



**FUN NIGHT RETURNS TO OTTER CREEK**  
Page 2



**TROJAN BOYS OPEN TRACK SEASON**  
Page 10

# Tama-Toledo News Chronicle

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## An Egg-cellent time for all ages



PHOTOS BY JONATHAN MEYER

The Easter Bunny hopped around and posed for photos with the children.

## Meskwaki hosts Easter Egg Hunt and Fun Run

JONATHAN MEYER and MICHAEL D. DAVIS  
CORRESPONDENTS

The lawns of Meskwaki schools dazzled and sparkled last Saturday as people of all ages flocked towards the more than 6,000 eggs laying in the grass. Four divisions spread from the northern tip of the high school to the baseball diamond, equally dividing the eggs between the fast-paced kids and their leisurely lumbering counterparts.

The high winds and low temperatures were not a hindrance to the large crowd that gathered at the field's edge and stared excitedly out at the shine of the eggs. The Easter Bunny wandered about after the prizes were all gathered, taking pictures and giving out hugs to children and adults alike.

"I loved seeing the smiles on all the kid's faces," the Easter Bunny said.

HUNT | P 9

## STC Middle School students receive Golden Achievement Awards

NEWS-CHRONICLE

The Tama-Toledo Kiwanis Club held their annual Golden Achievement Awards banquet for South Tama County Community School District Middle School students on Tuesday, March 21 at the Tama-Toledo Country Club in Tama.

Sixteen students were chosen by the STC Middle School teachers based on a set criteria including each student's willingness to show respect for self and others, involvement in activities in and out of school, and achievement in academics. Kiwanis members opened the ceremony by leading those present in the reciting of the Kiwanis Mission Statement, the Pledge of Allegiance, and the singing of the song America.

Pastor Jill Mack, a Kiwanian member and pastor of Living Faith United Methodist Church, provided the invocation. Following the dinner, STC Superintendent

AWARDS | P 7

### WEEKEND FORECAST:

**Saturday: MOSTLY SUNNY**  
High: 69 / Low: 42



**Sunday: MOSTLY SUNNY**  
High: 71 / Low: 43

INSIDE:  
Weekly Journal.....2  
Your Government.....3  
Opinion.....4  
Church and Obits.....6  
Sports.....10

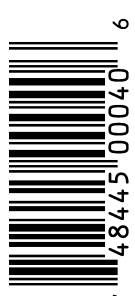
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NEWS-CHRONICLE PHOTOS BY MICHAEL D. DAVIS

STC Art Club Members: back row left to right: Nolan Salas (12), Jesse Ordaz (9), Ben Seremba (11), Alejandro Carrera (11), Zane Flathers (9), Shinobi Wanatee (9) and Raphael Sanache (9). Front row left to right: President Ceila Ornales (11), Lilanna Duncan (9), Lilian Randall-Bernal (9), Ronald Langbecker (9) and Vice President Liliana Espinoza (11).

## The beating art of STC

### Art Club finds its place in the community

MICHAEL D. DAVIS  
CORRESPONDENT

When you walk down the hallways of the South Tama County High School, what you'll notice before anything else is the art, proudly displayed on a table next to the front office, donning the concrete walls, and even decorating the windows of teachers' classrooms.

This is the work of the Art Club. This group of aspiring young artists meets every Wednesday after school in the paint speckled art room to work on both personal projects and ones for the community. Recently, the Art Club students have been commissioned by teacher Emily Chyma and the student council to paint and decorate large velcro patches that attach to duffel bags that will be given to foster care kids.

The project started by



Art Club member Arianna Herrera paints an uplifting patch for a bag that will be given to a foster child.

last year's student council works with a group called Foster Love to give kids these "sweet cases," which are bags for children in the foster care system with a teddy bear, a blanket, and a few other items inside.

This is by far not the first community based assignment with which these students have been involved. It started last year

with the painting of parking lines down by the Tama Civic Center; then the artists moved on to customizing teachers' windows.

The possibility of doing window paintings for local establishments fills the STC students with zeal.

"We really want to step up more and work with other businesses, make murals," Art Club Vice

President Liliana Espinoza said.

It's the goal of the current Art Club administration, under the leadership of President Ciela Ornelas, to leave an organization that will last for years to come. From the experienced hands of the upperclassmen to the young

ART | P 8

## Former Tama Co. jailer gets suspended sentence for sexual misconduct

ROBERT MAHARRY  
EDITOR

A former Tama County jailer will receive a fully suspended two-year prison sentence after pleading guilty to three counts of sexual misconduct with an offender, each an aggravated misdemeanor, stemming from incidents that occurred in 2020 and 2021.

A sentencing hearing for Kayla Mae Bergom, now 28, was held last Thursday afternoon at the Tama County Courthouse with Judge Justin Lightfoot presiding, Scott Brown appearing on behalf of the state and Eric Eshelman representing the defendant.

Citing Bergom's lack of criminal history, compliance with the conditions of her pretrial release, acceptance of responsibility for the offenses and her strong relationship with her family, the prosecution and defense agreed that a two-year suspended sentence on each count (with the



PHOTO BY ROBERT MAHARRY

Former Tama County Jailer Kayla Bergom, right, and attorney Eric Eshelman, left, attended a sentencing hearing at the courthouse in Toledo on Thursday. Bergom received a fully suspended sentence after pleading guilty to three counts of sexual misconduct with an offender in connection with incidents that occurred in 2020 and 2021.

sentences running concurrently), an \$855 fine with a 15 percent surcharge and a \$90 sexual abuse penalty added on each count, a 10-year parole period and two years of probation, a

requirement that Bergom register as a sex offender for 10 years (with a \$260 registration fee), a DNA requirement and a five-year no-contact order with the victim would be an appro-

priate punishment. Brown said the results of the presentence investigation did not recommend a deferred judgment, and

JAILER | P 8