

KIWANIS GET

Installation was Tuesday/Page 2

WILLIAMS

Main Street in Wil-

liams to "scare up

Community Gar-

es to create and

place scarecrows

on Main Street to

raise awareness

of the Dream Big

Community Chal-

lenge happening

through Oct. 26.

The garden can

benefit from qual-

ifying matches up

nity Challenge.

to \$5,000 from the Barlow Family

Foundation of Iowa Falls State Bank,

which invited the Williams Communi-

ty Garden to participate in its Commu-

is in its inaugural year and located on

a vacant lot that once was the home of

the Williams Savings Bank. The bank

The Williams Community Garden

hetween Oct

some money."

den asked

liams

Scarecrows are popping up on

Williams

business-

Wil-



THE MAIN

Webster City welcomes Spencer to town/Page 9

The aily Freeman-Journal

www.freemanjournal.net

Friday, Oct. 7, 2022

Webster City, Iowa



G'Day!

It's a great day to buy some pumpkins.

It's Turkey time for Webster City Rotarians

The Webster City Rotary Club's annual Turkey Dinner at Briggs Woods Conference Center is Sunday.

This dinner is drive up only and you must purchase tickets in advance. The cost is \$15 per ticket. To buy tickets, contact a Rotarian or order online at https://bit.ly/rotaryturkey.

After the turkey, join the Harfst Memorial dedication

The Kent Harfst Memorial sculpture will be officially unveiled during a ceremony Sunday at 3 p.m. at the Brewer Creek Park shelter.

Tim Adams' sculpture honoring the city's late assistant city manager and recreation and parks director, sits just off the bike path overlooking Brewer Creek Park

and its shelter. Arts R Alive, which commissioned the sculpture, is the event host. Drinks and snacks will be served.

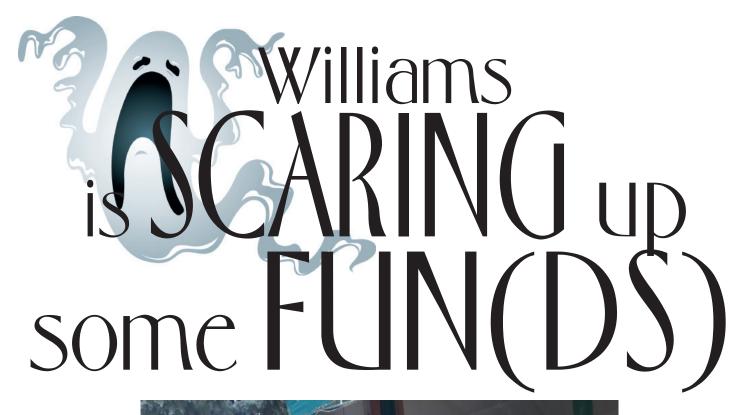
Important absentee voting dates are approaching

In-person absentee voting in the Hamilton County Auditor's Office at the Hamilton County Courthouse, 2300 Superior St, Webster City, begins Wednesday, Oct. 19, during the regular office hours from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

The last day to cast an absentee ballot at the auditor's office is Monday, Nov. 7, 2022, by 4:30 p.m. The auditor's office will be open on Saturday, Nov. 5, 2022, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. for absentee voting.

If you prefer to vote absentee by mail, here is important information: The deadline to request an absentee ballot to be mailed is Monday, Oct. 24, at 5 p.m.

Absentee ballots must be requested in writing. Forms are available at the auditor's office, on the Hamilton County website at www.hamiltoncounty.org and at the Iowa Secretary of State's website at www.sos.iowa.gov.





Submitted photo

This scarecrow's view of the Williams Community Garden, from in front of the Williams branch of the Iowa Falls State Bank might be the reason for his positive demeano,r.

ly moved its Williams location across the street into a former drug store. The origibecame inactive in 1986. Iowa Falls State nal bank building was torn down in 2020. Bank purchased the building. IFSB recent-

This spring, a 4-foot-wide perimeter of the garden was planted after multiple community planning meetings beginning on April 2. Numerous community members have supported the garden in multiple ways, including with in-kind donations of mowing, tilling, mulch, a water storage tank, water and weed ing.

Volunteer gardeners want to build community

connections on vacant lots by growing food, flowers and friendships. In keeping with their mission, they are hosting three events that provide people the opportunity to connect, have fun and give during the two-week challenge period.

Attendees are asked to make a freewill donation at any or all of the events.

See WILLIAMS, Page 3

FD man accused of murder asks for change of venue

By KELBY WINGERT

FORT DODGE - A Fort Dodge man facing a possible life sentence for allegedly killing his ex-girlfriend's mother is asking a District Court judge to move his anticipated jury trial out of Webster County.

Mark David Russell's first trial for first-degree murder ended in a mistrial in August when District Court Judge Angela Doyle found that there was reason to believe the defendant was suffering from a mental

disorder preventing him from understanding the proceedings and effectively assisting in his own defense, a day after jury selection started at the Webster County Courthouse. Doyle then suspended the proceedings and ordered that Russell undergo a psychiatric competency evaluation.

Russell, 31, is accused of bludgeoning 45-year-old Angela McLeod to death on Jan. 20, 2020, in Fort Dodge.

Matthew Moore, one of Russell's attor-

neys from the special defense unit of the office of the state public defender, filed a motion on Tuesday, arguing that the pretrial publicity of the case has tainted the Webster County jury pool.

"A change of venue is warranted where, as here, the 'glare of publicity' is focused upon a defendant accused of murder,' Moore wrote.

See RUSSELL, Page 3



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