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 \$1.25

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SIoux CENTER NEWS

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Jennifer Vande Vegte gives a customer a Kit Kat bar during the Feb. 3 Sioux Center High School girls basketball game against West Lyon. The Sioux Center Athletic Boosters Club raises funds from concessions sales made during these games. Photo by Eric Sandbulte

Sioux Center City Council proposes lower levy rate

Twelfth year city's levy decreases

BY RENEE WIELENGA
 RWIELENGA@NWESTIOWA.COM

Two new police officers, 4.5 percent wage increases and an unchanged levy rate are part of the city's proposed 2023-24 budget.

The Sioux Center City Council at its Feb. 2 meeting reviewed a levy rate of \$11.135 per \$1,000 of taxable valuation — this is the same levy rate as the current fiscal year.

Sioux Center finance director Darryl Ten Pas said it's the 14th consecutive year the city's levy has had no change or has decreased.

Ten Pas figured the new levy would mean about \$944

in city taxes for a \$150,000 home, \$1,573 for a \$250,000 home and \$2,202 for a \$350,000 home.

Ten Pas said major factors leading to the recommended lower tax levy rate is the increase in assessed values up to 2.40 percent, a steady need for debt service levy revenue and ongoing cost control measures happening throughout the organization as reasons for the proposed levy decrease.

"Although the tax levy is staying the same, the total amount of tax revenue will increase because of continued growth in assessed valuations," he wrote in the budget summary. "This is due

see **LEVY** on page A6

Supporting Sioux Center athletics for 30 years

Athletic booster club partners for students

BY ERIC SANDBULTE
 ESANDBULTE@NWESTIOWA.COM

For 30 years, the Sioux Center Athletic Boosters Club has been doing its part to promote student athletics, providing a way for the community to financially support the many sports on offer in the school district.

The organization got its start during the 1992-93 basketball season with Jeff Timmer of Sioux Center serving as its first president.

The main idea that birthed the athletic boosters club was to provide a consistent way to support the school's athletic programs.

What motivated him to help get the organization up and running were his three daughters

had just begun middle school athletics.

"We just wanted them to have all the opportunities that were available," Timmer said.

For families like his, sports become a big part of their lives, taking over weekends and evenings.

"That's good. You have

see **CLUB** on page A6



New Sioux Center Operation Prom event manager Makenah Traver looks through the selection of prom dresses the ministry has in storage. Sioux Center Operation Prom is in its 10th year of helping junior and senior girls attend prom. Photo by Renee Wielenga

Hospital to open sports medicine clinic

New venture to be at indoor turf facility

BY RENEE WIELENGA
 RWIELENGA@NWESTIOWA.COM

Sioux Center Health is teaming up with Dordt University and the city of Sioux Center to extend its services within the American State Bank Sports Complex.

Starting March 3, Sioux Center Health will be opening a physical therapy and sports medicine clinic within

the entrance building to the indoor turf facility.

"We are very excited to have Sioux Center Health as a partner in the new ASB Sports Complex facility," said Sioux Center city manager Scott Wynja. "It brings another



Hoogeveen

dimension of services not only to the community, but also the region. We feel this will be a great and growing partnership for many years to come."

Sioux Center Health is utilizing about 1,000 square feet of the space that was originally slated to be locker rooms.

"One of the reasons we converted that space was that many of the facilities we went to visit did not have locker

rooms or changing facilities and did not see the long-term need for that space," Wynja said. "Many of the athletes that attend these type of events are dressed and basically only need to change shoes. Our intent then was to have some additional storage space, which you never make enough room for storage. Then with continued conversations with Sioux Center

see **DOMES** on page A5

Operation Prom marks decade of service

Ministry grows with community support

BY RENEE WIELENGA
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A Sioux Center-based ministry serving junior and senior high school girls has reached its 10-year milestone.

Kayla Van De Berg of Sioux Center founded Sioux Center Operation Prom in the hopes of helping all young ladies attend their formal prom.

Back then, Van De Berg was on the Women's Ministries committee at First Reformed Church, now called Centerpoint Church, in Sioux Center.

"God put it on my heart to do an outreach with our church," she said. "Sioux Falls had an Operation Prom event, and I remember thinking we should do something like that because I felt it was important for all our young girls to have the opportunity to go to prom. It shouldn't be something only a select few should get to do."


That first year the ministry served seven area girls in going to prom.

"We were thrilled," Van De Berg said. "It would have been a success even if we helped just one girl, but we

see **PROM** on page A3

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"I am excited to serve our community at the new ASB Sports Complex by working with local patients and athletes of all ages on their recovery and performance."
 -Andrew Hoogeveen, DPT



Sioux Center Health
 Therapy Center

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News

Open Space Park's dying trees a safety concern

Parks department to plant new next fall

BY RENEE WIELENGA
RWIELENGA@NVESTIOWA.COM

More change has come to Open Space Park with the removal of trees along the east side of the football field.

City parks director Lee Van Meeteren said the dying trees are creating a safety concern along the city's trail.

"All the evergreens on that side are either reaching the end of their life or dying from a rapidly spreading fungus that we don't want to spread to the others," he said. "The deciduous trees are ash trees,

which are being killed by the emerald ash borer."

There are 17 ash trees total. "These trees are completely dead and are becoming a safety hazard for people using the trails and visiting fans for any sporting event at the football stadium," Van Meeteren said. "There are also two pin oaks that are hollowed out and one silver maples that has also reached the end of its life span."

Van Meeteren estimates the trees were originally planted in the early 1970s.

Vanden Berg Excavating of Sioux Center is doing the removal, which will take

about two weeks to complete. Van Meeteren said the company will return when the frost is out to dig up the stumps and do final clean up for the parks department plans grass this spring.

Van Meeteren said the goal is to start planting new trees next fall.

"Taking down the trees was a hard decision and it certainly changes the look of the park area, but tree health and the community's safety is important to me," he said. "We will have a great replacement program and I think there will be a much better result in the end."



Dying trees on the east side of the football field are creating a safety concern along the city's trail so they're being removed. Photo by Renee Wielenga



City crews examine a leak at Fourth Avenue Northeast and Seventh Street Northeast. It was one of three leaks the city repaired in the past week. Photo by Renee Wielenga

Thaw brings water leaks

City works to repair pipes around town

BY ERIC SANDBULTE
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Sioux Center Municipal Utilities had its hands full last week with several water leaks springing up around the city, a result of warming temperatures and aging pipes.

On Feb. 5, the city became aware of two water leaks. One was in front of B&B Salvage on Seventh Street Northwest, while the other

was found near the intersection of Fourth Avenue Northeast and Seventh Street Northeast.

The latter took a bit of digging to locate where the water leak originated.

"The good news was we brought in two digging crews and fixed them both on Monday at the same time," Hulstein said. "They were both repaired the next day after we were notified, which is nice."

A third leak came up last

week as well, this time on Ninth Street Southwest near the water tower.

"They fixed that one the same day, also," Hulstein said. "That was the same thing: aging infrastructure."

It is usually expected for water leaks to occur as the winter weather warms up a bit, but to have this many occur so close together is a bit unusual, he said.

"We're proud of our crews, they get on this work fast," Hulstein said.

City's Operation Prom to continue under new event manager

PROM

Continued from page A1
were able to help seven. We did also have fewer dresses than so God knew that's what we could handle."

A decade later, the one-day event has grown to support 25-35 girls annually. While most still come from the Sioux County area, girls have come as far away as Sioux Falls, SD, and one person registered this year is coming from Omaha, NE.

Much of the ministry's growth is due largely to the community's support, especially with prom dress donations that are accepted at Sioux Center High School or Centerpoint.

The attic storage that once had just one row of dresses now contains almost five rows of dresses in all sizes and colors.

"In the last few years we've had so many dresses we've been able to look through and take out some of the

dresses we feel aren't in style anymore," Van De Berg said. "Not only do we want to give girls the opportunity to go to prom, we want them to feel in style like their peers."

This year's Sioux Center Operation Prom event is 4-9 p.m. Friday, Feb. 24, at Centerpoint Church's Youth/Family Life Center, 160 10th St. SE. Registration for the event is open through Friday, Feb. 17, the link of which is on the organization's Facebook page.

When a girl arrives during the event, they're greeted at the door and assigned a personal shopper — someone who can walk alongside her, helping her pick out and try on dresses.

"Not every girl has the home life of someone who gives her that kind of attention or has had a shopping experience before," Van De Berg said. "We want to show just how valued each girl is by offering that one-on-one

DONATIONS

Sioux Center Operation Prom takes recently used prom dresses of all sizes. Dress donations may be dropped off at Sioux Center High School or Centerpoint Church in Sioux Center.

The volunteer team, in partnership with Best Ministries, also likes to gift a baggie of fun goodies to each girl who registers to pick out a dress. An Amazon wish list of items is viewable on Sioux Center Operation Prom's Facebook page.

For more information, e-mail scoperationprom@gmail.com.

ment. We want to love on them for the hour or so they're here."

Each girl may have as long as they want to pick out and try on dresses. Once they're done, they're given a goodie bag, have the choice of a Bible or devotional and receive assistance in setting up a hair and/or nails appointment before their prom date. Such appointments as well as the goodie bags are made possible

through Sioux Center Operation Prom's partnership with BEST Ministries. The faith-based ministry, co-founded by Dawn Mars of Sioux Center, exists to Bless, Encourage, Serve and Transform the lives of others by providing free salon and spa services.

"That partnership has been so valuable for Sioux Center Operation Prom," Van De Berg said.

That partnership has

brought in different volunteer connections as well. About 15-20 are needed each year to help set up the Thursday night before the event — which includes taking all the dresses down a flight of stairs to the Family Life Center and bringing them back again when the event is over.

"Our community has such a volunteer heart, and they're really what make this even possible each year," Van De Berg said.

Its 10th year will not be its last due to Makennah Traver of Sioux Center taking over as event manager for Van De Berg.

"I'm honored Kayla reached out to me and thought of me for this role," said Traver of Sioux Center. She's a senior elementary education major at Northwestern College in Orange City. "I have a heart for missions and at Northwestern College, that's what they enhance in us — being a servant leader. I

love helping out and giving back."

The Sioux Center High School graduate has seen firsthand the value of Sioux Center Operation Prom.

"There were a few girls in my grade who were sure they were not going to prom because they didn't have a dress or their family situation wouldn't allow them to get a dress," Traver said. "They were connected with this ministry were able to come to prom. I got to see how awesome they looked, so I'm happy to help this ministry continue."

Traver taking on the management role is an answer to prayer for Van De Berg.

"With my kids getting older and having more on the schedule, it was getting hard to be a part of this as well but I didn't want to see this ministry end," Van De Berg said. "Makennah has such a good heart and I'm excited to see what she'll do with this ministry."

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News

Expenses

- \$12,684,643 for FY 24.
- Includes a 4.5 percent wage increase for city employees.
- The total for salaries and wages is a projected \$3,261,365 – up from the projected \$2,942,690 for this fiscal year.
- Health insurance is budgeted at a 3 percent increase.



Levy



- The projected levy for the fiscal year is \$11.1350 per \$1,000 assessed property valuation.
- Since fiscal year 2008 the city levy rate has decreased 20.31 percent.



General government

- More than 5,000 times users accessed the city app.
- City staff wrote more than 2,800 separate checks and 400 bank drafts to vendors.

Revenue



- An estimated \$13,455,720.
- Projected surplus of \$771,007 for FY 2024.

Projected tax revenue

- \$160,000 hotel/motel.
- \$1,475,000 Local Option Sales.



BY RENEE WIELENGA RWIELENGA@NWESTIOWA.COM

2023-24 SIOUX CENTER

The Sioux Center City Council recently reviewed the city's general budget for the 2023-24 fiscal year and set a Feb. 20 public hearing date for the levy rate. Here are some of the items they're considering and facts on Sioux Center.

BUDGET



Public library

- Had 260,763 items checked out in the last fiscal year (more than 31 items per resident).
- Had 3,293 attendance for 235 youth, teen and adult programs.
- Asking for \$1,000 increase in program supplies.
- There were 3,022 wireless internet sessions at the library.
- \$300,000 budgeted for library remodeling.



Pool

- More than 200 youth swimming lessons given in 2022.
- 116 lifeguards and staff worked at the pool in 2022.
- Will increase lifeguard's wages by \$1 per hour to help retain staff. There are three main rate increases to help offset those wage increases.
- \$8 for youth, up from \$6 for youth admission to swim at Siouxnami Waterpark/All Seasons Center indoor pool (June 1-May 31, 2024).
- For residents, the All Seasons Center family swim pass will go up \$10 to \$220, the individual pass will go up \$10 to \$120 and the one plus one pass will go up \$20 to \$200.
- For nonresidents, the All Seasons Center family swim pass will go up \$10 to \$270, the individual pass will go up \$10 to \$150 and the one plus one pass will go up \$15 to \$250.
- About \$35,000 budgeted to replace the stairs leading to the indoor water slides.
- About \$14,000 budgeted to install double doors between the indoor and outdoor pools.

Public works

- The city maintains 61 miles of streets.
- The city maintains 861 street lights.
- Resurfacing Seventh Street Northeast about 0.20 of a mile from Fourth Avenue Northeast to Seventh Avenue Northeast.



Public safety

- \$779,790 in salaries and wages for Sioux Center Police Department. Includes two new officer positions.
- \$225,840 total operating budget for Sioux Center Fire Department.
- The fire department had 149 calls and did 3,055 hours of training in 2022.
- \$581,910 total operating budget for Sioux Center Ambulance.
- The EMTs went on 616 calls in 2022.



Parks

- Maintain almost 8 miles of bike trails and 10 parks throughout the city.
- About \$85,000 budgeted to replace playground mulch with handicap accessible rubberized mulch.
- About \$45,000 budgeted to add a bathroom facility to Vernon park.

News



Six Sioux Center High School students selected for All-State speech

Six Sioux Center High School students will be heading to Large Group All-State on Saturday, Feb. 18, at Iowa State University in Ames. To make it to state, the students performed a Readers Theatre called "Death by Public Speaking" by Linda Cooke. The performers are: Macey Ver Hoef, Clara Beutler, Amanda Beutler, Alexis Kooima, Elli Martin and Santiago Marquez. Photo submitted

New Sioux Center Health physical therapy space reflection of demand

DOME

Continued from page A1
Health, they expressed interest in leasing this space for a variety of services, and we were very excited to see this space utilized by them and offer another benefit to the facility."

Sioux Center Health CEO Cory Nelson said the hospital's physical therapy department has been one of its fastest growing service lines throughout the last few years.

"We have been looking at adding to our physical therapy department, so when this came up, it was kind of providence really," Nelson said.

Sioux Center Health therapy manager Sara Wielenga said the growth in that service line has come from the growth in the hospital's orthopedic services and from the community's growth.

Sioux Center Health offers physical therapy at its senior campus, within the hospital and in Hull and was looking to expand services offered through its hospital site but tight space did not allow for expansion of services there.

"We felt the need to offer another space to provide services in Sioux Center would help us expand our services and offer our services to people who didn't have access due to insurance reasons," Wielenga said. "We also found a lot of our Dordt athletes don't have vehicles to come to us they were either walking to therapy or they were not coming. Having this location so near the university's campus we hope can help change that."

Sioux Center Health also partners with Dordt to employ the university's four athletic trainers.

"As Dordt grows, we grow with them, so this was just another great expansion of that partnership," Nelson said.

CONTACT

To find out more about the Sioux Center Health Physical Therapy and Sports Medicine Clinic at the American State Bank Sports Complex in Sioux Center, call 712-722-8125.

Physical therapy appointment hours at the dome will be 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

"We hope to grow to full-time cover in time," Nelson said. "We're excited to grow out this opportunity. This dome is a regional attraction. Sioux Center Health is here to support the growth in our region. Often, people look to Sioux Center asking how can we get so much done that others can and I believe that's through partnerships and relationships. This is another extension of all of that."

Physical therapist

Sioux Center Health hired Sioux Center native Andrew Hoogeveen, 38, to lead physical therapy services at the dome.

Hoogeveen's focus will be providing physical therapy for orthopedic and sports conditions, especially for athletes or those looking to return to any level of sport.

"Sioux Center Health has invested in top-of-the-line equipment that will provide a fun and health atmosphere for recovery and optimal performance," Hoogeveen said. "With access to the dome, athletes from all sports will be able to rehabilitate injuries in a space that allows us to stimulate almost any specific sports movement."

For example, baseball, softball and football players will

be able to throw and catch to simulate game situations. Athletes and weekend warriors recovering from a leg injury will be able to progress from walking to jogging to running and jumping and changing directions in an abundance of space. Athletes hoping to improve power, burst and top-end speed will have the opportunity and the space to achieve and sustain top-end speed.

"It truly is an amazing opportunity for the local community that I think will make a lasting impact," he said.

One of Hoogeveen's goals is to bring opportunities in the realm of performance enhancement and sports specific performance enhancement to the region in the form of group settings and/or individual sessions. There will be more information coming as he develops these programs.

"I know the local school systems have strong strength and conditioning programs — I want to make it clear that we are not trying to change anything the schools are doing because they are doing a great job," he said. "We hope to work alongside those local programs to supplement, as needed, for those individuals wanting to emphasize specific performance training such as acceleration, vertical jump and/or speed work."

Hoogeveen was a four-sport athlete while attending Sioux Center High School and went on to play football at South Dakota State University in Brookings, SD.

"I learned that this community really loves and supports its sports and local athletes," Hoogeveen said. "Sioux Center has a great tradition of producing athletes who take their skills to the collegiate and even professional levels. I am excited to support the next generation

of athletes and help them achieve their personal and team goals."

Hoogeveen brings with him more than a decade of physical therapy experience. After earning his physical therapy degree from the University of South Dakota in Vermillion, SD, he provided physical therapy services for six years through the Spencer hospital then owned and operated his own private practice, Impact Mobile Physical Therapy in Orange City, for six years. Those roles included working with orthopedic conditions in teenagers through adults as well as high school and college athletes, weekend warriors, marathon runners, triathletes and CrossFitters.

He is full body level 2 certified in Active Release Techniques and is one of the 185 members of the Active Release Techniques elite provider network across the U.S.

"This certification is a hands-on soft tissue technique that is great at identifying and addressing pain, stiffness, trigger points and nerve entrapments," Hoogeveen said. "Every NFL team, every MLB team as well as many of the Power Five college programs have at least one certified Active Release Techniques provider on staff."

Physical therapy appointment hours at the dome will start out at 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday, Wednesday, Friday.

"We hope to grow to full-time cover in time," Nelson said. "We're excited to grow out this opportunity. This dome is a regional attraction. Sioux Center Health is here to support the growth in our region. Often, people look to Sioux Center asking how can we get so much done that others can't, and I believe that's through partnerships and relationships. This is another extension of all of that."

For the Record

WEATHER REPORT

Date	High	Low	Prec.
2-6	34	21	0
2-7	38	19	0
2-8	39	24	0
2-9	30	5	0
2-10	32	22	0
2-11	40	19	0
2-12	37	17	0

WIC CLINICS FOR SIOUX CENTER

Mid-Sioux Opportunity WIC Clinics are held in person. Call 1-800-859-2025 to make an appointment.

The 2023 clinic dates are: Feb. 14, March 21, April 18, May 16, June 20, July 18, Aug. 15, Sept. 19, Oct. 17, Nov. 21, Dec. 12.

SHIIP INFO

Senior Health Insurance Information Program

Questions about Medicare? Call SHIIP at 712-722-8309.

DRIVER'S LICENSE

The Sioux County driver's license office is open 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Tuesday, Thursday and Friday at Centre Mall in Sioux Center. Questions? Call 712-722-2923. More services are provided at www.iowadot.gov.

OVERNIGHT PARKING

No parking is allowed 2 a.m.-6 a.m. year round in Sioux Center.

COURT REPORT

Judgments filed in small claims:

Adan Gomez, Sioux Center, defendant, in favor of American State Bank, Sioux Center, plaintiff, in the amount of \$1,001.08, plus

interest and court costs.

Diana C. Paz Bautista, Sioux Center, defendant, in favor of Accounts Management, Inc., plaintiff, in the amount of \$2,356.61, plus interest and court costs.

Amalia L. Scholten and Gregory P. Scholten, Sioux Center, defendants, in favor of Accounts Management, Inc., plaintiff, in the amount of \$505.69, plus interest and court costs.

Information was filed in District Court:

Noe Ramos Morales, Sioux Center, intentional trespassing, two counts.

Magistrate Court:

Alvaro F. Lopez Lopez, Sioux Center, no valid driver's license, failure to provide proof of financial liability, operating a nonregistered vehicle, possession/purchase of alcohol by a minor, person under 21 using tobacco/vapor products.

Alivia A. Johnston, Sioux Center, failure to maintain control.

Maria D. Deanleu, Sioux Center, failure to obey traffic control device.

Tomas Martin Martin, Sioux Center, dark window or windshield, operation without registration card or plate, passing contrary to highway sign or marking, speeding, no valid driver's license.

POLICE ARRESTS

The Sioux Center Police Department made the following recent arrests:

■ Erica Rose Daniels, 44, Rock Rapids, was arrested Sunday, Feb. 12, and charged with possession of drug paraphernalia.

An arrest is an accusation, and the defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.

Briefly

February features local musicians

Sioux Center Arts has organized Local Musician Friday Nights in February at The Fruited Plain Cafe in Sioux Center. Dordt University Jazz Band will play 6:30-7:30 p.m. Feb. 17. Lael Bervig will be playing the piano Feb. 24.

March 2 blood drive slated at Centre Mall

LifeServe Blood Center of Sioux City will hold a blood drive 1-6 p.m. Thursday, March 2, at Centre Mall in Sioux Center. Appointments are required by visiting lifeservebloodcenter.org or calling 1-800-287-4903.

Fossil, Artifact, Rock and Bone Day event

Sioux County Conservation will host a Fossil, Artifact, Rock and Bone Day event 9:30 a.m.-noon Saturday, March 11, at the Prairie Woods Nature Center at Oak Grove Park near Hawarden. Identify fossils, artifacts or bones with the help of Evan DeGroot, a hobbyist from Sioux Center, who will be available with his collection and resources to share.

Foundation grants offered to nonprofits

The Sioux County Community Foundation is accepting grant applications from nonprofit organizations to help support needs in the areas of arts and culture, community betterment, education, environment, health and human services. Applicants can now request up to \$15,000 in funding instead of the original \$10,000 maximum. Submit applications at www.siouxlandcommunityfoundation.org by March 15. For more information, call Maggie Landegent at 712-293-3303, SCCF Advisory Board vice chair, at 712-722-0761.

Senior topic is study of birds on March 21

Sioux County Conservation will host Senior Environmental Learning and Fellowship programs on the topic Ornithology — the study of birds at 10 a.m., 12:30 or 2:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 21, at the Prairie Woods Nature Center at Oak Grove Park near Hawarden. Preregister at www.siouxcountyparks.org or call 712-552-3057.

Caregiver Support Group meetings

Elderbridge Agency on Aging will host a Family Caregiver Support Group meeting 10-11 a.m. on the third Tuesday each month. The next meeting will be March 21. Learn about the ways Elderbridge can help. Join the group by phone, computer or GrandPad. For more information, call Jenn Lappegard at 1-800-243-0678 Ext. 7033.

Sioux Stitchers at library March 21

The Sioux Stitchers will meet at 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 21, at the Sioux Center Public Library. Registration is not required and visitors are welcome. The Sioux Stitchers meets on the third Tuesday monthly.

Sioux Center Indoor Fair on March 15-16

The Sioux Center Chamber of Commerce will host the 63rd annual Sioux Center Indoor Fair 3-8 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday, March 15-16, at the Dordt University Recreation Center. More than 120 exhibitors will feature the latest in technology, services and products. Meals will be available 5-7 p.m. each day with proceeds benefiting local organizations. For more information, call 712-722-3457 or visit www.siouxcenterchamber.com.



Physical therapist Andrew Hoogeveen prepares the new Sioux Center Health Physical Therapy and Sports Medicine Clinic at the American State Bank Sports Complex, which will open March 3. Photo by Renee Wielenga

News



Pastor Dan De Vries of Sioux Center (right) uses an interpreter to talk with a wheelchair recipient about Jesus as part of a trip to Costa Rica, Jan. 18-27, through Hope Haven International Ministries. Photos submitted



Hope Haven International Ministries team member Tracy Glasford with Fabio of the Costa Rican ministry partner helping a 22-year-old woman named Gretel get fitted for her first wheelchair.

Wheelchair ministry benefits many lives globally

Mission trip helps 80 people be fitted for chair

BY RENEE WIELENGA
RWIELENGA@NWESTIOWA.COM

Weighing in at less than 50 pounds — at least that's pastor Dan De Vries's guess — the Sioux Center resident carried a 22-year-old Costa Rican woman named Gretel from the entrance of a Costa Rican gym to a proper place for her inside.

"This woman was skin and bones, she had never walked in her life," he said. "Her view most of her life was of her home from the floor."

All that changed two weeks ago through the gift of a wheelchair through Hope Haven International Ministries.

The goal of Hope Haven's international ministries branch based in Sioux Falls, SD, is to deliver wheelchairs to people in desperate need of them around the world.

Costa Rica is one of 20 countries Hope Haven International Ministries sent wheelchairs to in 2022, totally 3,775 wheelchairs distributed globally.

Hope Haven International Ministries specifically coordinates sending a team of volunteers to work with a ministry partner in Costa Rica twice a year and ships about 200 wheelchairs to the country ahead of each team.

De Vries, 62, who currently serves as one of Hope Haven's two spiritual support managers, was one of 11 team members — that also included four other Hope Haven employees, an employee's spouse, a wheelchair workshop volunteer and four Hope Haven supporters — who traveled to Costa Rica, Jan. 18-27.

BY THE NUMBERS

The goal of Hope Haven International Ministries is to deliver wheelchairs to people in desperate need of them around the world. Here's a closer look at some numbers from fiscal year 2022:

- 3,775 wheelchairs distributed.
- 53 volunteers helping build and refurbish wheelchairs in seven shops.
- Eight shop locations — Fort Dodge, George, Rock Valley, Orange City; Edgerton, MN; Brookings, Volga and Sioux Falls, SD.
- 11,849 volunteer hours to build or refurbish wheelchairs.
- 20 different countries to which wheelchairs were sent.

CONTACT

If you would like to donate a wheelchair, volunteer to assemble wheelchairs or even take a trip with for Hope Haven International Ministries, you can learn more by contacting Luke Russell at lrussell@hopehaven.org or calling 605-401-3674.

Hope Haven sends a team to the countries in which it ships wheelchairs to partner with local professionals like therapists and rehab specialists to help custom fit each wheelchair to the recipient.

In Costa Rica, Hope Haven's ministry partner organizes wheelchair fitting events within the gymnasiums of area schools to provide safety for the volunteer team and have room for various wheelchairs to be on display so that the proper one can be found for the individuals who come.

During this recent trip, the team fitted 80 individuals of various ages with a wheelchair.

"Whoever had brought this one young lady had just dropped her off. I found it my job to carry her inside, and then I learned her story," De Vries said. "She had gotten an intestinal infection when she was born and went to a children's hospital. A child there had meningitis, and she contracted meningitis and that set her path for the rest of her life. She's never had a wheelchair. She spent her days in the house, looking at the ceiling."

Each location had a cycle of stations, including check in, sharing their story, measurements and fitting, wheelchair and body care, then a gift of a Bible and often some toys for the children who came with their parents and the opportunity to hear about Jesus' love and be prayed over, if they desired.

A few of those helped had been in motorcycle accidents, which is a common injury in Costa Rica as it's a popular mode of transportation. "One lady, who was in her 30s and married, had been bitten by a dog

with rabies about five years ago," De Vries said. "That infection didn't heal right and then a while later she had gotten into a motorcycle accident that injured her good leg. A doctor said it would be best to amputate both legs below the knee."

De Vries said while wheelchairs are hard to come by in the country, she had one but it wasn't a proper fit.

"She was introduced to a new one after she was measured, but she was so reluctant to try it," De Vries said. "It turns out she was afraid of tipping because she had tipped so often in her current wheelchair. Eventually team members coaxed her into just sitting in the new one, showing her the tip prevention bars and the breaks and you could see that better-all-around wheelchair boost her confidence."

De Vries, who lived 11 years in the Philippines doing mission work with Christian Reformed World Relief Committee, now called World Renew, values seeing first hand such positive work being done through Hope Haven International Ministries.

"Through our mission experience, I came to recognize that individuals have physical needs that sometimes need to be met before you can talk with them about spiritual needs. That was our framework for working in the Philippines," he said. "When distributing wheelchairs, some people don't come with a strong faith background or it's in this moment they realize this is a gift from God and these people are the hands and feet of Jesus. Some people come to faith in those moments. That's a blessing to be a

part of." De Vries said that's all possible because people have chosen and still choose to donate their wheelchairs instead of putting them in a closet or in the landfill. Also, back in 1996, Dordt University's engineering department designed a child's wheelchair that Hope Haven volunteers still manufacture today.

"This type of ministry, recognizing the huge need for wheelchairs around the world, is a resource for many in other countries," De Vries said. "Often meeting that need impacts not only the individual but the whole family and ripples out into the community. That's such a ripple effect of positive influence. When I think of the girl I carried in, of what kind of world and possibilities opened up to her now that she has the gift of mobility all because we're taking something we have an abundance of in our country and sharing that with countries where that abundance doesn't exist — that's God's hand at work."

Each wheelchair donation, volunteers putting in time checking and assembling wheelchairs and mission teams are all parts of the body of Christ, doing His work in the world, De Vries said.

"I'm always thankful to be part of opportunities like that because I love international travel," he said. "I feel suited to help keep travelers calm, especially those who have never traveled internationally before and, after this trip, every last person talked about how satisfying it was to be part of this kind of ministry because it changes the life of an individual as well as a family and a community."

Boosters club helps cover special needs, expenses



Sioux Center High School freshman Zoi Jimenez talks with Ashley Koops of Sioux Center as she purchases some apparel during the Feb. 3 high school girls basketball game. Sales benefit the Sioux Center Athletic Boosters Club. Photo by Eric Sandbulte

CLUB

Continued from page A1 activities that are worthwhile and it gives the students a focus that is worthwhile and that parents and grandparents can join them," Timmer said. He and the founding members were able to find support from the school administration. Using money raised by running the concessions stand, the boosters were able to put out programs for games that would list the players' names, information and a schedule along with the ads from the businesses who supported them.

"When you look at the programs this year, almost all of those are still in there since 1992-93," Timmer said. Money raised by the boost-

ers club would help cover special needs, such as helping cover expenses from state tournament or state meets.

As time went on, Timmer left the leadership role as his kids graduated from high school, but he continued to see the boosters club gain confidence in the projects it could tackle for school athletes, such as improvements to the previous high school's gym and weight room.

Jerry Kieft of Sioux Center went on to take the role of Sioux Center Athletic Boosters Club president for a time.

"It always had a strong backing and was looking to do out-of-the-box thinking to use the best we could for all sports and to make sure the kids had what they needed in each and

every sport," Kieft said. "They were very progressive with what they did."

During his time in leadership, the boosters club began to do more Sioux Center Warriors clothes sales.

"This community did such a great job of wanting to be progressive, wanting to do well, wanting what's right for our kids to optimize who they want to be. If that's in sports or in music or in theater, whatever it is, our community is so easy to work with and has such great vision," Kieft said. "People are so willing to jump in and help in a lot of different ways. It's volunteering as well and doing what they need to do."

The mission to help athletes and coaches have access to

what they need to succeed remains in place, according to current athletic boosters club president Eric Vande Hoef.

A lot of the club's recent efforts have concerned the new Sioux Center High School building, with the group providing funds to purchase the new gym's video scoreboards. Other items the club purchased include the portable basketball hoops, some weight and cardio equipment as well as some wrestling mats and chairs, among other things.

One of Vande Hoef's favorite aspects has been the connections fostered with Sioux Center School District athletic director Mark Hulshof and the many dedicated coaches in the district.

Proposed levy is only city's portion of tax

LEVY

Continued from page A1 to additional construction adding new value and taxable valuations of current properties increasing."

Ten Pas noted the proposed levy is only the city's portion of an individual's tax bill, comprising about 33 percent of what a property owner would pay in property taxes.

The remaining 67 percent of the property tax bill

comes from levies set by the Sioux Center School District Board of Education, the Sioux County Board of Supervisors and the Northwest Iowa Community College Board of Trustees.

The general fund as proposed for the next fiscal year calls for \$12,684,643 in spending, which includes a projected \$3,261,365 for the salaries and wages as well as a 3 percent increase for insurance. There's an estimated

FUTURE MEETINGS

The Sioux Center City Council set the following times and dates for future meetings:

- 4 p.m. Monday, Feb. 20
- Noon Monday, March 6
- 4 p.m. Monday, March 13
- 4 p.m. Monday, April 3, with city staff reports to be given 3:30-4 p.m. before the regular meeting.

\$13,455,720 in revenue. Check on the infographic on page 4 for other city facts and budget highlights.

AUDIT REVIEW

Williams & Company, P.C. released an audit report on the city of Sioux Center for the year ended June 30, 2022.

The city's governmental revenues totaled \$13,790,101 for the year, a 15 percent increase from the previous year. Governmental expenditures for the city's operations for the year totaled \$16,063,702, a 11 percent decrease from the previous year. The significant increase in expenditures is due primarily to a decrease of \$3,316,778 in Community and Economic Development Function.

A copy of the audit report, including audit findings, if any, is available for review online at auditor.iowa.gov/audit-reports.

Church Listing

Amistad Cristiana (Christian Fellowship), Pastor Eddy Olguin. Prayer time/oration, 7-8 p.m. Monday, Tuesday and Friday/lunes, Martes y Viernes posted on Facebook; Worship service/servicio de adoración, 3:30 p.m. Sunday/Domingo.

Bethel Christian Reformed Church, Pastor John Lee. Worship 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. Sunday.

Bridge of Hope Christian Reformed Church. Worship 9:30 a.m. at Sioux Center Intermediate School gym.

Carmel Reformed Church. Worship 9:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. Sunday.

Centerpoint Church, Pastors Jamie Dykstra and Chris Godfredsen. Worship 9:30 a.m. Sunday.

Central Reformed Church, Pastor Jesse Henkle. Worship 9:30 a.m. Sunday.

Christ Community Church, an Evangelical Free Church, Pastors Mark John-

son, Brandon Thiel and Carlos Perez. English worship 9:30 a.m. Sunday. Spanish worship 3 p.m. Sunday.

Christ the King Catholic Church, Father Mauro Sanchez. English mass 9 a.m. Sunday and 8 a.m. Thursday; Spanish mass 1 p.m. Sunday and 7:30 p.m. Tuesday; Bilingual mass 10:30 a.m. the first Sunday of every month.

Church of Christ, Pastor Dustin Bolks. Studies 9:30 a.m. Sunday; worship 10:30 a.m.

Covenant Christian Reformed Church, Pastor Joel Kok. Worship 10 a.m. Sunday, formation gathering 6 p.m. Sunday.

Faith Christian Reformed Church, Pastor Bob Pollema. Worship 9:30 a.m. and 6 p.m. Sunday.

First Christian Reformed Church, Pastor Kurt Monroe. Worship 9:30 a.m. and 6 p.m. Sunday.

Good Shepherd Church,

Pastor Travis Else. Worship 10 a.m. Sunday at Kinsey Elementary School.

House of Missions & Equipping. Prayer room open 6 a.m.-10 p.m. Monday-Saturday. Ignite service 5 p.m. Sundays.

Hope Lutheran Church, Interim Pastor Jay Denne. Worship 9:15 a.m. Sunday.

Iglesia Cristiana Pentecostes Jesucristo El Buen Pastor (Pentecostal Church Jesus Christ the Good Shepherd), Pastors Rodrigo and Karina Gonzalez. Worship 3 p.m. Sunday at Centerpoint Church in Sioux Center. Worship 6 p.m. Saturday at Faith CRC in Sioux Center.

Lebanon Christian Reformed Church, Pastor Bob Drenton. Worship 9:45 a.m. Sunday.

Maria Magdalena Reformed Church, Jason Lief and Martha Draayer. Worship 12:30 p.m. Sunday.

Middleburg Free Grace

Reformed Church, Pastor Mark Schwarz. Worship 9:30 a.m. Sunday.

Netherlands Reformed Congregation, Pastor Herman Hofman. Services 9:30 a.m. and 7 p.m. Sunday.

Nueva Jerusalem (New Jerusalem), Pastor Victor Cavazos. Worship service/servicio de adoración, 2 p.m. Sunday/Domingo at Hope Lutheran Church.

New Life Church, Pastors Bobby Van Otterloo and Dan Kruse. Worship 9:30 a.m. Sunday.

Peace Lutheran Church, LCMC, Pastor Bill Loeffke. Worship 10:15 a.m. Sunday.

United Reformed Church, Pastor Jon Bushnell. Worship 9:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. Sunday.

Whispers of Love, Hope & Joy Shop Church, Pastor Debra Rensink. Worship 10 a.m. first and third Sunday of the month at Sandy Hollow lodge.

Obituaries

Lester Te Grotenhuis

Jan. 18, 1932—Feb. 9, 2023

Lester Te Grotenhuis, 91, of Sioux Center, died Thursday, Feb. 9, 2023, at Sioux Center Health.



A funeral service was Monday, Feb. 13, at Carmel Reformed Church, with the Rev. Roger Voskuil officiating. Burial was at the Carmel Church Cemetery. Arrangements are under the direction of Memorial Funeral Home in Sioux Center.

The Te Grotenhuis family prefer memorials be directed to the Carmel Reformed Church.

Lester G. Te Grotenhuis, the son of Willard and Hattie (Bouma) Te Grotenhuis, was born Jan. 18, 1932. He was raised on a farm near Carmel and attended country school, Sioux Center Christian School, and later graduated from Hull Western Christian in Hull, IA. After high school, Lester enlisted in the U.S. Army and attended basic training in Georgia.

On Feb. 25, 1954, he was united in marriage to Joan Prins at the Carmel Reformed Church. The couple lived in Kentucky while Lester finished serving in the Army. They then moved to Sioux Center, IA where they made their family home for 68 years. They were blessed with five children: Laurie, Leon, Sheryl, Marlyn and Mark.

Lester was a member of the Carmel Reformed Church where he served as a Sunday school teacher, deacon and elder. He passed his love for the Lord onto his children and grandchildren. He lived a life of service to his Lord and Savior.

Lester was employed by Ver Hoef Automotive as parts manager for 38 years. He had a love of sports. Some of his favorites included baseball, golfing, fishing and hunting. He treasured spending time with his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren and attending their many activities.

Lester will forever be missed by his wife of almost 69 years, Joan Te Grotenhuis of Sioux Center; five children, Laurie (Leon) Vanden Bosch of Rock Valley, IA, Leon (Diane) Te Grotenhuis of Castle Rock, CO, Sheryl Winterfeld of Sioux Center, IA, Marlyn (Maureen) Te Grotenhuis of Sioux Center, IA, and Mark (Sarah) Te Grotenhuis of Sioux Center, IA; grandchildren, Jennifer (Chris) Lincecum, Tessa (Mike) Belker, Bret (Paige) Vanden Bosch, Corey Winterfeld, Alissa (Wade) Kroeze, Kelsi (Drew) Ebel, Marcus Christian School, and later graduated from Hull Western Christian in Hull, IA. After high school, Lester enlisted in the U.S. Army and attended basic training in Georgia.

Lester was also survived by a brother, Marv (Wanda) Te Grotenhuis of Texas; sister-in-law, Rose Prins of Sioux Center; many nieces, nephews and other extended family.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Willard and Hattie Te Grotenhuis; brother, Gaynor (Elsie) Te Grotenhuis; sister, Myrtle (Jerry) Van't Hul; brother-in-law, Marv Prins; and great-grandson, Jude Kroeze.

MEMORIAL
Funeral Home

Marvin Rietema

Dec. 11, 1948—Feb. 6, 2023

Marvin Rietema, 74, of Sioux Center, died Monday, Feb. 6, 2023, at Baylor Scott and White Medical Center — Grapevine in Grapevine, TX.



A prayer service for family and friends was Tuesday, Feb. 14, at Faith Christian Reformed Church in Sioux Center. Burial was at Memory Gardens Cemetery in Sioux Center. Funeral service was Tuesday, Feb. 14, at the church, with the Revs. Bob Pollema and Cliff Hoekstra officiating. Arrangements are under the direction of Memorial Funeral Home in Sioux Center.

Marvin Jon Rietema was born Dec. 11, 1948, in Kanawha, IA, the son of John and Minnie (Christians) Rietema. Marv graduated from Kanawha High School in 1967 and went on to earn a bachelor's degree from Dordt College in 1971. Marv was united in marriage to Helene (Hengeveld) Rietema on June 30, 1970, in Orange City, IA. Marv and Helene started their careers as teachers in Oskaloosa, IA. After a few years there, they moved back to Sioux Center where Marv began working at Tri-State Livestock Auction. Not long afterward Marv started Northwest Order Buyers, his own business

in pork production, with his brother-in-law, Ted Hengeveld. Marv and Helene made their home in Sioux Center where they raised their three sons. Marv served on the Iowa Pork Board, the boards of the Sioux County Fair and Western Christian High School and in past years, was an elder and deacon at Faith CRC. He enjoyed raising pigs for the fair, antiquing, growing giant pumpkins, eating out at restaurants, vacationing in Mexico, being with friends, spending time at the lakes, road trips and visiting his grandkids.

Marv is survived by his wife of 52 years, Helene Rietema of Sioux Center; his children, Jeff Rietema of Norfolk, NE, Kurt and Emily Rietema of Kansas City, KS and Justin and Amy Rietema of Ft. Lauderdale, FL; and grandchildren, Luke, Perkins, Leo, Charlotte and Finn. He is also survived by his siblings, Wayne and Bev Rietema and Jan and Larry Cooper; and Helene's siblings, Ted and Rachel Hengeveld and Ron and Garneth Lightheiser; along with many nieces and nephews.

Marv is preceded in death by his parents, John and Minnie Rietema and Helene's parents, Ted and Nellie Hengeveld.

Memorial donations can be made in Marv's name to Youthfront, a ministry in Kansas City, KS, where his son, Kurt, serves.

MEMORIAL
Funeral Home

Law & Order

Collision by Sheldon leads to OWI arrest

A 56-year-old Sioux Center woman was arrested Sunday, Feb. 5, on a Sioux County warrant for second-offense operating while under the influence.

The arrest of Paula Nadine Haarsma stemmed from her losing control of a northbound 2007 GMC Envoy, crossing over the median and striking a southbound 2014 Nissan Armada driven by 42-year-old Leah Marie Herda of Alton on the Highway 60 expressway, two miles south of Sheldon, about 5:35

p.m. Thursday, Sept. 15, according to the Sioux County Sheriff's Office.

Haarsma was transported by the Sheldon Community Ambulance Team to Sanford Sheldon Medical Center for treatment of minor injuries.

Herda was transported by SCAT to Orange City Area Health System for treatment of her injuries.

Haarsma admitted to drinking before driving, according to the incident report.

A blood sample was sent to the Iowa Division of Criminal Investigation Criminalistics Laboratory in Ankeny,

which indicated a blood alcohol content above the legal limit.

A warrant for her arrest was issued Jan. 29.

No injuries reported in two-vehicle crash

Two Sioux Center drivers were each cited following a two-vehicle collision about 8:30 a.m. Wednesday, Feb. 8, at the First Avenue Northwest and Fourth Street Northwest intersection in Sioux Center.

Maria Rodriguez, 39, Sioux Center, driving a 2014 Chevrolet Silverado pickup, was

southbound on First Avenue Northwest. Filomena Niz, 22, Sioux Center, driving a 2013 Nissan Rogue, was eastbound on Fourth Street Northwest. Rodriguez proceeded into the intersection where she collided with Niz.

No injuries were reported. The Chevrolet sustained about \$3,500 in damage. The Nissan sustained about \$1,500 in damage.

Rodriguez was cited by the Sioux Center Police Department for failure to obey a stop sign and yield right of way and no valid driver's license.

Niz was cited for no valid driver's license.

Plain Conservation forum slated Feb. 16

Christian nationalism is the topic of the next Plain Conversation, an educational forum sponsored by the Sioux County Democrats that will stream live at 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 16, on the Sioux County Democrats Facebook page (facebook.com/siouxcountymocrats). Scott Culpepper, history professor at Dordt University, will define what Christian nationalism is and how it's gaining influence in America. He'll also discuss how conflating Christ and country could be a concern for religious and democratic institutions.

Dyslexia Support Group meets Feb. 16

A Dyslexia Support Group meets at 7 p.m. the third Thursday every month at the Sioux Center Public Library. The next meeting will be Feb. 16. Register at www.siouxcenterlibrary.org.

Feb. 16 blood drive slated at Centre Mall

LifeServe Blood Center of Sioux City will hold a blood drive 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 16, at Centre Mall in Sioux Center. Appointments are required by visiting lifeservebloodcenter.org or calling 1-800-287-4903.

Legion Auxiliary hosts Day of Giving

The public is invited to enjoy coffee and snacks during the Sioux Center American Legion Auxiliary Unit No. 199's first ever Day of Giving event at 9:30 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 18, at the Legion building, 282 First Ave. NE, Sioux Center. The auxiliary has enjoyed and appreciated wonderful support from the town and its people, as it holds fundraisers to help veterans, military families, local youth and the community. The auxiliary organized this Day of Giving to show its appreciation in a tangible way. A representative from each cause for which the

auxiliary has donated will also be available for the community to learn more about those causes, organizations and the auxiliary.

Dordt to host piano recital on Feb. 18

Dordt University in Sioux Center is hosting a piano recital by junior Joya Schreurs at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 18, in B.J. Haan Auditorium in Sioux Center. A public reception will follow. The recital will feature repertoire from the major style periods, including compositions by Bach, Haydn, Rachmaninoff, Griffes and Berthume. The recital will also include a piano trio with Dordt juniors Karli Vanden Brink of Orange City on violin and Aaron Galoway of Pella on cello. Schreurs of Sheldon is majoring in literature and writing as well as theological studies with a minor in Piano Performance.

Caregiver Support Group meetings

Elderbridge Agency on Aging will host a Family Caregiver Support Group meeting 10-11 a.m. on the third Tuesday each month. The next meeting will be Feb. 21. Learn about the ways Elderbridge can help. Join the group by phone, computer or GrandPad. For more information, call Jenn Lappegard at 1-800-243-0678 Ext. 7033.

Sioux Stitchers at library on Feb. 21

The Sioux Stitchers will meet at 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 21, at the Sioux Center Public Library. Registration is not required and visitors are welcome. The Sioux Stitchers meets on the third Tuesday monthly.

Sioux Center library offering tech help

The Sioux Center Public Library will have a drop-in time for any tech related questions the public has Tuesday, Feb. 21. Drop in for assistance with topics like the library's e-resources, basic computer

use, e-mail and job applications. If others are waiting, 20 minute time slots may apply. No appointments are needed.

Senior topic is study of reptiles on Feb. 21

Sioux County Conservation will host Senior Environmental Learning and Fellowship programs on the topic Herpetology — the study of reptiles and amphibians at 10 a.m., 12:30 or 2:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 21, at the Prairie Woods Nature Center at Oak Grove Park near Hawarden. Preregister at www.siouxcountyparks.org or call 712-552-3057.

Hospital hosts blood drive Feb. 22

Sioux Center Health will host a LifeServe Blood Drive noon-4:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 22, by the MRI door on the north side of the hospital.

Wild Child Nature Series slated Feb. 22

Sioux County Conservation will host the Wild Child Nature Series at 10 a.m. or 1 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 22, at the Prairie Woods Nature Center at Oak Grove Park near Hawarden. Topic: Groundhogs and Shadows. The series is a nature-based experience that will get 2- to 5-year-old children exploring, moving, playing, and using their senses. An adult is required to join each child or children. Preregister at www.mycountyparks.com/County/Sioux/Events.aspx or call 712-552-3057.

Dordt hosts exhibit through Feb. 22

Dordt University in Sioux Center will host an art exhibit titled "Confluence: Watercolors" by artist Judy Thompson of Orange City. The exhibit will be open through Feb. 22 in the Campus Center Art Gallery. An artist reception will be held 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 16, with an artist talk at 7:15 p.m. Thompson is a watercolor artist whose artistic goal is to create contemporary watercolors that engage

and connect the viewer to beautiful, yet complex, rural landscapes.

Stepping Stones to take registrations

Stepping Stones Preschool will be accepting registrations for the 2023-24 school year beginning Feb. 23. Stepping Stones is a free preschool program for children turning 4 by Sept. 15. By using developmentally appropriate activities, it focuses on the emotional, mental, social and physical needs of each child in a caring and loving classroom environment. For more information, call 712-449-8283 or e-mail christy.hulstein@dordt.edu.

Pruning program held on Feb. 23

Northwest Iowa Master Gardeners will host a pruning program at 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 23, at the Iowa State University Extension and Outreach office in Orange City, 700 Central Ave. NW, Suite 700. The program leaders are Sarah Bell, an Iowa Department of Natural Resources forester based in Onawa and Fred Hall, a longtime ISU Extension and Outreach employee who currently works with dairy programs. The speakers will talk about how the health of a tree is enhanced by cutting out branches. To register, contact the ISU extension office in Sioux County, 712-737-4230.

Documentary on housing to be Feb. 28

The Sioux Center Public Library and PIECE are partnering to host a showing of "The Truth Behind our Neighbor's Door," Housing Documentary at 7 p.m. Feb. 28. A group of Northwestern College social work students conducted research and interviewed community members on the barriers and challenges of safe and affordable housing in Sioux County to create this documentary. The 20-minute documentary is in English with Spanish subtitles. Stay afterward for a panel discussion.

Opinion

Grand projects ahead for fair



Thumbs-up to the continuing plans for the future of the Sioux County Youth Fair, recently discussed in a Jan. 30 presentation to 4-H families and supporters.

Work on the site will occur in two phases, costing a total of \$26.2 million. According to LeAnn Englin, the fair board vice president who is serving on the relocation committee, the fair board will begin its capital campaign this spring with the assistance of Renaissance Group, which is overseeing the fundraising.

Englin said one of the factors for the high cost is due to inflation, which has raised the project cost by more than 30 percent since planning began about two and a half years ago.

The first phase, costing an estimated \$22.5 million, involves most of building projects at the nearly 78-acre site, two miles north of Sioux Center at 3028 360th St.

Construction would begin in the fall, with \$3.8 million to go toward general infrastructure costs, \$10 million for show barns and show rings, \$8.7 million for an ag expo building and \$200,000 for a camping section. For a total of \$3.7 million, the second phase will see the building of a grandstand and whatever other campsite work remains to be done.

The goal is for the first Sioux County Youth Fair to be held at its new location by July 2024.

Englin said the fair board's work on plans for the site have been with the goal of making it a greater attraction for youth and families from around the county because there's a lot more competition for kids' time, particularly from activities.

"We're losing some numbers. If we don't continue to get bigger and better and draw interest and build things that people want to be involved in, we will continue to slide down that hill. There's too much pride in Sioux County to let that happen," she said, adding that this is an opportunity to reemphasize the role agriculture has played and continues to play in building the county and its communities.

The ag expo building would be the largest facility at the fairgrounds. The current plans, which are subject to change, have it at 600 feet long with an area of 140,000 square feet. Those designs would include rows of bleachers inside with a walkaround on the top. The arena would have different flooring that could be swapped for different uses.

The front of the ag expo building has room for vendors up front. At about 10,000 square feet, it's also space that could be rented out for banquets, contests and other smaller events, meaning such groups would only have to rent out that portion of the building.

The majority of the other buildings will be 40,000 square feet. One of the exceptions would be a 60,000-square-foot swine building, which would have its own indoor show arena.

With about 200 feet of distance between each building, the layout is meant to be conducive for foot traffic, with everything readily accessible.



Thumbs-up to the Sioux Center High School administrators and their work on the Sioux Center Alternative High School, which started this semester.

High school principal Brent Town and special education instructor Brian Schmalbeck informed the Sioux Center School District Board of Education at its Jan. 16 meeting about this school's efforts to provide an alternative schooling format that gets students in need back on track for graduation.

For the last year there has been no alternative offered by the school district until Town and Schmalbeck began looking into it at the start of the 2022-23 school year. They primarily consulted Le Mars High School to learn how they handle their alternative high school program. The alternative school is primarily intended for juniors and seniors, though some sophomores can be eligible. To join takes a special set of circumstances, however, and permission from the student's parents or guardians.

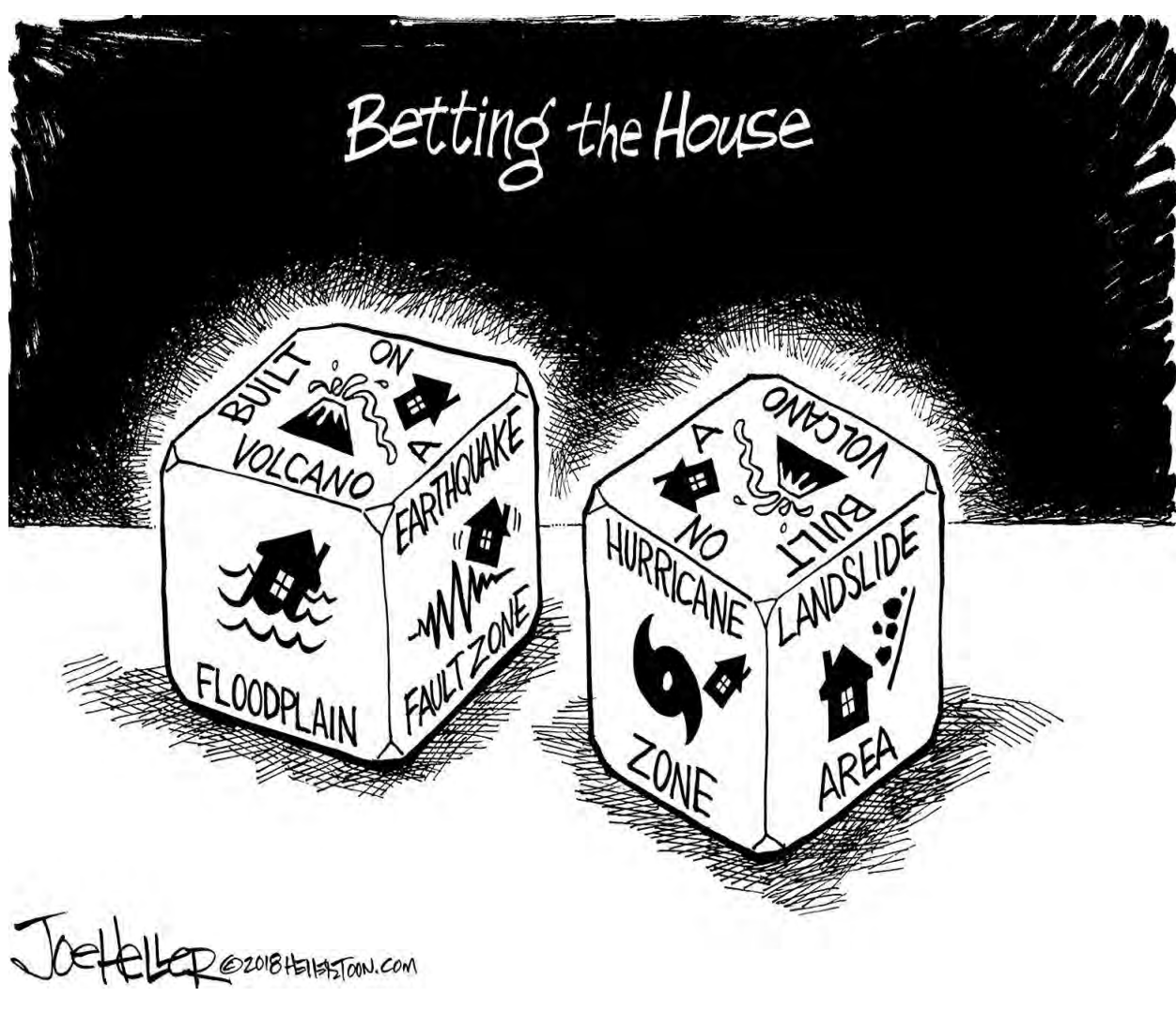
It starts with a school transcript evaluation to identify students who are struggling and showing achievement gaps that put their graduation at risk. After that, Town and Schmalbeck begin talking with the parents or guardians about alternative school and how it might benefit the student. Students must still obtain 48 credits to graduate, just as before.

Alternative school can be an option for students who have missed a lot of school for medical reasons, too.

"We have a few students with health issues who are using it to catch up so they can re-enroll with their classmates next year," Schmalbeck said.

The alternative school is run out of Schmalbeck's room from 8:10-11:45 a.m., allowing its students to eat lunch at the high school.

"The student is required two hours of attendance at school every day within that time frame. These alternative school students could show up at 9:45 and their day is over at that 11:45," Town said. "They can obtain credits at a faster rate, and Schmalbeck enrolls them in a class where they're going to see results right away. It helps to get the ball rolling and helps them gain confidence to see that they are making progress already when they'd rather not sit in a classroom for a semester to obtain a credit. This seems to resonate with the kids as they're working on it."



Reflecting on institutions and their power

From the Divine Three to the first man and woman, the Creator endowed the image bearers with the gift of relationships.

One is a relationship of several image bearers as a group with a common interest and purpose to form an institution.

A cultural institution is an organized group of people with a common purpose and commitment to achieve a particular goal. It is a rich complex of behaviors, patterns and possibilities that can be handed from one generation to the next. An institution must last at least three generations. The third generation can appreciate the significant human experiences that occur as members. Institutions are essential to a flourishing culture.

Every institution has three elements: artifacts, roles, rules and arena.

Not all of these are formally recognized in its formation. Eventually they become apparent.

Family is the fundamental institution of any culture. For the roles of husband, father, wife, mother, son, daughter, brother and sister each have rules which, when adhered to, make the home, the arena, a place where all members prosper. The family name, pictures, memories are the artifacts that become a legacy.

Within a culture are numerous institutions: school, church, business, government to name a few. Each has the same elements — some are more defined and adhered to in a formal

OUR VOICES

WILLIS ALBERDA



way. Within every institution is the need for some way to guide members toward the purpose of the institution. Power, when understood as a gift of influence, is exercised to help the institution achieve its goals and honor its commitments. When power is used by each member according to the rules of the respective role, there is harmony.

Among institutions, when each is exercising its respective role in accord with those of other institutions, the culture prospers. This, during my time at Dordt College, was called Sphere Sovereignty (an Abraham Kuyper description).

Abuse of power by any member of an institution destroys the harmony. Within the family, domestic violence is an example. Dictatorship harms a nation. Killing the unborn destroys a nation's value of life and role of motherhood.

The misuse of power among nations, such as when one institution tries to assume the role of another, disrupts both. Wars are an example. Another is when government takes the role of health care or education chaos and polarization result.

When an institution requires allegiance, or the name of the institution becomes the identity of the members, categorization of members becomes common and their identity is compromised.

An example of this is the "D" or "R" before the name of every Congress member at the federal and state government level. When you cannot vote, voice or give your opinion without recognition of a political party, you have been institutionalized.

The "across the aisle" in speeches when debating issues and policy is an example of segregation, according to the power an institution imposes on its members.

To categorize by misuse of rules results in institutionalization.

The image bearers are categorized by membership and their identity is lost to a label.

The abuse of power in whatever form destroys the dignity of the image bearer and results in the disintegration of the institution.

All image bearers are 99.9 percent identical in genetic makeup. How is it that 0.01 percent difference in who we are physically can cause so much strife?

Would it be possible to change the way we talk, think and treat one another?

Willis Alberda of Sioux Center is a former Sioux Center City Council member and retired Dordt University mathematics professor.

A lifetime spent assembling a good hobby

Everybody needs a hobby, something to bring a bit of joy into the humdrum monotony of life. That's doubly true if you're a bachelor with no social life. For me, that's been Lego.

I've been a Lego fan for as long as I can remember. It was always the go-to request for birthdays and Christmas gifts, and I was at the right age for a bunch of great Lego themes. A favorite of mine was Lego's version of Indiana Jones, an adventurer named Johnny Thunder whose first sets took him to forgotten tombs and temples in Egypt. He'd go on in later iterations to explore ruins in the rainforest and sanctuaries in the Himalayas.

Lego was also trying to expand into more licensed material. In 1999, when I was 8, Lego unveiled its first round of Star Wars sets. I had never seen those movies, but I was fascinated by them all the same; the laser swords and starfighters set the imagination ablaze. I would drool over pictures of those sets in the official Lego catalogs I would get in the mail. Soon after, in 2001, Lego also began producing Harry Pot-

NEWS DESK

ERIC SANDBULTE



ter sets, which I had also fallen in love with at the time.

My younger brother and I were able to build up quite a collection of them, storing the pieces in a plastic tub. I'd annoy my parents by constantly digging in that tub, searching for some specific piece for some new creation of mine. Thanks to that sound, they'd call me "Scratch."

These days, Lego is much more aware of its adult audience, putting out sets with them — now myself — in mind.

While this provides people with much more complex and detailed sets, the price reflects that it's not just something for grandma to pick up for a quick gift for Junior. Yet, with budgeting, I am willing to splurge on the

occasional train set.

One of my long-term goals is to have a large enough layout for these Lego-made train sets to create a countryside: a nice, forested landscape with a river and campground, fishing and wild animals, a farm and pumpkin-growing contest. That kind of thing. Thanks to a new table, I can start ordering some bricks in bulk. I've gotten a long ways toward finishing the barn after several attempts to figure out how to handle the multislope roof. But that's part of the appeal: building until you get stuck, then tearing it apart to figure out another approach.

I'm not sure why I never outgrew the toy. It's incredible seeing what other people can accomplish with these simple plastic blocks, and it's fun to dream up and build little towns and scenes of my own.

I'm just thankful I have a spare room to hold my collection as I continue to collect and build.

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SIoux CENTER NEWS

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Dordt University sophomore Janie Schoonhoven wins a jump ball against Mount Marty University in a conference triumph last Wednesday in Sioux Center. Photo courtesy of Dordt Sports Information

Defenders rise to top of conference

Dordt women win first league title for program

BY CHARLIE HILDEBRAND
CHILDEBRAND@NWESTIOWA.COM

Dordt University won a conference championship in women's basketball for the first time in school history with its ninth consecutive victory and plays a county rival in a league game today (Wednesday, Feb. 15).

The Defenders, ranked fourth in the NAIA Coaches' Poll, are 25-1 overall and 19-1 in the Great Plains Athletic Conference. With two games remaining in the regular season and in GPAC play, they have a four-game lead in the conference standings.

Dordt plays next at Northwestern College today at 6 p.m. The Red Raiders are 18-8 overall and 13-7 in the GPAC. Junior forward Molly Schany leads Northwestern with 14.2 points and 6.8 rebounds per game. Senior guard Maddie Jones averages 14 points, 4.1 boards and 4.9 assists per contest. Senior guard Emilee Danner nets 10.3 points and 6.3 rebounds per

game.

The Defenders won the first meeting between the two teams this season 65-55 on Dec. 7 in Sioux Center.

"They're a tremendous team. They are playing good basketball," said Dordt coach Bill Harmsen. "It's a fun game to drive just 15 minutes to Orange City. It's a fun atmosphere. We're looking for a tough test and it will be a great game."

Tough victory

The Defenders played flat for much of the game but found a way to make enough plays late to earn a 64-59 win over Mount Marty University in a GPAC game last Wednesday in Sioux Center.

Harmsen said it was a tough early February game.

"We prepared well, but the energy just wasn't there," he said. "Mount Marty also played really well. Playing in the GPAC, everyone is good. For the first three quarters it was kind of a struggle."

The game was tied at 16 through one quarter. The Lancers stretched

the lead to nine points in the second period on a three-pointer to make it 34-29 with 1:40 left. Dordt's Karly Gustafson made two free throws in the final minute to trim the margin to 34-27 going into halftime.

Dordt cut the deficit to five points three times in the third quarter, lastly on a jumper from Bailey Beckman to make it 40-35 with 2:48 left. Gustafson later made two free throws, the final points of the period, to trim the margin to 43-37 entering the final frame.

"For the first three quarters it was kind of a struggle," Harmsen said.

Mount Marty hit a three-pointer with 4:39 left in the game to break a tie and go in front 50-47. The Defenders scored the next seven points, capped by a trey from Beckman, to go back in front 54-50 with 2:53 left. The Lancers sunk a three-pointer with 1:11 remaining to cut it to 56-55. Dordt outscored the visitors 8-4 the rest

see **DORDT** on page A14



Sioux Center junior Jacques Zomermaand wrestles Ridge View senior Tanner Edwards in a 195-pound district title match on Saturday in Sioux Center. Photo by Justin Rust

Zomermaand, Bauer earn spots at state tourney

Three other wrestlers just barely missed out

BY JUSTIN RUST
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Two wrestlers from Sioux Center saw their seasons continue after Saturday's Class 2A district tournament hosted by the Warriors while a few fell one spot short.

Kade Bauer and Jacques Zomermaand both won district titles at 132 and 195 pounds, respectively, to

advance to the state tournament at the Wells Fargo Arena in Des Moines. The tournament starts today (Wednesday, Feb. 15) and runs until Saturday.

The top two from each weight class in the district tournament advanced and Sioux Center had three wrestlers — Brodie Van Regenmorter at 160, Reid Hulshof at 170 and Brendan Lamfers

see **DISTRICT** on A13



Kylar Fritz, a senior at Sioux Center, drives toward the basket against Boyden-Hull on Feb. 7 in Hull. The Warriors defeated the Comets 60-52. Photo by Dan Wolfswinkel

Warrior boys go into postseason riding hot streak

Team gets to host contest on Monday

BY CHARLIE HILDEBRAND
CHILDEBRAND@NWESTIOWA.COM

Sioux Center ended the regular season on a three-game winning streak in boys basketball and has some time to prepare for its first postseason contest on Monday.

The 14-7 Warriors host

Spirit Lake in the first round of the Class 3A Substate 2 bracket on Monday at 7 p.m. The Indians are 12-8 overall but have lost two of the last three games, a 69-46 setback to Western Christian and a 60-54 defeat to West Lyon.

Sioux Center coach Brian Schmalbeck said he was excited to be playing the

see **WARRIORS** on A12

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Sports

Storm girls top Watertown to wrap regular season

Boys team beats out Marlins and Flyers

BY SCOTT BYERS
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The Sioux Center girls hockey team got to end its regular season on a win and the boys team started to build some momentum as it comes down the home stretch in what was a largely successful weekend for the Storm programs.

The girls team was on the road for its last weekend, starting with a 7-2 loss at Brookings on Friday. The Rangers scored the first four goals of the game, three of them in the first period. Sioux Center climbed back into the contest, getting a second-period goal from Corrine McCord with help from Amanda King. King then scored early in the third period with an assist to Carlee Lange to cut it to 4-2. Brookings then scored twice in a span of less than two minutes to restore the four goal advantage. The Rangers would add one more with less than four minutes left.

Sioux Center used Allison Moore and Victoria Pendergrass in net. Moore stopped 29 of the 33 shots she faced. Pendergrass had seven saves on 10 shots. Sioux Center was outshot 43-15 in the contest.

Moore was flawless in goal on Saturday in Watertown as the Storm took a 5-0 win. She stopped all 31 shots she faced.



Kaden Svoboda, a sophomore for the Sioux Center Storm, skates down the ice in a game against Sioux Falls 2 on Sunday in Sioux Center. Svoboda scored one goal in the game and helped the Storm win the tilt 4-1. Photo by Dan Wolfswinkel

That was a major factor as the Storm had just a slight 40-31 edge in shots on goal.

Offensively, it was Faith Van Voorst that had a huge night for Sioux Center. After a scoreless first period, Van Voorst found the net twice in the second. The first was assisted by Camille McCord. The second goal was assisted by Kylee Reginnitter.

Van Voorst made it a hat trick early in the third period with Reginnitter and Camille

McCord each getting an assist on the play. Geonella Ramirez scored with an assist from Amanda King. Van Voorst scored unassisted for her fourth goal of the game to account for the final score.

The Sioux Center girls finished seventh out of nine teams in the South Dakota Amateur Hockey Association standings with a 3-11-1-1 mark.

The Storm boys started a three-game home stand with

a 4-2 win over Mitchell on Friday.

Mitchell had a 29-23 edge in shots on goal but Sioux Center was more efficient, eventually pulling away for the win. The Storm never trailed. Tegan Doelman scored the first goal with assists from Graden Van Essen and Easton Van Den Berg. The Marlins scored less than four minutes later to tie it. The second period followed a similar pattern.

Ethen Huebner scored for Sioux Center with Trey Knight and Dawson Leusink getting assists. The Marlins scored on a power play to tie it at 2-2. Sioux Center then put it away with two goals in a span of 1:34 early in the third. Van Den Berg scored on the power play with Doelman getting the assist, then Jake Bogen scored unassisted for the final tally of the contest. Luke Myers stopped 27 of 29 shots on goal for the

Storm.

The Storm wasn't able to generate much of an attack on Saturday, getting just 12 shots on net in an 8-1 loss to Sioux Falls 1. The Flyers led 4-0 after one period, with Mason Schramm scoring three of those. The guests made it 5-0 before Tatum Van Den Berg scored for Sioux Center. The Flyers got two more goals in the second period and one in the third. Christian Richards was in net and made 29 saves on 37 shots.

Sioux Center then faced Sioux Falls 2 on Sunday and found much more success in a 4-1 win. The Storm scored in the first period after a Flyer penalty, with Kaden Svoboda cashing in on the man advantage. Dawson Leusink got the assist. The Storm scored two more goals, one at even strength and one on a power play, in the second period. Van Essen got a goal with an assist from Van Den Berg. Van Den Berg then scored with assists from Van Essen and Bogen to make it 3-0. Sioux Falls scored midway through the third, but Doelman added an unassisted tally at the 16:48 mark of the third to account for the final score. Myers was in net and stopped 30 of 31 Sioux Falls shots.

Sioux Center improved to 5-13-0-1. The Storm gets another shot at Sioux Falls 1 on the road this Saturday. The Storm is at Brandon Valley on Sunday.

Sioux Center boys rally in second half to down Bulldogs

WARRIORS

Continued from page A11
first-round contest at home.

"The last two years we've traveled a couple hours for long road trips," he said. "I'm glad we have a home game and don't have to do that. Spirit Lake will bring an athletic team. It will be a test similar to Le Mars. I'm super happy we get a home game and our home fans get to see us one more time in our home gym. Hopefully, we can win and move on."

If the Warriors win on Monday, they would play the winner of third-ranked and 19-2 MOC-Floyd Valley and 4-15 Storm Lake on Thursday, Feb. 23.

SC 60, B-H 52

Sioux Center got into a dogfight against Boyden-Hull but made enough plays in the fourth quarter to pull in front and take a 60-52 victory in a Siouxland Conference game on Tuesday, Feb. 7, in Hull.

The Comets led 11-4 late in the first quarter but Carson Bruhn sunk a three-pointer to cut the margin to 11-7. Sioux Center then outscored the hosts 15-13 in the second period but still trailed 24-22 at halftime.

"That first quarter, we got off to a slow start. I think we were still feeling the effects from the night before," Schmalbeck said in reference to the game against Central Lyon. "The second quarter we did a better job moving the basketball and getting shots inside-out. We fouled right at the end of the second quarter and they hit two free throws to take lead into halftime."

Both teams netted 16 points in the third quarter, keeping Boyden-Hull in front 40-38 entering the final frame.

"The third quarter, they hit three straight threes to get us down 10," Schmalbeck said. "Ethan Fink came off bench and hit two big threes in the third to spark us."

The Warriors ended the game by outscoring the hosts 22-12 in the fourth quarter. Bruhn made a layup to give the Warriors a two-point lead. Sioux Center then got three-pointers from Tavian Maassen and Tyler Roseberry

2023 SUBSTATE BOYS BASKETBALL	
■ CLASS 3A SUBSTATE 2	
MOC-Floyd Valley 7 p.m. Monday, Feb. 20, at MOC-Floyd Valley	7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 23, @TBD
Storm Lake	
Sioux Center 7 p.m. Monday, Feb. 20, at Sioux Center	7 p.m. Monday, Feb. 27, @TBD
Spirit Lake	
Humboldt 7 p.m. Monday, Feb. 20, at Humboldt	7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 23, @TBD
Perry	
Algona 7 p.m. Monday, Feb. 20, at Algona	
Spencer	

to stretch the margin.

"Once we got the lead, we were able to get stops on defensive end," Schmalbeck said. "The ball for whatever reason just moved really well. We did a great job moving the ball and cashed in on some threes. It was a free throw contest at the end. We just had to battle, and a lot of that is credit to Boyden-Hull."

Kylar Fritz led Sioux Center with 21 points, 10 rebounds and five steals. Bruhn and Fink finished with nine points and five boards. Maassen scored nine points.

"We fought all night," Schmalbeck said. "It wasn't exactly clean. We had to overcome some adversity there. Boyden-Hull definitely made us earn it, so credit to them as well."

SC 83, S-O 46

The Warriors wrapped up their league slate with an 83-46 rout of Sibley-Ocheyedan, thanks to one massive quarter, in a Siouxland game on Friday in Sioux Center.

Sioux Center had a solid lead in the first quarter but it was whittled down to 20-18 by the end of the period.

"In the first quarter, I thought we played well in pockets," Schmalbeck said. "We got a 10-point lead. Sibley made a few threes to close the gap at the end of the quarter."

Everything changed in the second stanza. The Warriors held Sibley-Ocheyedan scoreless from the six-minute

mark of the second quarter to the seven-minute mark of the third. Sioux Center's offense caught fire in the meantime, outscoring the Generals 31-5 to take a 51-23 advantage into halftime.

"Our defensive intensity picked up which allowed us to transition and have a big second quarter," Schmalbeck said. "We really picked up our defensive intensity in the second quarter and it continued the rest of the game."

The Warriors held a 16-12 edge in the third period to take a 67-35 lead into the fourth quarter.

Tyler Roseberry made eight three-pointers in the game, including five in the first half, and led Sioux Center with 24 points.

"His teammates did a good job at finding him and getting him going," Schmalbeck said. "That was good to see."

Fritz finished with 16 points, five assists and four steals for the Warriors. Cael Van Beek had 15 points, five rebounds and five steals. Bruhn scored seven points.

Sioux Center finished fourth in the Siouxland with a 12-6 conference record.

SC 66, Le Mars 54

In a game of runs, the Warriors had two big ones in the second half and closed the regular season with a 66-54 win over Le Mars in a non-conference game on Monday in Le Mars.

"We just competed all night," Schmalbeck said. "I was proud of our effort and the way we competed for the most part."



Sioux Center junior Luke Dykshorn takes a shot in a league game with Sibley-Ocheyedan Friday in Sioux Center. The Warriors won the game 83-46. Photo by Dan Wolfswinkel

The Bulldogs led 15-14 through one quarter, then they held a 16-12 edge in the second period to extend the margin to 31-26 by halftime.

"Le Mars was a challenge defensively for us," Schmalbeck said. "We knew we'd have to be good with the basketball on offense. We battled some foul trouble in the first half, Bruhn had three fouls."

The Bulldogs opened the third quarter on a 7-0 run to stretch the lead to 38-26. Sioux Center then scored 20 of the next 26 points, including a 16-3 run to go in front 42-41, and entered the final stanza with a 46-44 advantage.

"We clamped down on

defense," Schmalbeck said.

The Warriors used a 10-0 run in the fourth quarter to extend the margin to 60-49. Le Mars cut the deficit to 60-54 with around 90 seconds left, but Sioux Center held the Bulldogs scoreless the rest of the way.

Trailing 61-54 with around 45 seconds left, the Bulldogs grabbed an offensive rebound after a missed three-pointer. Le Mars was then whistled for an offensive foul to give the Warriors the ball back. Fritz was fouled and sent to the free-throw line. He made the first free throw but missed the second, however, Van Beek grabbed the offensive rebound and drew a foul. He

made both free throws to stretch the lead to 64-54 with around 20 seconds left.

The contest was also the final home game for Le Mars coach Dave Irwin.

"I'm proud of our effort and that we can go into a tough environment," Schmalbeck said. "Coach Irwin for them, it was his last regular season home game so they were pretty amped up."

Fritz made 12-of-20 free throws in the contest and led the Warriors with 30 points. Bruhn, who didn't get whistled for any fouls in the second half, finished with 12 points and six rebounds. Briggs Friedmann scored 10 points.

Sports

Warriors third in district tourney

DISTRICT

Continued from page A11 at 182 — fall one spot short in third place.

“We had a lot of guys in that third and fourth place match and I don’t want to take anything away from those guys who work their tails off,” said Sioux Center coach Aaron Schmidt. “This is an extremely tough district. When you look at it, there’s a lot of guys that we have that just battled hard and came up a little bit short but I’m super excited for Kade and Jack.”

“Both Kade and Jack didn’t start wrestling until middle school and continue to pick things up,” Schmidt continued.

It’s the second time qualifying for state for Bauer, who pinned his quarterfinal opponent in 39 seconds. He then won by fall over Central Lyon/George-Little Rock’s Jayme Van Wyhe in the semifinals in 3:22, setting up a title match at 132 with Bo Koedam of Sergeant Bluff-Luton. Bauer fell behind in the first period 2-0 and although he kept the match close, he couldn’t get the offense he needed in a 6-0 loss.

Van Wyhe won his third-place match by fall but since Bauer beat him in the semifinals, no wrestleback was needed, sending Bauer to the state tournament.

“Hats off to Bo, he’s a really good wrestler and when you have two good guys go at it, those little things make a big deal,” Schmidt said. “That’s one of the things I appreciate about Kade is that he’s going to go back and take a look at it. He’s not going to dwell on it. He



Sioux Center junior Brodie Van Regenmorter attempts to stop Sergeant Bluff-Luton senior Derek Moore from gaining position against him during a 160-pound match at Saturday’s Class 2A district tournament held in Sioux Center. Photo by Justin Rust

will figure out what he’s got to do to make adjustments.”

Zomermaand won his quarterfinal match by fall and then earned a tough 4-2 decision over Central Lyon/George-Little Rock’s Evan Kruger in the semifinals. With the match tied at 2-2, Zomermaand got a take-down with 12 seconds left to advance to the title match, which he won in 3:08 with a pin over Ridge View’s Tanner Edwards.

“He’s just a sponge. He keeps soaking things up and continue to learn and grow,” Schmidt said. “It’s just a joy to have him in the room.”

Sergeant Bluff-Luton won the district title.

Class 2A District Tournament

Team results: 1. Sergeant Bluff-Luton 212; 2. Boyden-Hull/Rock Valley 165.5; 3. Sioux Center 134; 4. Sioux City Heelan 127.5; 5. Central Lyon/George-Little Rock 116; 6. MOC-Floyd Valley 79; 7. Ridge View 42; 8. OABCIG 19.

Sioux Center results: 106: Bryce Oostenink placed fourth. Pinned Adrian Alverado (MOC) 3:00, maj. dec. by Nico Venturi (SCH) 12-3, pinned Adrian Bontje (CLGLR) 1:30, pinned by Luis Tomas (BHRV) 3:17; 113: Open; 120: Santiago Estrada placed fourth; bye, pinned by Ethan Skogland (SBL) 1:43, bye, pinned by Andrew Boersma (MOC) 1:21; 126: Justin Romo didn’t place, bye, pinned by Ragen Hasche (CLGLR) 3:07, pinned by Gerrit Hulstein (MOC) 3:23; 132: Kade Bauer placed second, pinned Taylor Sohl (BHRV) :39, pinned Jayme Van Wyhe (CLGLR) 3:22, dec. by Bo Koedam (SBL) 6-0; 138: David Neese didn’t place, bye, pinned by Jackson Kinnetz (SCH) 1:00, pinned by Cole Bloyer (RV) 3:46; 145: Kole Hooyer placed fourth. Pinned Orlando Elnel (MOC) 3:17, pinned by Brock Mulder (BHRV) 5:08, pinned Austin Pelster (SCH) 4:44, dec. by Conner Jacobson (RV) 9-5; 152: Landon Rozeboom placed fourth. Pinned

Colby Harmsen (BHRV) 1:09, pinned by Hunter Steffans (SBL) :33, pinned Noah Shephard (RV) 1:17, pinned by Radyn Neal (SCH) 1:37; 160: Brodie Van Regenmorter placed third. Maj. dec. Spencer Sprock (CLGLR) 12-2, pinned by Zach Strubbe (BHRV) 4:29, dec. Derek Moore (SBL) 4-3, dec. Sterling Haack (MOC) 8-6; 170: Reid Hulshof placed third. Pinned Blake Myrtue (RV) 5:18; dec. by Zayvion Ellington (SBL) 7-4, pinned Kolby Wulf (OABCIG) 1:33, maj. dec. Isaac Van Beek (BHRV) 9-0; 182: Brendan Lamfers placed third. Pinned Cole Fischer (SCH) :37; maj. dec. by Jace Mulder (BHRV) 12-0, maj. dec. Beau Weber (MOC) 11-3, maj. dec. Ethan Pedersen (CLGLR) 10-2, pinned by Garrett McHugh (SBL) 1:45; 195: Jacques Zomermaand placed first. Pinned James Cleary (SCH) 4:46, dec. Evan Kruger (CLGLR) 4-2, pinned Tanner Edwards (RV) 3:08; 220: Thai Cam didn’t place. Bye, pinned by Naeron Bisse (SCH) 2:59, pinned Karson Leusink (MOC) 4:24, pinned by Dramelle McCray (RV) 4:25; 285: Adrian Hernandez placed fourth. Pinned Keenan Aesoph 3:21, pinned by Sean Zimmerman (SBL) 2:49, pinned Kaleb Taylor (OABCIG) :16, pinned by Kayden VanBerkum (CLGLR) 1:48.

Sioux Center girls blow by Orabs in regional tilt

Squad hosts Indians in semifinals today

BY CHARLIE HILDEBRAND
CHILDEBRAND@NWESTIOWA.COM

Sioux Center began postseason play in girls basketball with a win, and ended the regular season the same way, and hopes to notch another in a semifinal game today (Wednesday, Feb. 15).

The Warriors, ranked seventh in Class 3A, improved to 16-5. They host Spirit Lake in the Region 6 semifinals at 7 p.m. The Indians are 11-11 overall after beating Rock Valley 62-53 in overtime in the opening round.

“We’re just glad to move on right now,” said Sioux Center coach Doug Winterfeld. “We won’t have to play Rock Valley a third time. It’s nice to play somebody different, but every round is going to get tougher as you go on. We’ll see what we can do.”

If Sioux Center beats Spirit Lake today, it would host the winner of 12th-ranked Unity Christian and 15th-ranked West Lyon on Saturday at 7 p.m. in the championship game with the winner going to state. The Warriors beat Unity Christian, who is 17-5 overall, 71-46 on Jan. 21. The Warriors split two Siouxland Conference games with West Lyon, who is also 17-5 overall, winning 58-52 in Inwood on Dec. 20 and falling 61-31 at home on Feb. 3.

SC 65, B-H 43

Sioux Center dominated the second half against Boyden-Hull to wrap up the regular season with a 65-43 win over the Comets in a conference game on Tuesday, Feb. 7, in Hull.

Boyden-Hull slowed down the pace in the first half. The Warriors led 9-6 through one quarter.

“We were a little slow at the beginning,” Winterfeld said. “The first half, maybe not defensively where we wanted to be. We started out a little slow offensively, then settled in about halfway through first quarter and into second.”

Both teams netted 20 points in the second period, keeping Sioux Center in front 29-26 heading into halftime.

“We just gave up too many easy points in the first half,” Winterfeld said. “The girls responded after halftime to make sure we limited them. That’s a big change. We knew where the shooters were, contested shots, got the rebound and pushed the basketball.”

The Warriors held a 19-8 advantage in the third quarter and entered the final period with a 48-34 advantage.

“The second half, we were a lot more aggressive putting pressure on the ball and making some good reads and getting steals,” Winterfeld said.

Boyden-Hull zeroed in on Willow Bleeker defensively and held her to zero points. Outside of Tatum Schmalbeck, the Comets held the Sioux Center starters to just five points. However, the bench tossed in 41 points for the Warriors.

“They did a good job of keeping the ball out of Willow’s hands running a box-and-one on us,” Winterfeld said. “Our bench points were

big. To have the bench points, it was a situation where you never know when you’re going to need somebody and those girls stepped up big.”

Schmalbeck made 7-of-11 three-pointers and led Sioux Center with 21 points. Margo Schuiteman scored 16 points, Kennedy Kooi had nine and Taya Gesink tossed in eight. Makailyn Vander Waal finished with six rebounds, four assists and three steals. Cori Harald had five rebounds and three assists. Bleeker snagged three steals.

“It was good to get that win right before tournament time for the girls,” Winterfeld said. “It was more important for us to see girls shooting the ball like they did a few weeks ago. We went through a lull there not shooting well from the perimeter.”

SC 87, Sheldon 52

The Warriors had a great night shooting the ball and overpowered Sheldon 87-52 in the opening round of the Class 3A Region 6 tournament on Saturday in Sioux Center.

“We came out and got some flow to the game and set the tone for the game,” Winterfeld said. “The girls adjusted as the game went along.”

Sioux Center led 22-10 through one quarter. The Warriors then outscored the Orabs 23-14 in the second stanza to stretch the lead to 45-24 by halftime.

“I felt like they were trying to take our threes away, which was fine,” Winterfeld said. “We had some really good penetration and kicks to our post players for easy buckets. That’s something we haven’t had most of the year, but it was good to see the girls adjust to it and make some really good plays.”

Sioux Center held a 25-14 advantage in the third quarter and took a 69-39 lead into the final stanza.

“On defense, everyone was talking,” Winterfeld said. “Our communication was awesome. We’re playing some really good basketball now down the stretch.”

Vander Waal started for an injured Reagan Jansen and scored 15 points in the first half. She made 11-of-14 field goals in the game and finished with 24 points and six rebounds.

“She played a heck of a game for us and was really dominant inside,” Winterfeld said.

The Sioux Center coach added that having depth like that pays off.

“We play that nine and could go as deep as 10. If we have an injury, we have kids right there and other players to step right into that role,” Winterfeld said. “Some years you never have an injury or anything happen and you wonder, but in a year like this when you lose one of your starters to that sort of injury and somebody can just step right in, that makes my job a lot easier.”

The Warriors played 13 players and everyone scored in the contest. Eight players scored at least five points.

Makenna Walhof scored 12 points for the Warriors. Bleeker finished with 11 points and six assists. Schmalbeck handed out six assists and her younger sister Maci passed around four.

Dordt men play at Sioux County rivals next

Team still has shot to win conference championship

BY CHARLIE HILDEBRAND
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Dordt University won its fifth consecutive game last week in men’s basketball heading into a Great Plains Athletic Conference rivalry showdown today (Wednesday, Feb. 15).

The Defenders are not ranked in the NAIA Coaches’ Poll but have the third most votes outside of teams in the top 25.

Dordt, 21-5 overall, is 13-5 in the GPAC and tied for second with Morningside University in the league standings. Ninth-ranked University of Jamestown leads the conference with a 15-4 league record.

Jamestown’s only remaining GPAC game is against Dordt on Saturday in Jamestown, ND. If the Defenders win both of their final two regular season games, they would win a share of the regular season GPAC title.

But first, Dordt plays at Northwestern College today at 7:45 p.m. in Orange City. The Red Raiders are 19-7 overall and 12-6 in the GPAC. Senior guard Dillon Carlson leads Northwestern with 20.2 points per game. Junior forward Craig Sterk averages 16.7 points, 8.4 rebounds and 2.4 assists per contest. Junior forward Matt Onken nets 12 points, 6.1 boards and 2.7 assists per tilt.

The Defenders won the first game this season against the Red Raiders 93-89 on Wednesday, Dec. 7, in Sioux Center.

“We are looking forward to playing at Northwestern,” said Dordt coach Brian Van Haften. “This is what we

want, playing meaningful games in February.”

Lancers leapt over

The Defenders went back and forth early with Mount Marty University but took control by the end of the first half and waltzed to a 100-68 GPAC victory over the Lancers last Wednesday in Sioux Center.

Dordt had a great night shooting the ball, making 39-of-61 field goals at a 64 percent clip, 13-of-25 three-pointers at 52 percent and 9-of-11 free throws at 82 percent.

A Mount Marty basket with 10:27 left in the first half gave the visitors a 21-18 lead.

Jacob Vis made a three-pointer to put the Defenders in front 28-25 with 8:15 remaining. The bucket from Vis was part of a 23-8 run to close the half and gave Dordt a 48-33 lead at the break.

Bryce Coppock hit a jumper with 18:45 left in the game to stretch the lead to 20 points for Dordt at 53-33. The Lancers cut it down to 15 points on a trey with 16:00 remaining. Cade Bleeker hit a three-pointer with 12:52 left to get the lead over 20 points at 68-46. Louscher made a layup with 8:08 to play, extending the advantage to 30 points at 82-52.

Vis made 6-of-8 field goals and 6-of-7 free throws, leading Dordt with 21 points and seven rebounds. Coppock connected on 9-of-16 field goals and scored 19 points. Lucas Lorenzen made 7-of-8 field goals and tossed in 18 points. Bleeker scored 12 points and Jackson Louscher added 11. Luke Rankin logged six rebounds and 10 assists.

Taming the Tigers

The Defenders played strong defense and had another big offensive game in an 85-55 win over Doane University on Senior Night in a GPAC game on Saturday in Sioux Center.


“Defensively, it was a real solid game for us,” Van Haften said. “We held down their big two, (Brady) Timm and (Alec) Oberhauser extremely well. It was just one of those nights offensively where everything went right for us. We were happy to celebrate Senior Night the right way and play a solid game.”

The game was tied at 5 early. Dordt then used a 16-3 run, capped by a layup from Louscher, to go in front 21-8 with 11:23 left in the first half. The Tigers trimmed the margin to nine points twice in the first half after that but never got any closer. The Defenders led 41-21 at halftime.

Doane scored the first five points of the second half to trim the margin to 41-26 with 18:51 left in the game. Dordt then used a 7-0 run that ended with a layup from Vis to stretch the advantage to 48-26 with 16:55 remaining. The Tigers never got within 20 points the rest of the contest.

The Defenders made 31-of-57 field goals at a 54 percent clip, along with 12-of-24 treys. Defensively, Dordt held the visitors to just 22-of-61 field goals at 36 percent and 4-of-24 three-pointers at 17 percent.

Vis led the Defenders with 23 points, 10 rebounds and five assists. Coppock finished with 14 points and five boards. Lorenzen had 12 points and six rebounds. Trey Hinote scored nine points.



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Sports

Program wins Great Plains Athletic Conference for first time

DORDT

Continued from page A11 of the way.

"We really buckled down defensively," Harmsen said. "We got a couple steals that turned into a couple runouts. Defensively down the stretch, we did a nice job of playing without fouling. We rebounded without fouling."

The Defenders made 6-of-6 free throws in the last 30 seconds of the contest.

"We were dialed in during the fourth quarter with our back against the wall," Harmsen said.

Beckman led Dordt with 22 points and Gustafson tossed in 12. Hayden Heimensen finished with 10 points and five rebounds. Janie Schoonhoven pulled down nine boards and Macy Sievers had five.

"It's one of those games where I think our kids felt a little disappointed with how we played, but we still feel really good about the victory and that we came together when we needed it most. We grew up again," Harmsen said.

Conference champs

Dordt's Senior Night game on Saturday against Doane University featured far fewer theatrics during the contest but ended with a celebration as the regular season champions of the GPAC after topping the Tigers 99-65 in Sioux Center.

Harmsen said it was a special feeling taking the league crown.

"That's one of those experiences you want to share with all the women that have played at Dordt before," Harmsen said. "To be the first to do that, our team feels really good about that. To achieve a goal these kids set to accomplish early in the season, to do what with a week left is a



Dordt senior McKenna Klecker uses her reach to win the battle for the basketball last Wednesday against Mount Marty. The game was a little more tense than the host Defenders would have liked, but the fourth-ranked team in the NAIA earned a 64-59 win. Photo courtesy of Dordt Sports Information

great accomplishment. Our assistant coaches put a lot of time in too to get that ready. It's fun to celebrate with all of Defender nation."

The Tigers made a three-pointer with 6:07 left in the first quarter to trim the margin to 10-9. The Defenders then went on an 11-0 run that ended after a Heimensen three-pointer with 2:27 remaining to stretch the lead to 21-9. Doane scored on an old-fashioned three-point

play to cut the deficit to 21-11 with 2:12 to go. Dordt ended the quarter on a 10-2 run, capped by a trey from Heimensen with four seconds left, to push the advantage to 31-14 through one.

The Defenders outscored the Tigers 22-14 in the second frame. The Tigers never got closer than 17 points. Sievers hit a trey with one second left before halftime and Dordt took a 53-28 lead into the break.

"We really moved the ball well on them offensively. It was really fluid on Saturday," Harmsen said. "We shot the ball very well too. When the ball moves the way it did, it's going to create good opportunities, not just at the basket but from the three-point line."

The Defenders controlled the third period, outscoring the visitors 25-14. Keeping with the theme of the first two quarters, Dordt's McK-

enna Klecker made a three-pointer with one second left and the hosts led 78-42.

Dordt finished the game with 24 assists compared to 13 turnovers. The Defenders also made 37-of-61 field goals at a 61 percent clip and 17-of-28 three-pointers at 61 percent. The 17 made treys set a new program record.

"Those are the main two stats that stick out to me," Harmsen said. "Twenty three

assists is a lot. Then when you make 17 threes, that certainly helps in the outcome. We were certainly dialed in. That was fun."

Gustafson led Dordt with 18 points and six rebounds. Klecker made 5-of-6 three-pointers and scored 16 points. Sievers finished with 13 points, five rebounds and six assists. Schoonhoven had 12 points, five rebounds and four assists. Beckman tallied 11 points and five assists.

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