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DICKINSON COUNTY NEWS

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2023

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DICKINSON COUNTY SETS MAX LEVY HEARING AMID STATE MISCALCULATION



■ County auditors are expected to begin anew under legislative remedy

Seth Boyes
 News Editor
news@dickinsoncountynews.com

A single word — “maybe” — was offered as further discussion when the Dickinson County Board of Supervisors decided to set Feb. 28 as the public hearing date for the county’s proposed maximum tax levy.

As of Tuesday’s board meeting, state lawmakers were still considering a bill which could change the timeline for local government budget planning. Senate File 181 is aimed at remedying a miscalculation made by the Iowa Department of Revenue — the department was off by about 2% when it set residential and multi-residential rollbacks for the com-

ing year, according to the Iowa Legislative Services Agency. Dickinson County Auditor Lori Pedersen said her office was given those inaccurate numbers in the fall of 2022 to complete their most recent local property tax valuations, but she expects her staff will need to start that process over again once the proposed bill is signed into law. Pedersen said the annual property valuations are easily the most tedious task she and her staff undertake each year — they generally take about a week-and-a-half to finish, she said.

“It’s frustrating,” she said of starting over. “But I realize they want to save taxpayers money.”

Lawmakers in Des Moines were still discussing amendments to the bill when the Dickinson County Board of Supervisors decided to go ahead and schedule the upcoming tax levy hearing. Clerk Jordan Moyer with the auditor’s office, indicated to the board that having a hearing date on the books would put the county in the clear as far as current requirements, but a later hearing date could be scheduled

if the new bill calls for it.

County officials made plans in September to set the county’s general fund levy at its maximum for a period of one year to generate about \$3.35 million. Those dollars are expected to help fund upgrades to county emergency communication equipment, which will then allow the county to join Iowa’s statewide communication system. Pedersen said the county still won’t exceed its maximum levy, regardless of new numbers from the state, and she said county officials decided to cross at least one item off their checklist before Pedersen’s staff dives into local property valuations for a second time.

‘IT ALL COMES DOWN TO ACCOUNTABILITY’

Pedersen said the Iowa Department of Revenue generally gives her and other county auditors their assessment limitations by Oct. 26 each year.

■ Supervisors
continued on 3A

Supervisors Jeff Thee and Bill Leupold looked over paperwork with Jordan Moyer of the Dickinson County Auditor’s Office after the board of supervisors set Feb. 28 as the day for its annual maximum tax levy hearing. Moyer noted the date might need to be changed as state lawmakers continued Tuesday to consider a bill which would remedy a miscalculation on the Iowa Department of Revenue’s part, but Moyer said the Feb. 28 date will satisfy current state requirements and can be pushed to a later date if the bill calls for it. (Photo by Seth Boyes)

District Court judge finds no reason to reconsider Miles’ 20-year jail term

■ Defendant claimed he was on meth while signing plea bargain

Seth Boyes
 News Editor

A district court has denied a former Dickinson County man’s request for his drug convictions to be reconsidered by a judge.

Patrick William Miles — also known as Patrick Wascher — claimed during a December hearing that his 2021 plea bargain should be considered invalid, saying he was under the influence of methamphetamine when he signed it and that his former defense attorney did not fully explain the potential outcomes of signing the agreement. Miles also accused his former attorney Steve Goodlow — who was recently installed as Dickinson Coun-

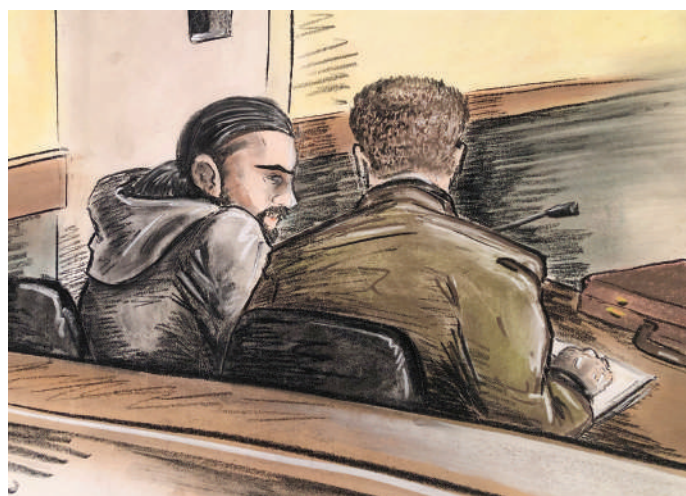
ty attorney — of a conflict of interest, citing the county’s decision to hire Goodlow as an assistant county attorney several months after the bargain was signed.

Iowa Third Judicial District Court Judge Nancy Whittenburg said in a decision filed Feb. 2 of this year that the situation was “essentially a credibility dispute.” The judge ultimately found Miles’ arguments lacking and denied the 45-year-old’s application for post-conviction relief. Prosecutors noted ahead of the decision that Miles had unsuccessfully attempted to

■ Miles
continued on 3A



Patrick William Miles



Patrick William Miles — also known as Patrick Wascher — sat with defense attorney Michael Jacobsma during a Dec. 1, 2022, hearing for post-conviction relief. Miles claimed to have been under the influence of methamphetamine when he signed a plea agreement on May 13, 2021, and he argued the agreement should be considered invalid. He also accused his former defense attorney of providing ineffective counsel. A recent district court decision denied Miles’ request for post-conviction relief, after a judge found his claims unconvincing. (Courtroom sketch by Seth Boyes)

Sheldon man accused of sexual abuse in Orleans

Seth Boyes
 News Editor



Mauro Alejandro Dominguez Gandara

A Sheldon man has been accused of sexually abusing a woman the morning of New Year’s Eve in a home on the east side of Big Spirit Lake.

Authorities charged 22-year-old Mauro Alejandro Dominguez Gandara with third-degree sexual abuse in late January after being informed earlier that month of a possible incident which took place Dec. 31, 2022, in the 13000 block of 253rd Avenue in Orleans — a Spirit Lake Police report listed the offense as forcible rape.

Court documents said the woman told officers in early January she had “consumed a large amount of alcohol” with several other people the previous night in celebration of her 21st birthday. A criminal

complaint said the woman “had to get cleaned up after vomiting as well as helped to the couch, where the victim was left to sleep.”

A friend of the woman’s told investigators she checked on the 21-year-old about every 20 minutes. Around 3 a.m. the next morning, another witness said she saw Dominguez Gandara on top of the unconscious woman and possibly using his hand to commit a sex act. A group soon confronted Dominguez Gandara, according to court documents.

“The assault was observed by several witnesses who confronted Mauro and stopped the assault,” the criminal complaint said. “The assault itself was covered by a blanket, however one witness described how there were movements made by Mauro indicating

■ Dominguez Gandara
continued on 7A

ETHANOL EXECUTIVE:

Carbon capture might be 'life or death' for producers

Jared Strong
Iowa Capital Dispatch

An increasing demand for low-carbon fuels will imperil ethanol producers unless there is widespread adoption of equipment to capture emissions from ethanol plants, the executive director of the Iowa Renewable Fuels Association said Tuesday.

"I honestly don't think it's hyperbole to say that capturing and sequestering carbon will be life or death for most ethanol plants over the next five years," Monte Shaw said at the organization's annual summit in Des Moines.

His comments come at a pivotal time in a long-running debate about whether Iowa landowners should be forced to allow carbon dioxide pipelines to be built across their properties.

There are three proposed pipelines that would take captured carbon from ethanol plants, liquefy it and transport it out of state for underground sequestration or commercial use.

State lawmakers have said the pipeline proposals are among the top issues for their constituents. There are several bills pending in the Iowa Senate that would limit or eliminate eminent domain for the pipelines and limit the companies' abilities to conduct land surveys and negotiate for easements.

Shaw argued that the proposed legislation unfairly targets one type of infrastructure project.

"If you are an Iowa legislator and you honestly believe our current laws don't provide enough landowner protections, that's your right," Shaw said. "But if you support legislation that singles out (carbon dioxide) or liquid fuel pipelines instead of applying new standards to all eminent domain requests, then I politely suggest you're not really interested in property rights."

One of the bills would require companies to secure voluntary easements for 90% of its route in Iowa before it could use eminent domain to get easements

from unwilling landowners — a proposal that has the support of the influential Iowa Farm Bureau Federation. Summit Carbon Solutions, which is furthest along in the permit process, recently announced it has obtained voluntary easements for about two-thirds of its route in Iowa.

"Every day, more and more Iowa landowners are signing easement agreements with Summit Carbon Solutions because they know it will ensure the long-term viability of the ethanol industry and drive growth in our ag economy, commodity prices and land values," the company's chief executive, Lee Blank, said in a press release.

Navigator CO2 Ventures — which has the largest number of proposed miles of pipe in the state for its project — has declined to reveal the percentage of its route for which it has signed voluntary easements.

Summit has hoped to get approval for the project from the Iowa Utilities Board this summer, but the board has not yet set a final hearing for the proposal, and an overall timeline is unclear.

Summit has enticed landowners with payments that they keep even if the pipeline is not built. Under its agreements with ethanol producers, Summit would pay to install the infrastructure to capture, compress and transport carbon dioxide in exchange for an unspecified percentage of the increased revenue that results.

Low-carbon ethanol can be sold for a premium in certain markets, and the federal government offers tax credits to ethanol producers for capturing carbon. Those tax credits are the greatest if the carbon dioxide is sequestered underground.

Carbon dioxide that is produced by fermentation at ethanol plants has a high purity, which reduces or eliminates the need to refine it before sequestration. The question is: Where should it be sequestered?

The pipeline companies have suggested the geology in Iowa



Monte Shaw, executive director of the Iowa Renewable Fuels Association, speaks at the Iowa Renewable Fuels Summit on Feb. 7. (Photo by Jared Strong/Iowa Capital Dispatch)

is not ideal for underground sequestration — hence the need for the pipelines — but that is not necessarily true, Ryan Clark, a geologist for the Iowa Geological Survey, told state lawmakers last week.

He said about half of the state's biofuels facilities are located in places that have the potential for on-site carbon sequestration but that someone would need to drill tests wells to confirm it.

Clark said it's possible that huge quantities of carbon dioxide could be stored in the Mid-continent Rift System, which lies beneath nearly half of Iowa.

About five of the state's 42 ethanol plants currently capture carbon dioxide to some degree, said Jared Palmer, a spokesperson for

the Iowa Renewable Fuels Association. It is used by other businesses to carbonate beverages, flash freeze products and for other purposes, he said.

Opponents of the pipelines have objected to the projects over safety concerns, landowners' rights and damage to farmland. Some environmentalists also argue that increasing the long-term viability of ethanol by reducing its carbon intensity will merely prolong its use at a time when the nation is transitioning toward electric vehicles.

"Taking carbon already in the atmosphere from past fossil fuel use and putting back underground should not only be considered an incredible achievement from your supposed point, but it

is a central tenet of every country's plan to meet 2050 carbon reduction goals," Shaw said.

Electric vehicles are a key component of President Joe Biden's efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, but his administration has been "quietly supportive" of ethanol despite that focus, said Geoff Cooper, chief executive of the national Renewable Fuels Association.

The recent Inflation Reduction Act was "game-changing" for ethanol because of its tax credits and \$500 million in funding to update fuel infrastructure to accommodate higher-percent ethanol blends, Cooper said. The 2022 federal legislation also increased the tax credit rate for capturing and storing carbon

dioxide, from \$50 per ton to \$85.

"We look at it as probably the single largest commitment to bio-fuels from Congress since 2007," Cooper said.

The ethanol industry is a key market for Iowa farmers because it buys more than half of the corn produced in the state.

Gov. Kim Reynolds said bio-fuels are "truly the difference between profit and loss for countless farm families."

She has joined other Midwestern governors in seeking waivers from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to expand summertime sales of blended fuels that contain 15% ethanol.

"The future is already growing here, and it's growing in Iowa fields," Reynolds said.

Former Spencer High School music instructor's license suspended

Kardell claims contact not inappropriate, agrees evidence could support violation

Randy M. Cauthron
Spencer Reporter

A document, from the Board of Educational Examiners of the State of Iowa, stamped Nov. 21, 2022, announced a settlement involving former Spencer High School music department educator Katie Kardell and an allegation of inappropriate behavior involving a former student.

She has not worked in the district since her resignation in 2021.

In order to resolve the matter without proceeding to a hearing, Kardell agreed to an amended charge citing a violation of soliciting, encouraging or consummating a romantic or otherwise inappropriate relationship with a student. As a result of the agreement, she received a public reprimand and her license was suspended for a minimum of three years, effective Dec. 1, 2021.

"I'm not going to give any comments on a personnel matter," Spencer Community Schools Superintendent Terry Hemann said, concerning the Board of Educational Examiners' decision regarding Kardell and her departure from the district in 2021.

"I can tell you that Mrs. Kardell did resign as part of a resignation agreement," he said.

Hemann confirmed Kardell's wages and benefits for the contract year were paid through the contract term.

As part of her suspension, Kardell is also required to successfully complete at least 15 in-person contact hours in Ethics for Educators offered by the Iowa State Education Association, or Ethical Educators offered by the Professional Educators of Iowa — paying all costs associated with the required curriculum. Kardell must also undergo a physical health evaluation by a professional, including an assessment of her ability to establish and maintain appropriate teacher-student boundaries. She is responsible for all costs associated with the conditions.

The state Board of Educational Examiners' settlement agreement and final order indicated Kardell, who holds a Master Educator License with K-8 music and K-12 music endorsements — scheduled to expire on March 31, 2027 — had a complaint filed on Nov. 30, 2021. The board, on June 24, 2022, found probable cause to proceed to hearing.

Named as the respondent, Kardell was charged with violating a section of Iowa Code which protects students and patients from being sexually exploited by teachers, counselors or therapists.

According to the state investigation, Kardell initiated "inap-

propriate contact with a student through text messages and embraces." The longtime SHS educator asserted in the document her contact was never inappropriate, but she agreed and

admitted if the case were to proceed to an administrative hearing, evidence presented could be "sufficient to support a finding she violated the Standards of Professional Conduct and Ethics."

Tim Harmston and Mary Mack

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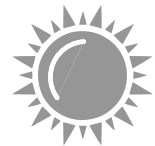



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Miles

continued from 1A

file appeals in April 2022 regarding several of his convictions. "(Miles) appears to have wanted one thing — to stay out of jail as long as possible," Whittenburg wrote. "His lawyer got it for him. Now (the) applicant appears to realize that what he wanted was not optimal in the long-term, and he should have made a different deal. That is buyer's remorse, no ineffective assistance of counsel." Miles was one of two suspects arrested after an early-morning assault and robbery in November of 2019 in Spirit Lake. An initial criminal complaint in the case said Miles "held the victim down and struck the victim numerous times in the face and head." The Dickinson County Sheriff's Office, Spirit Lake Police Department and the region's High Risk Entry Arrest Team — or HEAT — were called in to execute a search warrant at Miles' then-residence in the 800 block of Lake Street in Spirit Lake. Miles was arrested and initially charged with first-degree robbery as well as possession of drug paraphernalia and possession of marijuana. A second search warrant was executed simultaneously at a nearby apartment authorities believed to be the home of Angela Rinkoski, who was also thought to be involved in the crime — Rinkoski's charges were dismissed as part of a plea deal in October of 2020, but she violated the terms of her probation and returned to jail in January of 2021. Miles is currently serving a jail sentence of up to 20 years for attempted burglary, possession

of methamphetamine with intent to deliver, failure to affix a drug tax stamp and willful injury — the willful injury charge stemmed from an Aug. 6, 2020, incident in which Miles stabbed a Cherokee man in Milford during a verbal altercation. Miles testified during a December 2022 hearing that he had used methamphetamine prior to signing a plea agreement on May 13, 2021. Prosecutors previously argued that Miles had met with his probation officer immediately prior to Goodlow's arrival and the signing of the plea — Miles testified in December that his probation officer and Goodlow arrived "right on top of each other." "There was no time in which the defendant could have used a controlled substance between the meeting with his pretrial release officer and his attorney," prosecutors had argued. Judge Whittenburg said the probation officer was especially credible in saying Miles was "alert and understood the consequences of what was being discussed with him." The judge highlighted the officer's training, experience, familiarity with Miles and previous encounters with him while he was under the influence of drugs. In addition, the judge noted the officer was the only party testifying who "does not have a direct stake in the matter." Aside from the drug use, Miles' request to the court also accused Goodlow of ineffective counsel, claiming the attorney did not explain certain rights Miles would

waive by signing the plea agreement — specifically the right to be involved in selecting jurors for a trial. Goodlow contended during the December hearing that he and Miles went over the agreement page by page. Judge Whittenburg's decision said legal precedent requires convicted defendants in Miles' position to show that the allegedly omitted information would have been enough to change their minds about signing a guilty plea. Whittenburg cited four separate quotes from Miles' testimony, in which he indicated he signed the plea bargain in order to delay his sentencing date as long as possible. "(Miles) now characterizes this as coercion by Goodlow," the judge wrote. Miles was initially scheduled to be sentenced on July 12, 2021, but he failed to appear. The Dickinson County Sheriff's Office, Milford Police Department and the HEAT team converged at Miles' last known address in the 1000 block of Highway 71 in Milford the same day, but he was not found. However, authorities did find a monitor bracelet Miles had been ordered to wear as part of his pretrial release. Goodlow testified in December that, about a month after Miles failed to appear for court, he and former Dickinson County Attorney Amy Zenor began discussing Goodlow potentially serving as an assistant county attorney in Zenor's office. Miles was eventually arrested in Tea, South Dakota, extradited back to Iowa and booked into the Dickin-

son County Jail on Sept. 9, 2021. Goodlow accepted the assistant county attorney position and filed to be withdrawn as counsel for Miles and other clients on Sept. 7 — two days before authorities returned Miles to Dickinson County. Goodlow officially began his employment in the county attorney's office on Oct. 4, 2021 — he was later appointed as county attorney after Zenor was charged with public intoxication and resigned in November of 2022. Judge Whittenburg was not convinced Miles' current defense attorney demonstrated a conflict of interest on Goodlow's part, noting Goodlow didn't even accept the job offer until after the 45-day window in which his former client could have asked the court to delay its decision and consider some legal defect in the case — Miles' new attorney did submit such a filing the same day Miles was returned to Dickinson County, but that motion was subsequently denied on Sept. 24, 2021. "Certainly, working for the state and as an applicant's attorney at the same time would be a situation conducive to divided loyalties," Whittenburg wrote. "However, that situation never occurred." The judge's decision this month judged court costs are to be taxed to Miles. The 45-year-old is currently being held at the North Central Correctional Facility in Rockwell City, according to information from the Iowa Department of Corrections.

Supervisors

continued from 1A

That information includes rollback adjustments for residential, agricultural, commercial and other types of properties. However, Pedersen said auditors aren't allowed to begin working on the valuations before Dec. 1, in part because area cities need to certify how much tax increment financing — or TIF funding — they anticipate they'll need. She said her office received the Department of Revenue's numbers — including the 1.8% error — and her staff began the laborious task of crunching the numbers as usual — as did their counterparts across the state — and local-level budgets started coming together. "I've got cities already having public hearings and all of a sudden we get all these emails from our legislative group down there at the Iowa State Association of Counties saying, 'OK, there's this bill that's on the fast-track right now saying the Iowa Department of Revenue goofed up, and they want the county auditors to start that process all over again,'" Pedersen said. Pedersen said she would later learn the Legislative Services Agency had discovered the error about a month before county auditors were even allowed to start warming up their adding machines, yet the auditors themselves didn't learn of the potential issue until after their work was done. "It all comes down to accountability," Pedersen said. "They knew about this problem before anybody had even started their processes. And now, we've literally known about this legislation now for at least a month, and they still haven't signed it. We know we have to do it, but we can't do anything." Iowa Department of Management is instructing county auditors not to do anything regarding property valuations until the problem is resolved, according to Petersen. Meanwhile, she said the software company whose program the local auditor's office uses is trying to figure out how to record two annual valuations within a single year — Petersen said the software company didn't seem to have been informed of the impending issue either.

THE NEW TIMELINE

Depending on how quickly the Legislature's proposed remedy is signed into law, local-level governments could have a little more than two months to get things in order — again. Under the bill, taxing entities such as cities would have until April 30 to certify their new budgets. Pedersen said, as of Tuesday's county board of supervisors meeting, lawmakers in the Iowa House were expected to debate the bill at least one more time before sending it to Gov. Kim Reynolds for her signature — the Iowa Senate passed the bill 49-0 on Feb. 1. Pedersen said the Department of Revenue is expected to have two days to send new information to county auditors following the governor's signature, and the auditors themselves will have 15 days to run their second batch of valuations.


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GUEST COMMENTARY

QUALITY LONG-TERM CARE AT RISK IN RURAL IOWA



In 2022, 19 nursing homes closed in Iowa due to many different factors affecting operations. On Feb. 1, 2023, another four nursing homes went into receivership and a fifth announced its closure on Feb. 8. Most of these closures are in rural Iowa locations. These closings are likely due to financial hardship caused by Medicaid reimbursements being lower than the cost of maintaining the residents. On average, there is a 20% deficit between the cost to care for a resident and the Medicaid reimbursement rate. There are many reasons for the increased cost to care for residents. Inflation and supply chain shortages caused increases in food cost, utilities, supplies and repairs. There is also a labor shortage of nurses, certified nursing assistants and administrators. Many of the staff and administration suffered burnout from working long hours during COVID-19, and some left the health care industry altogether. In addition, there aren't many nurses and CNAs entering the health care industry. To fill the void, care providers had to increase wages and use temporary agencies. The formula used to calculate Medicaid reimbursement has not kept pace with the recent sudden

Scott Kessler
Administrator, Lakeside Lutheran
Nursing Home and Grace Estates
Assisted Living, Emmetsburg

increases in costs it takes to care for residents. The future of long-term care looks bleak without increasing Medicaid reimbursement. Closing a nursing home is devastating to the resident and family. Residents don't like change and may not adjust to new surroundings. Families may have to drive farther to see loved ones. These changes cause additional stress to all involved. There may not be other nursing homes close by. When a nursing home closes, there is an economic ripple effect to the community. This is especially true for rural communities. Jobs are scarce in small communities, causing a spouse to travel farther distances for a job and possibly uprooting families to move closer to a job. There is an immediate need to contact your local representatives and senators to communicate the urgency of providing financial relief to Iowa nursing homes.

• Scott Kessler is the administrator of Lakeside Lutheran Nursing Home and Grace Estates Assisted Living in Emmetsburg. This opinion column was written collaboratively with the Lakeside Lutheran Nursing Home and Grace Estate Assisted Living Board of Directors.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

VOICE YOUR OPINION ON PIPELINES, EMINENT DOMAIN

We recently made the trip to the Iowa Capitol on Wednesday, Feb. 8. Why did we travel nearly eight hours to Des Moines and back to go to the Capitol? As affected landowners in the path of the proposed hazardous CO2 pipeline, we are very concerned about the possible use of eminent domain for a private project. We are extremely concerned how a private company can come in and take our land. The Iowa Association of Counties, the Iowa Farm Bureau and the Iowa Cattlemans Association have endorsed the proposed bills to fix Iowa's eminent domain laws. This is further proof that eminent domain is a concern of many and needs to be addressed. Eminent domain is the power of the United States government, states and municipalities to take private property for public use, following the payment of just compensation. Nowhere in this description does it say for private use. The proposed hazardous CO2 pipeline is not a government project. It is a private company trying to install this privately owned pipeline through our land, county, state and the Midwest — the breadbasket of the world. Eminent domain is meant to be used for public good, not private profit.

Our land is not for sale, and a private company should not be allowed to make money from our land without our consent. The massive amount of objection letters sent to the IUB in opposition to the proposed hazardous CO2 pipelines is proof there are many tax-paying Iowa citizens against the pipelines as well as the use of eminent domain for this project, should their application be approved by the IUB. Our state flag proudly displays our motto, "Our liberties we prize and our rights we will maintain." Take time to write or call your legislators today. They need to hear from all concerned citizens — residents of towns, acreage owners, landowners on the proposed hazardous CO2 pipeline path and also landowners who are not on the proposed path. Email, text, call or send a letter by traditional means and voice your concerns. Go to www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/find to find your legislator's contact information. Let your voices be heard. The next few weeks are pivotal. Legislators need to hear from the people they represent.

— DENNIS & HOLLE SMITH, ESTHERVILLE

GUEST COMMENTARY

IOWA FARMLAND BELONGS TO IOWA FARMERS

China represents the greatest threat to our national, economic, energy and food security. From buying up American farmland to stonewalling investigations into the origins of the COVID pandemic, China cannot be trusted. As we begin the 118th Congress, I have helped introduce several pieces of legislation to counter the Chinese Communist Party's aggression and protect our most vital, yet finite resource in rural America — our farmland. Last week, I joined a bipartisan coalition of my colleagues in introducing the FARM Act to prevent malign foreign interests from infiltrating rural America and protect America's agricultural supply chains and family farms. On my biannual 36-county tour, I have met with countless Iowans who are rightfully concerned about foreign countries like China buying our farmland, especially near our military bases. So am I. Foreign ownership of American farmland is a direct threat to our national and food security, and it must be stopped. As such, the FARM Act requires the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States to review any investment that could result in foreign control of any U.S. agricultural business and designates our agricultural systems and supply chains as critical infrastructure. Iowa farmers are the breadbasket to the world, and I will continue to do everything in my power to protect our livelihoods and keep China far away from our farmland. More recently, I worked with my colleague from Washington state, Rep. Dan Newhouse, to introduce the Prohibition of Agricultural Land for the People's Republic of China Act. This legislation is straightforward. Any person or entity associated



Randy Feenstra
U.S. Rep.

with the Chinese Communist Party is strictly prohibited from purchasing American farmland — as they should be. Foreign investors already own more than 37 million acres of American farmland, which is larger than the state of Iowa itself. That's why we cannot allow China to get their hands on even one more acre of our land. Finally, I am also working diligently to reintroduce the Agriculture Foreign Investment Transparency Act, which I helped lead with my colleagues Rep. Rick Crawford of Arkansas and Rep. Elise Stefanik of New York last Congress. This legislation amends the Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act to actively monitor foreign purchases of American farmland and promote transparency in land acquisitions by foreign entities. Currently, AFIDA requires foreign investors to report their holdings or transactions to the Secretary of Agriculture within 90 days of acquisition, and this legislation would require the Secretary of Agriculture to post this information publicly on the USDA's website. This commonsense bill is a victory for American farmers, government transparency and our national security. With growing threats abroad, we must redouble our efforts to protect our farmland and our national security. As your voice in Congress, I will continue to stand up to China and protect our rural way of life because Iowa farmland belongs to Iowa farmers. We are Iowa together, and your thoughts and opinions matter to me. Please contact my office at feenstra.house.gov or by phone at 202-225-4426 if I can ever be of assistance. I am proud to represent our families, farmers, main street businesses and rural communities in Congress.

STATE FUNDING OF EDUCATION V. PERFORMANCE

Things are moving along nicely at the Statehouse. On Feb. 7, the House passed a 3% increase to state spending in our K-12 schools. We are already being criticized by some that we haven't contributed enough funding to keep our schools competitive. In fact, the narrative is that Republicans are destroying education in the state. The opposition uses things such as Iowa used to be the No. 1 state in the nation in reading scores. The narrative has been that because House Republicans are underfunding education, that our education system is declining and, to fix the system, we need to fund more money. This assertion is laughable when you look at the amount of money that the State Legislature has moved into our public education system in the last 10 years and when you look at the National Assessment of Education Progress results through the years. NAEP is considered by many to be the gold standard when evaluating how an education system is working in a state. From 2011 to 2020, inflation has gone up an average of 1.57% per year for a cumulative inflation rate of 15.06%. While at the same time, the Republican majority in the House pushed for significant increases in funding for K-12 education. The House, and now the Senate, has provided one billion new dollars to the education budget during the same period for a growth of right around 23%. The Legislature has been funding K-12 education at more than the rate of inflation for the Midwest, and that education budget makes up 44% of the entire state budget. Public schools in Iowa are being funded accordingly, despite what some are saying. One billion dollars of new funding is \$1 billion of additional funding. Let's look at performance and how in Iowa children are performing before this growth of expenses and how it is performing today. As mentioned above, we can use the NAEP tests as they are taken across the country. In 1992 Iowa was ranked fifth in the nation in fourth-grade reading. All the data I am stating has been taken from the National Center for Education Statistics, just so some will not say I am making this up. From 1992 until 2009, Iowa fell from fifth in



John Willis
State Rep.

the nation to 26th in the nation in fourth-grade reading scores. That is a drop in the rankings of 21 places. The drop in rankings started in 2002, a time where we had a democrat governor and Republican-controlled House and Senate. In 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2010 we had a Democrat trifecta where quite a bit of money was spent in education. So much, in fact, that the Legislature had to do a 10% across-the-board-cut across the state government, in order to keep the lights on. In 2009, during a Democrat trifecta of our state government, Iowa fell to 26th in the nation in fourth-grade reading scores according to NAEP. We are currently ranked 16th in the nation in fourth-grade reading scores, according to NAEP. So, in the time of the greatest drop in rankings, Iowa was controlled by a trifecta of Democrats, and now, during a time of control by Republicans, our fourth-grade reading scores are on the rebound. I am a scientist and I trust data, but I always question that data. President Reagan said it well, "Trust, but verify." When someone throws out comments that Republicans are underfunding education or Republicans are stealing money from education, it is easy to have an emotional response and cry, "How dare they!" However, when we look at the data, we find that money isn't the answer. We find that when money is thought to be the answer, and the only answer, our system declines. Iowa Republicans, who are in charge of the governor's office, the House and the Senate, have taken a reasoned approach to education, providing increases in funding that meet or exceed inflation as well as using reasoned policy approaches to improve education. Our goal is to become number one in the country once again. Iowan's want that and deserve it. The division and gnashing of teeth that we are hearing are those who don't want to change. They are set in their ways, and they also want to keep the power they have grown so used to owning. If we listened to those people 70 years ago, we would still be in single room school houses. We need to change, and we need to understand improvements do not always need to have money thrown at them in order for them to be good improvements.

UPCOMING BILLS AND VOICED CONCERNS

On Monday I started my day receiving a draft of a bill I filed for a constituent and approving another bill to be drafted. One bill is a companion to Rep. Jones' bill in the House regarding the use of fake money or movie prop dollars. The other bill deals with state sales and use tax. Throughout the week, we focused on moving bills through the Legislature and meeting with constituents here at the Capitol. This week the House passed the Student Supplemental Aid bill, SF 192, to provide an additional \$107 million for our local schools. Education is the largest part of our state budget and our first priority for us in the legislature. We are required by law to pass the SSA budget within 30 days of session. Gov. Reynolds signed the bill into law Wednesday, which was fitting as STEM students from all over Iowa were in the Capitol sharing their priorities. GT/RA and Okoboji Schools were there, and I enjoyed the meet and greet. I also met with a large group of landowners who are for reforming the rules used for eminent domain. Joined by Sens. Guth, Taylor and Alons, we heard from these good people about their concerns and their support for SF 101, which repeals the use of eminent domain for hazardous liquid pipelines. We discussed the goals for moving the bill and heard from every voice in the room. I want to thank all those folks for making the trip down and their comments to support the bill as well. HF 161 relating to the setting of a liability limit for malpractice lawsuits passed this week. The cost



Dave Rowley
State Senator

and accessibility of health care routinely ranks among the top issues in Iowa especially in rural Iowa. It is a key component for future economic growth as well as. Massive verdicts have affected the recruiting of health care workers and providers. It has put tremendous pressure on local hospitals and other health care providers. House File 161 sets the maximum liability limit for "non-economic" damages at \$1 million for doctors and \$2 million for hospitals. Limits on "non-economic" are in place in 33 other states with most well under a \$1 million cap. Rural health care facilities are ill-equipped to handle sizeable judgements like the recent \$97 million verdict in Iowa City. Again, this only applies to "non-economic" damages leaving punitive and economic redress available with no limits. I am hopeful our hospitals can be successful as a result of passing this bill to recruit good people and provide rural Iowans the health care we need. After a long week, I look forward to returning home to attend different forum events with our fellow legislators. This week I will be in Emmetsburg. I am eager to learn about your concerns and meet new faces. I receive quite a few messages from my district. I appreciate all messages regardless if we agree or disagree, because without doing this, I would not know what you are thinking. So always feel free to contact me with your questions or concerns, and if you find yourself at the Capitol, let me know. I would love to schedule a meeting with you. Thank you for this opportunity to serve.

AN IOWA NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION "GENERAL EXCELLENCE" PUBLICATION

The INA's "General Excellence" designation is given to newspapers with a top-three finish in one of five circulation categories. Writing, photography, advertising, page design, website elements, marketing and community involvement are taken into account. First place General Excellence years are in bold.

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2017 • **2018** • 2019 • 2020 • 2021 • 2022

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OBITUARY



ROBERT "LOUIE" LOUIS JENSEN
MAY 15, 1931 – FEB. 11, 2023

Funeral services for Robert "Louie" Louis Jensen will be held at 10 a.m., Friday, Feb. 17, 2023, at the Warner Chapel in Spencer. Interment will be in Pleasant View Cemetery at Hartley.

Louie passed away on Feb. 11, 2023, at the age of 91 in Ligonier, Pennsylvania. His battle with serious medical issues over the last 11 months of his life showed his courage in facing life's challenges with a smile. Despite his difficult recovery from three surgeries, Robert stayed strong until the end and continued to tell his doctors, nurses and friends, "I sure am a lucky guy."

Robert was born at the home of his parents, Louis and Coila (Norland) Jensen, on May 15, 1931, near his grandparents' farm in Linn Grove. He recalled that his parents bought their original farm place near Moneta when he was 6 years old, and he continued to live and work on that same farm for nearly his entire life.

After graduating from Moneta High School, Robert was drafted into the Army and shipped out to Korea, where he operated heavy equipment and lived in a tent barracks near Seoul for two years. He remembers heading to Korea and sailing under the Golden Gate Bridge.

He returned home from Korea and, in March of 1954, he married his sweetheart, Georgia, who was the love of his life. They were indeed partners and enjoyed farming and traveling together. They had three children and were active in their church and community.

Summers were spent at their lake house, where they entertained family and friends. They enjoyed playing cards with their high school friends, which continued for more than 65 years.

After Georgia's passing in April 2020, Robert moved to Pennsylvania to live with his youngest daughter, Monica, and her husband, Matt. Despite the restrictions imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic, Robert enjoyed exploring Pennsylvania and traveling around the country.

On Sept. 11, 2021, Robert joined a group of veterans hosted by the Honor Flight on a tour of Washington, D.C., memorials. He was one of four veterans to have the honor of laying a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery.

Robert was preceded in death by his wife Georgia and sister Joan Seely.

Robert leaves his children, Randy, Martia, Monica and her husband Matt, as well as grandchildren, George and Lauren Oggero, R. Walt Oggero and Pierce Jensen; his sister-in-law Marjrie Brehmer; nieces, Shiela, Jennifer and Julie and nephews, Mark, Daniel and Stacy and their families.

He will be fondly remembered by family, cousins and friends. Arrangements are under direction of Warner Funeral Home. Online condolences can be left at warnerfuneralhome.com.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

STORM SPOTTER TRAINING PLANNED FOR NEXT MONTH

The annual Clay/Dickinson County Storm Spotter Training class will be held from 7-9 p.m. Wednesday, March 29, at the Milford Fire Station. The class is free and open to the public. Preregistration is not necessary. The session will be taught by the Sioux Falls National Weather Service and coincide with Severe Weather Awareness Week in Iowa, which runs March 27-31.

DICKINSON COUNTY SWCD TO HOLD MEETING

The regularly scheduled monthly meeting of the Dickinson Soil and Water Conservation District will be held at 9 a.m. Friday, Feb. 17, in the District Office. A tentative agenda will include approving the minutes of the last meeting, Treasurer's Report and bills, reviewing the mail, approving cost share applications, amendments and vouchers, receiving NRCS and district reports, old and new business and planning for the next meeting. Those in need of accommodation are asked to notify the Dickinson SWCD office by Feb. 16 by calling 712-336-3782, Ext. 3.

UDMO RECEIVES FUNDS TO ADDRESS RURAL HOUSING

The Upper Des Moines Opportunity Inc. Housing Program will be awarded \$1,491,339 over three years to address homelessness in rural Iowa. UDMO Housing Services Coordinator Tanya Thelen said the organization applied for a Special Notice Of Funding Opportunity in collaboration with the Iowa Balance of State Continuum of Care to address homelessness in rural Iowa. Officials said the notice of award from HUD states includes a first-of-its-kind package of resources to help communities provide housing and supportive services to people in unsheltered settings, including in rural areas. Collectively, the IA BoS/CoC will be awarded \$4,675,396 over three years. More information will be coming in the next weeks and months. UDMO plans to hire additional staff to support the work of the housing program and continue the fight against homelessness in rural Iowa. Visit the UDMO Housing Program website for more information at <https://www.udmo.com/programsservices/housing/>.

CAMPUS NEWS

SANDBULTE NAMED TO GEORGE FOX DEAN'S LIST

Olivia Sandbulte, of Milford, was among those who earned dean's list recognition at George Fox University for the fall 2022 semester. Traditional undergraduate students must earn a 3.5 GPA or above on 12 or more hours of graded work to earn a spot on the dean's list. Sandbulte is a sophomore majoring in nursing. More than 4,000 students attend classes on the George Fox University's campus in Newberg, Oregon, and at teaching centers in Portland and Redmond, Oregon.

STEFFENS NAMED TO SAINT MARY'S DEAN'S LIST

Congratulations were extended to Zachariah Steffens, of Spirit Lake, who was named to the fall semester 2022 dean's list at Saint Mary's University. The list includes 419 undergraduate students who earned a GPA of 3.60 or better on a 4.0 scale.

MINNESOTA STATE ANNOUNCES 2022 FALL DEAN'S LIST

The academic high honor and honor lists (dean's lists) for the past fall semester at Minnesota State University, Mankato, have been announced by Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs David Hood. Among 3,714 students, a total of 1,126 students qualified for the high honor list by achieving a 4.0 straight "A" average, while 2,588 students earned a 3.5 to 3.99 average to qualify for the honor list. To qualify for academic honors, undergraduate students must be enrolled for at least 12 credit hours for the semester. Emma Hackbarth and Maci Higgins, both of Spirit Lake, were named to the university's honor list, and Emma Loveall, of Spirit Lake, was named to the high honor list.

Iowa Lakes sees enrollment growth

Iowa Lakes Community College has measured enrollment growth for the 2022-23 academic year, moving the college's enrollment closer to pre-pandemic figures.

"We are very excited about Iowa Lakes Community College's future," Iowa Lakes President Scott Stokes said. "Our enrollment numbers confirm that we are moving in the right direction. We expect our enrollment numbers to grow as we develop new and innovative educational offerings. At Iowa Lakes, we are committed not only to our students but to their futures and the development of our workforce."

During the fall 2022 term, Iowa Lakes Community College experienced a 4% increase in headcount and a nearly 9% increase in total

credit hours.

According to the 2022 Annual Condition of Iowa's Community Colleges report, Iowa Lakes Community College secured the No. 1 spot for enrollment growth over the previous year, compared to all other community colleges in Iowa.

Iowa Lakes Community College continues to offer strong academic programs providing access to more than 60 nationally recognized degrees, certifications and pre-professional programs. Additionally, students can earn two-year transfer degrees which directly align with areas of study provided by the Iowa Board of Regents.

"We are very proud of the progress made regarding enrollment at Iowa Lakes," said Annie

Kalous, director of admissions. "We have had unprecedented interest in our unique career and technical programs and transfer majors."

Iowa Lakes officials said the college has boasted solid numbers for the spring 2023 term, recording more than 5% growth in headcount and nearly 3% in credit hours compared to the 2021-22 academic year.

In addition to increased enrollment, Iowa Lakes has achieved graduation, success and persistence rates well above state averages, with a graduation rate of 45% (6 percentage points higher than the state average) and 77% of students retain enrollment from fall to spring. The overall success rate of Iowa Lakes students is

57%, nearly 10% higher than the state average.

"Students like the personalized and hands-on learning environment offered at Iowa Lakes — that they have a name and are not just a number," Kalous said.

Iowa Lakes has a 15-1 student-to-faculty ratio providing the opportunity for personalized experiences while offering vast access to student support services that help to ensure success.

"Students need to visit us to get a feel for what life is like as a Laker," Kalous said. "Iowa Lakes has several group visit days scheduled in addition to the option of individual visits."

To learn more about Iowa Lakes or to schedule a campus visit, visit iowalakes.edu.

LIBRARY NEWS

MILFORD MEMORIAL LIBRARY

Milford Memorial Library will be closed on Monday, Feb. 20, in observance of Presidents Day. We are looking forward to seeing everyone at 9:30 a.m. Tuesday, Feb. 21.

Everyone is invited to join the Open Book Discussion Group at 1 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 21. This month, discussion is about "The Mystery of Mrs. Christie" by Marie Benedict. Extra copies are available at the library. Attendance is not necessary for all meetings. Readers are welcome to come and go as they please.

Join us for the Spark Joy Program with Shannon Huneycutt. You will learn the KonMari philosophy and guiding principles needed to tidy once and for all and leave feeling motivated to Spark Joy in your home, office and life. Be sure to have a standard T-shirt and a pair of pants ready for the folding activity as you will be learning the famous KonMari Vertical folding technique. There will be a giveaway at the end of the presentation, as well as time for you to ask Shannon some questions. This free program is available in person or online via Zoom. Contact Milford Memorial Library, Arnolds Park Library or Spirit Lake Library to register and for more information. Sponsored by the Friends of the Milford Library, Arnolds Park Library and Spirit Lake Library.

Blind Date with a Book is going on until Feb. 28. Take your chance to find a new literary favorite or dud you want to return. The only information readers will have is the book's genre and a small description. There is a bookmark in each book. Return the completed bookmark to be placed into a drawing. Books are available for all age groups. Prizes are sponsored by the Friends of the Milford Memorial Library.

MML's Young Adult Where'd that Come from Challenge Box is available until Friday, Feb. 24. Students in grades four through 12 will be recreating inventions while learning about the inventors. This is a free activity, but does require registration. To register call 712-338-4643 or online at milfordlibrary.weebly.com/young-adult-registration.html.

SPIRIT LAKE LIBRARY

The KonMari Method was created by Marie Kondo, author of the bestselling book, "The Life Changing Magic of Tidying Up" and star of the popular Netflix series "Tidying up with Marie Kondo." This style of tidying focuses on decluttering and organizing your space by keeping only those items you love. By visualizing the home and lifestyle you dream of, you can finally let go of unnecessary items causing clutter and truly live a life that Sparks Joy.

Friends of the Spirit Lake Public Library, along with Friends of the Arnolds Park Library and Friends of the Milford Memorial Library, are excited to join Shannon Huneycutt, certified KonMari consultant, for an inspiring online presentation on what it means to lead a life that Sparks Joy. You will learn the KonMari philosophy and guiding principles needed to tidy once and for all. Finally, you will find the motivation to Spark Joy in your home, office, and life.

This online program will take place at 6 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 23. You can register for this event at any of the three previously mentioned libraries or by going to the Spirit Lake Public Library website at www.slpublib.com. Participants will need to print out the tidying checklist and have a pair of pants and a T-shirt handy to practice the folding techniques. Those registered for this event may join the Zoom meeting from the comfort of home or come to the Spirit Lake Public Library to view this event together with others who want to learn the KonMarie Method.

There will be a special giveaway at the end of the presentation, as well as an opportunity for participants to ask Shannon some questions.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Literacy Night with the SLES Title I teachers — 5:30-6:30 p.m. Feb. 21
- Past Times with the Dickinson County Museum — 9:30 a.m. Feb. 22
- Storytime — 10:30 a.m. Feb. 23

SIRENS

Ethan Kyle Vande Griend, 24, of Spirit Lake, was charged with simple assault at approximately 12:39 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 7, in the 400 block of 21st Street in Spirit Lake. A criminal complaint said Vande Griend and a woman were arguing over property in the home when he "pushed the victim out of the way to take control of said property, causing the victim to fall onto the box of property."

Calli Jo Rongved, 18, of Okoboji, was charged with theft from a building at approximately 3:43 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 7, in the 2400 block of 17th Street in Spirit Lake. A Spirit Lake Police report indicated the charge stemmed from an incident the previous day. Rongved was booked into the Dickinson County Jail at 7:23 a.m. Tuesday, Feb. 14, on the charge of fifth-degree theft.

James Dean Jenkins, 32, was booked into the Dickinson County Jail at 2:23 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 9, on a previous court decision. He is scheduled for release Thursday, Feb. 16, 2023.

Daniel Dean Fedders, 57, of Yankton, South Dakota, was charged with operating while intoxicated — first offense — and stopping on the paved portion of a highway at approximately 10:11 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 9, in the 2400 block of Burr Oak Road. He was booked into the Dickinson County Jail at 10:35 p.m. the same day.

Matthew Krogman-Meyer, 32, was booked into the Dickinson County Jail at 3:01 p.m. Friday, Feb. 10 on the charge of drug trafficking and held for anotherency. Bond was set at \$25,000.

Heath Thomas Culver, 38, of Milford, was charged with domestic abuse/assault — first offense — at approximately 3:04 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 11, in the 1000 block of 23rd Street in Spirit Lake. A criminal complaint said "no physical contact was made between the

parties," but Culver began destroying items in the living room while the other party was in the kitchen during a verbal altercation. The complaint said the person in the kitchen feared "the situation would result in a physical altercation."

Curtis Charles Linneman, 86, of Spirit Lake, was charged with stalking at approximately 10:20 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 11, in the Hunter Hills area of Milford. A criminal complaint said Linneman sat outside the individual's residence there and followed the individual to other locations on at least two occasions.

Ryan Edward Cumiskey, 22, of Jackson, Minnesota, was charged with operating while under the influence — first offense — at approximately 2:10 a.m. Sunday, Feb. 12, near the intersection of Highway 71 and 38th Street in Spirit Lake.

Ralph Wade Olsen, 56, of Blairsburg, was charged with possession of drug paraphernalia at approximately 3:27 a.m. Sunday, Feb. 12, in the 2000 block of Highway 9 in Spirit Lake. A criminal complaint said Olsen was arrested on out-of-county warrants and the officer deployed a narcotics K9 unit. The search revealed a glass pipe near the driver's seat of the vehicle.

Cynthia Allen, 64, was charged with shoplifting at approximately 9:31 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 12, at the Spirit Lake Walmart.

Samuel Alan Stoller, 31, of Okoboji, was charged with operating a vehicle with an interlock device at approximately 1:32 a.m. Monday, Feb. 13, in the area of P Avenue in Milford. He was booked into the Dickinson County Jail at 2:14 a.m. the same day.

• All people listed may face charges and should be presumed innocent until their case is reviewed through the legal process.

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PASTOR'S COLUMN

Set yourself free in 2023

Rev. Barb Dean
Spencer Living Word Church Lead Pastor

One of life's hardest things to get free from are wounds sent from people in the form of words.

Years ago, a man who had been attending our church cornered my husband, Pastor Al, in the hallway after the service and said "I hope you know I hate you!" If you knew Al, you are not surprised at this response ... "I feel sorry for you!" and went on his way greeting the ones who, so far, still loved him.

I think that's the way to take it when we get hated, gossiped about, lied about, etc. Instead of feeling sorry for ourselves, we should feel sorry for the venom spewers. They will reap a crop that will be no fun to live with, that's for sure.

That's the way it works. Furthermore, we can plant our own crop of no forgiveness right alongside them. That also gives us a certain kind of terrible harvest that will eat us alive if allowed to live on in our hearts. We can say "I feel sorry for you" and move along to the folks who like us or love us.

The devil wants to poison you and drag you into a trap of offense but you can refuse to drink that cup.

Go live the rest of your precious life unattached to their words. Set yourself free in 2023! Blessings.



DICKINSON COUNTY CHURCH DIRECTORY

ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

1005 Hill Avenue — Spirit Lake
Pastor: Brian Hughes
• Saturday: 5:30 p.m.
• Sunday: 10:30 a.m.
DAILY MASSES:
• Tuesday: 5:30 p.m.
• Wednesday and Friday: Noon
• Thursday: 5:30 p.m.
712-336-1742
www.stmarysspiritlake.org

LIGHT OF THE LAKES FRIENDS CHURCH

Highway 71 & Broadway — Arnolds Park
• Sunday Morning Service: 10:30 a.m.
• Sunday Group Bible Study: 5 p.m.
712-332-2255
www.lightofthelakesfriends.org

ST. ALBAN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

23rd and Zenith Avenue — Spirit Lake
East of Lakes Regional Healthcare
• Sundays: 10 a.m.
Drive In Worship east parking lot
712-336-1117
www.stalbanepiscopalchurch.org

SPIRIT LIFE FELLOWSHIP CHURCH OF THE OPEN BIBLE

2504 Enterprise Ave. — Spirit Lake
Pastor: Eric Holdeman
SUNDAY SERVICES INCLUDE:
• Sunday School for all ages: 9 a.m.
• Contemporary Worship and Word: 10 a.m.
Nursery Available — Handicapped Accessible
We welcome you to join us!
712-336-0114
www.spiritlifefellowship.org

HARRIS & LAKE PARK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

HARRIS — 208 N. Main
Handicapped Accessible
LAKE PARK — 1471 135th. Ave.
Pastor: Sedar Shako
• Worship Times: Harris 9 a.m., Lake Park 10:30 a.m.
• Sunday School: Harris 10:15 a.m., Lake Park 9:30 a.m.
712-832-3361
Email: hlpumc@evertek.net

FAITH COMMUNITY CHURCH

805 Okoboji Avenue, Highway 71 South — Milford
Pastor: Jennifer Hesebeck
WORSHIP SCHEDULE
• Sunday Worship Celebration: 10:30 a.m.
Nursery Available — Handicapped Accessible
712-338-4642
faithcommunitymilford.com
Email: fcc@milfordcomm.net
Everyone Welcome!

EXCELSIOR UNITED METHODIST

2005 150th Ave. — Milford
Pastor: Jennifer Hesebeck
• Sunday Morning Worship Service: 9 a.m.

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod
2300 27th St. — Spirit Lake
(South of Lakes Regional Healthcare)
Senior Pastor: David Simonson
• Sunday Worship: 9 a.m.
• Livestream Sunday: 9 a.m.
at www.lcmlakes.org
• Live Radio Broadcast Sunday: 9 a.m.
on Q102 102.1 FM
712-336-1010

CROSSWINDS CHURCH (EFCA)

2805 Erie Ace. — Spirit Lake
(One block east of Spirit Lake Schools)
Worship: 8:15 and 10 a.m.
712-336-3537
www.Crosswinds.tv

SPIRIT LAKE UNITED METHODIST

1812 Gary Ave. — Spirit Lake
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• Traditional Worship: 8:30 a.m.
• Contemporary Worship: 10:30 a.m.
Facebook: SpiritLakeUnitedMethodistChurch
www.spiritlakeumc.org
712-336-3115
Email: office@spiritlakeumc.org

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH — WEST OKOBOJI

1525 Three Cross Road — Milford
Senior Pastor: Perry Aalgaard
Associate Pastor: Brian Jack
• Sunday Worship: 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m.
• FIRStkids Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.
• Sunday Fellowship and Adult Education: 9:45 a.m.
712-338-4514
www.3cross.org

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Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ (LCMC)
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• Sunday: In-person and live on Facebook: 10 a.m.
Messages may be heard at our website:
gracelutheranspiritlake.org
712-336-2446
Email: gracelc05@yahoo.com

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• Sunday: 9 a.m.
712-338-2274
www.stjosephmilford.org

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2105 N. Ave. — Milford
Pastor: Greg Jorgensen
• Sunday: 10:15 a.m.
www.downtownchurch.info
Email: downtownchurchlakes@gmail.com
www.facebook.com/downtownchurchlakes

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3501 Hill Ave. — Spirit Lake
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• Sunday School for all ages: 10:10 a.m.
• Wednesday Night Fellowship for all ages: 5:30-7 p.m. (Meal and Education)
• KU00 Radio Live, Sundays: 9-10 a.m.
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www.fpcspiritlake.org
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• Sunday Afternoon Worship: 1:30 p.m.

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JOSHUA 24:15

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Discovery House provides a safe, supportive, Christian environment for homeless adults and those recovering from addictions. Residents receive counseling and the tools to begin to build a new foundation for a better life.

SPIRIT LAKE CHAMBER DRAWS UP TO THE WELL



Representatives of the Spirit Lake Chamber of Commerce paid a visit to The Well Coffeehouse and Eatery the afternoon of Feb. 8. The Well, located on the south side of Highway 71 just west of Memphis Avenue, offers a variety of breakfast and lunch items in addition to many of the traditional coffeehouse staples. Owner Diane Duis said she opened the business with the goal of providing a gathering space for the community — an extension of her role as a mother, she said. Duis said she hopes the coffeehouse becomes a frequent stop for local books clubs, Bible studies and other groups. She also said The Well hopes to open its drive-thru lane in the near future. (Photo by Seth Boyes)

LOCAL NEWS

DNCN PREPARES FOR SUMMER CAMPS

The Dickinson County Nature Center invites the public to think about summer. The nature center is offering summer camp programs, and registration begins at 8 a.m. March 1. “Summer camp is an excellent way to build friendships, connect to nature and enjoy hands-on activities,” naturalist Britney Snell said. June’s camp theme is inspired by the children’s book series, “The Magic School Bus.” Campers will “Explore the Senses,” look at “A Time of Dinosaurs,” what it’s like to be “Inside A Beehive,” how to “Plant a Seed” and what it’s like to be “Wet All Over.” Going into July, the theme will change to the ways animals move — jumping, digging, flying, swimming. Registrations for summer camp is expected to fill up fast. Preview any of the camps and programs online at <https://dickinsoncountyconservationboard.com/event-registration/#!event-list>. Remember to register campers for the grade they are going into. Camp will be held outside, and we want campers to be prepared. They will need to be prepared with sunscreen, a water bottle, proper shoes and a sack lunch. Most camps are at Kenue Park but some are at other areas of Dickinson County. Specific locations are noted in the camps’ online descriptions. Questions can be directed to the Dickinson County Nature Center at 712-336-6352.

IRMMMA RELEASES AMENDED HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE LIST

The Iowa Rock ‘n Roll Music Association released its annual list of hall of fame inductees last month. The association amended that list in a Feb. 9 press release. Many of the names in the various hall of fame categories remained unchanged, while a few names were added or replaced. The women who rock category initially listed Rebecca Braun and Melanie Rosales-Underbrink — the association’s updated list now names Becky Morrison-Fox and Melanie Rosales. Dennis Higgins was added to the inductees in the support person category — Donald Higgins had appeared in the initial release and remained there in the updated list.

INSECTS TO BE FEATURED AT FAMILY NATURE NIGHT

The Dickinson County Nature Center is inviting all nature lovers to attend Family Nature Night: Love Bugs at 5 p.m. Friday, Feb. 24. Visitors will investigate the characteristics of insects and learn what makes an insect an insect. The free event will take place at the Dickinson County Nature Center in Kenue Park, where attendees will learn how these small animals play a big role in the environment. Visitors will also be introduced to the nature center’s own crawling critters and design their own love bug. “We have nothing but love for our decomposing, pollinating, nutrient-recycling bugs,” naturalist Britney Snell said. “Join us as participants see first-hand how these mighty mini-creatures help the world around us.” Family Nature Night is held at 5 p.m. on the fourth Friday of each month for families with children of all ages. The night’s theme changes each month. Organizers plan to be inside for this program, which is expected to last approximate-

ly an hour. Preregistration is necessary for all Family Nature Night programs. All registrations are available two months in advance and close two days prior to the event. Preregister for this program online at dickinsoncountynaturecenter.com. Call 712-336-6352 with questions.

UDMO SERVICE AREA AWARDED GRANT FUNDING

Upper Des Moines Opportunity Inc. Executive Director Julie Edwards recently announced the awarding of two Iowa First Five Healthy Mental Development Initiative competitive grants. UDMO is now the First Five Local Contact for Collaborative Service Areas 1 — which includes Clay, Dickinson, Emmet, Palo Alto, O’Brien and Osceola counties — and CSA 4 — which includes Calhoun, Hamilton, Hardin, Humboldt, Pocahontas, Webster and Wright counties. UDMO was awarded the grants on Dec. 6, 2022, and began accepting referrals in January of 2023. Iowa’s First Five Healthy Mental Development Initiative, a program of the Iowa Department of Health and Human Services, is a brand-new program for UDMO. Since 2006, First Five has been building partnerships between physician practices and public service providers to enhance high quality well-child care. First Five promotes the use of developmental tools which support healthy mental development for young children during the first five years of life. By using tools such as social-emotional development and family risk factors, providers are able to identify children at risk for developmental concerns that, if left untreated, would play out later in life. The UDMO First Five Project Director is Jessie Hansen, who will also continue her duties as the KIDS Program coordinator. For more information about the First Five Initiative, visit hhs.iowa.gov/1stfive/overview. Parents interested in learning more about the program may visit hhs.iowa.gov/1stfive/parents.

OKOBOJI FINE ARTS SEEKING SPEECH VOLUNTEERS

Okoboji High School and the Okoboji Fine Arts booster club will be hosting the Individual Events District Speech Contest on Saturday, Feb. 25. The contest starts at 8 a.m. and the competition is expected end before 4 p.m. Organizers invite the community to come see the speech competition and support students from all over northwest Iowa. They are also still seeking volunteers to help with the event. There are more than 130 volunteer slots to fill. Half-day shifts are available as well as shifts which last one to two hours. Those who volunteer all day will receive lunch free of cost. Specifically organizers with the Okoboji Fine Arts are seeking room chairs, timers, door monitors, lots of concession help and food donations. There are more than 450 student entries for this contest and, while some students have two entries, there will still be hundreds of people in the building as coaches, parents, grandparents and others come to watch students compete for a chance to go to State Speech and ultimately All-State Speech. Those willing to volunteer may visit <https://okobojifinearts.wixsite.com/arts/speechcontest>.

PETRICK, THOMPSON EARN RECOGNITION IN DES MOINES



Local photographers Dave Petrick and Rocky Thompson earned Top-10 recognition from the Professional Photographers of Iowa earlier this month. The organization held its convention Feb. 3-6 in Des Moines. Each photographer was allowed to enter up to four prints in various categories for the competition. Entries are scored by a panel of judges, and total scores are tallied to name a first, second and third place photographer in the master and non-master categories. Petrick and Thompson both compete in the non-master category. (Photos submitted)

Dominguez Gandara

continued from 1A

they were having sex.” Court filings said multiple witnesses told authorities Dominguez Gandara and the woman were “in a state of full or partial nudity” at the time. “When Mauro was confronted, he covered up with the blanket he was using to cover (the victim) and himself up during the assault,” court documents said. “The witnesses of the assault claimed Mauro told them he knew he shouldn’t have done what he did to (the victim) after he was confronted.” The officer’s account went on to say Dominguez Gandara later denied sexually abusing the woman, “but admitted they had been kissing on the couch” and that “things were progressing to something more.” The criminal complaint said the woman did not recall the events of the reported assault due to the amount of alcohol she had consumed, but she had been told about it by other witnesses. Dominguez Gandara was served a warrant the afternoon of Feb. 3 and transported from Sioux City to the Dickinson County Jail. A no contact order has been filed in the case, and Dominguez Gandara posted a \$10,000 cash bond Feb. 4. A preliminary hearing was held Monday, and he is scheduled for an arraignment March 20.

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Okobojo large group speech students nominated for All-State



Congratulations were extended to Okobojo High School's large group speech team on a successful season.

At the district contest on Jan. 21, all nine events received Division I ratings and advanced to state. At the state contest on Feb. 4, the team earned six Division I ratings and three Division II ratings.

On Monday, Feb. 6, the Iowa High School Speech Association

announced its All-State nominations. To be eligible for All-State, a group must be nominated by two of the three judges. Okobojo had two teams receive nominations. The group improv team of Aidan Gehrke and Asher Knudtson were chosen to perform at All-State and compete for the group improv banner. Both are first-year students, which organizers said is an exciting honor. The ensem-

ble acting group "Agnes of God" was nominated as non-performing. This group includes Anna Petersen, Lucy Androski and Ava Evaro. All three are repeats in the same category from last year. The All-State Festival will be held Feb. 18, at Iowa State University.

Organizers said selected as a nominee is the highest honor in Iowa speech, and they noted there are no divisions in speech as there

are in athletics — pitting Okobojo students against much larger districts in Des Moines, Cedar Rapids and elsewhere.

Thanks were also extended to coaches Ann Williamsen and Maggie Doyle for all the hours they work with the students. Organizers said it is a bittersweet season as Williamsen will retire this year, making this competition her last after 37 years as a coach.

Two named to new positions at Northwest Bank

ERIC WALHOF NAMED REGIONAL PRESIDENT

Joe Conover, president of Northwest Bank, recently announced the promotion of Eric Walhof to northwest Iowa regional president. Walhof's responsibilities include overseeing our Sioux Center, Le Mars, Spencer, Milford, Arnolds Park, Spirit Lake and Estherville locations and their market leaders.

"Eric brings with him over two decades of banking and management experience," Conover said. "He is deeply committed to strengthening the communities that Northwest Bank serves and to supporting our bankers as they grow their careers. Eric will provide a high level of leadership to reflect our mission statement of Building Relationships — Exceeding Expectations."

Family life is very important to Walhof. His wife Stephanie is a seventh grade language arts teacher at Sioux Center Community Schools. Their eldest

son Trajan lives in Bloomington, Minnesota. He is a graduate of South Dakota State University and works as a mechanical engineer for Emanuelson-Podas Inc. in Edina, Minnesota. Their son Damon is a senior at Iowa State University and will graduate in December of 2023. He is a business student focusing in procurement and supply chain management. Their daughter Makenna is a senior at Sioux Center High School. She will be attending Dordt University in Sioux Center this upcoming August 2023, majoring in engineering. Walhof and his family will relocate to the Lakes Area later this summer.

Walhof has 25 years of banking experience in agricultural and commercial banking and team management. He has been with Northwest Bank since 2007 and has held various positions including market president and senior lender as well as regional president over Sioux Center and Le

Mars, allowing him exposure to all areas within the organization.

Walhof holds a bachelor of arts in business administration from Dordt College. He has been an active community member, serving on the Sioux Center Chamber of Commerce Board, the Sioux Center Health Foundation, the Sioux Center Planning and Zoning Committee and ATLAS of Sioux Center. He is an active member of Kiwanis and has also been involved with several other community entities. Officials at Northwest Bank feel Walhof's leadership experience, understanding of the bank's culture and business banking experience position him well to lead the region and for growth in the coming years.

CARSON FARMER NAMED AG/COMMERCIAL BANKER, AVP

Nicole Evans, bank president of Northwest Bank in Arnolds Park and Milford, recently announced Carson Farmer as the

bank's ag/commercial banker, AVP. Farmer's responsibilities include new business development, promoting the banks products and services and serving existing customers.

Farmer specializes in commercial and agricultural banking. He has been with Northwest Bank since graduating from the University of Iowa in 2017 with a double bachelor's degree in business administration focused in finance and management with a risk management and insurance certificate. Prior to this current role within Northwest Bank, Farmer has held the position of a senior credit analyst and loan portfolio manager. He enjoys building and developing relationships with business owners as well as assisting entrepreneurs who are in the pursuit of their business ownership. Bank officials feel Farmer has developed a useful perspective for working with customers after holding underwriting and



ERIC WALHOF



CARSON FARMER

risk management roles, assisting lenders with commercial relationships and interpreting the numbers that help support major loan decisions.

Farmer, his fiancée, Taylor, and their two children reside in Arnolds Park. His daughter Eden is 7 years old and attends first grade at Okobojo Schools. Daughter Chandler recently turned 1-year-old. Farmer and his family enjoy the area's amusement park, farmer's markets, parks, playgrounds and biking on the trail

system. He also volunteers as a coach with Northwest Iowa Soccer Club and as assistant coach for Spencer High School soccer. He is looking forward to his continued involvement in the community.

"Carson's risk management and financial knowledge of commercial banking will benefit our customers and their business development goals," Evans said. "He understands the importance of a community bank and he will provide a high quality of service."

SPIRIT LAKE MUSIC BOOSTERS IS PROUD TO PRESENT

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Okoboji/HMS senior Sam Pas earned the Pioneers' lone district championship Saturday, going 2-0 for the Pioneers at 220 pounds to punch his ticket to the state wrestling tournament. (Photos by Matt Heinrichs)

FIVE ALIVE

■ Okoboji/HMS squad sends 5 wrestlers to state tournament



Okoboji/HMS senior Noah Strantz earned a runner-up finish at 160 pounds to qualify for the state wrestling tournament.

Matt Heinrichs
Sports Editor

Okoboji/HMS will be well-represented when the state wrestling tournament kicks off this week, as the Pioneers qualified five wrestlers for the four-day tournament slated for Wednesday-Saturday, Feb. 15-18, at Wells Fargo Arena in downtown Des Moines. Sam Pas, Noah Strantz, Dylan Jones, Bryce Dodge and Nathaniel Franklin each punched their tickets with top-two finishes at the Class 2A District 4 tournament held Saturday, Feb. 11, in Estherville.

"After a long and stressful day, the Pioneers will be sending five wrestlers to state," Okoboji/HMS coach Nate Dau said. "We were really pleased with the effort throughout the day and the resilience our kids showed in a lot

■ Okoboji/HMS Wrestling
continued on 2B



Okoboji/HMS sophomore Nathaniel Franklin won his 170-pound wrestle-back to earn a runner-up finish and punch his ticket to the state tournament.

SLP trio qualifies for state tournament



Spirit Lake Park senior Jack Wajda, having battled injuries throughout his high school wrestling career, punched his first ticket to the state tournament with a dominant performance Saturday in Estherville. (Photo by Matt Heinrichs)

Matt Heinrichs
Sports Editor

Spirit Lake Park's boys wrestling team will send three to the Iowa High School Athletic Association's state wrestling tournament slated for Wednesday-Saturday, Feb. 15-18, at Wells Fargo Arena in downtown Des Moines. Jack Wajda, Gabe Poolman and Kaine Clinkenbeard qualified for the state tournament with their top-two finishes at the Class 2A District 4 tournament held on Saturday, Feb. 11, at Estherville Lincoln Central High School in Estherville.

"Wow, what a day," Spirit Lake Park coach Andrew Lundgren said. "I would have never thought that, when the dust settled, that we would have had three guys punching their tickets to the state tournament next week. I am very

■ Spirit Lake Park Wrestling
continued on 2B

Spirit Lake girls top Rockets in overtime, advance in postseason



Spirit Lake teammates Abby Scott (right) and Claire Turner celebrate during their team's overtime win over Rock Valley to begin postseason play Saturday, Feb. 11. (Photo by Matt Heinrichs)

Matt Heinrichs
Sports Editor

Spirit Lake's girls basketball team pulled off its second overtime victory of the week, this time in the opening round of the Class 3A regional tournament, as the Indians edged Rock Valley on Saturday, Feb. 11, to advance in postseason play. The Indians defeated the Rockets 62-53 in Spirit Lake.

"What a great crowd and atmosphere for the girls to play in," Spirit Lake coach Todd Rogers said. "This was a great first-round game. Rock Valley played well and had been playing their best basketball winning their last seven of ei-

ght games since we beat them Jan. 10. They made some tough shots against our zone and man defense. Give our girls a lot of credit. We played really well and you could tell we have learned composure this year. We are battle-tested and can play in close games." The game remained close throughout, as the Indians took a 13-12 lead after one quarter but trailed 27-24 at the half and 37-33 through three. The Rockets stretched their lead to eight in the fourth quarter and held a seven-point advantage with 3.5 minutes remaining in regulation.

■ Spirit Lake Girls Basketball
continued on 7B

Indians earn bounce-back win over E-Hawks



Spirit Lake's Caden Hassel attacks the basket during nonconference play with Emmetsburg Thursday, Feb. 9. (Photo by Matt Heinrichs)

Matt Heinrichs
Sports Editor

After suffering a loss to sixth-ranked (2A) Western Christian on Tuesday, Spirit Lake's boys basketball team bounced back with a convincing victory over a very talented Emmetsburg squad on

Thursday, Feb. 9. The Indians defeated their former Lakes Conference rivals 61-49 in Spirit Lake.

"Emmetsburg is a much improved team," Spirit Lake coach Paul Brown said. "They play a lot of

■ Spirit Lake Boys Basketball
continued on 7B

Spirit Lake Park Wrestling

continued from 1B



Spirit Lake Park sophomore Kaine Clinkenbeard reeled off three straight pins on the back side of the 220-pound bracket Saturday to earn his first trip to the state wrestling tournament.

proud of how all of our guys competed during the day.”

Wajda was the Indians' lone district champion, maintaining an unblemished 12-0 senior season with three pins in Estherville. Wajda defeated West Lyon's Jackson VerMeer in 1 minutes, 24 seconds, Sheldon/South O'Brien's Tyson Getting in 1:343 and Okoboji's No. 11 Noah Strantz in 2:45 in the 160-pound championship.

“Jack looked really good today and is starting to put some full matches together,” Lundgren said. “We see his movement and technique really starting to shine in the room when he's drilling and wrestling live with Coach (John) Tuttle. To start seeing that on the mat when he competes is really good for him at this time of the year. We took a different approach with his commitment to competition and practice this year with his previous injuries he's had and trying not to put too much wear and tear on his body. He's looking really good and demonstrated that in his championship match when he picked up that pin. Qualifying for state has been a goal since his freshman year. He's done that now, and isn't done yet. He's gonna work this way through this 160-pound bracket and make some noise for himself and this program.”

Poolman earned a runner-up finish at 182 pounds, going 2-1 on the day. The senior earned back-to-back pins to kick off the tournament, finishing Cherokee's Brayden Good in 1:11 and Algona's Foster Myhre in 37 seconds before falling to second-ranked Jarrett Ross of Sheldon/South

O'Brien in the final.

“Gabe also had a great day securing his spot with a second-place finish,” Lundgren said. “He looked really good all day long and even in his championship match. He faced a really tough opponent who is ranked high in the state. Gabe has some upper body/Greco-Roman experience that makes him dangerous on the mat. He had Roos on his back a couple times but, unfortunately, ran out of mat and was called out of bounds. If Gabe can bring his offense on his feet with his outside shots and mix in some upper body throws when they are presented he is gonna be a dangerous opponent down at state. I'm looking forward to taking this momentum down to state next week.”

One of the biggest surprises of the tournament was Clinkenbeard's performance at 220 pounds. The sophomore entered the tournament with a humble 5-5 record on the season, but went 4-1 on the day — including three straight pins on the back side of the bracket — to earn a runner-up finish.

Clinkenbeard opened with a 7-1 decision win over Forest City's Peyton Klein before falling to eventual tournament champion Sam Pas of Okoboji in the semifinal. Clinkenbeard then pinned ELC's Rafael Diaz in 5:20 and Cherokee's Colton Happe in 3:07 to earn a chance to wrestle for second place. In the second-place bout, Clinkenbeard pinned Algona's Chase Roof in 1:48 to punch his ticket to state.

“Our last qualifier that really surprised everyone in the gym,



Spirit Lake Park senior Gabe Poolman earned his first trip to the state wrestling tournament with a runner-up performance at 182 pounds.

minus the coaches, was Kaine,” Lundgren said. “Kaine has done a great job this second half of the year being a utility guy for our varsity duals. He's a true 182 and gave us the option to move Poolman and (Logan) Sandman around filling our lineup better. Kaine was given an opportunity to compete at conference and wrestled to a third-place finish. We gave him the option to compete at districts at 220 and that he did. He made the most of every moment on the mat and found himself in a wrestle-back where he picked up a huge win for himself that punched his ticket to state. It was awesome watching him compete and leave it all out on the mat. His teammates had

his back and were supporting him the whole way. He's a great story to have for any program of never stopping believing in yourself and wrestling your hardest the whole match. He's gonna have a great experience wrestling at state and bring this back into our room as a returning qualifier.”

Lundgren said he is excited to see Wajda, Poolman and Clinkenbeard compete at state.

“I am really excited about our guys' opportunity to compete again down at state,” he said. “We are going to have a great two days of practice and get them ready to roll both physically and mentally. This is such a fun time of the year and I'm looking forward to spending it with these three guys

next week.”

While Lundgren was happy for his three state qualifiers, he said it was equally difficult seeing the season end for the rest of his athletes.

“This is a tough time of year watching guys step on the mat laying it all out there for a chance to go to state,” he said. “We talked all week about controlling our nerves and just stepping on the mat competing like they always have. No matter how much I talked about it, I know from being in their shoes that the nerves are flying just a little higher than normal. I thought everyone did a fantastic job. ... This team has grown so much during the year and it has been a long process, but I really saw the steps they

took forward come out during this tournament. I feel for the guys that weren't able to accomplish their goals, but they are all underclassmen and all coming back for more. We will talk and make a plan for how we will grow in the offseason. We need to continue to get in the room and work on our technique. We need to get in the weight room and commit to making ourselves stronger, and we need to get involved in other sports and learn how to compete in different arenas. I'm really excited for how we finished this year with this group, but we can't be satisfied with staying at the same level. We need to always stride to get 1% better each and every day.”

Okoboji/HMS Wrestling

continued from 1B



Okoboji/HMS senior Bryce Dodge placed second at 152 pounds and earned trip to the state wrestling tournament slated for Wednesday-Saturday, Feb. 15-18, in Des Moines.

of stressful situations.”

Dau said a key momentum swing for the Pioneers came in the 120-pound semifinal, as Jones — a senior — pinned Estherville Lincoln Central's Braxton Johnson in 1 minute, 27 seconds to earn a spot in the championship match and secure his 100th career victory.

“Our kids really started to feed off each other and we caught some momentum after Dylan Jones' pin in the semifinals against an opponent who beat us earlier in the season,” Dau said. “Dylan was also able to capture his 100th win with his semifinals win, which is always an enormous achievement for any Iowa high school wrestler.”

Before Jones' victory over Johnson, he pinned Forest City's Ben Norland in 1:59. In the championship match, Jones dropped

a 13-3 major decision to Algona's Isaac Wilson to place second.

Sam Pas was the Pioneers' lone champion on the day. Okoboji/HMS' 220-pound senior went 2-0, pinning Spirit Lake Park's Kaine Clinkenbeard in 3:07 and Algona's Chase Roof in 5:38 in the championship.

Strantz, also a senior, went 2-1 to earn a runner-up finish at 160 pounds. He earned back-to-back pins to begin the tournament, finishing Forest City's Kobe Umbaugh in 45 seconds and Cherokee's Logan Allender in 4:55 to earn a spot in the championship. There, he fell to Spirit Lake Park's Jack Wajda in 2:45 to place second.

Franklin went 3-1 to earn a runner-up finish at 170 pounds. The Pioneers' sophomore pinned Cherokee's Gabe Olguin in 4:35 and earned a 15-3 major decision over Sheldon/South O'Brien's



Okoboji/HMS senior Dylan Jones earned a runner-up at 120 pounds in Estherville to qualify for the state wrestling tournament.

Kolt Roos to earn a spot in the championship. There, he fell to Forest City's third-ranked Kellen Moore before earning a 9-6 decision over Algona's Colby Jennings in the second-place match to punch his ticket.

At 152 pounds, Okoboji/HMS senior Bryce Dodge went 2-1 to place second. He earned back-to-back pins to open the tour-

namment, finishing Forest City's Jeremiah Tegland in 35 seconds and Algona's Ian Fehr in 1:40 before falling to Sheldon/South O'Brien's 12th-ranked Coy DeBoer in the championship.

“Nathaniel Franklin was able to win his true second wrestle-back match in a very tense battle with a tough Algona wrestler,” Dau said. “Sam Pas and Noah Strantz also

both qualified and have been our team leaders throughout the season and their hard work throughout their high school careers culminated in a trip to state.

He added, “Our last qualifier was Bryce Dodge. Bryce has been in our program since we adopted Hartley and has been behind some of our tougher kids and unable to really crack the line-

up until this season. Bryce sacrificed a lot to make the cut to 152 pounds and it paid off. He's had some really fantastic performances this season. Bryce is a lot of fun to watch scrap, especially when he gets on top of guys, because he can literally turn anybody and will absolutely be a threat in that bracket next week in the Des Moines.”

Iowa Great Lakes Fishing Club holds Spring Fishing Seminar



(Above) A crowd of more than 100 people attended the recent IGLFC fishing seminar. (Below) Joe Henry shares valuable information about fishing the Lake of the Woods. (Photos by Steve Weisman)

For members of the Iowa Great Lakes Fishing Club that attended Feb. 8 evening's annual spring banquet at the Hap Ketelsen Community Center in Everly, it was an evening of great food, telling the normal fishing stories, participating in a general raffle topped off by a top-notch fishing seminar by Joe Henry, executive director of Lake of the Woods Tourism.

After a meal of pulled pork sandwiches and chips, IGLFC president Terry Thomsen shared a summary of club activities. The early January Wild Game Feed raised \$4,200 that goes directly to the annual Jim McDonnell Memorial Scholarship. Thomsen stressed, "We encourage seniors to apply this spring for consideration for this year's scholarship. Since 2012, over \$20,000 has been awarded."

Thomsen also shared the club's goal of getting youngsters involved in the outdoors and fishing.

"Last year, through a variety of programs, we worked with over 600 youngsters," he said. "This year it looks like we will be reaching over 700 youngsters through a wide range of programs. One of our big ice fishing events is the Camp Autumn's Fourth Annual Ice Fishing Tournament, where our volunteers will be helping people get down to the lake, setting up shelters and helping measure fish. Plus, the first 60 youngsters get a rigged ice fishing rod and reel."

More kids' activities are set for open water season. Wednesday, May 3, will be the annual Kids' Fishing Clinic at Stolley Park in Spencer with a second Kids' Fishing Clinic held at the Iowa Great Lakes on Wednesday, May 17, at a site to be determined.

"This summer club volunteers will be working with Hannah Dibble and Iowa State University Extension and Outreach in Dickinson County with a series of five youth fishing workshops (June 6, July 11, July 31, Aug. 1 and Aug. 7)," Thomsen said. "Of course, we are always looking for club volunteers to help with these programs."

THE MAIN EVENT

There is no doubt that Joe Henry can spin a yarn, and for over an hour, through his PowerPoint presentation and action videos, he transported the crowd to the Lake



of the Woods (LOW) known as the Walleye Capital of the World. As executive director for the past 11 years, Henry has the enviable job of helping people understand the LOW and its surrounding area, along with working with 60 LOW resorts.

LOW is truly a go-to destination, and as Henry noted its immensity is incredible.

"There are 317,000 acres just in Minnesota," he said. "Including the Canadian side, the entire lake is over one million acres with 14,552 islands and 65,000 miles of shoreline. It is really three fisheries in one: the Rainy River, Big Traverse Bay and the Northwest Angle."

The Rainy River offers quality walleye fishing with pre-spawners migrating from LOW into the Rainy River for the annual spawn. As spring approaches, anglers will watch the weather for open water that will signal ice free boat ramps. However, Henry says there are those who will push the envelope and slide smaller aluminum boats over the ice along the shoreline and then out into the open water. This can be as early as the third week of March. Henry notes that the Lake of the Woods Tourism Bureau gives daily updates on the ice/open water situation. Before fishing these areas, make sure to know the limits, slot sizes and when it's catch and release. When it comes to early spring walleye fishing, Henry's go-to presentation is "a good jigging rod and a box of bright colored, glow and gold jigs. The

faster the current, the heavier the jig needs to be."

The water is stained, so you don't need to be worried about weight as much. You might start with a half-inch and move heavier. The emerald shiner is a staple of the LOW chain with a huge run occurring in the fall. Bait shops will catch these, freeze them and sell them throughout the year.

According to Henry, "Work slowly upstream into the current, pull the jig forward and thump the bottom. Another option is using a three-way rig and slowly pulling crankbaits upstream."

Fishing for sturgeon is becoming more and more popular, and anglers target the deepest holes in the river, which makes good electronics a must. With the chance to hook into a monster fish of 30, 40, 50, 60 pounds and maybe even one topping 100 pounds, there's a reason for its popularity. There are open and closed seasons, so make sure to know the regulations.

Henry suggests going with heavy equipment for sturgeon with up to a 3- to 5-ounce "no-roll" sinker, a heavy fluorocarbon leader and a 4/0 circle hook tipped with a glob of two to three juicy nightcrawler. Henry's tip on the circle hook? "No huge hookset. Just reel up the slack and sweep the rod tip. It's cool. The circle hook will slide up and into the corner of the fish's mouth."

A future column will discuss fishing early summer, fall and winter on the LOW!

Planning tips for open water fishing

Bob Jensen
Fishing the Midwest

While some anglers plan their next visit to an iced over body of water to go fishing, other anglers are starting to think of the day when they can get back on or in open water. Although many of us have experienced numerous first open water trips of the year, it's still exciting to be thinking about and preparing for the next one. Following are some things that can help you be ready when it's time to hook the boat trailer up to the truck or put waders on for the first time this year.

For some of us, our first open water trip of the year will be a one day deal close to home. Other anglers are making plans to be gone for several days at a more distant location. The length of the trip makes a difference in how you plan. Longer trips require more planning. They also require common sense, something that I was lacking several decades ago when I started taking extended fishing trips early in the year.

I learned the expensive way that it's important to consider the weather that will be in the area that you're fishing, not the weather that is currently at your home. Too many times I forgot that. I would look outside and pack clothing that was appropriate for the local weather. Very bad idea.

Much of the time I would be traveling six or eight hours north, east or west, and most of the time the weather was much different where I was going to be fishing than it was at home. This poor preparation resulted in trips to the local sporting goods store to get warmer clothing and footwear when I arrived at my destination. Eventually I learned to prepare for the weather where I was going, not where I was.

Today those of us who enjoy being outdoors have clothing that is much more versatile than

what we had a few years ago. The past several years I've been wearing a lot of Blackfish clothing. I like this outerwear because it works well in a variety of conditions. By simply layering clothing I'm comfortable regardless of weather. I especially like the soft shell offerings in the Blackfish Gale family. This style of outerwear makes it so much easier to pack the clothing that will enable you to be comfortable on the water.

Now about packing the proper baits for your fishing trip. Often early in the season the fish will be more susceptible to certain presentations. For instance, if you're going after walleyes, much of the time you'll be going to a river, and often jigs will be the most productive. You'll want a selection of eighth-, quarter- and half-ounce jigs, maybe even heavier depending on where you're fishing.

On some larger lakes, trolling with crankbaits will put walleyes in the boat. A selection of Lucky Shad, Bonsai Shad, Banana Shad and Hornet crankbaits will be appropriate. These baits all run at different depths, and putting your bait at the proper depth will result in more catching. Keep a close eye on your electronics to determine what depth the fish are running at. Choose a bait that will run a foot or two above the fish.

Wally Marshall is probably the best known crappie catcher in the world. He has designed a series of plastic baits for crappies, and they'll all produce in various conditions. For instance, he prefers a Shad Pole on a jig when casting under docks. And there are colors that seem to produce better in some areas. But when Mr. Crappie is packing baits to go on a crappie hunt, Hot Chicken dot com and Refrigerator White are two colors that he won't leave home without. Those colors catch 'em anywhere.

Start thinking about the open water fishing that will soon be here. If you plan now, your chances for success will improve significantly.

OUTDOORS BRIEFS

HABITAT IS CRITICAL FOR SURVIVAL

State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement is a nationwide Conservation Reserve Program practice within the continuous sign-up administered by the Farm Service Agency. The SAFE initiative allows public and private organizations and state and federal agencies to propose areas where new CRP acreage is essential to benefit endangered, threatened or high priority fish and wildlife species. The continuous sign-up is ongoing year-round and is targeted at priority soil, water and wildlife issues. There are five SAFE CRP projects in Iowa: Pheasant Recovery SAFE is for Iowa landowners who want to return pheasants to their property, and is eligible to landowners in northern two-thirds of Iowa. Early Successional Quail Habitat SAFE is for landowners who want to return bobwhite quail to their property, and is eligible to landowners in the southern one-third of Iowa. Gaining Ground for Wildlife SAFE is for landowners who want to bring back grassland songbirds to restore native grasslands, and is eligible to landowners around the state. Early Successional Forest and Neotropical Migratory Bird SAFE is for landowners who want to develop high-density, hardwood tree plantings for ruffed grouse, and is eligible to landowners mainly in northeastern Iowa. Grand River Grassland SAFE is for landowners in Ringgold and Decatur counties to increase populations of the greater prairie chicken, and other grassland dependent songbirds. Each SAFE program has different habitat requirements and counties eligible. Staff with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources private lands program or with Pheasants Forever can assist landowners with enrolling qualifying land into CRP. Visit www.iowadnr.gov/crp.

NOW'S THE TIME FOR BOAT CHECKUP

A midwinter visit to check on the boat — no matter if stored ashore in a backyard or a marina parking lot — is a wise thing to do. Boat Owners Association of The United States has four tips to ensure there are no surprises at spring commissioning. Water is bad — The No. 1 concern for any boat in long-term winter storage is water. It can't be allowed in, but if it does, the water needs a way out. Check the boat's winter cover to ensure it still allows rain and heavy snow loads to easily shed away from the boat. Small boats should have the drain plug removed. A tight-fitting winter cover will also help keep out the critters, including raccoons, feral

cats and muskrats, whose damage boat insurance policies generally do not cover. Take it home — If you forgot to bring home life jackets when you put the boat away in the fall, it's best to do it now. That includes throwable devices you keep near the helm. Lifejackets will last longer and stay cleaner. Store in a dry location at home. Signal flares can be kept aboard if they are in location not affected by moisture. Some handheld air horns can leave a not-easy-to-remove rust ring when stored in their upright position. Both signal devices can be put into zip top freezer bags. Other common items left on the boat during winter storage are liquid cleaners that can burst open during the freeze/thaw cycle and food, which draw vermin. Air it out — Try to ventilate the boat, which will help keep mold and mildew at bay. If the boat is closed tightly and doesn't have ventilation, use desiccants — often sold in bucket type containers — inuddy cabins or living space below. Follow the manufacturer instructions and you should be able keep a fairly dry boat making spring cleanup easier and preserving the boat's value. Be safe — There may be ice and snow this time of year. If you need to use a ladder, ensure its planted, always tie it off at the top, and have a friend hold it while ascending/descending. Never move or adjust a jack stand, call the yard for assistance. Tying off a winter cover to a jack stand is also a bad idea as the stands could be yanked out from under the boat during high winds.

HUNTERS HARVEST NEARLY 110,000 DEER DURING 2022-23 SEASON

Iowa's 2022 deer harvest increased 7% over the 2021 season, due, in part to the new Excess Tag January Antlerless Season approved by the Iowa Legislature last spring. Overall, hunters tagged deer at a rate of 30% to 35% which is similar to previous years, for a total reported harvest of more than 109,600 deer. Deer harvest varied regionally, with the north-central and southeast regions seeing an increase over 2021. The far western counties and southwest region saw a decline in harvest, likely due to the recent outbreaks from EHD and from floods in the Missouri River valley. The deer population model indicates the herd size is stable to slightly increasing and is within the goal of the Iowa deer study advisory committee. The Iowa DNR has deer harvest information by county by year dating back to 2006 online at <https://gooutdoorsiowa.com/RealTimeHarvestReport.aspx>.



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CITY OF SPIRIT LAKE - SPECIAL COUNCIL MTG FEB. 8

City of Spirit Lake Council Special Meeting Wednesday, February 8, 2023 6:00 PM City Council Chambers

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FINANCIAL
The COVID crisis has cost us all something. Many have lost jobs and financial security.

CITY OF SPIRIT LAKE - SPECIAL COUNCIL MTG FEB. 1

City of Spirit Lake Council Special Meeting Wednesday, February 1, 2023 6:00 PM City Council Chambers

RELIEF! We can help! Get a FREE debt relief quote: Call 1-866-552-0649.(mcn)

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NOTICE OF SELF STORAGE SALE
NOTICE OF SELF STORAGE SALE

Please take notice: Copper Safe Storage - Okoboji located at 1906 U. S. Hwy 71, Okoboji, IA 51355 intends to hold a Auction to enforce its privilege against the following parties.

The sale will occur as an online auction via www.lockerfox.com on 3/6/2023 at 11:00AM. Unless stated otherwise, the description of the contents are household goods and furnishings.

DICKINSON COUNTY HOSPITAL - AMENDMENT OF CURRENT BUDGET

Table with 5 columns: EXPENDITURES, Total Budget as Certified or Last Amended, Amendment Increase, Total Budget After Current Amendment, Reason. Rows include General, Ambulance, Unemployment Compensation, Debt Service, Tort Liability, Restricted Funds, Board Designated, Total.

DICKINSON COUNTY AUDITOR - NOTICE OF HEARING - PROPOSED PROPERTY TAX LEVY

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING -PROPOSED PROPERTY TAX LEVY Fiscal Year July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024

The County Board of Supervisors will conduct a public hearing on the proposed Fiscal Year County budget as follows:

Meeting Date: 2/28/2023 Meeting Time: 09:00 AM Meeting Location: Community Room-Dickinson County Courthouse

At the public hearing any resident or taxpayer may present objections to, or arguments in favor of the proposed tax levy. After adoption of the proposed tax levy, the Board will publish notice and hold a hearing on the proposed county budget.

Table with 5 columns: Taxable Valuations-General Services, Requested Tax Dollars-General Basic, Requested Tax Dollars-General Supplemental, Requested Tax Dollars-General Services Total, Estimated Tax Rate-General Services.

Explanation of increases in the budget: An intense, yet well reasoned lobbying effort orchestrated by Law Enforcement, Fire Service, and EMS resulted in the purchase of a 6.2 million dollar county-wide radio system.

If applicable, the above notice is also available online at: https://dickinsoncountyiowa.gov

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Labor & Equipment Operators Needed for 2023 Construction Season

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Drivers Needed for 2023 Construction Season

OKOBOJI COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT - FEBRUARY 8, 2023 MEETING

Table with 4 columns: Vendor Name, Description, Total. Lists various vendors and services such as AHLERS COONEY, P.C., AIRGAS USA, L.L.C., AMERICINN-JOHNSTON, LODGING, etc.

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collector coins. Kuehl's Coins, Fairmont, Minnesota, 507-235-3886. (mcn)

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MILFORD MUNICIPAL UTILITIES BOARD MEETING - DECEMBER 19, 2022

Table with 2 columns: Item Name and Amount. Includes Milford Municipal Utilities Board Meeting December 19, 2022, True Value - Milford, Supplies, Van Wert Inc., Water Meters for New Reading System, etc.

changing the February Board meeting date from February 20 to February 13. Motion passed unanimously. 3. Consideration and possible approval of Resolution 2022-12-01 regarding disposal of interest in real property owned under Lehigh-Webster Transmission Facilities and Webster Transmission Facilities.

Public Hearing on disposal of interest in real property owned by the Municipal Electric Utility, under an Asset Purchase Agreement for the sale of the Utility's ownership interest in Lehigh-Webster Transmission owned under the Amended and Restated Lehigh-Webster Transmission and Webster Terminals Facilities and Operating Agreement.

Items discussed in the Manager's Report: 1. MMU received the Water Quality Commission grant for MMU's portion of the lake gage at Lakeside Lab. 2. Willemssen discussed master meters for water.

DICKINSON CO. BOARD OF SUPERVISORS - JANUARY 24, 2023 MEETING

Table with 2 columns: Vendor Name and Total Payments. Includes Dickinson County Board of Supervisors January 24, 2023 9:00 A.M., Present are Supervisors Kim Wermersen, Steve Clark, Jeff Thee, Tim Fairchild, etc.

TRADEBE ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES, LLC.....3684.57 TRANE U.S. INC.....9181 TRANS SOURCE.....552.8 TRI-STATE EMERGENCY MGMT ASSN.....20 TRUE VALUE-MILFORD.....134.49 US BANK.....1442.27 US POSTAL SERVICE.....6017 VAN DIEST SUPPLY COMPANY.....129.50 VERIZON CONNECT NWF, INC.....323.80 VERIZON WIRELESS.....200.17 WEDEKING PIT & PLANT INC.....2447.40 WILLIA MUESKE.....15.83 WILLIAM C. LEUPOLD.....238.57 WITTROCK HOLDINGS, LLC.....1518.10 Total Payments.....

CLAY COUNTY SHERIFF OFFICE HIRING: FULL TIME CORRECTIONAL OFFICER START DATE: ASAP Looking for a full time Correctional Officer to start ASAP. Full benefits, competitive wage, good work schedule. Applications available at the Clay County Sheriff Office.

CITY OF SPIRIT LAKE - HILL AVENUE LIFT STATION - NOTICE OF HEARING

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING AND LETTING for 2023 City of Spirit Lake Hill Avenue Lift Station Project. Public notice is hereby given that the City of Spirit Lake, in Dickinson County, Iowa, will meet on February 28, 2023, at 5:30 pm, at which time and place a public hearing will be held in the Council Chambers in the Spirit Lake City Hall located at 1803 Hill Ave, Spirit Lake, Iowa 51360 on the proposed plans and specifications, form of contract and estimate of cost for the 2023 City of Spirit Lake Hill Avenue Lift Station Project for said City.

company authorized to do business in the State of Iowa in an amount not less than ten percent (10%) of the total amount of the bid. The bid security shall be included in a separate sealed envelope, plainly marked "bid bond". The bid security shall be forfeited as liquidated damages if the successful bidder fails proper execution of the contract documents.

Work to Be Done: Work generally consists of the replacement of an existing wastewater lift station including, but not limited to: - Sanitary Sewer Gravity Main - Sanitary Sewer Force Main - Dewatering - Bypass Pumping - Temporary Traffic Control - Erosion Control Items

Liquidated Damages: Liquidated damages will be assessed the contractor in the amount of five hundred dollars (\$500.00) per working day that the work remains uncompleted after the end of the contract period with due allowances for extensions due to conditions beyond the control of the contractor.

IOWA UTILITIES BOARD - OFFICIAL NOTICE - RENEWAL OF PIPELINE PERMIT

BEFORE THE UTILITIES BOARD OF THE STATE OF IOWA TO THE CITIZENS OF PLYMOUTH, SIOUX, O'BRIEN, CLAY, AND DICKINSON COUNTIES, IOWA: Notice is given that NuStar Pipeline Operating Partnership L.P., San Antonio, Texas, pursuant to Iowa Code chapter 479B (2021), has filed a petition with the Iowa Utilities Board (IUB) for renewal of a pipeline permit to construct, operate, and maintain an existing hazardous liquid pipeline. The route of the pipeline is described as follows: Exhibit A Legal Description for Milford Lateral Dickinson County, Iowa

Avenue (public right of way) and in Section 35/26, Township 98 North, Range 38 West, the pipeline travels Northeastly through County Highway A43 (public highway right of way) and in Sections 26/25, Township 98 North, Range 38 West, the pipeline travels Northeastly through County Highway M34 (public right of way) and in Section 25, Township 98 North, Range 38 West, the pipeline travels Northeastly through 160th Avenue (public right of way).

Township 98 North, Range 37 West, the pipeline travels Northeastly through the Little Sioux River (water crossing) and in Sections 16/15, Township 98 North, Range 37 West, the pipeline travels Northeastly through 190th Avenue (public right of way) and in Section 10, Township 98 North, Range 37 West, the pipeline travels Northeastly through the Little Sioux River (water crossing) and in Section 10, Township 98 North, Range 37 West, the pipeline travels Northeastly through 225th Street (public right of way) and in Section 11, Township 98 North, Range 37 West, the pipeline travels Northeastly through the Little Sioux River (water crossing). The above description covers a total of fifty-four thousand three hundred and eighty-four (54,384) feet (10.3 miles) of six (6) inch diameter pipeline in Dickinson County, Iowa.



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DICKINSON COUNTY HOSPITAL - PROPOSED 2024 BUDGET

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING -- PROPOSED BUDGET Fiscal Year July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024 DICKINSON COUNTY HOSPITAL

The Board of Hospital Trustees of this County will conduct a public hearing on the proposed fiscal year budget as follows:

Meeting Date: 3/1/2023 Meeting Time: 07:00 AM Meeting Location: Lakes Regional Healthcare, Big Spirit Conference Room

At the public hearing any resident or taxpayer may present objections to, or arguments in favor of, any part of the proposed budget. This notice represents a summary of the supporting detail of receipts and expenditures on file with the secretary.

Contact Name: Steve Alger Contact Telephone Number: (712) 336-8796

Table with 10 columns: FUND, A Expenditure June 30, 2022 Actual, B Expenditure June 30, 2023 Re-estimated, C Expenditure June 30, 2024 Proposed, D Transfers Out, E Estimated Ending Fund Balance FY 2024, F Estimated Beginning Fund Balance FY 2024, G Estimated Other Receipts, H Transfers In, I Estimated Amount To Be Raised By Taxation

Proposed taxation rate per \$1,000 valuation: 0.36973

Virtual Meeting Information: #209

CITY OF SPIRIT LAKE - NOTICE OF HEARING - PROPOSED PROPERTY TAX LEVY NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING - CITY OF SPIRIT LAKE - PROPOSED PROPERTY TAX LEVY Fiscal Year July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024

The City Council will conduct a public hearing on the proposed Fiscal Year City property tax levy as follows:

Meeting Date: 2/28/2023 Meeting Time: 05:30 PM Meeting Location: City Hall Council Chambers 1803 Hill Avenue

At the public hearing any resident or taxpayer may present objections to, or arguments in favor of the proposed tax levy. After adoption of the proposed tax levy, the City Council will publish notice and hold a hearing on the proposed city budget.

City Telephone Number (712) 336-1871

City Website (if available) www.cityofspiritlake.org

Table with 5 columns: Regular Taxable Valuation, Current Year Certified Property Tax 2022 - 2023, Budget Year Effective Property Tax 2023 - 2024, Budget Year Proposed Maximum Property Tax 2023 - 2024, Annual % CHG

Explanation of significant increases in the budget: Reduced revenue due to decrease in backfill & increase costs associated with material & supplies and health insurance & benefit costs.

If applicable, the above notice also available online at: City Website: www.cityofspiritlake.org City Facebook Page: City of Spirit Lake, Iowa

*Total city tax rate will also include voted general fund levy, debt service levy, and capital improvement reserve levy.

**Budget year effective property tax rate is the rate that would be assessed for these levies if the dollars requested is not changed in the coming budget year

DICKINSON COUNTY AUDITOR - SEMI ANNUAL REPORT

Iowa County Treasurer's Semi-Annual For 07/01/2022 - 12/31/2022

Large table for Dickinson County Auditor and Iowa County Treasurer's Semi-Annual Report. Columns include Beginning Treasurer's Balance, Total Revenues, Beginning Balance + Total Revenues, Total Expenses, Change in Outstanding, Ending Treasurer's Balance, Outstanding Bank Items, Outstanding Stamped Warrants.

I hereby certify the above report to be a true and Accurate account of transactions during the Period(s) specified.

Kris Rowley Signature

Kris Rowley

This and other notices from around Iowa are available at iowanotices.org, a website funded entirely by Iowa newspapers for a more informed Iowa.

PROBATE NOTICE - FRANCES BRADHAM-JACKSON

THE IOWA DISTRICT COURT, DICKINSON COUNTY

Probate No. ESPR015040

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT OF EXECUTOR AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS

IN THE SMALL ESTATE OF ANNE FRANCES BRADHAM-JACKSON, Deceased.

To All Persons Interested in the Small Estate of Anne Frances Bradham-Jackson, Deceased, who died on or about January 12, 2023:

You are hereby notified that on the 1st day of February, 2023, the undersigned was appointed executor of the estate.

Notice is hereby given that all persons indebted to the estate are requested to make immediate payment to the undersigned, and creditors having claims against the estate shall file them with the clerk of the above

named district court, as provided by law, duly authenticated, for allowance, and unless so filed by the later to occur of four months from the second publication of this notice or one month from the date of mailing of this notice (unless otherwise allowed or paid) a claim is thereafter forever barred.

Dated this 2nd day of February, 2023.

Executor of Estate Scott Bradham 2510 Jackson Circle Spirit Lake, IA 51360

Attorney for the Executor April L. Bosma Michael J. Chozen & Associates 704 18th Street Spirit Lake, Iowa 51360

Date of second publication: 02-23-23 #204

JUVENILE NOTICE - #JVJV003549

IN THE IOWA JUVENILE COURT FOR DICKINSON COUNTY

ORIGINAL NOTICE

JUVENILE NO. JVVJV003549

IN THE INTEREST OF P.M.F. D.O.B. 07/19/2006, A Child.

TO: William Miller, Father of a Child Born on the 19th day of July, 2006.

You are hereby notified that there is now on file in the office of the clerk of the above Court a Delinquency Petition concerning the above-named child pursuant Iowa Code Chapter 232. The Petitioner is the State of Iowa whose attorney is Steven Goodlow, Dickinson County Attorney, and whose address is 1802 Hill Avenue, Suite 2509, Spirit Lake, Iowa 51360, phone number 712-336-4003 Ext. 8.

You are further notified that an adjudicatory hearing has been set for the child in interest

and shall be held before the Juvenile Court on February 21, 2023 at 1:45 P.m. in the juvenile courtroom of the Dickinson County Courthouse in Spirit Lake, Iowa. If you fail to appear and defend at said time and place, judgment by default may be rendered against you for the relief demanded in the petition. You have the right to court appointed counsel if you are indigent.

IMPORTANT YOU ARE ADVISED TO SEEK LEGAL ADVICE AT ONCE TO PROTECT YOUR INTERESTS.

If you need assistance to participate in court due to a disability, call the disability coordinator at 712-279-6035. Persons who are hearing or speech impaired may call Relay Iowa TTY (1-800-735-2942). Disability coordinators cannot provide legal advice.

Date of second publication: 2/09/23 Date of third publication: 2/16/23 #174

JUVENILE NOTICE - #JVJV003552

IN THE IOWA JUVENILE COURT FOR DICKINSON COUNTY

ORIGINAL NOTICE

JUVENILE NO. JVVJV003552

IN THE INTEREST OF L.M D.O.B. 10/07/2005, A Child

TO: Cara Charron, the Mother of a Child Born on the 7th day of October, 2005.

You are hereby notified that there is now on file in the office of the clerk of the above Court a Delinquency Petition concerning the above-named child pursuant Iowa Code Chapter 232. The Petitioner is the State of Iowa whose attorney is Steven Goodlow, Dickinson County Attorney, and whose address is 1802 Hill Avenue, Suite 2509, Spirit Lake, Iowa 51360, phone number 712-336-4003 Ext 8.

You are further notified that an adjudicatory hearing has been set for the child in interest

and shall be held before the Juvenile Court on February 21, 2023 at 3:00 p.m. in the juvenile courtroom of the Dickinson County Courthouse in Spirit Lake, Iowa. If you fail to appear and defend at said time and place, judgment by default may be rendered against you for the relief demanded in the petition. You have the right to court appointed counsel if you are indigent.

IMPORTANT YOU ARE ADVISED TO SEEK LEGAL ADVICE AT ONCE TO PROTECT YOUR INTERESTS.

If you need assistance to participate in court due to a disability, call the disability coordinator at 712-279-6035. Persons who are hearing or speech impaired may call Relay Iowa TTY (1-800-735-2942). Disability coordinators cannot provide legal advice.

Date of second publication: 2/9/23 Date of third publication: 2/16/23 #183

PROBATE NOTICE - TERRY JAY NELSON

THE IOWA DISTRICT COURT FOR DICKINSON COUNTY

CASE NO. ESPR014942

NOTICE OF PROBATE OF WILL, OF APPOINTMENT OF EXECUTOR, AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF TERRY JAY NELSON, Deceased

To All Persons Interested in the Estate of Terry Jay Nelson, Deceased, who died on or about December 15, 2021:

You are hereby notified that on April 13, 2021, the Last Will and Testament of Terry Jay Nelson, deceased, bearing date of October 22, 2021, was admitted to probate in the above named court and that Jesse Nelson was appointed Executor of the estate. Any action to set aside the will must be brought in the district court of said county within the later to occur of four months from the date of the second publication of this notice or one month from the date of mailing of this notice to all heirs of the decedent and devisees under the will whose identities are reasonably ascertainable, or thereafter be forever barred.

Notice is further given that all persons indebted to the estate are requested to make immediate payment to the undersigned, and creditors having claims against the estate shall file them with the clerk of the above named district court, as provided by law, duly authenticated, for allowance, and unless so filed by the later to occur of four months from the date of the second publication of this notice or one month from the date of mailing of this notice (unless otherwise allowed or paid) a claim is thereafter forever barred.

Dated February 1, 2023.

Executor of Estate Jesse Nelson 136 Private Road 3363 Paradise, TX 76073

Attorney for Executor Bethany Brands, ICIS#: AT0001129 Boji Legal Services, PLLC 1008 East View Avenue P.O. Box 963 Okoboji, IA 51355

Date of second publication: 2/16/23 #202

PROBATE NOTICE - BERKLEY WARREN BEDELL

THE IOWA DISTRICT COURT DICKINSON COUNTY

CASE NO. ESPR015038

NOTICE OF PROBATE OF WILL, OF APPOINTMENT OF EXECUTOR, AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF BERKLEY WARREN BEDELL, Deceased.

To All Persons Interested in the Estate of Berkley Warren Bedell, Deceased, who died on or about December 7, 2019:

You are hereby notified that on January 27, 2023 the Last Will and Testament of Berkley Warren Bedell, deceased, bearing date of July 28, 2017, was admitted to probate in the above named court and that Joanne Quinn appointed Executor of the Estate.

Any action to set aside the will must be brought in the district court of said county within the later to occur of four months from the date of the second publication of this notice or one month from the date of mailing of this notice to all heirs of the decedent and devisees under the will whose identities are reasonably ascertainable, or thereafter be forever

ever barred. Notice is further given that all persons indebted to the estate are requested to make immediate payment to the undersigned, and creditors having claims against the estate shall file them with the clerk of the above named district court, as provided by law, duly authenticated, for allowance, and unless so filed by the later to occur of four months from the date of the second publication of this notice or one month from the date of mailing of this notice (unless otherwise allowed or paid) a claim is thereafter forever haired.

Date: 1/27/2023

Executor of the Estate /s/ Joanne Quinn 962 Logan Court Loveland, CO 80538

Attorney for Executor Earl H. Maahs, ICIS#: AT0004797 Maahs & Walleck 708 Lake Street, P.O. Box AK, Spirit Lake, IA 51360

Date of second publication: 2-16-23 #196

Spirit Lake Boys Basketball

continued from 1B

young guys and there is a lot of talent there. They do some really good things on both sides of the ball and it was another really good test for us. I thought our guys did a much better job in the second and third quarters getting back to doing the little things, especially on the defensive end. When we are playing hard on the defensive side, that usually has made things easier for us on the offensive side.”

The Indians held a 15-13 lead after one quarter before outscoring the E-Hawks 21-4 in the second to take a 36-17 lead into the break. Emmetsburg battled back in the second half, outscoring its hosts 11-7 in the third and 21-18 in the fourth, but the Indians hung on for the win.

Dylan Stecker led all scorers with 14 points. He also had four rebounds and two steals. Caden Hassel and Tyler Voss scored 12 points each. Voss added nine rebounds and two steals. Hassel had four boards, an assist and a block.

Wes Walz had nine points, two rebounds, a steal and a block. Ethan Stecker had eight points, three rebounds, two assists and a steal. Will Graves dished out three assists for the Indians, who improved to 12-7 overall on the season.



Spirit Lake's Dylan Stecker goes up for two of his game-high 14 points Thursday night. (Photos by Matt Heinrichs)



Spirit Lake's Ethan Stecker battles for position during his team's home win over the E-Hawks.

Spirit Lake Girls Basketball

continued from 1B



Spirit Lake's Fran Travis splits a pair of Rock Valley defenders for a bucket in her team's overtime win over the Rockets Saturday. (Photos by Matt Heinrichs)

With their season on the brink, the Indians made a late run, erasing the deficit with a bucket by Taylor Schneider to knot the score at 44 with just under three minutes on the clock. A bucket by Claire Turner gave Spirit Lake a 47-46 lead with a minute remaining and a free throw by Abby Scott gave her squad a two-point lead with 18.5 seconds on the clock.

On the Rockets' ensuing possession, sophomore guard Kavri Van Kekerix drove left and drew contact on a layup, knotting the score at 48 with 10.4 seconds on the clock, and gave her squad a chance to take the lead with a free throw. Van Kekerix's free throw missed off the back of the rim, however, and Spirit Lake junior Fran Travis secured the board. A last-second 3-point attempt by Turner missed off the front of the rim, and the two squads went

into overtime.

In overtime, the Indians took a lead and a 3-pointer by Schneider pushed the Indians' advantage to 56-48 with 1:16 on the clock. Clutch free throws by Schneider and Scott put the game on ice.

“I thought we moved the ball and played together so well,” Rogers said. “We had some great shots that just didn't drop early. The girls just stayed the course and trusted each other. We hit some huge shots down the stretch and dominated the overtime.”

Scott led the Indians with 17 points. She added four rebounds and a steal. Turner had 13 points, seven rebounds, two assists, a steal and a block. Travis had 11 points, nine rebounds, two assists and a block. Schneider had 10 points, eight rebounds, six assists and six steals. Charlotte Pritchard had six points, three rebounds,

two assists and a steal.

Addison Avery had three points, three rebounds and two assists. Lauren Travis had two points, two rebounds and a block. Faith DeWild had an assist.

“Our balance on the offensive end was outstanding,” Rogers said. “We had four girls in double figures. Good teams have multiple scorers and that's especially important this time of the year. Abby had her best game to date and hit big free throws, drives and threes, especially in the fourth quarter and overtime. I thought Fran, Claire and Taylor all had well-rounded games when you look at scoring and rebounding.”

With the win, the Indians improved to 11-11 on the season and advanced to face No. 7 Sioux Center in the regional tournament semifinal played Wednesday, Feb. 15.

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Indians suffer nonconference loss to No. 6 Western Christian



Spirit Lake's Dylan Stecker skies for two points in his team's home loss to sixth-ranked Western Christian. (Photos by Matt Heinrichs)

Matt Heinrichs
Sports Editor

Spirit Lake's boys basketball team dropped a nonconference home game to sixth-ranked (2A) Western Christian on Tuesday, Feb. 7. The Wolfpack jumped out to a commanding 22-10 first quarter lead to defeat the Indians 69-46 in Spirit Lake.

"Western is a really good ball club, and they showed that Tuesday night," Spirit Lake coach Paul Brown said. "This is the reason why we continue to play them, especially this late in the season. They do some things that will expose some of your weaknesses. We have to review that and

make sure that we improve on those things to get ready for post-season play."

After a lopsided opening quarter, the Indians played the Wolfpack more tightly in the final three quarters. Western Christian outscored Spirit Lake 17-12 in the second and 15-9 in the third before the two squads played to a 15-15 tie in the fourth.

Tyler Voss led Spirit Lake with 12 points, eight rebounds and three assists. Dylan Stecker had 11 points, three rebounds and a block. Caden Hassel had nine points and three steals. Ethan Stecker had five points and three assists for the Indians, who fell to 11-7 overall on the season.



Spirit Lake's Caden Hassel the Western Christian defense Tuesday in Spirit Lake.



Spirit Lake's Wes Walz looks to set up the Indians' offense Tuesday night against Western Christian.

WOLVES END REGULAR SEASON WITH LOSS TO RIVAL TITANS

Matt Heinrichs
Sports Editor

Harris-Lake Park boys basketball ended their regular season with a loss to former Cornbelt Conference rival Graettinger-Terril/Ruthven-Ayrshire on Feb. 10. The Titans topped the Wolves 68-60 in Lake Park.

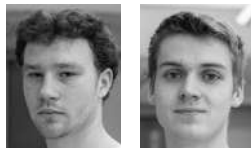
Harris-Lake Park got out to a hot start, outscoring the Titans 21-12 in the opening stanza, but the Wolves saw their halftime lead trimmed to four following a 17-12 score in favor of GT/RA in the second. The Wolves held that lead into the third quarter, but the Titans ended the third with a 7-0 run to take a 44-43 lead into the fourth. There, GT/RA put the game on ice with a 24-17 score.

"We couldn't quite get it done against a really solid GT/RA squad," Harris-Lake Park coach Jeff Sohn said. "Overall, it was a great high school basketball game with both teams competing their tails off. We had a four-point lead at the half and found ourselves down one going

into the fourth.

He added, "The fourth quarter was a good battle, but we found ourselves down five with a couple minutes to go and just couldn't make enough plays or get the stops defensively that we needed to get the win. I thought we shot the ball with confidence and did a great job of making the extra pass, which was good to see. Hats off to GT/RA, as they made some big shots when they needed to."

Lucas Ahrenstorff led Harris-Lake Park with 16 points. He also had five rebounds, five assists and a steal. Caleb Hemphill had 15 points, three rebounds and two assists. Tyce Gunderson had 13 points, seven assists and two boards. Eli Robinson had 11 points, six assists and a block. Mikel Luinstra pulled down five rebounds. Carter Hibma and Devin Meyer had three boards each for the Wolves, who end the regular season with a 7-12 overall record.



Caleb Hemphill Eli Robinson

HARRIS-LAKE PARK BOYS DEFEAT DRAGONS AT HOME

Matt Heinrichs
Sports Editor



Eli Robinson Caleb Hemphill

Harris-Lake Park's boys basketball team earned a convincing win over Adrian/Ellsworth in an interstate showdown Tuesday, Feb. 7. The Wolves defeated the Dragons 66-40 in Lake Park.

"We played a really good ball game against Adrian/Ellsworth," Harris-Lake Park coach Jeff Sohn said. "Overall, I thought we had one of our best games defensively and were also solid on the offensive end. We shared the ball well and did a nice job of finishing shots. This was definitely a good step in the right direction for this squad heading into postseason play next week."

The Wolves jumped out to a 13-4 lead after one quarter and maintained a nine-point halftime advantage following a 17-17 score in the second quarter. Harris-Lake Park pushed its lead to double digits with a 20-11 score in the third quarter before sailing away the victory with a 16-8 score in the fourth.

Five Wolves scored in double figures Tuesday night.

Eli Robinson led Harris-Lake Park with 16 points. He also had five rebounds, a steal and a block. Lucas Ahrenstorff had 12 points, seven rebounds, five assists and three steals.

Devin Meyer, Caleb Hemphill and Tyce Gunderson each scored 10 points. Meyer added seven rebounds and two steals. Hemphill had eight boards, five assists, a steal and a block. Gunderson had four rebounds, eight assists, two steals and a block.

Justus Voss had five points, two rebounds and a block. Mikel Luinstra had three points, three rebounds and three steals for the Wolves, who improved to 7-11 overall on the season.

WOLVES ADVANCE IN POSTSEASON WITH WIN OVER TRINITY CHRISTIAN

Matt Heinrichs
Sports Editor



Payton Reimers Allison Wallace

Harris-Lake Park's girls basketball team picked up its first postseason victory since 2016 with a fantastic performance against Trinity Christian on Thursday, Feb. 9. The Wolves topped the Tigers 43-29 in the opening round of the Class 1A regional tournament in Hull.

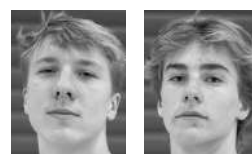
Harris-Lake Park led 15-8 after one quarter and maintained a two-point halftime lead after being outscored 12-7 in the second. The Wolves added to their advantage with a 9-6 score in the third quarter before icing the victory with a 12-3 score in the fourth.

"I was really pleased with our effort all night long," Harris-Lake Park coach Jared Rahe said. "Defensively in the second half we really clamped down. We really stressed making sure they were one-and-done on their offensive end, and we did that well all game. The rebounding by Allison Wallace and Lilli Gunderson really set the tone for us. We had a huge six-point swing in the last 15 seconds of the third quarter that put us up five going into the fourth. Calleejo Sohn hit a huge three in that span, and then we forced a turnover and Addison Hibma threw a great pass to Payton Reimers for an and-one at the buzzer. We really just took that momentum and controlled the rest of the game. I am really happy for the kids getting a playoff win."

Reimers led all scorers with 20 points. She also had four steals, three rebounds, two assists and a block. Wallace added 10 points, nine rebounds and three steals. Gunderson had 11 rebounds and a steal. Delaney deBoom had four points and six rebounds off the bench for the Wolves, who improved to 7-13 overall on the season and advanced to face No. 15 Kingsley-Pierson in the quarterfinals Tuesday, Feb. 14, in Kingsley.

INDIANS WRAP REGULAR SEASON WITH LOSS TO NO. 10 WILDCATS

Matt Heinrichs
Sports Editor



Tyler Voss Caden Hassel

Spirit Lake's boys basketball team suffered a narrow loss in the regular season finale with No. 10 West Lyon on Friday, Feb. 10. The Indians fell 60-54 to the Wildcats in Inwood.

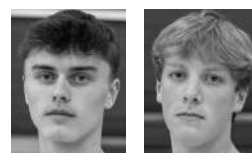
"It was another barn-burner with West Lyon, which it always seems to be with them," Spirit Lake coach Paul Brown said. "They have done some really good things over the course of the year, and it is a very experienced ball club. With only four losses in the Siouxland Conference, we knew they would be a tough team, but I thought our guys did some really good things. It was a battle all night long and we made a great fourth-quarter comeback to take the lead, but West Lyon made more plays than us down the stretch."

The Wildcats held an 18-13 lead after one quarter before the Indians cut the halftime deficit to three with a 10-8 score in the second. West Lyon added to its advantage with a 19-15 score in the third and held off the Indians in the fourth quarter to seal the victory.

Tyler Voss led Spirit Lake with 19 points, 10 rebounds and three assists. Caden Hassel had 13 points, four rebounds, two assists and a steal. Dylan Stecker had 12 points, four rebounds and a steal. Justyn Hamm had three rebounds and two assists for the Indians, who end the regular season with a 12-8 overall record.

PIONEER BOYS DROP REGULAR SEASON FINALE TO NO. 3 DUTCH

Matt Heinrichs
Sports Editor



Jase Jostand Caleb Simington

Okoboji's boys basketball team dropped its regular season and Siouxland Conference finale to third-ranked (3A) MOC-Floyd Valley on Friday, Feb. 10. The Dutch defeated the Pioneers 77-53 in Orange City.

MOC-Floyd Valley took a 27-20 lead after one quarter and built a 47-29 lead at the half. The Dutch continued in the third quarter, outscoring the Pioneers 13-6 to take a 60-35 lead into the fourth. There, the Pioneers narrowed the final deficit with a 18-17 score.

Jase Jostand led Okoboji with 17 points. He also had four rebounds. Caleb Simington had 16 points and a steal. Landon Duvall had five points, three rebounds, two assists and a steal. Josh Leman had four points, six assists, five rebounds and three steals. Aidan Dahms had three points, five rebounds, two steals and a block. Willie Holmes had six points. Elijah Graves had three boards and three assists for the Pioneers, who finished the regular season with a 6-16 overall record and a 6-12 mark in the Siouxland Conference.

OKOBOJI GIRLS END SEASON WITH PLAYOFF LOSS TO NO. 12 KNIGHTS

Matt Heinrichs
Sports Editor



Lynnae Abrahamson
Carly Carstens

Okoboji's girls basketball team saw its season come to a close with a loss to No. 12 Unity Christian in the opening round of the Class 3A regional tournament played Saturday, Feb. 11. The Knights topped the Pioneers 81-55 in Orange City.

"Unity Christian really came out aggressive and we just didn't respond to it right away," Okoboji coach John Adams said. "I was proud of how the girls responded to that and how they competed the entire game, like this group has done all season long."

He continued, "Gracie Schoonhoven was such a tough matchup for us and she played a great game, as did Cassidy Dekkers and Jadyn Hofmeyer for them. Lynnae Abrahamson hit some big shots for us to keep us in it for a while. Ava Packebush had a really strong second half. Carly Carstens took another two charges for us to get her total to 20 on the year, and I thought Olivia Lorenzen played really well for us."

Abrahamson led Okoboji with 13 points. Packebush had nine points, three rebounds, three assists and a steal. Carstens and Lorenzen scored eight points each for the Pioneers, who end their season with a 10-12 overall record.

Adams said he was proud of his squad — led by seniors Lorenzen, Carstens, Abrahamson, Makenna Helmers and Emma Witzroek — for their resilience throughout the season.

"It's really hard to say goodbye to this senior group," he said. "They've given so much of themselves for this program and did an outstanding job of leading this team through the peaks and valleys of the season."

He added, "Not many teams could have two six-game losing streaks followed by two five-game winning streaks, and that speaks volumes to the leadership that this group showed and how well they kept our team together."

OKOBOJI BOYS GET SIOUXLAND CONFERENCE WIN OVER SHELDON

Matt Heinrichs
Sports Editor



Caleb Simington
Jase Jostand

Okoboji's boys basketball team edged Siouxland Conference rival Sheldon on Tuesday, Feb. 7. The Pioneers defeated the Orabs 70-67 in Sheldon.

The Pioneers took a 14-11 after one quarter and built a commanding 38-22 halftime advantage with a 24-11 score in the second. The Orabs clawed their way back into contention in the second half, outscoring the Pioneers 27-20 in the third and 18-12 in the fourth, but Okoboji was able to squeak out a three-point victory.

"We played a great first half," Okoboji coach Alex Spielman said. "Shot the ball very well and played with a lot of energy. Credit to Sheldon for a big third quarter. Their team continued to work hard and battle back into the game. We wanted our guys to continue to be aggressive, but we got too passive in the second half, which allowed Sheldon to gain momentum."

Caleb Simington led Okoboji with 26 points. He also had four rebounds and a steal. Jase Jostand had 13 points, five rebounds, two assists and two steals.

Aidan Dahms and Josh Leman both scored eight points. Leman added three rebounds, five assists and five steals. Dahms had 10 rebounds, a steal and a block. Avery Simington and Willie Holmes both scored five points. Simington had four rebounds and two assists. Holmes had two boards.

Landon Duvall had three points, two rebounds, two assists and a steal. Elijah Graves had two points, four rebounds, an assist and a block for the Pioneers, who improved to 6-15 overall on the season.

OKOBOJI GIRLS BASKETBALL EARNS SIOUXLAND CONFERENCE ROAD WIN OVER SHELDON

Matt Heinrichs
Sports Editor



Carly Carstens
Ava Packebush

Okoboji's girls basketball team earned a Siouxland Conference road win over Sheldon on Tuesday, Feb. 7. Despite a slow start, the Pioneers defeated the Orabs 59-45 in Sheldon.

"I definitely need to throw that pregame speech away," Okoboji coach John Adams said. "Sheldon was definitely the aggressor early, and I felt like we let our shot-missing affect us on the defensive end of the court."

He added, "Olivia Lorenzen really got us sparked on defense in the first half, and that helped us get back in the game."

The Pioneers trailed 15-7 after one quarter but outscored their hosts 14-7 in the second to pull within one at 22-21 before the break. Okoboji stormed back in the second half, outscoring the Orabs 16-10 in the third and 22-13 in the fourth to seal the victory.

"It was awesome to see the girls respond to being challenged at halftime," Adams said. "Makenna (Helmers) got us off to a great start with her steal and quick five points, and Carly (Carstens) was fantastic on both ends of the court, giving herself up by taking charges and then also getting some big buckets and free throws for us. I wasn't sure I'd see Magan Christopherson's charges-taken record of 15 I'd be, but knew Carly would be one who would have a chance. Ava (Packebush) also had a great second half. Lynnae (Abrahamson) really responded in the second half as well, and Zoey (Holmes) was big for us on the glass."

Carstens led Okoboji with 17 points. She also had two assists and a steal. Packebush had 11 points, six rebounds, five assists and two steals. Lynnae Abrahamson had 10 points, three rebounds and three steals.

Helmers had nine points, four rebounds and two steals. Holmes had nine rebounds, three blocks, two assists and a steal.

Lorenzen had five points and a steal. Lydia Bunde had three points, three rebounds and a steal.

Courtney Bockman pulled down two boards for the Pioneers, who ended the regular season with a 10-12 overall record and an 8-10 mark in the conference.

"This group has constantly responded to adversity and we knew they would again tonight in that second half," Adams said. "I don't know many teams who would piggy-back two six-game losing streaks with two five-game winning streaks. It really speaks to how well the girls have stayed together and kept believing in one another."

Spirit Lake girls drop home game to No. 8 Pocahontas



Spirit Lake's Fran Travis battles for rebounding position in her team's loss to Pocahontas Area. (Photos by Matt Heinrichs)

Matt Heinrichs
Sports Editor

Spirit Lake's girls basketball team suffered a narrow nonconference home loss to eighth-ranked (2A) Pocahontas Area on Monday, Feb. 6. The Indians fell 59-55 in Spirit Lake.

"We had a slow start against a very good shooting team," Spirit Lake coach Todd Rogers said. "We gave up 20 in the first quarter, which is unlike us. We tightened things up defensively in the second quarter only allowing five points and took the lead. The second half we just couldn't get enough shots and they shot well from the 3-point range, making nine of them. We had a hard time stopping the dribble drive and when we did they found the open shooter. Give them credit. They have a bunch of seniors that have played together for a long time. Their experience showed."

Pocahontas Area took a 20-13

lead after one quarter before Spirit Lake stormed back to take a three-point halftime advantage with a 15-5 score in the second. The visitors slowly rebuilt their lead, outscoring Spirit Lake 18-13 in the third and 16-14 in the fourth to seal the victory.

"Even through all that, we battled and would have had a chance to tie the game but couldn't come up with rebounds and also had crucial turnovers," Rogers said. "We need to clean those things up."

Taylor Schneider led Spirit Lake with 19 points. She also had five rebounds, five assists and a block. Fran Travis had 10 points, five rebounds, three steals and two blocks. Claire Turner, Abby Scott and Charlotte Pritchard scored eight points each. Turner added nine rebounds, three assists and two steals. Scott had four rebounds and a block. Pritchard had two assists.

With the loss, Spirit Lake fell to 9-11 overall on the season.



Spirit Lake's Abby Scott scans the Pocahontas Area defense.



Spirit Lake's Charlotte Pritchard is sent sprawling during her team's home loss to eighth-ranked Pocahontas Area on Monday.

JONES COLLECTS 100TH CAREER WIN



Okoboji/HMS senior Dylan Jones secured his 100th career win at the Class 2A District 4 tournament held Saturday, Feb. 11, at Estherville. Jones went 2-1 on the day, earning a runner-up finish for the state wrestling tournament scheduled for Wednesday-Saturday, Feb. 15-18, at Wells Fargo Arena in Des Moines. (Photo by Matt Heinrichs)

Indians pound Pocahontas Area at home

Matt Heinrichs
Sports Editor

Spirit Lake's boys basketball team dominated Pocahontas Area in a nonconference match-up Monday, Feb. 6. The Indians defeated Pocahontas Area 71-32 in Spirit Lake.

The senior night victory kicked off a busy week of four games in five days.

"I thought we did a really good job of coming in and taking care of business to start the long week," Spirit Lake coach Paul Brown said. "It was a great night to celebrate our seniors, and be able to start five seniors."

Spirit Lake jumped out to a 21-7 lead after one quarter and pushed its advantage to 43-12 at the break. Spirit Lake continued to pour it to start the second half,

outscored the visitors 20-7 in the third to take a 63-19 lead into the fourth. There, Pocahontas Area outscored its hosts 13-8 to make it a 39-point final deficit.

Dylan Stecker led all scorers with 15 points. He also had five rebounds. Caden Hassel had 12 points and three assists. Tyler Voss had 11 points, three rebounds and a steal.

Ethan Stecker had seven points, two rebounds and a steal. Wes Walz had eight points, two rebounds and a steal. Owen Meerbeek had six points, four rebounds and two steals. Justyn Hamm had four assists, three rebounds and a steal. Ryder Sundall and Will Graves had three assists each. Braden Theesfeld had four points, two assists and a steal for the Indians, who improved to 11-6 overall on the season.



Spirit Lake's Braden Theesfeld scans the Pocahontas Area defense.



Spirit Lake's Dylan Stecker attacks the basket in his team's dominant home victory over Pocahontas Area. (Photos by Matt Heinrichs)

Spirit Lake girls whoop Wolfpack in overtime



Spirit Lake's Claire Turner goes up for two of her team-high 18 points Tuesday night in the Indians' overtime win over Western Christian. (Photos by Matt Heinrichs)

Matt Heinrichs
Sports Editor

Spirit Lake's girls basketball team earned a narrow nonconference home victory over Western Christian on Tuesday, Feb. 7. The Indians defeated the Wolfpack 61-56 in overtime in Spirit Lake.

"We got off to a slow start offensively and had some defensive breakdowns that put us in a hole after the first quarter," coach Todd Rogers said. "We were down as much as 14 in the first half and then the girls put things together well. We played really good defense in the second quarter and made a nice run to only trail by six at the half. Our transition was better tonight and we also moved the ball well at different times in the game. Our inside game was pretty good most of the night with Fran (Travis) and Lauren (Travis). We gave them some good passes and they finished some big shots for us. Claire (Turner) got going both inside and out. She was aggressive with the dribble drive and also set up some girls against their zone. Abby (Scott) got out in transition and had some really nice drives for scores."

The Wolfpack took a 19-5 lead after one quarter before the Indians trimmed the halftime deficit to six with an 11-3 score in the second. Spirit Lake knotted the score at 48 with a 19-13 score in the third quarter and the two teams played to a 13-13 tie in the fourth to send it into overtime.

A crucial series by senior guard Taylor Schneider kept the Indians in the contest, as her squad trailed by two late. Schneider secured an offensive rebound and was fouled on the put-back attempt. She went to the charity free throw and knocked down both free throws to knot the score.



Spirit Lake's Fran Travis celebrates during her team's home victory.

In overtime, the Indians built a lead and held off the Wolfpack with a 13-8 score to salt away the win.

"It was a back-and-forth game in the second half and we made some big plays defensively," Rogers said. "I thought our guards did a really good job of putting ball pressure on the top of their offense. We got a lot of deflections that led to some easy points."

Turner led the Indians with 18 points. She also had six steals and five rebounds. Scott had 12 points, five assists two steals and two rebounds. Fran Travis had 11 points, four rebounds, three steals and two blocks.

Schneider had eight points, sev-

en rebounds, four assists and two steals. Charlotte Pritchard had five points, three rebounds, two assists and a steal. Lauren Travis had seven points and three boards for the Indians, who improved to 10-11 overall on the season.

"Taylor had another solid game," Rogers said. "Claire came up big especially in the fourth quarter and overtime. She played with confidence and was hard to stop. She got in the lane well and also hit a big three for us. She made her free throws down the stretch to put the game away. Give Western a lot of credit. They played really hard and executed well. They've played a tough schedule and been in a lot of close games this year."