



SPECIAL SECTION: Spring Renovation

- Oak Tobacco opens south of town Page A3
Visiting Artist Chris White Page A4
Wrestler Khayitov earns AA Page B1

Tooting his own horn

Don Fejfar receives first ever Golden Baton Award

BY ELAINE LORING eloring@iafalls.com

On Feb. 28, the first ever accolade of its kind was handed out during the Iowa Falls-Alden All School Band Concert - the Golden Baton Award. And the first recipient of this award was Don Fejfar, Iowa Falls High School Band Director from 1954-1961.

"I think this is going to be an annual award, and they decided Don will be the first recipient," his wife Carol added.

The Fejgars, of Iowa Falls, are quite modest.

Iowa Falls Band Director Jeff Schmitt has a different take. "Don was the obvious choice," he said. "He was an accomplished musician and leader in the community, well-respected and beloved by so many people. The band department made the final decision, but I knew Don was going to get this award before we even knew what the award would be called."

However, Don's musical experiences and accolades started way



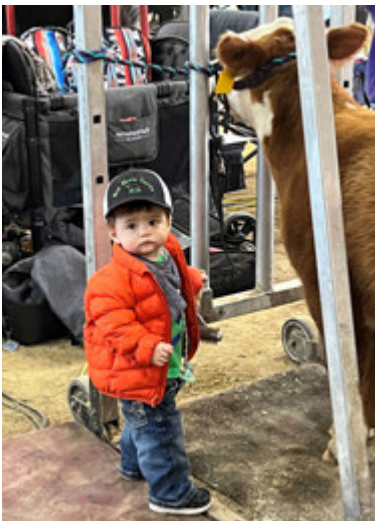
PHOTO SUBMITTED

Iowa Falls resident, and former band instructor, Don Fejfar poses with his trumpet while in the United States Army Field Band.

FEJFAR Cont'd A2



Gatlin Heinzeroth, Ellsworth Equine Center Barn Supervisor, keeps an eye on the cattle show.



Fourteen-month-old Braxtyn Hay, of Webster City, enjoys getting to know his family's mini Herefords.

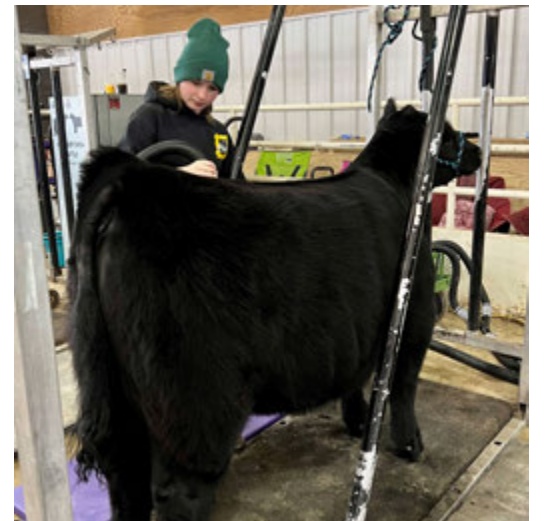


Here's the beef

Heart of Iowa Blow-Out holds 10th annual event

The 10th annual Heart of Iowa Blow-Out was held at the Ellsworth Equestrian Center over the weekend, hosted by the Iowa Falls-Alden Ag Booster Club, the Ellsworth Community College Ag Department and the IF-A Culinary Department. Saturday saw 105 head of cattle in the Breeding Heifer Show, and 79 in the Market Show. A Showmanship Show followed. Sunday brought 104 head in the Breeding Heifer Show and 74 in the Market Show. Breeders from all over the state were in attendance.

The Heart of Iowa Blow-Out is an official Iowa Junior Beef Breeds Association show. The two-day event had two different shows with different judges and two sets of points.



Avery Vierkandt, of Alden, works on getting her heifer all spiffed up and ready for the show ring.

PHOTOS BY ELAINE LORING

From the Netherlands to Iowa Falls

Kienhuis pay Scenic City a visit

BY SHAWN DIGITY sdigity@iafalls.com

Lieke Kienhuis is a foreign exchange student from the Netherlands attending Iowa Falls-Alden High School; she's been a student there this year with Stacey, Randy and Abigail Harding as her host family. But last week, Lieke's parents (mom and dad Martine and Wilco, respectively) and little sister (Merel) came to Iowa Falls for a visit.

But first, how did Lieke find herself in Iowa Falls, Iowa? As part of the EF - or Education First - program, she was matched up with the Hardings after both families deemed it a good fit: the Hardings as the host family and Lieke as the host daughter.

"We have to be approved and then went through the process," Stacey stated. And the process, in this case, included both the Kien-

huis and Harding families building dossiers of interests and personalities before deciding if it was going to mesh or not.

"And it kind of started with the guidance office here at the high school, looking for families. So they reached out to families that maybe had a senior and things like that so they could kind of match up, so the kids are kind of doing similar activities, going to school at similar times," Randy explained. Then a program director from Ackley who works with other overseas programs helped place Lieke with the Hardings based on the interests of her and the Hardings' daughter Abigail, a senior at IF-A.

"We have to make a whole profile - things about yourself, what you like, what you don't like - and then you have to make a video about yourself, so they could see how you are, and then they were going to look for you, if you were a good match," Lieke explained.



SHAWN DIGITY / TIMES CITIZEN

The families showed off their rapport last Friday night. Pictured are Randy and Stacey Harding (left to right) and Martine, Merel, Wilco, and foreign exchange student Lieke Kienhuis.

It seemed like a good fit, and Lieke came to Iowa last year for the start of the 2022-23 school year, and now that it's just a few months away from ending, Lieke said it'd been an enjoyable experience. "It's really fun. It's different.

It's really different, but I like it," she stated. "The teachers are nicer here," she quipped. "They're nicer here. It's easier for me."

KIENHUIS Cont'd A2

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