



Inside

Fireworks, food and fun were all had during the annual Village Independence Day Celebration on July 3.

SEE PAGE A3

Index

Church	A5
Classifieds	A10-11
For the Record	A2
Obituaries	A5
Opinion	A4
Sports	A9

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EXTINGUISHING THE FLAME

By ALEISA SCHAT
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The Rev. Kevin Gingerich gives his sermon during a recent service at Faith Community Church, which disaffiliated with the United Methodist Church July 1. (Photo by Aleisa Schat)

FAITH COMMUNITY CHURCH RISES FROM SHELDON METHODIST'S BREAKAWAY

The Rev. Kevin Gingerich isn't retiring, but he preached his last sermon in a United Methodist Church at the end of June.

"As I was reflecting back on the last year, my heart is very sad," Gingerich said. "I was born and raised in the Kalona Methodist Church, and at age 7, it became the United Methodist Church — that was in 1968."

On July 1, Gingerich's congregation, which historically gathered as Sheldon United Methodist Church, officially became Faith Community

Church, and it is no longer affiliated with its historic denomination. Gingerich will step behind the same pulpit each Sunday, but all signs of the United Methodist logo — a red cross and flame — have been removed from the sanctuary. The logo also has been removed from the redbrick exterior, although the outline of the flame remains visible in the discolored limestone. Out front, a new black-and-white sign reads "Faith Community Church."

See CHURCH on page A8



Recent Northwestern College graduate Evan Olesen started working on May 25 as Sheldon's newest recreation coordinator. (Photo by Georgia Lodewyk)

Olesen catches on as Sheldon's rec coordinator

Northwestern grad begins on May 25

By GEORGIA LODEWYK
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Behind Sheldon's Little League baseball and softball, soccer tournaments, basketball camps and volleyball lessons are the people coordinating the schedules, setting up the fields and communicating with players and coaches.

Evan Olesen is one of the newest employees working to make it all happen.

Since May 25, he has worked as Sheldon's recreation coordinator.

Originally from Estherville, Olesen graduated in 2023 from Northwestern College in Orange City.

While there, he was a starting baseball pitcher and infielder, and used his COVID-year eligibility to return as a fifth-year senior.

He also worked as Northwestern's intramural coordinator for two years.

See OLESEN on page A7

Brown enameled to add second dentist

Dr. Besaw's addition allows for more hours

By MIKAELA WEGNER
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Dr. Chad Brown has managed being the only dentist at a two-location practice for The Dental Office for the last 15 years.

But as of July 10, new dentist Dr. Kyle Besaw has officially turned the practice into a two-man show, bringing some modern dental technology knowledge with him.

The Dental Office aims to be a "very patient-centered prac-

rice," and with Besaw's arrival, the two dentists anticipate raising this expectation to an even higher standard.

"I'm not bringing on another dentist just to grow the dentistry and be a bigger, busier practice," Brown said. "We can serve more patients and do it in a way that I've always wanted to."

By having two dentists available, The Dental Office Rock Valley location will increase from being open every Wednesday and every other Thursday to being open at least two

See DENTIST on A7



A vendor sells clothes at last year's Crazy Day in downtown Sheldon. Crazy Days has expanded to a four-day event this year. (File photo)

Sheldon adds to Crazy Days sale

Wednesday, July 19, marks start of extended four-day promotion

By JUSTIN RUST
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The madness to Sheldon's Crazy Day is getting extended.

Normally, Crazy Day is focused on a single day in downtown Sheldon as businesses will put items out downtown for special deals. Crazy Day was typically held in the middle of the week, but the businesses often would have weeklong deals for the customers.

So, the Sheldon chamber is extending Crazy Days to help promote the extra days of the deal. Sheldon's Crazy Days will still start Wednesday, July 19, and run through Saturday, July 22.

"The businesses in the past have had their sales run through the weekend, but we haven't really advertised it like that. However, this year we wanted to make sure that people knew about the length of the sales so they won't miss out if they can't make it on Wednesday," said Sheldon Chamber and Development Corporation administrative assistant Brandi Fuerstenberg. "This year, we will have the big one-day kickoff event on Wednesday and then the sales will run through the weekend."

The kickoff event will start at 7 a.m. Wednesday, July 19, as a portion of Ninth Street and Third Avenue will be closed to accommodate for the extra items businesses will be selling on the street. The kickoff event will run until 7 p.m.

See CRAZY on page A6

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