

Six area bands set to jazz it up at state championships

MOC-FV hoping to hit high note again

BY ALEISA SCHAT
ASCHAT@NWESTIOWA.COM

REGIONAL—Six N'West Iowa high school jazz bands are set to perform at the Iowa Jazz Championships on Tuesday, April 4, in Ames.

Among them is Class 3A MOC-Floyd Valley High School's jazz ensemble, which competed in five Iowa contests this year and walked away with five first-place finishes.

"This year's jazz band is playing at a very high level. I am excited to see how the judges at a high-quality contest like IJC rank us," said Matt Honken.

He directs MOC-Floyd Valley's top jazz band, a 22-member ensemble that is designated Jazz 1. The high school has three jazz bands with 55 members in total.

The band's competition season included the Iowa Lakes Jazz Contest in January in Estherville, the University of Northern Iowa's

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Matthew Honken directs the MOC-Floyd Valley High School jazz band at the Iowa Lakes Jazz Festival on Jan. 20 in Estherville. The ensemble will be among six N'West Iowa ensembles competing at the Iowa Jazz Championships on Tuesday. Photo submitted

EMINENT DISDAIN

BY ELIJAH HELTON
EHELTON@NWESTIOWA.COM

DES MOINES—The Iowa Legislature this week killed a bill that would have restricted eminent domain for CO2 pipelines, effectively ending any chance of legislative action on the issue this year.

The Senate allowed House File

565 to expire ahead of Friday's deadline, commonly known as the funnel, which narrows the bills still being considered.

"It didn't surprise me, but it's disappointing, and it's frustrating, and there's no way to get around that," said Sen. Jeff Taylor (R-Sioux Center).

House File 565 would have required pipeline companies such as Summit Carbon Solutions and



Many landowners have fought CO2 projects for more than a year, some planting signs on their property and traveling to Des Moines to protest. Photo by Elijah Helton

Navigator CO2 Ventures to secure 90 percent of their routes via voluntary easement before being

allowed to pursue eminent domain.

See BILL on A12

GOP-CONTROLLED SENATE KILLS ANTI-PIPELINE BILL

Court documents provide more info on murder charge

Kassel arrested in death of mother

BY JEFF GRANT
JGRANT@NWESTIOWA.COM

SHELDON—Bond has been set at \$1 million for a 41-year-old Rock Rapids man accused of murdering his mother at her home in Sheldon on Thursday, March 23.

Nathaniel Byron Kassel was arrested about noon Friday, March 24, in Flandreau, SD, in connection with the death of 62-year-old Jody Lynn Duskin.

He has since been extradited to the O'Brien County Jail in Primghar, where he faces charges of first-degree murder, a Class A felony; felon in

possession of a firearm, a Class D felony; operating a vehicle without the owner's consent, an aggravated misdemeanor; and two counts of fifth-degree theft, simple misdemeanors.

Criminal complaint documents filed in O'Brien County District Court by the Sheldon Police Department provide more information on the incident than initially provided in news releases by the Iowa

See MURDER on A10



Kassel



Cory Asbury will perform at RiseFest 2023 after the Christian music artist was announced as the latest artist for the June 9-10 event in Sheldon. Photo submitted

Asbury latest artist to join RiseFest '23

Well-known for his 'Reckless Love' song

BY JUSTIN RUST
JRUST@NWESTIOWA.COM

SHELDON—RiseFest continues to expand its 2023 lineup as Cory Asbury has been announced as the sixth artist who will be appearing at the two-day Christian music festival in June in Sheldon.

"We couldn't be more excited to have Cory lead worship at RiseFest 2023," said Rob Roozeboom, the founder of Rise Ministries in Sheldon, the organization behind RiseFest.

Wednesday's announcement adds Asbury to a lineup that already consists of Crowder, We The Kingdom, CAIN, Anne Wilson and Ben Fuller for the

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NEWS

Kassel accused of shooting mom, taking her car**MURDER***Continued from page A1*

Division of Criminal Investigation through the Iowa Department of Public Safety.

Sheldon police chief Scott Burtch wrote in his report that Kassel "willfully, deliberately, and with premeditation killed the victim, his mother."

The report stated Kassel was residing with Duskin at the time and messaged other family members, stating "I'm killing Jody" at approximately 8:47 p.m. Wednesday, March 22.

At approximately 11:30 p.m. that same date, Kassel "was overheard in a phone conversation stating he made a mistake and hurt someone."

Kassel was in possession of a handgun at approximately 4:30 p.m. on the same date, according to two witnesses, according to the police chief's report.

Kassel communicated with individuals in the early morning hours of Thursday, March 23, that Duskin was sick and could not go to work.

The report stated Duskin was shot in the head in the south bedroom of 604 Fourth Ave.

A .45-caliber casing and a bullet were located.

Three empty handgun containers also were located in the residence. One of the containers was for a .45-caliber handgun.

Kassel's arrest stemmed

from a 911 call to the O'Brien County Communication Center about a deceased female located at 604 Fourth Ave. at about 4 p.m. Thursday, March 23, in Sheldon. Duskin, who had owned the home since September 2020, was found by a family member, according to the DCI.

When authorities arrived, they found Duskin deceased inside her two-story home.

An autopsy of Duskin took place last Saturday by the Iowa Office of the State Medical Examiner in Ankeny, and her death was ruled as a homicide.

Kassel was arrested Friday in Flandreau, SD, outside the Native Nations Cannabis Dispensary, according to Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe

HAVE INFORMATION?

■ Anyone with information regarding investigation into the death of Jody Lynn Duskin is asked to contact the Sheldon Police Department at 712-324-2525 or call Iowa Division of Criminal Investigation at 712-224-7680.

Police Department.

Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe police chief Brian Arnold noticed a vehicle at the Royal River Casino & Hotel that fit the description given to department by the Iowa DCI. The vehicle was a 2013 Ford Edge owned by Duskin.

The tribe police coordinated with the Flandreau Police Department, Moody County Sheriff's Office, South Dakota Highway Patrol and Iowa DCI.

Kassel was taken into custody at the Brookings County Sheriff's Office in South Dakota.

He was found to be in possession of two of the handguns — a .22-caliber handgun and 9 mm handgun — from Duskin's residence.

Kassel was extradited on Monday, arriving about 8 p.m. to the O'Brien County Law Enforcement Center.

A preliminary hearing is

scheduled for 1:30 p.m. Friday, April 7, in the O'Brien County Courthouse in Primghar at which time the judge will determine if there is sufficient evidence to continue the case.

Billy Oyadare, a state public defender out of Sioux City, was appointed as Kassel's attorney after Kassel signed a financial affidavit stating he is unemployed and therefore has no income. He also stated he owns nothing worth more than \$100.

Scott Brown, assistant attorney general of Iowa, will represent the prosecution on behalf of the state.

Funeral arrangements for Duskin are being handled by Jurens Funeral Home in Sibley.



Sioux County supervisor Craig Hoftzyer flips through plans during discussion at the March 21 meeting. The supervisors took action to add the paving of certain routes outside of Rock Valley to the engineer's five-year plan. Photo by Eric Sandbulte

Rural Rock Valley to get extra paving

Sioux County puts three more miles on road plan

BY ERIC SANDBULTE
ESANDBULTE@NWESTIOWA.COM

ORANGE CITY—The Sioux County Board of Supervisors have added plans to resurface some roads neighboring Rock Valley to the fifth year of the county engineer's five-year plan.

Rock Valley mayor Kevin Van Otterloo requested at the supervisors' March 21 meeting that the county eventually pave two routes on the city's south side. The first route is Fig Avenue from Highway 18 to 320th Street and then 320th Street west a half mile from Fig Avenue, which is now gravel.

The second route included 320th Street from Elmwood Avenue to Eagle Avenue, which is now a Level B maintenance road, then the gravel road from 320th Street north a half mile up Eagle Avenue to reach the city limits.

These two routes amount to about three miles.

The total estimated cost for the project, which would include right-of-way acquisitions, grading and box culvert extensions, is \$7.54 million. The estimate was based on statewide average prices over the past year. Assuming 6 percent inflation, the total cost would increase to \$10.1 million in 2028.

There is a half-mile section of the Fig

Avenue portion of the project where the Rock Valley city limits are on the centerline of the road. Rock Valley would be responsible for the project costs in this area, an estimated \$530,000 based on past-year prices or a projected \$705,000 in 2028.

These routes are increasingly used by trucks and other motorists seeking to get to Rock Valley's industrial locations, but the Level B maintenance road has caused problems for trucks since the first eighth of a mile has gravel provided by a homeowner, making that road appear to be better maintained than it actually is.

"You have a lot of steel trucks coming in from Sioux City, and their GPS is taking them down that dead road," Van Otterloo said. "Right now, when they turn on that dead road and see they can't go down it, they have no chance to turn around in a semi. They actually have to back up across that backtop and hope no cars pop up over that hill."

For the county to take on the project, it must first be added to the engineer's five-year plan, requiring the supervisors' approval. By putting the project on the five-year plan, the county is under no obligation to do the project.

Sioux County engineer Joel Sikkema said he would want to talk more with Van Otterloo about which of the two routes would be higher priority if the county had to tackle them in different

years.

Upgrading the Level B maintenance road on 320th Street already is part of the five-year plans, due to begin in 2024. Once graded, the road would need to wait two years before it is hard surfaced so that it can properly settle.

"The challenge with this is going to be with the \$7.5 million estimated cost, we really need to figure out what all of our available options for funding are," Sikkema said.

He said that sources such as Revitalize Iowa's Sound Economy (RISE) grants could be one option, given the projects' anticipated benefits to Rock Valley's industrial businesses.

In other matters at the March 21 meeting, the supervisors unanimously approved downsizing the number of members on the Sioux County Planning and Zoning Board from 11 to seven.

Planning and zoning director Shane Walter said it is unusual among Iowa's counties to have so many people serve on that board, with five or seven members much more common.

"A commission of 11 is kind of unwieldy sometimes. It's hard to get everybody at the meeting," Walter said.

To get down to seven members, Walter will ask if any current members are willing to step down. After that, it would come down to not replacing members who complete their terms until a seven-member board is achieved.

Dove Award winner to perform in June RiseFest in Sheldon**RISEFEST***Continued from page A1*

June 9-10 event at the RiseFest grounds in Sheldon. We The Kingdom will headline Friday and Crowder will be close out Saturday schedule.

Asbury released his first solo album "Let Me See your Eyes" in 2009.

His first major hit came in 2017 when he released his second single "Reckless Love," which led to his second album under the same name in 2018. The album debuted at No. 1 on Billboard's Christian Albums charts and reached No. 53 on the Billboard 200 chart. The song reached No. 7 on Hot Christian Songs and Asbury peaked at No. 3 on Billboard's Emerging Artists chart.

"Reckless Love," both the song and the album, vaulted Asbury into the Christian music spotlight as he was nominated for five Dove Awards in 2018 — Song of the Year, Worship Song of the Year and Worship Recorded Song of the Year for "Reckless Love," Worship Album of the Year for "Reckless Love" and New Artist of the Year.

Asbury went on to win Song of the Year, Worship Song of the Year and Worship Album of the Year.

In 2020, "The Father's House" was released as the lead single for Asbury's third solo album "To Love a Fool." The song debuted at No. 16 on Hot

FOR MORE INFO

■ To learn more about RiseFest and Rise Ministries, visit www.riseministries.com or stay connected through social media and Facebook, Instagram and Twitter; e-mail info@riseministries.com or call 712-324-9763.

Christian Songs and peaked at No. 3 on the chart. "To Love a Fool" debuted at No. 4 on Billboard's Top Christian Albums chart.

"Sparrows" was the second single released from "To Love a Fool" and it peaked at No. 6 on Hot Christian Songs.

Asbury was nominated for two Dove awards in 2021 for Song of the Year for "The Father's House" and Pop/Contemporary Album of the Year for "To Love a Fool."

In 2022, RiseFest hosted more than 20,000 people for the two-day festival, which features the nation's top Christian artists and speakers.

Tickets for RiseFest 2023 are on sale through the Early Bird Special for \$48.50 when 10 or more are purchased. Individual tickets are \$53 until April 30. Children 10-and-under are free. Audience members may upgrade their festival experience with prime tickets and camping.

Charges dismissed for one of two men after Sheldon arrest

Pot, guns allegedly found at residence

BY JEFF GRANT
JGRANT@NWESTIOWA.COM

SHELDON—Charges have been dismissed for one of two Sheldon men arrested following a search of their home Jan. 21.

The arrests of 64-year-old Kevin Glen Anderson and 61-year-old Joey Lynn Espeland followed a search of at 217 N. Fifth Ave., according to the Sheldon Police Department.

A small white container with marijuana in it was found in a dresser that Anderson said was his. Multiple items of drug paraphernalia, such as one-hitters, pipes and bongs, were found among his belongings as well as in common areas of the residence. Anderson admitted some of the items were his, according to the incident report.

A bag containing marijuana was found in Espeland's bedroom. Two .22-caliber rifles and a 12-gauge shotgun also were located in the residence. Espeland said the rifles were his while the shotgun was in a common area he had access to. Various items of drug paraphernalia, such as one-hitters, pipes and bongs, were found in his bedroom as well as in common areas of the residence.

Anderson was charged with second-offense possession of a

controlled substance — marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia.

Espeland was charged with possession of a controlled substance — marijuana — third or subsequent offense, dominion/control of a firearm/offensive weapon by a felon and possession of drug paraphernalia.

The search warrant stemmed from Anderson being arrested Jan. 20 on charges of driving while his license was denied or revoked and operating a motor vehicle without a required ignition interlock after a 2000 Chevrolet Silverado pickup he was driving was stopped on the 100 block of North Fourth Avenue.

The pickup Anderson was driving was registered to Espeland. When an officer returned the keys to their residence, he detected the odor of marijuana.

Anderson pleaded not guilty to all the charges on March 18 in O'Brien County District Court in Primghar.

A pretrial conference for him has been scheduled for 9 a.m. April 17 with a jury trial slated for May 16.

The charges against Espeland were dismissed March 17 at the request of O'Brien County assistant attorney Rachael Becker after he was not indicted within 45 days as required by Iowa Rules of Criminal Procedure 2.33(2)(a).

LAW & ORDER**SIBLEY MAN ARRESTED FOR OWI, NO LICENSE**

SIBLEY—A 42-year-old Sibley man was arrested about 2:05 p.m. Tuesday, March 21, on charges of second-offense operating while under the influence and no valid driver's license.

The arrest of Robert August Neuman stemmed from a report of him apparently being intoxicated at Casey's General Store in Sibley and driving off in a 2004 Buick Rendezvous, according to the Osceola County Sheriff's Office.

A deputy observed Neuman driving east on Second Street and found his vehicle parked at the main entrance of Osceola Regional Health Center in Sibley with him sitting in the driver's seat and the engine running. Neuman had bloodshot/watery eyes, impaired balance, slurred speech and the odor of an alcoholic beverage.

He admitted to consuming alcohol earlier, according to the incident report.

SHELDON WOMAN JAILED ON MARIJUANA CHARGE

SHELDON—A 42-year-old Sheldon woman was arrested about 8:05 p.m. Wednesday, March 22, on a charge of first-offense possession of a controlled substance — marijuana.

The arrest of Tabatha Dee Monen stemmed from the stop

of a 2011 Chevrolet Equinox on Prairie Trail Road in Sheldon, according to the Sheldon Police Department.

Monen was found in possession of a baggie containing a green leafy substance consistent with marijuana and a vape pen containing THC.

She had an expired medical marijuana card with her, according to the incident report.

MILFORD MAN CHARGED FOR METH, MARIJUANA

HARRIS—A 42-year-old Milford man was arrested about 10:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 22, near Harris on charges of possession of a controlled substance — third or subsequent offense — methamphetamine; possession of a controlled substance — third or subsequent offense — marijuana; driving while his license was denied or revoked; operating a motor vehicle without a required ignition interlock device; driving without required high-risk insurance; and driving while his license was denied, suspended, canceled or revoked.

The arrest of Elijah Arthur Hix stemmed from the stop of a westbound 2003 Chevrolet Trailblazer clocked at 69 mph on Highway 9 near Willow Avenue south of Harris, according to the Osceola County Sheriff's Office.

A search of the vehicle located

a bag of methamphetamine and a bag of marijuana, according to the incident report.

MAN CHARGED FOR OWI, CHILD ENDANGERMENT

GEORGE—A 34-year-old George man was arrested about 10 p.m. Wednesday, March 22, on charges of first-offense operating while under the influence, possession of an open container of alcohol, speeding, failure to use headlamps when required and two counts of child endangerment.

The arrest of Marius Wijnand Dideric Versteeg stemmed from the stop of a 2011 Ford F-250 pickup at the intersection of Jay Avenue and 210th Street about a mile west of George for speeding and operating without its headlights, according to the Lyon County Sheriff's Office.

Versteeg had bloodshot/watery eyes, impaired balance, slurred speech, the odor of an alcoholic beverage and an open container of alcohol and failed field sobriety tests, according to the incident report.

He had left two girls, ages 4 and 2, unsupervised at his home.

ONE HURT IN ROLLOVER CRASH BY ROCK VALLEY

ROCK VALLEY—A 41-year-old Sioux Center man was injured in a one-vehicle crash about 6:55 a.m. Thursday, March

23, on Garfield Avenue, three miles southeast of Rock Valley.

Guillermo Luna-Perez was driving north when he lost control of his 2015 Chrysler 300, which entered the west ditch, struck a culvert and rolled, according to the Sioux County Sheriff's Office.

Luna-Perez was trapped and was extracted from the vehicle by responders with the Rock Valley Fire Department.

He then was transported to Hegg Health Center in Rock Valley for treatment of his injuries.

His vehicle received an estimated \$10,000 damage.

INWOOD TEEN ARRESTED FOR OWI NORTH OF HULL

HULL—A 19-year-old Inwood resident was arrested about midnight Friday, March 24, near Hull on a charge of first-offense operating while under the influence.

The arrest of Jenner Nicholas Johnson stemmed from the stop of a 2013 Chrysler 200 Touring on the 2600 mile of I-6x Avenue about five miles north of Hull after leaving a party in which there were people under the legal age drinking, according to the Lyon County Sheriff's Office.

Johnson had bloodshot/watery eyes and the strong odor of an alcoholic beverage. He registered a blood alcohol concentration of .088, according to the incident report.