

# SCC SHORT FILM SELECTED FOR STATE SPEECH



SPECIAL TO THE TIMES HERALD

South Central Calhoun participated in the Iowa High School Speech Association District Large Group Contest at Manson Northwest Webster High School in Manson on Saturday, Jan. 21. Three groups totaling 10 students participated in the event. A short film by Nathan Burley, Nik Whipkey, Ava Finley, Caleb Blair and Tristan Blair received a Division I (superior) rating, and they move on to compete at the Northwest State Contest at Le Mars High School on Saturday, Feb. 4. The film, "A Public Indecency," is about a private investigator, and viewers learn about his background and childhood and watch him solve a case. Two groups participated in TV newscasting, and both groups received Division II ratings. ABC News featured Adlen Wheelock, Bre Patterson and Chloe Judisch. KMSW featured Katie Burley and Sophia Wuebker. The Titan speech team is coached by Marleta Smith. Pictured are (from left) Caleb Blair, Sophia Wuebker, Tristan Blair, Katie Burley, Nik Whipkey, Ava Finley, Nathan Burley, Adlen Wheelock, Chloe Judisch and Bre Patterson.



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Center: Carroll High School ninth grade student Jennifer Villanueva. Left: Villanueva's mother Maria Del Angel. Right: Villanueva's brother Carlos Valle.

## SPANISH

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Villanueva then spoke back to her classmate in Spanish.

"We were just talking about lemons," Villanueva said. "It was like two or three words that she said to me and I replied with one word."

That's when Helmich told the students, "you aren't allowed to speak Spanish in my classroom," Villanueva says.

"She just screamed at us to not speak Spanish in her class," Villanueva said. "Then after that everyone just stayed quiet and they were just staring at us."

Villanueva said she continued to speak in Spanish to her classmate, but was then called out into the hallway by Helmich. Villanueva recorded audio of the interaction in the hallway with her phone.

"It felt like that was wrong because it's not rude to speak your language in front of others," Villanueva said.

Under school board policy and the current student handbook, there is no mention of what language students are allowed or not allowed to speak in school.

Villanueva did not receive detention, but said the incident was embarrassing for her. She then sought out a

school guidance counselor and said she was told the situation was likely a misunderstanding. Villanueva said she also told other teachers about the experience.

"They were upset about it too," Villanueva said.

She also said she's spoken Spanish in other classes previously, but a teacher never commented on it. Villanueva said she doesn't know why Helmich reacted negatively to her speaking Spanish.

"There needs to be repercussions for that teacher," Villanueva's brother, Carlos Valle, said. "It can't be something we let slide."

Villanueva's mother, Maria Del Angel, said she contacted high school principal Kourtney Abbotts as soon as she found out about the incident.

"We wanted her to apologize right in front of the whole class, just like how she embarrassed her right in front of all of them," Del Angel said.

Villanueva and members of her family, including Del Angel, met with Abbotts in person about a week after the incident to discuss what happened.

Del Angel said Abbotts apologized for what Villanueva went through and that the school district would investigate the incident. Villanueva said she was then given the option to either remain in

## TRANSCRIPT

(Recording begins after Villanueva was called out into the hallway)

HELMICH: What did I say? What did I say?

VILLANUEVA: Not to speak Spanish.

HELMICH: Do you know why?

VILLANUEVA: Why?

HELMICH: Because when you sit at a table of non-Spanish speaking students—

VILLANUEVA: We're not talking about them, we were literally talking about—

HELMICH: Okay, how do they know that?

VILLANUEVA: They—

HELMICH: Jenny stop. VILLANUEVA: —weren't even bothered.

HELMICH: No. You don't know if they're bothered.

VILLANUEVA: They weren't.

HELMICH: Jenny—

VILLANUEVA: They would have said something.

HELMICH: No they wouldn't. Some people—

VILLANUEVA: Yeah they would.

HELMICH: Jenny, I taught in Houston, Texas, where 45 percent of the students were His-

panic. They were not allowed to speak Spanish in the class either. It is rude when other people around you can't understand what you're saying. I'm sitting right behind you. I don't know if you're saying something bad about me. You are going to speak Spanish—

VILLANUEVA: Why not, you guys are—

HELMICH: You are not speaking Spanish in my room. You can speak it in the hallways and you can speak it at your homes, but not in my room because it's room rude. If I sat there and I spoke Norwegian at you and around your table and you didn't know—

VILLANUEVA: I wouldn't mind.

HELMICH: Okay, that's your. Other people would mind.

VILLANUEVA: Okay, but they didn't. You can go in there and ask them.

HELMICH: I am not going to argue with you. Hey, you're going to get a detention—

(The rest of the recording is muffled and no more dialogue between Villanueva and Helmich is heard.)

the class or be removed and receive credit for the course, to which Villanueva accepted the credit.

Del Angel said she hadn't received any further communication from the school district by around Christmas, which was when she called the high school principal again for an update. Del Angel said she was told she couldn't receive an update on the school district's investigation due to policy, as personnel matters are handled confidentially, and that

the school district could not make Helmich apologize in front of the class for the incident.

According to Del Angel, the school district has offered to have another in-person meeting with the family that would include Helmich, but as of this reporting Del Angel has not called to set up the meeting. Del Angel and Valle said they are unsure how another meeting will help.

"If they can't make her apologize, I don't see what they will do to her," Valle said.

## UPDATE

FROM PAGE 1

that period.

Mayor Mark Beardmore asked Peugh specifically about Fairview village and Harbor Crest apartment buildings.

Peugh said Harbor Crest and one of the Fairview Village buildings passed, beyond that Peugh said the other three buildings require various repairs. One building is vacant to allow for the necessary updates and repairs. Peugh said although the

buildings are in various states of disrepair, the maintenance worker is doing the best he can with what he's given.

"There's one building that hasn't passed, and I've been in it numerous times," Peugh said. "Every time I go in there he constantly says that he's moved people out, they've refurbished, and then people trash it and then the process starts all over again."

Peugh said he doesn't pass a building until every unit complies with the requirements. So with the Fairview apartments, he takes consistent trips out to check dif-

ferent units.

Councilman Kyle Bauer asked whether the city's been charging property owners for the repeated trips out to check whether the property complies with correcting deficiencies. Peugh said that they have the option to charge, but have not yet.

"If you need council support here you've got it," Beardmore said. "It sounds to me just by your 15-minute discussion here that they're monopolizing your time, and if so, then they need to pay for the service."

Beardmore said they need

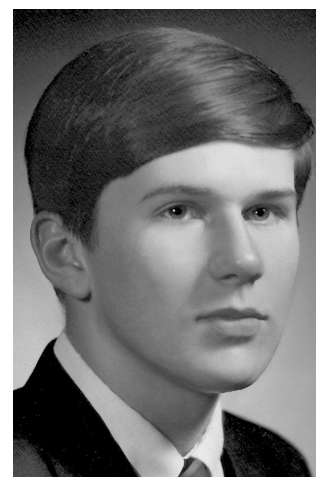
to be more forthright, and a lot of the issues Peugh experienced were the reasons the effort was started in the first place.

Peugh agreed with the council that it was a necessity to begin charging for repeated trips to check on properties. Peugh said when the program was first implemented he wanted to avoid being overbearing and in property owners' faces about compliance issues.

"I've tried to be the nice guy, but at some point that's going to have to stop obviously," Peugh said.

## OBITUARIES

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COON RAPIDS

### DAN SMITH

1950-2023

Daniel "The Rev" Willard Smith, 72, of Coon Rapids, Iowa, passed away on Friday, Jan. 20, 2023, at his home.

A memorial service was held Wednesday, Jan. 25, at First United Methodist Church in Coon Rapids with the Rev. Bobbie Maltas officiating. Lula Garnes was the organist. Honorary casket bearers were grandchildren Joseph Dawson, Katherine Dawson, Zen Dawson, Amber Leigh Dawson, and his fur grandbaby, Canelo. Burial will be at Union Township Cemetery near Coon Rapids at a later date.

Funeral arrangements are under the direction of Dahn and Woodhouse Funeral Home in Coon Rapids, and online condolences may be left for the family at [www.dahnandwoodhouse.com](http://www.dahnandwoodhouse.com).

Danny was born on Jan. 25, 1950, at St. Anthony Regional Hospital in Carroll, Iowa, the son of Willard Ward and Mary Louise (Danielson) Smith. He attended Coon Rap-

ids Community Schools graduating with the High School Class of 1968. In his childhood, he was a member of the local 4-H club where he raised and showed state champion sheep, and won many awards. During high school, Danny excelled in football, and enjoyed raising a ruckus with his friends.

After graduation, he attended Des Moines Area Community College in Boone where he received his associate's degree. In April 1976, he was married to Lisa Grethen. They were blessed with two children, Jeannie and Michael. He was employed with Keister Lumber Company in Coon Rapids where he drove dump and concrete trucks for several years. In the 1980s, Danny moved in with his mother to help care for her until the time of her passing. Danny enjoyed having lunch with his friends at Chuck's Place, and loved reminiscing with them about their younger years. But most of all, he cherished the time spent with his children and grandchildren. You could often hear him say how fortunate he was to love and be loved by his community.

Danny is survived by a daughter, Jeannie (James) Dawson of Fort Dodge; a son, Michael (Lorena) Smith of Carroll; grandchildren: Joseph, Katherine, Zen and Amber Leigh Dawson; sister, Margaret (Rich) Rogers of Woodward; niece, Michelle (Michael) Wald of Ankeny; and his only true love, Lisa Grethen-Bohn of Des Moines; as well as many wonderful and kind friends.

He was preceded in death only by his parents.

MANNING

### VIRGIL ROSONKE

Memorial Mass for Virgil Rosonke, 86, of Manning, will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 28, at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in

Manning.

Visitation will be from 9:30 until 10:45 a.m. at the church.

Ohde Funeral Home in Manning is in charge of arrangements.

Virgil passed away on Thursday, Dec. 22, 2022, at Manning Regional Healthcare Center in Manning.

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