

FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
LOW 48 HIGH 64	LOW 46 HIGH 72	LOW 50 HIGH 79	LOW 57 HIGH 77	LOW 52 HIGH 72	LOW 58 HIGH 72	LOW 57 HIGH 80

SIoux COUNTY

CAPITAL-DEMOCRAT

May 18, 2023

75¢ • THURSDAY

One Section • Volume 141 • No. 12

www.pluimpublishing.com | Orange City, Iowa

MWC holds archives to Tulip Festival's past

By SARAH WEBER
Co-Editor

ORANGE CITY — Northwestern College maintains an impressive collection of Tulip Festival history, dating back to the first festival in 1936.

Leona Vander Stoep carefully collected information and details, starting with the first festival in 1936 and kept detailed scrapbooks through 1992. The scrapbooks consist largely of newspaper clippings, but also include various brochures, programs, photographs, notes, and other documents. Collectively, these scrapbooks provide evidence for the origins and development of the Orange City Tulip Festival (OCTF) from the mid- to late- twentieth century. Indirectly, the scrapbooks suggest how a Midwestern town adapted its ethnic origins for twentieth-century uses for local identity and economic vitality.



In a selection from Vander Stoep's collections, she records the foundations of the Tulip Festival:

"Records of events leading up to the Orange City's first Tulip Festival are rather meager and indefinite. The



Photograph of 1937 Tulip Court showing their wooden shoes. From left to right, court members are Eleanor Roseboom, Queen Elizabeth Top, Betty Klein, and Ruby Vogelaar. (Courtesy of MWC Archives)

Hollanders innate tendency toward cleanliness and beauty combined with a historical background of flower culture is an acceptable, although abstract motivating force. This force found physical expression as early as 1935 when it was recorded that in addition to the large number of tulip plantings already in existence in Orange City, some 50,000 more bulbs were imported and planted by the townspeople. Combining the tulip planting project with the organized efforts of the Orange City Chamber of Commerce, the ground work was laid for the beginning of the now nationally publicized Tulip Festival in 1936."

She continues to highlight events of the first festival, including: "The first festival, May 14,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 16



Sports:

LOCAL ATHLETES QUALIFY FOR STATE TRACK

See page 8 for more details

City council debates funding for a new fire truck

By DOUG CALSBEEK and SARAH WEBER
Co-Editors

ORANGE CITY — On Monday, May 1, at the meeting of the Orange City Council, town volunteer firefighters presented an opportunity for the city to purchase an aerial ladder truck to replace the present 25-year-old truck in service. Fire Chief Dennis Vander Wel gave the presentation. Purchasing an aerial was not budgeted for the fiscal year beginning in July 2023.

Kent Anderson, city finance officer, said the city, given present financial conditions, would probably incur an additional \$.55 per thousand dollars of the taxable valuation if the city moved on the possibility of the purchase.

On May 15, council member Tony Vande Brake made a motion to move forward with the fire department's proposal, but the action was not seconded. Instead, a second motion was approved for a three-year process to budget for a new fire truck. A discussion was expressed to make this part of the annual long-range planning and budgeting process.

The present aerial truck was purchased in 2009 and used in Orange City and mutual-aid situations, in one instance for a structure fire in Le Mars.

Vander Wel said the present truck has developed transmission problems (locking in high gear), ladder control (it has occasionally, unexpectedly, swung wide in use), and water-line coating is deteriorating. Estimates for repairs are approximately \$40,000.

Firefighters have been tracking used aerials available. The most promising used model examined, Vander Wel said, had evidence of body damage and stabilization equipment showing rust, with 988,500 miles. The cost for that model was \$1 million before repairs.

The aerial the department sought a new truck built as a demonstration model by Heiman Fire Equipment of Sioux Falls, South Dakota. The cost is \$1,409,470.

The King Cobra aerial would be made available as a demonstration model after six months of use. Vander Wel said Heiman would reserve the truck for Orange City with a signature. No down payment was sought; the company would take payment upon delivery in January 2024.

According to the presentation, when the city orders an aerial for purchase at present, it would take three years to build, with a price tag of \$1,715,500. However, based on estimated inflation rates of six percent annually, if such an aerial was ordered in April of 2024, the cost was estimated at \$1,819,000. The presentation extended price increases for two years following, at \$1.927 million and \$2.043 million.

Maintaining an active and responsive fire department is critical to the safety of a small community. When homeowners select home coverage policies, an ISO class rating is assessed, and a protection class grade is given to a home; one is rated as the best and ten the lowest. Fire chief Denny Vander Wel confirms that Orange City is currently at a three rating, "but that may change. We had an evaluation last January and waiting to hear the results." The rating is based on several criteria, including what equipment and manpower a station has, response to call time, water systems, and connection access.

As the city continues to move forward with discussions of budgeting for a new fire truck, Vande Brake shared he appreciates the fire department's due diligence in meeting the council's request for information and cost.

DUTCH HERITAGE BOOSTERS RECEIVE MARKETING HELP FROM NWC STUDENTS

By SARAH WEBER
Co-Editor

ORANGE CITY — Dutch Heritage Boosters, well known for maintaining the Little White Store and supplying thousands of poffertjes during Tulip Festival, received a boost this year thanks to a group of Northwestern College students.

Dutch Heritage Boosters is a group committed to preserving and maintaining the foundations of Dutch culture in Orange City. In the 1980s, a couple of devoted citizens in Orange City recognized the need to promote and preserve Dutch customs; at the time, there was no group solely dedicated to preserving Dutch heritage. As a result, the Dutch Heritage Boosters was founded in 1986.

The purpose of the group "is to support and promote Dutch customs, projects, and events. To extend the celebration of Dutch heritage from three days a year at Tulip Festival to the entire year," said founding member Betsy Huijbregtse. Volunteers work tirelessly to protect pieces of history and to share stories so residents can continue to celebrate Dutch Heritage for years to come.

Ann Minnick, Associate Professor of Communications, teaches an advanced public relations class on strategy and tactics and is also a member of the Dutch Heritage Boosters. She explains the course she teaches "is a capstone class, and this semester we had



18 students, which is a large group."

The class followed the model of public relations protocol and put together a project to work with the Dutch Heritage Boosters. Students worked to understand the organization, then separated into five teams; content creation, website construction, social media, brand advancement, and organizing volunteers and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 16

Apply online or in-person today!
IOWASTATEBANK.NET



Making your dream home a reality starts with a bank you can trust.

When you find the perfect house in the perfect neighborhood, turn to Iowa State Bank for a personalized lending experience that makes you feel right at home.

While other banks are busy selling off their loan servicing, **we're in this with you for the long haul.**

105 Albany Avenue SE • Orange City • 737-4818

Iowa State Bank
EQUAL HOUSING LENDER