

Ackley World Journal

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Reviewing Cougars Den

City leaders meet with AGWSR board

BECKY SCHIPPER
EDITOR

The AGWSR school board, along with representatives of the City of Ackley, met last week to fulfill a requirement of their 28E agreement. That agreement requires a joint meeting between the two to go over the finances of the daycare/preschool once a year.

Revenues in 2021-22 included daycare tuition of \$222,831.66, preschool tuition of \$20,425, nutrition reimbursement of \$12,206.76, Childcare Stabilization grant of \$268,672, donations of \$2,348, and funding from the City of Ackley at \$8,000.

Expenditures for the same timeframe included \$250,261.99 in salaries and benefits, \$17,970.04 for food expenses, \$23,414.25 in supplies/building (repairs, maintenance, phone, dues, and fees), and \$2,709.15 for utilities (garbage, pest control, gas, and electricity), and a loan payment of \$5,000.

Total expenses for the year were \$299,355.43, leaving a 2022 year-end profit of \$247,127.99. Adding in the year-end balance from 2021 (\$84,799.94) and GAP revenue (\$3,957.57), the FY22 year-end balance for the Cougars Den stood at \$355,885.50.

In other board news, members approved applications to the School Bud-

get Review Committee for \$2,341.08 for administrative costs associated with River Hills Consortium program for the 2023-24 school year, \$47,174.40 for MSA (Metropolitan Statistical Area) for providing English language learner program for students who have exceeded five years of weighted funding, and \$164,052.90 for MSA for open enrollment out students not included on the prior year count.

The board approved Madison Sawyer as Cougar Den daycare provider, Megan Brekunitch as wrestling cheerleading advisor, a revised agreement with Bill Heubner as high school assistant girls basketball coach, Dan Karsjens as volunteer high school assistant girls basketball coach, Andrew Roberts as volunteer wrestling coach and as junior high boys basketball coach, David Koop as junior high boys basketball coach, and approved the resignation of Olivia Cooper as a daycare provider at Cougars Den.

Equipment upgrades for the Wellsburg gym were also approved in the amount of \$66,510. The funds will provide six basketball hoops and related equipment, electric height adjusters, an EZ Pad controller, scoreboards and shot clocks, along with freight and installation fees.

The annual FFA senior trip was also approved.

The next regular meeting of the board is scheduled for Monday, Dec. 12, at 7 p.m. in the Ackley center library. ●



BECKY SCHIPPER/ACKLEY WORLD JOURNAL

While some weren't prepared for last week's snowfall, Bailey Stilwell and her friend, Zoey Shields made the best of the situation. Together, the girls built this snowman in Ackley's Victory Park after school last Tuesday. Once built, they practiced on their snowball throwing skills, eventually knocking their creation to the ground. Future winter weather will provide them, and other children in the area, the opportunity to build more snowman as fall continues its quick progression into winter.

AGWSR represented at Iowa All State Music Festival

Two members of the AGWSR music department earned the right to participate at the Iowa All State Music Festival held last week.

The ladies auditioned in late October, competing with students from various schools, including Cedar Falls, Mason City, Waverly, Shell Rock, and others. Only 17 percent of students who audition are selected.



Haupt



Stanish

Rachel Haupt is a senior at AGWSR and is the daughter of Lance and Diane Haupt. She is a second time member of the Iowa All State Chorus and sings soprano. Rachel auditioned her sophomore, junior, and senior years, and was also selected to the Iowa All State Chorus in 2020. In that year, due to covid, there was no festival.

"I'm very thankful for the opportunities that All-State choir has given me," began Rachel. "It took a lot of effort to learn the music but was totally worth it." She continued, "The first time I made it into All-State, the festival was cancelled due to covid, which makes me extra excited about singing with many talented vocalists in Hilton this year!"

Elizabeth Stanish, South Hardin senior, was named to the Iowa All State Band. Elizabeth is the daughter of Jay and Jill Stanish, and because of the AGWSR/SH sharing agreement, attended the event under AGWSR. She is a four-time member of the Iowa All State Band and Orchestra and was recognized for that achievement during the festival.

"All-State is an amazing experience to be a part of. It is so awesome to play with such a big group of musicians from all over the state who have worked so hard to be here," said Elizabeth. "I'm really looking forward to the end result of it. Even if you don't get in, the audition process still makes you a much better musician."

Chorus participants begin preparing for auditions in late August and audition on the music they will sing at the concert. Usually about five new pieces and the traditional 'America the Beautiful' and 'Battle Hymn of the Republic'. Each audition site takes approximately 25 students for each part - soprano, alto, tenor, and bass. Many times, a student is recalled so the judge can hear them perform again.

Band participants audition on their scales - two difficult etudes and a prepared solo. They do not know which two scales they will have to play until they are in the room with the judge. Each instrument accepts a different number of students into the ensemble. Elizabeth, who plays clarinet, was accepted through the process which took between 10 to 12 students. Those selected may be placed in either the band or the orchestra.

The All State Music Festival took place last week on the Iowa State Campus. Ensembles practiced most of Friday and Saturday with a concert in Hilton Coliseum on Saturday evening. That concert is rebroadcast on IPTV Thanksgiving night. ●



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Brett Pfaltzgraff counts on the experience of his employees, including Katie Flanagan and Danny Younker (in window). They, along with Carlos Jimenez (not pictured) bring much experience to the Ackley location. Pfaltzgraff took ownership of the location on Sept. 1 from long-time owners, Mike and Laura Flanagan.

NEW OWNERSHIP

Pfaltzgraff purchases Ackley Pizza Ranch

BECKY SCHIPPER | EDITOR

Brett Pfaltzgraff began his employment in January 2009, at the Ackley Pizza Ranch as a teen, learning the ropes under the direction of owners Mike and Laura Flanagan. Today, almost 14 years later, he owns and operates three of the franchises - Eldora, Garner, and now Ackley.

"I really thought I'd be fired that first year with all the mistakes I made!" Brett admits.

Growing up he wanted to go into law enforcement and began attending Ellsworth Community College to pursue that dream.

It was then that Laura approached him

about owning his own location. After consideration and a few more discussions, he headed to Cedar Falls Pizza Ranch, eventually assuming the role of Assistant Manager. Within two years he helped open the Fort Dodge restaurant, spending three months there before moving on to running the Eldora store.

There, he accepted the opportunity to become a 10-percent owner. In the matter of a couple of years, he became the sole proprietor.

"It was important to have worked for the company before taking ownership," Brett says. "Pizza Ranch is very committed to helping its franchise owners."

He's been most influenced by Scott Davis and Todd Pearce who are franchise owners as well.

"Mike and Laura have been very helpful throughout my career as well," Brett said. "I'm very grateful to have started with them."

Brett's parents - Darwin and Jen Pfaltzgraff, own the print shop across the street from the Ackley location so there's always eyes on the store, along with a couple very helpful minds available to assist him.

Later in 2018, Brett purchased 50 percent of the Garner location and in recent years has purchased the remaining portion from Lorrie Allen. His Ackley purchase was made official Sept. 1.

He spends much of his time commuting between his three stores and surrounds





PHOTO SUBMITTED

Merrill Lindaman and Terry Mount, board members of the Wellsburg Historical Foundation, were among the wise men arranging a nativity set on the front lawn of the Wellsburg Museum in preparation for the museum's Hometown Christmas.

Hometown Christmas

The Wells Hotel and Museum, Wellsburg, is hosting a "Hometown Christmas" festival on Friday and Saturday, Dec. 2 and 3. The community is invited to visit and recall Christmas memories from the last 100 years.

The Wells house, the oldest building in town, was built in 1880 by founder George Wells for his farmhands and cowboys. They gave it the name "Wells Hotel" and it now houses a collection of artifacts and memorabilia from the 1860s to the present.

The collections focus on German immigrants who settled Wellsburg and other communities in Grundy County. A variety of items from furniture owned by George Wells to agricultural displays, a history of the schools, and information about Wellsburg's veterans are among artifacts displayed. This December, the museum will be decorated in Christmas styles of decades past featuring trees, Christmas villages, nativity sets and foods that span the decades. Guests can enjoy homemade German stollen, candies, and cookies from the original family recipes. Period Christmas trees, spanning the decades, will create the backdrop

for four special programs during the two-day event.

The Wells Hotel Museum will be open Friday from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. with programs at 10 a.m., 2 p.m., and 6 p.m. When is the last time you heard a turn of the century Edison phonograph play Christmas music or sang carols accompanied by a 1900s pump organ? All this and more are part of the fun.

The Friday 6 p.m. program will feature Monica Doyen Kruse's "5Plus!" a local women's group singing gospel and contemporary Christmas songs.

On Saturday, the museum will be open from 9 a.m. to noon with one program at 10:30 a.m. Guests will be treated to the music of soloist Claire Diamond from AGWSR High School. Children will participate in a traditional family Christmas story.

Christmas is a perfect time to walk down memory lane and learn about tradition.

There is no fee for any of these events, but donations are appreciated. More information and photos can be found at WellsburgHistorical-Foundation.org, the museum website, or on its social media. ●

Clover Kids Coming to Ackley

Pre-registration is open for youth in Kindergarten to third grade to attend Clover Kids 4-H programs offered through the Franklin County Extension.

The cost is \$8 and you must enroll your child into Clover Kids and then enroll in the Ackley events. Sessions will be held Dec.

28, Feb. 6, March 3 and April 10 (non-school days) from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the Ackley Public Library.

Space is limited to the first 12 youth registered. For further information, or to have questions answered, please call the Franklin County Extension Office at 641-456-4811. ●

Submit letters to Santa

Ackley's Alpha Epsilon Master Chapter of Beta Sigma Phi will again host Letters to Santa.

Children are invited to drop off letters to Santa Claus at the Ackley Post Office. To ensure letters are answered, please in-

clude a self-addressed, stamped envelope with your letter to Santa.

Santa looks forward to hearing from all little ones, especially those in the Ackley community.

Letters should be delivered to the Ackley Post Office before Dec. 8. ●

Wild Game Feed Planned

Ackley Police Chief Gerry Frick will host a wild game feed on Saturday, March 4, at the Ackley American Legion. Frick is looking for those willing to make a dish for the event which will support local participants in the Special Olympics.

Frick will provide game for those who

wish to take part. Those already committed to taking part in providing dishes include recipes which will use raccoon, deer, squirrel, and pheasant.

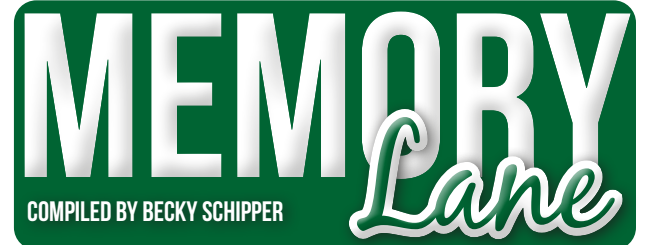
If you would like to make a dish, please contact Chief Frick through the Ackley City Hall - 641-847-3332 at your earliest convenience. ●



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Donation for Operation Santa Claus

GNB Bank employees provided funding for Operation Santa Claus, presenting a check for the local program to coordinator Sheryl Arends (center). In exchange for a donation, GNB Bank employees are allowed to wear jeans on Friday. Funds raised through the program are donated to local causes. Operation Santa Claus provides clothing and toys for children up to eighth grade, for families in need.



100 Years Ago, Nov. 23, 1922

Poultry Shipped
This has been a big week in the Ackley market for poultry. F.J. Martin has shipped two carloads to Chicago, and W.B. Artes produce house has shipped two. Between 70- and 80-thousand pounds of poultry - gone to make Sunday and Thanksgiving Day dinners.

It means a lot of 'loose change' in circulation here, as the prices range at about 18 cents a pound on average.

By the Governor

From time immemorial the State of Iowa has observed one day in each year as a special occasion of thanksgiving and prayer. Accordingly, I recommend that on the day designated by the President, Thursday the 30th day of November, the people of the Commonwealth assemble in their accustomed places of worship and there with devout spirits render praise and thanksgiving to the Giver of every good and perfect gift for His mani-

fold mercies. N. E. Kendall, Governor.

75 Years Ago, Nov. 20, 1947

Four County Fair
The Four County Fair evening program will be held Dec. 3 at the Marshall Canning Co. warehouse. Among the evenings attractions will be a half-hour band concert by the Ackley High School band, under the direction of Robert E. Dean.

Fourth Grade News

We have been very busy with all our six weeks tests. You ought to hear us groan when we hear what the next test will be.

The grades on our tests are much better these six weeks than what they were.

Adult School

All farmers and their wives are invited to attend the ten-week adult education school sponsored the Ackley Public School. Topics arranged for men include Soil Conservation, and 2-4 D in Control of Weeds; for women: Good Grooming and Stretching the Family Dollar. ●

PIZZA RANCH > CONT'D

himself with great leaders who are creating the success of his locations.

His brother, Jeffrey, also an AGWSR graduate, runs the Eldora location.

In Ackley, Danny Younker and Katie Flanagan - with 24 years of experience between them, are taking lead roles. He also counts on the experience of Linda and Mert Brass, who have extensive experience of their own, and will contribute further to the success of the location. Carlos Jimenez, from the Eldora Pizza Ranch, is currently training to be the Assistant Manager and plans to hold the General Manager of the Ackley location when he's ready.

Keeping those core employees is important to Pfaltzgraff. Not only does

it benefit the individual location, but the employee.

"The longer they stay, the more potential there is for them," Brett said.

His franchises provide him with a way to give back to the communities they are located in. They also provide him with an opportunity to give even more to a community. In Eldora, for example, he's taken on a leadership role with the Eldora Chamber.

"I'm not afraid of work - it's required to be successful," Brett explains. "If you aren't out there working hard, you can't help yourself and others be successful."

Patrons won't see any massive changes at the Ackley location. What they will see is a dedicated staff focused on giving every guest a legendary experience.

One facet of that is opening early for coffee groups. The Ackley location opens at 9 a.m. for those groups. It's a service that began with the Flanagan's and one which will continue.

Brett promises to keep the community in the front of his mind when deciding on pricing, as he continues to balance food, employee, and business costs.

"It's nice to come back to Ackley and reacquaint myself, catch up, and give something back," Brett said. ●

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SHOWING NOV. 25 - DEC. 1

Black Panther: Wakanda Forever
RATED PG-13
TUES. - FRI. 7 p.m.
SAT. & SUN. 3 & 7 p.m.

Strange World
RATED PG
TUES. - FRI. 7 p.m.
SAT. & SUN. 3 & 7 p.m.



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Happy Thanksgiving!

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