



## KIWANIS GET OFFICERS

Installation was Tuesday/Page 2



## THE MAIN EVENT

Webster City welcomes Spencer to town/Page 9

# The Daily 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/ro-taryturkey>.

## 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](http://www.hamiltoncounty.org) and at the Iowa Secretary of State's website at [www.sos.iowa.gov](http://www.sos.iowa.gov).

# Williams is SCARING up some FUN(DS)



— Submitted photo

**WILLIAMS** — Scarecrows are popping up on Main Street in Williams to "scare up some money."

The Williams Community Garden asked Williams businesses to create and place scarecrows on Main Street to raise awareness of the Dream Big Community Challenge happening between Oct. 12 through Oct. 26. The garden can benefit from qualifying matches up to \$5,000 from the Barlow Family Foundation of Iowa Falls State Bank, which invited the Williams Community Garden to participate in its Community Challenge.

The Williams Community Garden is in its inaugural year and located on a vacant lot that once was the home of the Williams Savings Bank. The bank became inactive in 1986. Iowa Falls State Bank purchased the building. IFSB recently

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 demeanor.

moved its Williams location across the street into a former drug store. The original bank building was torn down in 2020.

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 weeding.

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 free-will 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



**2022 CHEVY SILVERADO 1500**

**\$1,000**

ACCESSORY ALLOWANCE

**TRUCK MONTH**

TOWARD THE PURCHASE OR LEASE OF A NEW SILVERADO 1500, SILVERADO HD OR COLORADO WITH ELIGIBLE ACCESSORIES



1705 W 2ND ST // WEBSTER CITY, IA // [KARLWEBSTERCITY.COM](http://KARLWEBSTERCITY.COM) // 515.832.6638

WE WILL NEVER CHARGE OVER MSRP!

The Daily Freeman-Journal  
For delivery of The Daily Freeman-Journal, call 515-832-4350 or go online [www.freemanjournal.net](http://www.freemanjournal.net)

Good Morning  
**GEORGE MAZE**  
Thank you for subscribing to  
The Daily Freeman-Journal



**GENERAL EXCELLENCE**  
IOWA DAILY CLASS 1  
To our readers: thank you for your support!



Suggested retail price **\$1.00**