



SERVING THE COMMUNITIES OF TRAER, DYSART AND CLUTIER

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TAMA-GRUNDY PUBLISHING FILE PHOTO

Todd Apfel, Tama County's Environmental Health Officer/Sanitarian from April 2014 to April 2021, pictured in his Toledo office back in 2014.

County on the hook for at least two payouts related to improperly passed septics

Payments tied to previous sanitarian's work

RUBY F. MCALLISTER | rbodeker@northtamatelegraph.com

TOLEDO — The Tama County Board of Health recently found itself in a bit of a mess as it relates to septic transfers, and come July 1 will be on the hook for almost \$13,000 in an effort to clean it up.

During the board's March meeting held over Zoom, two separate payments were approved as a result of improperly passed septics by the county's previous Environmental Health Officer/Sanitarian, Todd Apfel, who held the position from April 2014 to April 2021.

SEPTICS | P5



PHOTO BY SOREN M. PETERSON

Ollie Lillian Kremenak pictured on Sunday, June 4, at the Z.C.B.J. Hall in Clutier during her 100th birthday party. She officially turned 100 on June 2.

Happy 100, Ollie Lillian! Rural Clutier native celebrates a century of life

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CLUTIER — Tama County has another centenarian among its ranks following the birthday of rural Clutier native Ollie Lillian (née Blaha) Kremenak on June 2.

Last Sunday afternoon, friends and family gathered in the Z.C.B.J. Hall in Clutier to celebrate Ollie, a sweet lady and former country school teacher whom her daughter Kathleen Brundage of Ely calls "a full blooded Czech."

The hall's tables were beautifully decorated for the party with pink satin runners, strings of twinkle lights, and milk glass vases brimming with pink and white peonies

BIRTHDAY | P6

WEEKEND FORECAST:

Saturday: CHANCE OF STORMS
High: 83 / Low: 61

Sunday: MOSTLY SUNNY
High: 78 / Low: 59



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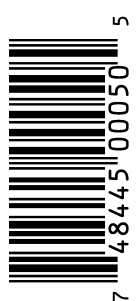
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PHOTO BY SOREN M. PETERSON

Children of all ages look up and around in both wonder and excitement as paper confetti streams down from above in Taylor Park last Saturday afternoon just after 1:50 p.m. in celebration of Traer's 150th birthday.

Happy Sesquicentennial, Traer!

Community marks 150 years with Taylor Park bash



PHOTO BY SOREN M. PETERSON

Traer Sesquicentennial Committee member Michelle Podhajsky, left, improvises lighting what proved to be some very tricky candles on the town's birthday cake while Lane Svoboda provides the honorary blowing out last Saturday in Taylor Park to kick off the Big Birthday Bash festivities.



PHOTO BY RUBY F. MCALLISTER

Traer Mayor Pete Holden smiles while standing next to his town's 150th birthday cake in Taylor Park on Saturday. After the novelty cake's sparkler candles were finally lit and extinguished, free chocolate sheet cake (not pictured) complete with white frosting and colorful sprinkles was served to all who desired a slice.

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TRAER — Traer's Big Birthday Bash is now one for the (history) books following the daylong event held last Saturday in Taylor Park in honor of the town's Sesquicentennial year.

Amid what seemed to be some of the most persistent rain in the state on Saturday, festivities started about a half-hour before noon with North Tama Spanish Club's Neon Color Run snaking its way among the residential neighborhoods surrounding Taylor Park. Youngster Reis Berger claimed the run's title, easily striding up Fifth Street toward the finish



PHOTO BY RUBY F. MCALLISTER

Members of the North Tama Pep Band and Alumni Players under the direction of teacher Channing Halstead (back row, third from left, playing trumpet) perform shortly after noon last Saturday as part of Traer's Sesquicentennial celebration in Taylor Park. The band played several upbeat songs including the North Tama fight song to help kick off the day's Big Birthday Bash festivities.

well ahead of most everyone else.

Shortly thereafter,

Traer's Kubik-Finch American Legion Post 142 Color Guard officially kicked

off the festivities at high noon with a ceremony held next to the park's gazebo that included reciting the Pledge of Allegiance and the singing of the National Anthem.

After some initial trouble with tricky candles, Traer Sesquicentennial Committee member Michelle Podhajsky lit up the celebration's novelty blue and orange birthday cake with the help of Shannon Svoboda and his son Lane.

As rain continued to fall off and on, committee members then passed around free chocolate sheet cake up and down the park to members of the public

SESQUICENTENNIAL | P8

DG Elementary asks community to help swing a new playground

Student Council donates \$1k to kickstart fundraising

RUBY F. MCALLISTER
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DYSART — For years, the poor condition of Dysart-Geneseo Elementary's almost 35-year-old playground was something district administrators had to let slide — but not any longer following a recent decision to say goodbye to the aging structure.

During the school's final assembly of the year held last Wednesday in the gym, student council representatives including Morgan Flores, Otis Hartman, William Kotouc, Dane Pipho, and Ryker Staveley presented a check to Principal Derek Weber as a down payment of sorts on a future new playground.

"Student council works really hard to raise money for our school, and do different things," Weber explained to the gathered kindergarten through

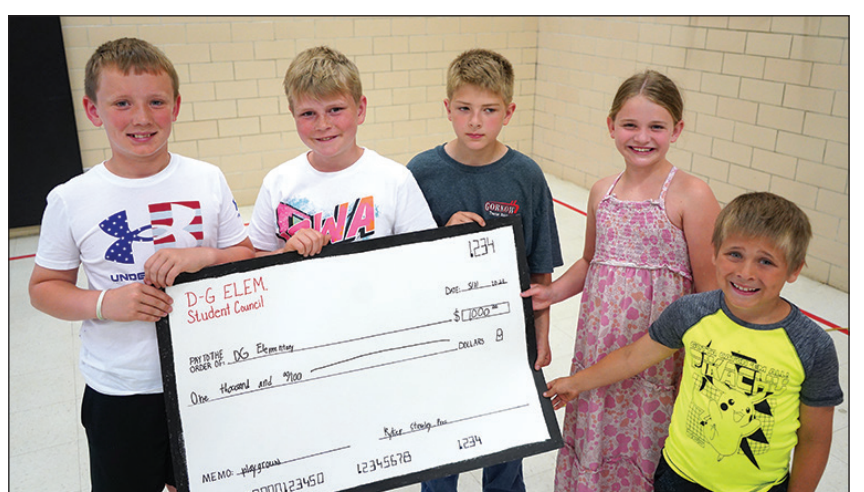


PHOTO BY RUBY F. MCALLISTER

Dysart-Geneseo Elementary Student Council members including (l-r) Dane Piphon, Ryker Staveley, William Kotouc, Morgan Flores, and Otis Hartman pictured with the \$1,000 check they presented to Principal Derek Weber for the school's playground fund.

fifth grade students seated on the hardwood before him. "They decided they wanted to donate \$1,000 to our new playground."

As the handmade poster board check was presented to Weber — made

to look exactly like a real check but filled in with the tell-tale printing of elementary students — the room erupted into worthy applause. According to DG media aide Peg Hennings, the

PLAYGROUND | P7