

REMEMBRANCE CEREMONY

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day would bring healing, despite all that had happened, the community would make it.

In a gesture of faith, Pastor Hornback shared this prayer as the audience bowed their heads in silence.

"Dear heavenly Father, we thank you for your presence in our lives. Your presence is always with us but especially at difficult times. Thank you for this community that's come together and all of those who have helped us through the hard times in the last year. And today I pray for a time of healing for the broken hearted and may this service bring continued healing to each one of us. And I pray that this time will also remind us as we continue to move forward day by day that our hope is in you."

Music then filled the air as the congregation sang the hymn "It Is Well With My Soul", sharing the message that although life can be un-

predictable and challenging, faith can help overcome it.

"Yet even in the midst of destruction and heartache, we witnessed the courage and the strength and heartache of our Emergency Management Director, Dio, our firemen, our police officers, our sheriff's department, our hospital employees, our ambulance crews, Eldon and Velva Cole as they directed feeding and sheltering for volunteers here at New Bridge Church. Other community pastors from Winterset and Madison County Churches and hundreds of volunteers who came to Madison County to share their love, their hope and their work and to work alongside us. They stood with us shoulder to shoulder in order to help put the pieces back together," said New Bridge Pastor John Schaul as he addressed the audience.

At approximately 4:35 p.m. Emergency Management Director Dio Ayala walked to the podium and read the names of victims who perished as a result of the weather event. The time of day was significant as it



Madisonian photo/Vicki Minor

Families, friends and members of the community bowed their heads in prayer during the afternoon Remembrance Ceremony at New Bridge Church. They came to honor those who perished and commemorate the courageous volunteers who provided comforting aide.

was meant to match the hour and minutes when the tornado touched down in 2022.

The sanctuary fell silent as those names were read. Cecilia Lloyd, Rodney Clark, Melissa Bazley, Michael Bolger, Kinlee Bolger, Owen Bolger.

Michael Green, Eldon Cole, and Tom Lloyd were among those who supported the re-

sponse and passed after.

The Emergency Management Director then read a statement provided by Kuri Bolger and her family, followed by personal remarks from Stefanie Craig, who spoke of her uncle Tom, and Judy Clark, who remembered her husband Rodney.

The afternoon ceremo-

ny came to a close with the hymn "Amazing Grace" followed by a prayer from Pastor Mark Morehouse of the Winterset First United Methodist Church, wherein the words, "Lord God, in the days, and weeks, and months and years ahead watch over us, heal us, bind up our broken hearts" resonated with the crowd.



Madisonian photo/Vicki Minor

Members of Winterset VFW Post 8142 presented the colors before the girl's basketball game on Thursday amidst the Girl's State Basketball Tournament. For over 50 years they have been the only VFW Post asked to present the flag.

Winterset Neighbors Connection offers a 'twofer' after weather delay

The uncooperative weather of the past couple of months resulted in the Winterset Neighbors Connection to reschedule one program and combine two programs for their March meeting, 7 p.m. on Thursday, March 16.

Join us the group (weather permitting) at Covered Bridge Winery, located about 5 miles north of Winterset at 2207 170th Trail, just off of Hwy 169.

Award winning Vintner Kevin Fifo will provide a tour of the winery and explain how Covered Bridges Winery has continued to be one of the top award-winning wineries in the state of Iowa. Fifo was recently named the Vintner of the Year in Iowa. Learn how their wines have routinely been singled out for their quality.

While enjoying the ambiance of the winery on a St. Patrick's Day eve, Brian Downes, the "unofficial Leprechaun" will share his many experienc-

es in Ireland.

One of the most well-known films of native son, John Wayne, was "The Quiet Man", filmed in Ireland. Downes has made over 25 visits to his roots in Ireland and has created friendships with many, resulting in the Birthplace and Museum prominently displaying artifacts from the film.

January's program will be presented by David Hargrove, Director of Winterset Public Library on Thursday, April 20, at 7 p.m. at the library.

The Winterset Neighbors Connection is a free gathering of new, and not-so-newcomers to the Winterset area. Meeting monthly, usually at 7 p.m. at the Library, they get together to enjoy meeting new people, developing friendships and learning about Madison County.

For more information contact Chris Baumgarn at the Library at 515-462-1731.

—Contributed by Chris Nolte



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**Madison County Democrats
Biennial Organizational Meeting**

Thursday, March 23rd

6:30pm

ISU Extension Office

119 John Wayne Drive, Winterset

Join us for our off-year organizational meeting. We will elect new county officers for the next two-year term, fill vacancies on our central committee and discuss how to make a positive impact in local politics.

All registered Democrats in Madison County interested in making change are encouraged to attend. If you would like to be nominated for a leadership position or have additional questions, please reach out to us at madcoiadems@gmail.com.



Paid for by the Madison County Democrats

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