was not just testing and lecture, but having them learn difficult concepts through play," Rosenberg said.

Creating a game to teach the technical, scientific, and artistic concepts of color theory proved to yield a whole spectrum of benefits.

"Not only did [the students] talk about color without any coaching from the instructor, but they did something that was amazing. We normally think of youngsters as sitting behind their phones and not socializing that much, and not talking to each other and engaging each other. Well I found that I couldn't even get them to quiet down. They had such a good time talking about

color and playing the game and discussing it. They got to know each other...and they've been much more of a cohort in my program ever since," Rosenberg said.

Reardon said she was still weighing her options for after graduation in May. Whether Reardon chooses pursuing a business degree to accompany her AAS in Graphic Design, completing an Associate of Arts to transfer to a university for a Bachelor's Degree, staying in the area to see what jobs might become available in her field, or seeking opportunities in a more urban area, Rosenberg said job growth is positive in the design field.

In other business, facilities manager Dee Hiney reported on a top topic of higher education: roofs on campus. Hiney said the facilities management plan calls for approximately 85,000 ft. sq. of roofs to be replaced. The roof on the Estherville campus was last replaced in 1985. On the Emmetsburg campus, the original building has an expansion joint, meaning its project will be divided into two parts.

The estimate from CMBA Architects in Spencer came to approximately \$21.46 ft. sq. or \$1.8 million. A public hearing on the project will be held March 21 at 4:30 p.m. in the Snap-On conference room in the Estherville Campus SERT building. A pre-bid meeting will be held in the administrative building conference room February 15 at 11 a.m.

A public hearing on the college's budget will be held Feb. 21 at 4:30 p.m. during the next regular meeting of the trustees.

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