

# School board meets (Concluded from page 1)

commented they might not continue to travel to the meet in the future because of the travel expense.

In this month's spotlight in education, the school board heard from preschool teacher Helen Milius. She explained they have a fairly large 4-year-old preschool class with 28 students and have 12 3-year-olds. They recently held their winter concert and they will have another concert during their preschool graduation.

Milius added the preschool has received free activities and programs through the Extension office which help provide new and fun ways to teach children about different topics.

"We are partnering with different programs and organizations to help us extend the quality of the education the children receive and to make it even better," Milius commented. "We received a quality rating of four out of five and we are happy with that, but there is also room to grow. We are working hard to make our preschool better."

The board approved the purchase of a new 60-inch range stove with six burners and 24-inch griddle from Rapids Foodservice for the middle/high school for \$9,042.42. Marley explained the stove will be paid for out of the nutrition fund, which is very healthy and self-funded. Shawntelle Moore has worked with the company in the past and had success, and while the equipment wasn't the cheapest option it would be worth the money.

Bremer-Miller commented the district usually goes with the lower- or middle-end option due to price, but because the funding is there they might as well go with the presented option. Marley expressed it will take four to five weeks to go through the ordering process, and it is not something they need immediately.

The board also approved the bid from Heartland Asphalt for work to be done on the north drive and parking lot for \$85,071. Bremer-Miller added the painting of the lines can be done internally, but if work was backlogged it would not be expensive to hire someone else to do it.

The board was presented with the first reading of several IASB board policies changes. Marley stated most language changes were done to increase compliance with requirements of Iowa Code 279.74 and increase transparency with streamlined procedures for parents

to view and challenge instructional and library materials. The board approved the first reading of the policies and will look into the changes at the next meeting.

Marley presented information about the 2022-2023 at-risk and drop-out prevention. He stated things have changed over the past few years and the Iowa Department of Education determines if districts can qualify for a certain amount. They have given the power back to the school boards, and he added it is a great improvement for Tripoli and their ability to create programs for students now and into the future.

Programs Tripoli has used the at-risk/drop-out funds in the past include D.A.R.E., mentoring program, at-risk coordinator and the success center. Marley explained the success center has been a great addition to Tripoli as it serves as an alternative school within Tripoli.

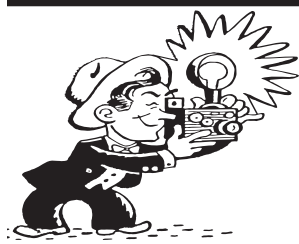
The board approved the at-risk/dropout for the 2022-2023 school year for \$96,004, which includes \$22,775 as carry over from the previous school year.

Marley provided his monthly superintendent and principal report. He stated Hereid had asked him prior to the meeting about hot spots the district has available to staff and students. He explained during the COVID-19 pandemic when school was shut down, the hot spots were purchased to provide students the chance to use the Internet at home who didn't have it.

The district has 14 hot spots through both Verizon and U.S. Cellular, and during the peak of the pandemic they were free of charge. Now the district is paying to have the hot spots which costs around \$350 per month. Hereid asked if they were still utilized or if they should look at reducing the amount.

Marley expressed the hot spots can be checked out to anyone who needs them, and even he has used them in the past for school purposes when his Internet went out at home. Staff members has used them during trips, and they can be checked out for the school year by families. He added they can evaluate the hot spots and determine if they can reduce the amount and the cost.

The next meeting of the Tripoli School Board is set for Wednesday, Jan. 18, at 5:30 p.m.



# Leader Files 1933 - 1973 1998 - 2022

## 90 YEARS AGO Jan. 4, 1933

A pleasant surprise was given to Mr. and Mrs. Herman Pries Friday evening, December 30th, in honor of the 35th anniversary of their wedding day.

A happy event occurred at Galena, Illinois, Monday, December 19, 1932, when Miss Mabel Warnke, of Tripoli, was united in marriage to Mr. Henry Seelhammer, of New Hampton. The bride is a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Warnke, of Tripoli. The bridegroom is a son of Mr. and Mrs. John Seelhammer, of Holstein, Germany.

Last Monday morning, about 2 o'clock, Bob Ecker was awakened by the bark of the dog and on rising found the house to be on fire. As he opened the door into an adjoining room the ceiling fell in.

Fire starting on the roof of the farm home of Irwin Franklin, six miles southeast of Tripoli, early Friday morning, completely destroyed the house, a garage, machine shed, hen house and another building used as a scratching shed for chickens.

Markets: eggs 14 to 19 cents, light hens five cents, heavy hens seven cents, rooster four cents, ducks four to six cents, good hogs \$2.50, sows \$1.70, veal calves \$1.00 to \$3.00.

## 50 YEARS AGO Jan. 3, 1973

These six wrestlers, who all prepped at Tripoli High School, will be in Wartburg College's line-up when the Knights host Westmar Jan. 9 for parents and Tripoli night. They are junior Mike Harms, sophomore Lowell Kuecker, senior Gene Johnson, senior Roger Buchholz, junior Steve Blasberg and sophomore Rod Quass.

Tripoli boys continued to ramble Tuesday night as they snatched a two-point win from the UNI High boys, 44-42, in the non-conference basketball start.

Robert Mohling, son of Mr. and Mrs. Adolph Mohling of Route 3, Sumner, received his PhD in aerospace engineering from Iowa State University at Ames on November 18, and started employment December 1, 1972, with the Martin Marietta Corporation in Denver, Colorado. He was a 1958 graduate of Tripoli High School, received his BA and MA degrees at ISU, Ames, and served three years in the U.S. Air Force.

Specials at The Famers Store: Hunt's Catsup four 14 ounce bottles for \$1.00, Snobby Red Delicious apples three pnyods for 69 cents, ground beef two pounds for \$1.39.

## 25 YEARS AGO Dec. 31, 1997

The Tripoli Community School's athletic department received an early Christmas present this year. The Tripoli Athletic Boosters presented Gregg Eschweiler, the activities director for the school, with two VCRs during halftime of the basketball game with Dunkerton Dec. 19.

A fire of undetermined origin destroyed much of the Farmer's Co-op elevator in Readlyn Monday night. The elevator is located at the south edge of the community.

The Wapsie Valley Community School student council sponsored a food drive for the local food pantries, making the project a competition among classes.

The Tripoli Lady Panthers had an easy time posting a win over the visiting Dunkerton Lady Raiders Tuesday, Dec. 23. Final score of the basketball game was 73-41 with Tripoli out-scoring Dunkerton each quarter.

Garrett Rettig goes high in the lane for a two-pointer, in spite of tough guarding by Dunkerton's Matt Fueling. The Tripoli boys pulled out an important win at home in the final game before taking a break for the holidays. Tripoli wins by a 59-55 score.

## ONE YEAR AGO Jan. 5, 2022

Tripoli High School wrestling coach and Tripoli alum Gary Bergmann was honored with a lifetime achievement award Tuesday, Dec. 14, from the Savannah School District, Savannah, Mo. Bergmann was honored with the award for his outstanding devotion and dedication to the sport of wrestling on and off the mat.

The Plum Creek Art Center and Connie Mohr Gallery, Fredericksburg, will be hosting an open house for local watercolor artist Amber Erion Sunday, Jan. 16. Local watercolor artist Amber Erion has been working in the medium for the past three years and has painted a variety including a beautiful bird.

As people in surrounding communities make healthcare plans for 2022, Community Memorial Hospital (CMH) reminds everyone the transition of Dr. Lucas Brinkman and his Fredericksburg Family Health Clinic to CMH, which became official Saturday, Jan. 1. Patients will notice little change with this transition, as the clinic's staff, location, phone number and quality of care will all remain the same under its new name, Fredericksburg Medical Clinic - an affiliate of Community Memorial Hospital.

# Buhrow retires (Concluded from page 1)

which is vital piece of firefighting equipment, and he and Kirchhoff were able to find ways for Buhrow to remain involved with the department.

Buhrow was also elected to the fire department's corporation, which is in charge of making sure the department's funds are being spent in the correct ways. There is a board of trustees made up of community members that oversees fundraising and spending.

"I was at an age where I couldn't train as much as I used to and I couldn't wear the air packs, so we thought it was good for me to get into the corporation and still be involved in everything. It was kind of a bummer when I stopped wearing the air packs. I know it sounds weird, but it's kind of a thrill to put that air pack on and go in a fire. There's a lot of energy and adrenaline pumping," Buhrow stated. "I accepted the fact I couldn't wear the air pack anymore. I could have retaken the test, but I thought it was time to let the younger guys do that stuff. It was time for me to step back and I became a pump operator and driver."

Buhrow recalls a call which got him a "talking to" about keeping the radio free from profanity, which was a light and funny moment when thinking about the many calls he went on throughout the years.

"The fire department was called for the smell of an anhydrous leak north of town. Tyler Shonka and I took the truck and went straight toward Sumner while the pumper went to Fredericksburg," he remembered. "All we could smell was turkey sh\*t. I forget who called the truck, but they asked what we could smell and I told them, 'All I smell is turkey sh\*t.' Well, that goes across the whole county. The whole county heard me say that. When I got back, we were told to watch what we say on the radio."

He also recalled a moment while bowling one Wednesday night and the fire department was called out to an emergency. Buhrow raced out of his bowling shoes and ran into the parking lot to his car in his socks.

"I remember thinking I had no time to change shoes. I just flung by bowling shoes off and ran out to my car in my stocking feet. Every second counts and I was just going to put my boots on at the fire department anyway. I also know Randy Kirchhoff asked me for a ride but I didn't hear him. I was probably in my vehicle and gone before he really had a chance to ask," Buhrow laughed. "I can remember almost every call we went on. There aren't any memorable ones that stick out really because they're all bad. When that pager goes off, I used to race out the door. These last few years, I still got excited but I didn't move as fast as I used to."

As fire chief, Kyle Kirchhoff stated

he looks a lot to Buhrow to do many of the tasks which often get overlooked. He was a valuable asset to the fire department and he will be greatly missed.

"He always made sure the report was filled out after a call. Everyone would come back from a call amped up and excited and then walk out the door, and Earl [Kevin Buhrow] always made sure it was filled out," Kirchhoff explained. "In a fire, when someone is sent in with air packs, they have little red tags. They put a tag on the truck they rode to on the call and they give a tag to someone when they enter a house so we can keep track of everyone. Earl was always that guy and I'm going to have to find someone else who understands that job and its importance and wants to do it. I've got 22-year-olds ready to run into a fire and don't want the job of standing by the door. Earl did a lot of behind-the-scenes things and I'm going to miss that a lot here."

"He never complained about those jobs either because he knew they had to be done. He was also such a huge part of fundraising. So much stuff happens when we're working on a fundraiser, and when I finally think of something we need and I ask Earl, he'll tell me he already did it. I never had to worry. He's the calm to my chaos. I like to go fast and Earl is more a cruise control kind of guy."

Kirchhoff added Buhrow won't be too fast away as he was elected to the fire department's board of trustees, which is a three-year term which will allow Buhrow to remain involved with the funding side of the fire department.

"Even though he had health limitations that changed what he did down here, it didn't change how much he wanted to help out. I'm going to have to find a way to train someone to do the things Earl just did without me ever having to ask or think about," Kirchhoff commented. "From a seat in leadership, you see guys who cut into a car or on the front lines of fighting a fire and they're the ones that get the notoriety and recognition, but to me it's guys like Earl who are so important. For me, I'm focused on what I need the front-line guys to do that I don't even need to think or worry about what Earl is doing, he just does it. I'm going to miss that experience and leadership; how do you replace that?"

Buhrow added there is more to being a firefighter than fighting a fire or cutting open a car. If anyone thought they were too old to be a part of the fire department, he commented there are many things that can be done without being on the front lines.

"We have a good group of people here at the fire department. I will definitely miss them, it's a close-knit group. When we weren't fighting fires or responding to accidents, we had a pretty good time," Buhrow stated. "When I first got on the department, I think I was one of the youngest guys. Now that has really shifted and I'm one of the oldest. It's a young, passionate department. I watched some of them grow up in high school, and now seeing them on the fire department is amazing."

Buhrow is still a little emotional about leaving the fire department, and while it was a difficult decision to make it was the one which was best for his family. He added his wife was surprised when he agreed to move to Waverly as his roots were deep in Tripoli, but they will be downsizing and moving closer to family.

"Moving is the only real reason I'm retiring. If we weren't moving, it probably would have been a few years before I called it. Kyle and I had been talking and there's only so much I can do, and he knew that and knew where to put me on calls," he added. "It's hard to be done. It's been tough. I told Kyle I was retiring at the end of the year but the house stuff moved faster than we thought, so mid-December I officially retired. I've already been asked twice to be on the Waverly Fire Department, but I have no plans to do that. Starting over like that is not something I want to do at my age."

His retirement hit home when he turned his pager in and an emergency call came. Buhrow still received text messages about the calls and couldn't figure out why his pager hadn't gone off.

"I was home alone and was yelling about why the pager didn't go off. Then I remembered I turned it in. It was hard not to respond to the call. That's when it really set in. I heard the trucks go by and that was tough. I shed a few tears on that one. I'll definitely miss it," he expressed. "I'm proud to have been able to serve and protect the community. It's been a privilege to be on the fire department for 14 years."

## AGING AND DISABILITY RESOURCE CENTER

LifeLong Links at Northeast Iowa Area Agency on Aging makes finding information seniors need easy. Simply call between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday at 1-866-468-7887 and an information specialist will listen to concerns, ask a few questions and provide a choice of resources to help.

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## Extension Calendar

- BREMER COUNTY EXTENSION
- Thur., Jan. 5: 9:00 a.m. to noon, Commercial manure applicator certification/re-certification, Bremer County Extension office, Tripoli.  
6:00 - 8:00 p.m., Rural Living - bee and honey production, Nashua Research Farm.
  - Tue., Jan. 10: 9:30 a.m., Private pesticide applicator CIC, Waverly Civic Center, Waverly.
  - Thur., Jan. 12: 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., ISU Crop Advantage, Bien Vue Center, Cedar Falls.  
6:00 - 8:00 p.m., Rural Living -small poultry flocks, Nashua Research Farm.
  - Mon., Jan. 16: 7:00 - 9:00 p.m., Bremer Extension Council organizational meeting, Extension office, Tripoli.
  - Tue., Jan. 17: 2:00 - 3:00 p.m., Winter bird and wildlife viewing, Denver Library, Denver.
  - Thur., Jan. 19: 6:00 - 8:00 p.m., Rural Living - series #3, Nashua Research Farm.
  - Sat., Jan. 21: 10:30 - 11:30 a.m., Winter Bird and Wildlife Viewing, Sumner Library, Sumner.
  - Thur., Jan. 26: 6:00 - 8:00 p.m., Rural Living - series #4, Nashua Research Farm.

## Specialty Producers Conference returns to Ankeny Feb. 22-23

A family farmer and motivational speaker from eastern Iowa will headline the annual Iowa Specialty Producers Conference, set for Feb. 22-23 in Ankeny. Jolene Brown, whose family produces row crops near Iowa City, will talk about the opportunities and challenges of maintaining a successful family business during her keynote address "The Top 10 Mistakes that Break up a Family Business."

Brown is the author of multiple books and articles on family business experiences, advice and practical insight. She will open the conference Feb. 22 at 9:00 a.m., followed by two full days of breakout sessions and networking opportunities. More than 30 industry professionals will speak on topics covering fruits and vegetables, wines and grape production, specialty crops and business and marketing decisions. The speakers include specialists with Iowa State University (ISU) Extension and Outreach and state climatologist Justin Glisan who will co-lead a talk Feb. 22 called "Demystifying Weather Forecasts."

The first day will conclude with an exhibitor happy hour where attendees can engage with exhibitors, followed by the Iowa Wine Awards Social, hosted by the Iowa Wine Growers Association. The second day kicks off with a second keynote by Jolene Brown, called "Through the Eyes of a Customer." A special pre-conference workshop opportunity will be offered Feb. 21 with a focus on sweet corn in the morning and floriculture in the afternoon. On both days, participants can hear from farmers who are part of Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education projects, during the "SARE Farmer Forum" track. "We are excited to host the fourth annual Iowa Specialty Producers Conference again in Ankeny," commented Kendra Meyer, executive secretary for the Iowa Specialty Crop Growers Association and a program specialist with ISU Extension and Outreach. "We have a great lineup of speakers and look forward to two days packed with education, information

and networking. A special highlight this year is our pre-conference workshop that the Iowa Specialty Crop Growers Association is hosting on Tuesday."

The conference will be held at the FFA Enrichment Center, Ankeny, and is organized by the Iowa Specialty Crop Producers Association and the Iowa Wine Growers Association. Other partners include ISU Extension and Outreach and the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship. "The Iowa Wine Growers Association is thrilled to co-host the fourth annual Iowa Specialty Producers Conference with the Iowa Specialty Crop Growers Association," remarked Christie Jensen, marketing director with the Iowa Wine Growers Association. "We have built a great relationship over the past four years, and we are excited to showcase all of the wonderful speakers, exhibitors, and sponsors this year's conference will feature."

There are individual registration fees for the full conference and the single-day registration. There are also early bird rates. Members of the Iowa Wine Growers Association and the Iowa Specialty Crop Growers Association (formerly, the Iowa Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association) will receive an exclusive discounted rate of 35 percent off for full and single-day conference registration per member. Membership status will be verified following registration for each attendee.

Register online by Jan. 14 for the best rates and to help with event planning. The conference registration link is [www.iowaspecialtyproducers.com/registernow](http://www.iowaspecialtyproducers.com/registernow). Rates will increase after Jan. 14. Register for the pre-conference workshops at <https://www.iowaspecialtyproducers.com/isgaworkshop>.

Registration is also open for exhibitors and sponsors at <https://www.iowaspecialtyproducers.com/2023-exhibitor-sponsor-registration>. Each person attending the conference must have an individual registration. If someone is registering multiple people, they should be sure to have selected a ticket for each registrant.

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