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P.O. Box 507, Calmar, IA 52132 | www.calmarcourier.com | USPS: 335-690 | news@calmarcourier.com | Some Gave All

Hinson Tours New Protivin Fire Station

By Michael Hohenbrink Editor

PROTIVIN - With the completion of the community's new fire station, the Protivin Volunteer Fire Department hosted one of its most prominent backers.

After Rep. Ashley Hinson signaled out the fire station building project for her personal backing, the Protivin Fire Station got a major boost.

Thursday saw Hinson visit the fruits of that effort as the station opened its doors for a tour.

Completion of the new station has been just in time for a busy season, as dry weather recently has upped the fire risk.

"We had three calls in one day," said Fire Chief Brad Moudry about a recent Friday's work.

Responding to a spate of recent fire calls has been made a bit easier as the department has moved out of its former quarters and into newer digs.

Noting the trucks in the new bays, Moudry pointed out the sheer quantity of space today.

"Now, we've got room, so we can actually walk around 'em," said Moudry. More room for vehicles,

Rep. Ashley Hinson poses Thursday with firefighters and others at the station following a tour. Photos by Michael Hohenbrink



Chief Brad Moudry, Rep. Ashley Hinson, Martin Ahrndt and Sheriff Tim Beckman are pictured in the upper loft at the fire station.



Rep. Hinson speaks with Chief Moudry.



meeting space and even individual lockers are now available.

Helicopter Landing Pad
Coming up, more is planned.

The fire department has been approached about using the station for voting, for example.

Right now, the department is leery about that given the possibility of a fire call, but the department is also eyeing what to do with the former hall.

As the City of Protivin lacks a city shop, the department might consider renting out the old station, said Moudry.

Paving of an area behind the fire station to make a helicopter landing pad is planned.

That work should be completed before the end of the year, allowing a greater cooperation with emergency response.

Moudry also pointed to the generator presence at the fire station.

In case of a power failure in the community, the station can continue to operate.

Loft space is currently unfinished, but Moudry said walls could easily be installed to finish off the space.

Ag Land Cash Rents Soar

By Michael Hohenbrink Editor

The average for cash rents for agricultural land in Iowa is at the highest ever recorded, worrying experts who fear what this could mean for Iowa's farmers.

Results from the Cash Rental Rates for Iowa 2023 Survey were released by Iowa State University Extension showing a spike of nine percent in a single year, averaging \$279 per acre.

That is 3.3 percent greater than the 2013 total, the previous record when rent was \$270 per acre.

Nearly all Iowa counties saw rents increase with just eight counties not seeing an increase.

Medium-rate land was up 8.6 percent, rising to \$277 from \$255 while high-rated land rose 11.1 percent to \$330 from \$297 per acre.

While rents are up, farm income projections do not look as strong with income expected to drop.

The numbers are worrisome, especially for young farmers trying to break into the business.

Lawler Irish Fest Returning

By Michael Hohenbrink Editor

The fun is back as Lawler Irish Fest is set to return June 16-17.

Everything kicks off Friday, June 16 with the opening ceremony set for 6:30 p.m. and the Wapsi River Ramblers at 7:15 p.m. and the JayR Brink Band at 8:30 p.m. with a 4-four golf tournament at 9 a.m. at Jackson Heights and a Kids area at Croell Park from 6 to 9 p.m. and an outdoor movie at dusk.

Vendors will be open throughout the weekend.

Stage entertainment Saturday will have the Rochester Pipes and Drums at 2 p.m. with the Champagne Academy of Irish Dance at 2:30 p.m.

Stage entertainment will continue throughout the afternoon before the men's kilted legs contest takes place with Blame Not the Bard at 6:45 and then BIRDCHILD at 8:45 p.m.



During the day, a 5K has registration at 8:30 a.m., Freedom Rock Dedication at 10 a.m.

and the parade at 1 p.m. with a car show and kids area continuing and another movie at dusk.

The Lawler Historical Society will have a display at the Starlite Ballroom both Friday from

5 to 8 p.m. and then Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. as well as Sunday from 9 a.m. to noon.

Hanson Named to UM Coaching Staff

By Michael Hohenbrink Editor

A South Winneshiek alumnus has been named to the coaching staff at the University of Minnesota Crookston.

Joel Hanson, a former Warrior and a graduate of Iowa State University as an undergraduate and Upper Iowa University for his graduate work, has joined the men's basketball program in the role of assistant coach. Hanson has two years previously as a graduate assistant with the Peacocks in Fayette.

Hanson will serve under Head Coach Bryan Beamish and joins Tim Lubke as assistant coach for the Golden Eagles.

"I am very excited to add Joel to our coaching staff,"

said Beamish. "He comes highly recommended, from a very good program that has had a lot of success in the NSIC. His experience at the NCAA Division II level will help our program tremendously. Joel will impact our program in a number of ways immediately and can't wait to get him up to campus and get started."

In addition to helping the Peacocks to a 26-6 mark in 2021-2022 and a spot in the Central Region Tournament for NCAA Division II, Hanson worked with the Cyclones from 2018 to 2021 with the 2018-2019 team making it to the Division I Tournament for NCAA.

South Winneshiek Superintendent Kris Einck knew Hanson during the latter's

days at the school.

"What a great opportunity for Joel to advance in his career," said Einck. "I know Joel had a passion for basketball and now he is able to coach young adults in that field. We wish him the best of luck!"

South Winneshiek Coach Alex Smith coached Hanson for baseball.

"It is fun to see our former Warriors advancing along in their profession," said Smith. "Joel has a passion for coaching and the game of basketball. He was a leader in high school and it is great to see him carrying that forward through coaching. As a former player in our baseball program, I'm proud to see his desire in making an impact on young adults."



Joel Hanson

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