



LADY SPARTANS CLUTCH

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SOLON ECONOMIST

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On target Solon's Archery Team hosts tournament

By Chris Umscheid
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SOLON — They sat in a silent gym, family and friends in the bleachers behind them. At the signal they arose, picked their bow from a rack and took a position along a blue line with a quiver of arrows at their side and a target ten or 15 meters downrange. Another signal, and they launched 15 arrows apiece before returning to their seats, again in silence.

Such was the Solon Archery Team's tournament Saturday, Jan. 7 in the main gym at the high school.

Steve Madura is the head coach for both the high school (47 members) and middle school (53) teams. The program is in its 13th year and with 100 members, up from 86 last year. "We're really happy to have a bigger team and are excited to do some good shooting this year," he said.

All kids use a Genesis® bow (official bow of NASP® (National Archery in the Schools Program), the sanctioning body for school programs ranging from ten-to-twenty pounds of pull or "draw weight," but otherwise the same but for color. 15 shots are taken at ten meters followed by 15 shots at 15 meters with the highest possible score being 300. "We've had archers shoot in the 290s so that's pretty close to perfect," he added.

Kids can start in the sixth grade and compete through their senior year. Practice starts in mid-November with the goal of State competition in March. "We're going to try to make it to Nationals this year, which is the second weekend in May (in Louisville, KY), so we'll be going November to May."

The team hosts one competition per season and participates nearly every Satur-



Ryan Bilskie and fellow Solon High School Archery Team members take aim during a tournament Sunday, Jan. 8 at the high school.

Chris Umscheid • Staff Photo

day for eight weeks.

"We try to get as much competition in as we can," Madura said.

To qualify for the State Meet, the team has to be within the top 25 score wise.

"It's gaining popularity. In our area Solon is one of the bigger teams, Prairie has a very big team, Washington has a very big team, Mid-Prairie (Wellman) is a very big team."

NASP, he said, has the goal of exposing as many kids to archery as possible. To do so, if a NASP-sanctioned team competes in any NASP tournaments then the coaches have to go into the schools and provide ten

hours of instruction (in gym classes). With a high school and middle school team, that's 20 hours' worth of classes for Madura.

The draw of archery (no pun intended), he explained, is it's a sport for anybody. "It's not just for the top athletes. Some teams bring fourth graders, and we'll have a fourth grader standing next to an 18-year-old senior in high school, and both of them are shooting at the same targets with the same bows. It's an equal sport for anyone."

The high school team took first place out of five teams with 3,258 points while the middle schoolers were sec-

ond out of five with 3,109.

High School team scores (top 12) — Brody Cash 282 (3rd place boys), Mike Yeomans 278 (6th place boys), Cora Sutton 278 (1st place girls), Owen Rekers 275 (9th place boys), Ashley Farnsworth 272 (2nd place girls), Elijah Cash 272, Trevin Wilcox 271, Justin Moore 217, Cole Winders 270, Ryan Bilskie 269, Sophia Miles 260 (10th place girls), and Evann Freerks 260.

For full results go to <https://nasptournaments.org/TournamentDetail.aspx?tid=9102> and for more information on youth archery go to <https://nasptournaments.org>.

2023 Solon Senior of the Year Award Nominations due on March 15

The Solon Senior of the Year Nominating Committee is now accepting nominations for the 17th annual award. Nomination forms must be received by Wednesday, March 15, 2023. The Solon Senior Advocates established the award in 2006. The Solon Senior of the Year is a senior citizen from the Solon area who has shared their expertise, time, and effort as a volunteer in the community, including programs and activities that benefit the lives of our seniors.

The nominating committee will make recommendations to the Solon Senior Advocates Board, and the Board will select the recipient. The recipient will be

recognized at a meeting of the Solon City Council and during the annual Beef Days parade.

Nomination forms are available Solon City Hall, Solon Public library and Solon Post Office. Please contact Pat Ikan, Nomination Committee chairperson for more information or a nomination form at P.O. Box 148, Solon, IA 52333, pikan@southslope.net or (319) 624-2643.

Eligibility Criteria

1. The nominee must be at least 65 years of age, by May 1 of the year in which they are nominated.

2. The nominee must be a

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Martin Luther King Jr. Day 2023 hours for Johnson County offices

JOHNSON COUNTY — Most Johnson County governmental offices will be closed on Monday, Jan. 16, 2023, in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

Detailed schedule changes and other office closures include:

Ambulance: Johnson County Ambulance Service (JCAS) will be available for routine and emergency response. The JCAS billing and administrative offices will be closed. Emergency services remain available 365 days a year. In an emergency, residents should always dial 911.

Conservation: The Conservation administrative office and Education Center will be closed. All conservation areas will remain open and park rangers will be on

call.

Emergency Management: The Emergency Management Agency (EMA) administrative office will be closed, but emergency services remain available 365 days a year. In an emergency, always dial 911. For non-emergency matters call 319-356-6700.

Medical Examiner: The Medical Examiner Department (JCME) will be available for emergency response. JCME administrative offices will be closed. JCME should be contacted via the 24-hour pager service by calling 563-244-0054.

SEATS: There will be no Johnson County SEATS Demand Response or rural service on Monday, Jan. 16. Johnson County paratran-

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Weekend weather

Saturday: Partly cloudy. High: 38°/Low: 29° • Sunday: Cloudy. High: 45°/Low: 37°

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