

Ackley World Journal

VOL. 129 | WEEK 4 | \$1.50



BECKY SCHIPPER/ACKLEY WORLD JOURNAL

winter's grace

Six inches of snow fell last week between Wednesday evening and Thursday morning. The layer of white brightened the gardens of the area while lifting the spirits of some and darkening it for others. While everything was once again beautiful, like this garden, the storm forced area schools to close for the day and delayed classes on Friday, while creating havoc for those traveling to work on both days. Its just 53 more days until the official start of spring, in case anyone is counting For more pictures of the snowfall, see inside this edition of the Ackley World Journal. ●

Prairie Bridges Park Board accepts land donation

BECKY SCHIPPER
EDITOR

Prairie Bridges Park board is the recipient of a parcel of property, a donation from Landus Corporation. The property, which adjoins the park, has running water, electricity, as well as a large building which will be used as a workshop and garage.

In the past, Landus has permitted the park board to use the property for overflow parking during events held at the park.

When Jeff Hesnard, park board member and a delivery specialist for Landus for 18 years, learned the property would be put up for sale, he contacted Landus President and CEO Matt Carstens, requesting a heads-up before the property went on the market in hopes the board could manage a purchase. Carstens, in turn, looped Steve Nielsen, the company's general counsel, into the conversation.

According to Landus, Carsens and Nielsen spoke back and forth before determining that the property would be best-served as a donation to Prairie Bridges Park and the people of Ackley.

The park is vital to the economy of Ackley, especially during the summer months. Businesses in the immediate vicinity of the park see a marked in-

crease in business when the park is open and during the many special events held there. This sales jump links directly to events scheduled in the park and provides evidence that investing in the park keeps the local community viable.

Prior to the donation, park board members began searching for grants which would allow the purchase when, and if, it became available.

Prairie Bridges Park was founded in the early 1990's and began with just 10 campsites. Today the park has 140 campsites, three miles of hiking trails, playgrounds, game courts, and over 120 acres of land for campers and park visitors to enjoy nature in.

Many of the park board members are local business owners who donate company resources and labor to park updates and events. Funding raised through events is returned back into the park, used for everything from electrical system improvements, replacement of bridges and docks, tree plantings, new playground equipment and more, including the construction of a new shelter house planned for later this year.

A ceremony, held in the park on Jan. 6 commemorated the donation from Landus to Friends of

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Ackley Chamber of Commerce Flannel, Feast & Magic

Ackley Chamber of Commerce to host Banquet

BECKY SCHIPPER
EDITOR

It has long been the goal of the Ackley Chamber of Commerce to promote and support local business. That mission continues as planning for the 2023 Membership Banquet, scheduled for Thursday, Feb. 5, at the Ackley Recreation Club.

This year, the Chamber board is encouraging attendees to dress in their finest flannel. They are also offering the opportunity for those attending, to compete in the Finest Flannel Table Décor Competition. Prizes will be awarded.

The evening will begin with a social hour at 5 p.m. with a meal served

beginning at 6 p.m. A short business meeting, along with a brief update from the Ackley Economic Development Committee is planned before entertainment - Eric Michaels, magician.

The Chamber is made up of business members, professionals and individual members who volunteer their time and leadership to help make Ackley a better place to live, work and do business.

Throughout the year, members sponsor many events and activities for the betterment of the community. They provide ribbon cuttings to welcome new businesses to town, provide advertising during special events, as well as supporting various special events throughout the year.

Each fall, the Chamber sponsors a fall fest

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