



To Build a Better World . . .  
 . . . Start in Your Own Community

Weekly Newspaper Established in 1894  
 204 South Main Street, P.O. Box 39  
 TRIPOLI, IOWA 50676-0039

VOLUME 128, NO. 9; Single Copy \$1.00  
 WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 4, 2023



## The Leader Listing

**Thursday, Jan. 5:**  
 4:00 p.m., Varsity wrestling conference meet at Postville.  
 4:15/5:15 p.m., JH girls/boys basketball vs. North Butler, here.  
 4:15/6:15 p.m., JV/varsity girls basketball at Rockford.  
 4:30 p.m., JH wrestling meet at Clarksville.  
 5:00/7:30 p.m., JV/varsity boys basketball at Rockford.  
**Friday, Jan. 6:**  
 4:00 p.m., Varsity bowling vs. North Iowa at Buffalo Lanes, Buffalo Center.  
 4:00 p.m., Varsity girls wrestling tournament at Central Elkader.  
**Saturday, Jan. 7:**  
 8:30 a.m., Tripoli Panther wrestling invitational, here.  
**Sunday, Jan. 8:**  
 1:00 p.m., Community variety show rehearsal in Tripoli High School music room.  
**Monday, Jan. 9:**  
 4:15 p.m., JH girls basketball vs. Clarksville, here.  
 5:15 p.m., JH boys basketball vs. Turkey Valley, here.  
**Tuesday, Jan. 10:**  
 10:30 a.m., VFW Brandenburg Krueger Auxiliary meeting.  
 4:15 p.m., JH boys basketball at Wapsie Valley.  
 4:30/6:30 p.m., JV/varsity girls basketball vs. Riceville, here.  
 5:00/7:45 p.m., JV/varsity boys basketball vs. Riceville, here.  
**Thursday, Jan. 12:**  
 4:00 p.m., JH wrestling meet at Charles City  
 4:00 p.m., Varsity wrestling conference meet at Central Elkader.  
 4:15/6:30 p.m., JV/varsity girls basketball at Turkey Valley.  
 5:00/7:45 p.m., JV/varsity boys basketball at Turkey Valley.  
**Friday, Jan. 13:**  
 4:00 p.m., Varsity bowling match at Skyline Lanes, Decorah.  
 4:15/5:15 p.m., JH girls/boys basketball game at Janesville.  
 6:30 p.m., Varsity girls basketball at Janesville.  
 5:00/7:45 p.m., JV/varsity boys basketball at Janesville.  
**Saturday, Jan. 14:**  
 Middle School Marion Honor Band.  
 10:00 a.m., Varsity wrestling tournament at MFL-MarMac.  
**Sunday, Jan. 15:**  
 Noon, Community variety show rehearsal in Tripoli High School music room.  
**Monday, Jan. 16:**  
 7:00 p.m., City council meeting at Town Hall.

Schedules subject to change.

### GOT NEWS?

An engagement, wedding, anniversary, birth announcement, birthday, local news or a photo can be sent by e-mail to: sfnewspapers@gmail.com

or mailed to P.O. Box 208, Sumner, IA 50674.

Deadline for news items and ads is noon on Monday.

## School board hears IASB presentation on district budget, discusses staffing

The Tripoli School Board met Wednesday, Dec. 21, with members Bodee Capper, Dan Smith, Larry Piehl, Heather Bremer-Miller and Donna Hereid present.

The board heard a presentation from Shawn Snyder and Jan Miller-Hook from the Iowa Association of School Boards (IASB) about the financial health analysis of Tripoli Schools. Superintendent Jay Marley explained the information is a great way to see where the school has been, its current status and the future projections for the district's financial health.

Snyder stated given the enrollment projections, budget reductions will be likely and the district will have two years before any budget adjustments need to be made.

"Planning now for how to address the budget issue will help provide the district financial stability," Snyder commented. "Reducing net open enrollment out would really have a positive impact on the overall budget if that is something you can work on."

"A lot of districts are in a similar situation with not seeing any enrollment increases. Supplemental state aid hasn't been helping with districts losing enrollments, and you are definitely not the only district in this situation. Financially you're in good shape now, but the projections tend to look a little scary. If you stay on top of it, you can maintain financial stability."

Following the presentation, Marley stated his enrollment projections weren't as conservative as IASB has projected and he felt the budget wasn't in as much need of reductions within the next few years.

He explained next year's middle school classes will be small, and when they graduate the school will more than likely see an increase in enrollment

as incoming classes continue to be in the 30s. Another aspect to help with enrollment would be for the city to create housing developments to give families the opportunity to move to Tripoli.

"I will continue to work on open enrollments and focus on school branding and showing all the good things we have going on in this rural, small school. We have the same programs and opportunities as neighboring districts and we can show that we can sustain and grow," Marley added.

Bremer-Miller asked if all full-time employees (FTEs) in the district have full schedules, and Marley explained it is something they are working on because one thing the district doesn't want to do in the future is make staff reductions due to budgeting. Marley added they are adjusting FTEs to not only have full schedules but to also increase course offerings and programs.

"We have a great staff and we don't want to lose anyone, but we have to be innovative on how we are teaching. I am happy to report since I've been here we've only lost teachers due to retirement, not losing them to another district," Marley commented. "I want to also focus on our paraeducators and support staff because they are more likely to leave or get burnt out."

In personnel recommendations, the board approved the hiring of Alex Nation as middle school boys track coach for the 2022-2023 season following the resignation of Nick Mills as coach.

Marley explained there is currently a shortage of bus drivers as they still have positions open for substitute drivers, and the district is working on recruiting staff members to acquire their CDLs and help drive. He said

there are several teachers who are helping out by driving routes and willing to get their licenses, and it is a statewide issue.

Elementary principal Sarah Figanbaum reported students traveled to Sumner to watch a movie at Sunset Theatre and she received a message from the manager which said the students were very well behaved and the effort the staff made to help clean up was appreciated. Figanbaum added through a "pay it forward" opportunity, the school will have enough money to attend the movie for the next four years.

"We have a very supportive community when it comes to something like that. We have community members who reach out to us to ask if we have families in need. This year we had a big push to donate and help with certain kinds of bills families cannot pay. We are so fortunate to live where we do because everyone is so kind and supportive," Figanbaum commented.

Tom Nuss provided his dean of students and activities director report. He stated the musical was postponed in November due to illness but it was a success. The middle and high school winter concerts had a great turnout in December.

The last few weeks Nuss commented he has been working on tracking down students and having their work completed for passing grades. There are more absences than usual and there has been a lot of illness in the building.

He has also sent out invitations for the 56<sup>th</sup> annual wrestling invitational, and the district will host the conference wrestling tournament and conference bowling tournament. The girls wrestling team traveled to Riverside for a tournament this season and he

(Continued on page 2)

## Tripoli Panther boys pick up win over N-P Huskies to go 4-4

The Tripoli Panther boys basketball team squared off with the Nashua-Plainfield Huskies Tuesday, Dec. 20, in non-conference action and recorded the narrow 61-57 victory. The Panthers are now 4-4 overall this season and are 2-3 in the Iowa Star Conference (ISC) - North.

Earning his eighth double-double of the season was Oakley Semelroth as he connected for a team-high 23 points and 17 rebounds. He made 10 two-pointers and three free throws and had four offensive and 13 defensive rebounds.

DeShaun Wilder chipped in 19 total points including six two-point baskets, one shot from behind the arc and four free throws. Rowan Carlson and Tyce Miller scored eight points apiece and Bryce Schroeder recorded three points.

Under the net, Schroeder grabbed eight rebounds, followed by Wilder with seven and Carlson with five. Miller and Daniel Comer pulled down four and two boards, respectively. Assist leader was Wilder with four, followed by Carlson and Schroeder with three apiece. The Panthers stole the ball nine times including three by Miller and two apiece by Carlson and Wilder. Semelroth blocked two shots.

### TRIPOLI SCORING

	2PT	3PT	FT	TP
R. Carlson	2/6	0/0	4/6	8
T. Miller	1/4	2/3	0/0	8
D. Wilder	6/13	1/3	4/8	19
B. Schroeder	1/2	0/0	1/2	3
O. Semelroth	10/18	0/0	3/4	23
D. Comer	0/2	0/0	0/0	0
Totals	20/45	3/6	12/20	61

### Rebounds, Assists, Steals & Blocks

R. Carlson, 5 rebounds, 3 assists, 2 steals; T. Miller, 4 rebounds, 1 assist, 3 steals; D. Wilder, 7 rebounds, 4 assists, 2 steals; B. Schroeder, 8 rebounds, 3 assists, 1 steal; O. Semelroth, 17 rebounds, 2 blocks; D. Comer, 2 rebounds, 1 assist, 1 steal.

### Upcoming action

Tripoli will return to the court Thursday, Jan. 5, in Rockford against the Warriors before hosting the Riceville Wildcats Tuesday, Jan. 10. The

Panthers will be on the road Thursday, Jan. 12, as they face the Turkey Valley Trojans in non-conference play.



Bryce Schroeder prepares to let a successful two-point basket fly in recent action.



KEVIN BUHROW

## Kevin Buhrow retires from the Tripoli Fire Department after 14 years

After 14 years, Kevin Buhrow hung up his firefighting equipment for the final time at the Tripoli Fire Department after he announced his retirement in December.

The lifelong Tripoli resident first volunteered for the fire department Oct. 13, 2008, after spending years wanting to be on the department but being on the waitlist. He watched his father volunteer for the fire department for 18 years and wanted to be a part of it and help protect the community.

Now at almost 60 years old, Buhrow has turned in his pager and responded to his last call. He and his wife Laurie will be selling their home and moving to Waverly, where one of their two sons lives. Buhrow has made a lot of great memories with the department and will miss the passionate group of people who volunteer with the Tripoli Fire Department.

"I had always wanted to be on the fire department when I was younger, but years ago they wanted to get the guys that worked around town and worked second shift so they could be here in town during the day. Guys like me who worked out of town were always on the waitlist," he explained. "Back in 2008, Spanky [former fire chief Dan Burgart] talked to me about it when we were bowling and he asked me if that was something I'd be interested in. I told him I'd been wanting to do it for years and he said he'd get me on. He did it right away."

The following year Buhrow took Firefighter 1 training, which is basic training firefighters go through and includes hazmat training and CPR. Burgart was first assistant chief at the time Buhrow joined the department and took over as chief soon after following the retirement of former chief Rich Milius.

"I've had three chiefs in my 14 years in the department, and you learn a lot from each one of them. Rich wasn't chief for very long after I started, but Spanky really had a lot of knowledge and taught me a lot. Now we have Kyle [Kirchhoff] after Spanky retired and Kyle is really passionate about the department and I know it is in good hands with him. He has a lot of great ideas," Buhrow added.

"I hadn't seen anything at the time as bad as what we had experienced and it was eye-opening. On top of the terrible things we were going through there, I ended up being the only person going to the hospital. It was 100 degrees out and I was sitting on the back of the truck drinking a bottle of water when the guys told me my eyes rolled in the back of my head and I passed out," Buhrow recalled. "I remember being hot and sitting to cool off, and then all of a sudden I'm waking up with Spanky looking at me while I'm laying down. I told him I was fine but I ended up going to the hospital. It turned out medication I was on was making my blood pressure too low."

"We go on a lot of car accident calls, and I think there's more of those than fires. I've been on a lot of different calls but there's nothing worse than a car accident. I don't wish anyone to see what we've seen; we've seen some bad ones. You learn a lot from them, and we have been able to save a lot of people."

After being with the department for three years, Buhrow was elected as the training officer, which is a position focused on planning and providing training opportunities for the firefighters. He added it is an interesting position as it helps the firefighter learn things quickly and it's something every firefighter should do while on the department.

His first few calls with the department were ones no firefighter wants to experience; he responded to three car accidents which were all fatalities. He had never experienced anything like those calls before and Burhow commented it was really tough.

"I hadn't seen anything at the time as bad as what we had experienced and it was eye-opening. On top of the terrible things we were going through there, I ended up being the only person going to the hospital. It was 100 degrees out and I was sitting on the back of the truck drinking a bottle of water when the guys told me my eyes rolled in the back of my head and I passed out," Buhrow recalled. "I remember being hot and sitting to cool off, and then all of a sudden I'm waking up with Spanky looking at me while I'm laying down. I told him I was fine but I ended up going to the hospital. It turned out medication I was on was making my blood pressure too low."

"We go on a lot of car accident calls, and I think there's more of those than fires. I've been on a lot of different calls but there's nothing worse than a car accident. I don't wish anyone to see what we've seen; we've seen some bad ones. You learn a lot from them, and we have been able to save a lot of people."

After being with the department for three years, Buhrow was elected as the training officer, which is a position focused on planning and providing training opportunities for the firefighters. He added it is an interesting position as it helps the firefighter learn things quickly and it's something every firefighter should do while on the department.

He spent a lot of time going through optional training sessions at Kirkwood where he would learn about things they cannot do in Tripoli. Buhrow explained he learned about electric car accidents and extraction and took training opportunities about fire investigation.

Over the past six years, Buhrow has transitioned away from the front-line firefighting action to becoming a driver and someone who works behind the scenes of a call. He explained he wasn't able to pass a test to use the air packs,

(Continued on page 2)

## 'A Night at the Movies' Fine Arts Boosters' variety show practice begins Jan. 8

The annual Tripoli Fine Arts Boosters variety show is set for Friday and Saturday, March 17-18, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. in the Tripoli Middle School gymnasium.

The theme this year is "A Night at the Movies," which will provide some of the greatest songs from favorite movies for the audience to enjoy. Organizers hope the songs take everyone back in time and bring back some great memories.

If anyone would like to join the cast of the variety show, practice begins Sunday, Jan. 8, 2023, at 1:00 p.m. in the Tripoli High School music room. Anyone who likes to sing, dance, tell jokes or just have a great time hamming it up on stage is welcome to join the cast.

For questions about this year's production, call Roger Goudschaal at (319) 882-4735 or (319) 415-4735.