



## G'Day!

It's a great day to burn off that pic.

### S.A.L.T. meets Thursday at St. Thomas Aquinas Parish Center

Seniors and Law Enforcement Together — S.A.L.T. — program have announced the next S.A.L.T. meeting will be Thursday, Dec. 1, at St. Thomas Aquinas Parish Center in Webster City.

The event will begin at 9 a.m. with breakfast; free blood pressure checks will be conducted by Van Diest Medical Center.

The meeting will get underway at 9:30 a.m. with updates from local and county law enforcement officers, as well as reports from county agencies and communities throughout Hamilton County.

The program to follow will feature Christmas carols sung by the second- and third-grade students at St. Thomas Aquinas School.

S.A.L.T. Meetings are free and open to the public. Meetings are held bi-monthly at different locations throughout Hamilton County.

### VDMC Auxiliary will hold special holiday gift shop hours

The Van Diest Medical Center — VDMC — Auxiliary will open its gift shop for extended hours during the holiday season. Four consecutive Sundays, beginning Nov. 27, and continuing into December on the 4th, 11th, and 18th, the gift shop will be open from noon to 4 p.m. Shoppers may use the main (west) entrance to visit the gift shop.

Regular gift shop hours are Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The VDMC Auxiliary Gift Shop is also hosting a Holiday Open House on Monday, Dec. 12 and Tuesday, Dec. 13. Refreshments will be served, including hot apple cider and homemade Christmas cookies. Special sales will also be announced.

Also, the Auxiliary is sponsoring a fundraiser with The Nutman Company, on Dec. 12 and 13 in the cafeteria conference room at the hospital. The fundraiser will run from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Monday and 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday.

The Nutman Company has ored 200 fine quality nuts, chocolates, snack mixes and candies available for purchase. Cash and credit/debit cards will be accepted.

Proceeds from VDMC Hospital Auxiliary fundraising events are used to support health care scholarships and to purchase patient care equipment at Van Diest Medical Center.

## CITY COUNCIL OF WEBSTER CITY, HAMILTON COUNTY SUPERVISORS, AND TWO COMMISSIONS WILL PLOT FUTURE OF WILSON BREWER PARK

### SPECIAL MEETING IS MONDAY EVENING

By JANE CURTIS

The City Council of Webster City will meet with the Hamilton County Board of Supervisors in a special meeting on Monday evening that is intended to clarify the path forward for Wilson Brewer Park, the site of Webster City's founding and the home to many subsequent historic buildings.

Also in attendance at this work session will be members of the Wilson Brewer Historic Park and the Webster City Parks & Recreation commissions.

The meeting begins at 6 p.m. in the council chambers of the City Hall of Webster City, 400 Second St.

The meeting can be attended via Zoom using this Meeting ID 812 1466 8463.

The phone number to call to participate via telephone is 1-312-626-6799.

The future of Wilson Brewer Park is the single agenda item.

This meeting arises in the wake of the City Council of Webster City's decision on Monday, Nov. 21, to table a motion that had been passed by the Wilson Brewer

Park Commission asking to be put in control of the park.

The City of Webster City owns the park, which was bequeathed to the city by descendants of the town's founder, Wilson Brewer, with the stipulation it be a park.

The WBP Commission at this time is an advisory commission, meaning any action taken at the park must be approved by the City Council.

After the WBP Commission passed the motion, the Parks & Rec group recommended it not be approved by the Council.

## WHAT'S THE FUSS ABOUT?

By DARLENE DINGMAN

Just what is all the fuss going on about Wilson Brewer Park?

The City Council soon will make a decision concerning a park that 90 years ago a previous City Council promised to maintain, and they made the promise in writing December 19, 1932.

First, you need to know how Webster City obtained this park. Frank A. Bonebright and his wife, Katherine,



and Harriet Bonebright Carmichael and her husband, George Carmichael, who had no living beneficiaries, made the decision to give their family's land to the City of Webster City. According to the Agreement, their purpose was to create a "perpetual memorial of the first settlement and founding of Webster City, Iowa by their grandfather, Wilson Brewer."

Included were the log

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— Daily Freeman-Journal photo by David Borer

## Turkey Trotters make room for the big meal

About 80 runners — and walkers — participated in the annual Webster City Thanksgiving Day Turkey Trot on the foggy Thursday morning. As the race starts, the eventual top three are already racing ahead. They are, from left, Jacob Willson, Jonathon Flaws and Brenna Strawhacker.

Abens Realty representative, Tami Hejlik, said with the firm's matching contribution, approximately 250 canned goods were collected for a local food pantry or Upper Des Moines Opportunity Inc.



# Viewpoints

**WBP**

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cabins, including the Frank A. Bonebright Museum, relics and other items and personal property connected with the museum now upon premises which were to be used as a public park, burial place and memorial forever.

The agreement further stated that "the log cabin museum now upon said premises and such additional cabins as may be hereinafter erected and the appurtenances thereto shall be preserved by the City, but all other buildings upon said premises may be altered or removed by the City..."

We know how the park looks now, but in 1932 there were only the Bonebright residence and outbuildings, and not the church, school, old courthouse, depot and caboose that were added later over time.

Most people living today have no recollection of Frank Bonebright or Harriet Bonebright Carmichael. I admit as a life-long resident of Webster City, neither did I. But while volunteering and then as a seasonal employee at the Depot Museum for nine years, I found I was surrounded with unique items and pioneer and Native artifacts collected by Frank.

Who was this man who would save and mount parts of a mammoth and mastodon tusk and molars in viewing cabinets built by Andrew Raven?

What was the story behind the wooden Indian and did it have a connection to the City?

How did he accumulate so many different Native artifacts?

Thus began my quest to get more information. After all, we can't tell the stories to visitors to the park if we don't know any.

The Depot was fortunate to obtain research done on his relatives, the Brewer and Bonebright families, by Dale L. Lange, PhD, of Albuquerque, New Mexico. I also found that bits and pieces of Brewer history were included in other books I owned or read such as Early Days in Hamilton County, Then and Now by local graduate and teacher Bessie L. Lyon, written in 1946. Find a Grave, Graceland Cemetery on the internet also provided names and dates of those buried there.

## OTHER OPINIONS

I spent many hours reading news articles from the Digital Archives of Kendall Young Library. Since there is no one alive now who has personal knowledge, these books and references were invaluable.

### FRANK ADEL BONEBRIGHT

Frank Adel Bonebright was born in the second Brewer log cabin on April 16, 1868, and died at the family home on March 5, 1934.

The original — first — Brewer cabin was occupied only one year, from 1848-1849, according to the book written by Sarah Brewer Bonebright. He married Katherine Poe, a milliner, in 1905. They never had any children.

He was a 25-year member of Company C of the Iowa National Guard, eventually becoming a lieutenant. He served as one of the Columbian guards at the World's Fair in Chicago in 1893. It was called the Columbian Exposition because it commemorated the 400th anniversary of Christopher Columbus's sail to the new world.

Frank Bonebright served during the Spanish-American War and spent six months in the typhoid-infested camp at Chicamaugua, Tennessee.

He was quite a rifle marksman and won many competitions during his years in the National Guard. In 1902 he won a rifle competition by making 10 straight bulls-eyes at 200 yards. His many medals are displayed in the military room in the Depot Museum at Wilson Brewer Park.

During his lifetime he had many occupations. He was a farmer and dairy farmer; became an electrician and ran an electrical supply shop on the corner of Des Moines and First streets; was appointed the official city electrician; ran a rock quarry near his land; and was the official weather and crop reporter for Hamilton County.

He was quite an interesting and hard-working man.

### HARRIET M. BONEBRIGHT CLOSZ CARMICHAEL

Harriet M. Bonebright Cloz Carmichael was also quite an interesting lady.

She was born in Webster City on February 26, 1861, and attended public schools in the community. She began teaching at age 16. At age 18 she married 23-year-old Theodore Cloz, who was born in Germany on April 28, 1856. They were married 36 years and had one daughter, Inez Rosalie Cloz, who died at 8 months.

The family moved to Chicago where she became a freelance magazine and newspaper writer. They returned to Webster City in 1900. Harriet was granted a divorce in 1915 after alleging that her husband was brutal and beat her. She was granted a property settlement and petitioned the Iowa Supreme Court for more alimony, which was granted.

During her marriage to Cloz she suffered from rheumatism and in 1907 she began a 45-day fast. She weighed 98 pounds when she began and 80 when it concluded. Afterwards she believed she had been cured.

In 1926 Harriet married George A. Carmichael who was 11 years older than her. She also took in a deceased cousin's orphaned 4-year-old son to raise. He was Jean G. Johnston, who later was the father of Webster City Fire Chief Terry Johnston, who is now deceased.

At almost 60 years old, Harriet graduated from the Palmer School of Chiropractic.

The Carmichaels lived at 539 First St. in Webster City until moving in with Sarah Brewer Bonebright on the Brewer homestead.

Her husband George Carmichael hung himself in the barn on the Brewer property

in Webster City in 1937. He had become despondent due to failing health. For five years Harriet was the official United States weather and crop reporter for the community after the death of Frank Bonebright.

During 1933 she helped care for her brother Frank A. Bonebright and his wife. She maintained the pioneer exhibit after Frank's death in 1934 and entertained visitors in her capacity as caretaker for the museum.

In addition to the book she co-wrote with her mother, Sarah Brewer Bonebright, titled Reminiscences of Newcastle, Iowa, 1848: A History of the Founding of Webster City, Iowa, which can be read online, Harriet wrote another book in 1902 titled: Woman and Her Relation to the Church or Canon Law for Woman.

Harriet died September 9, 1940, at the family home at Wilson Brewer Park. She was 79 years old. She requested her body be cremated and her ashes scattered upon the soil of the old homestead or to be permitted to find a resting place beside the remains of her parents in the burial mound which was the location of the first Brewer cabin.

Soon the City Council will decide what to do about Wilson Brewer Park. Does it keep its promise of 90 years ago?

Do promises expire when the donors are no longer are alive?

Can they morally turn its ownership and/or operation and maintenance over to City-County Trustees?

Or is there some other answer to relieve the park's burden on Webster City's budget?

Perhaps start over from scratch with new people and new ideas and ignore the five-month closeted negotiations already done?

Perhaps an ad hoc committee appointed by the Council?

As citizens, don't be afraid to voice your opinions or ideas politely to the City Council members soon.

*Darlene Dingman is a committed volunteer at Wilson Brewer Park and Webster City resident.*

## Share Your Views

Send your letters:

"To the Editor,"

Daily Freeman-Journal;

P.O. Box 490,

Webster City, IA 50595

Or email to:

[jcurtis@freemanjournal.net](mailto:jcurtis@freemanjournal.net)

Letters should be 350 words or less and must be the original work of the author.

We reserve the right to edit for length, taste and possible libel, as well as personal attacks and inflammatory

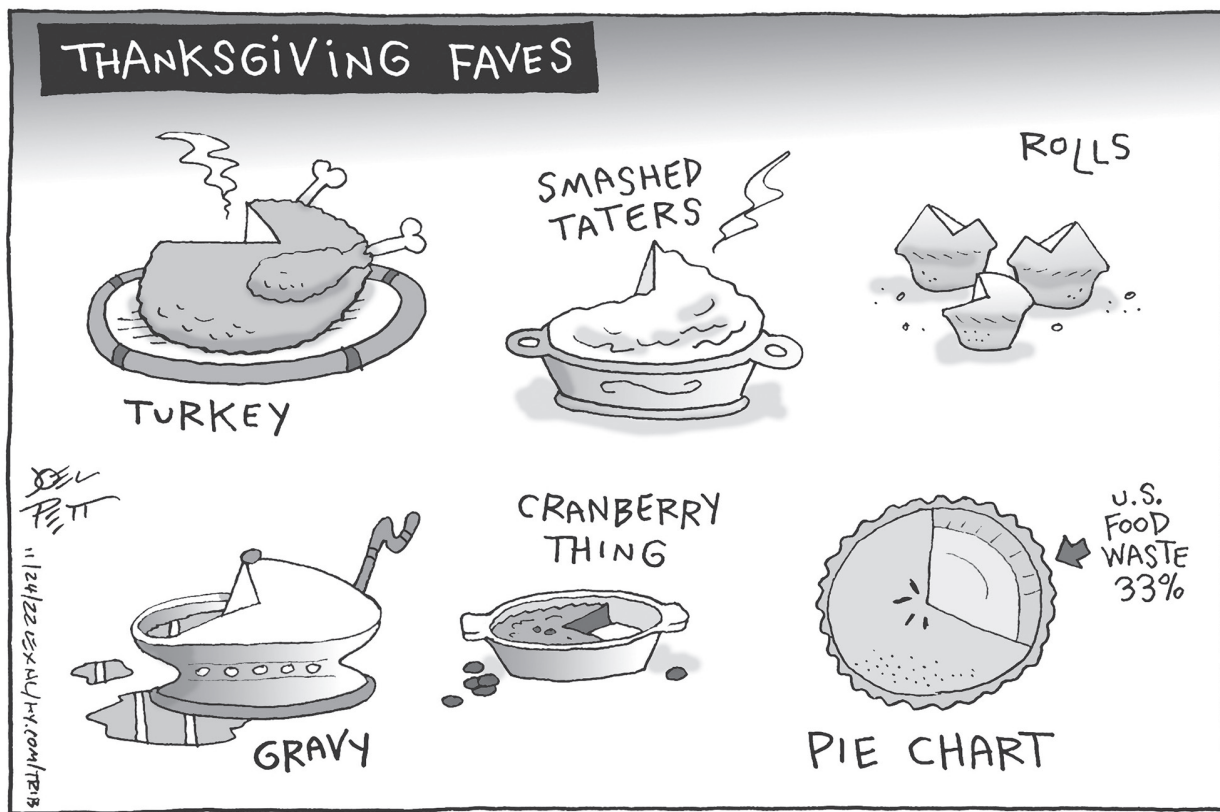
statements about businesses, groups or individuals. Letters must be signed and include a full address, plus a phone number for verification purposes.

One submission per month per writer.



## The First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution

*"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances."*



## How to Reach Federal Officials

**President Joseph R. Biden Jr.**  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. N.W.  
Washington, DC 20500  
Comments: (202) 456-1111  
Switchboard: (202) 456-1414  
<https://www.whitehouse.gov>

**Sen. Charles Grassley**  
135 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510-1501  
(202) 224-3744  
<https://www.grassley.senate.gov>

**Sen. Joni Ernst**  
730 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510-0001  
(202) 224-3254  
<http://www.ernst.senate.gov/public>

**Rep. Randy Feenstra**  
4th Congressional District  
1440 Longworth House  
Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515  
(202) 225-4426

## How to Reach Your City Council members

**Mayor John Hawkins**  
[jhawkins@webstercity.com](mailto:jhawkins@webstercity.com)  
**Matt McKinney**  
[mmckinney@webstercity.com](mailto:mmckinney@webstercity.com)  
**Abbie Hansen**  
[ahansen@webstercity.com](mailto:ahansen@webstercity.com)

**Megan McFarland**  
[mmcfarland@webstercity.com](mailto:mmcfarland@webstercity.com)  
**Logan Welch**  
[lwelch@webstercity.com](mailto:lwelch@webstercity.com)

City Council meetings are held the first and third Mondays of the month at 6 p.m. at the Council Chambers in City Hall.

For more information, contact the City Manager's office, 832-9151