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Thursday, July 13, 2023

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Fischer crowned 2023 Central Iowa Fair Queen



T-R PHOTO BY MIKE DONAHEY

Central Iowa Fair Queen Lily Fischer, left, and runner-up Ella Wertz, right, pose for a photo alongside Little Miss Princess Abigail Jo Hoyt after the crowning Wednesday.

By **MIKE DONAHEY**
 TIMES-REPUBLICAN

With dozens of Central Iowa Fair attendees looking on, Lily Fischer of Melbourne was named the 2023 Central Iowa Fair Queen and Ella Wertz runner-up Wednesday.

FAIR | A3

Rain 'sorely needed' for Marshall County crops

By **LANA BRADSTREAM**
 TIMES-REPUBLICAN

The 1.35 inches of rain which fell Tuesday night and Wednesday morning was sorely needed in Marshall County.

The U.S. Drought Monitor has listed Marshall County as being in an "abnormally dry" area. Surrounding areas indicated even worse drought conditions with "moderate drought" and "severe drought" slowly creeping closer. The drought monitor releases weekly updates for the entire county and should show the impact of the rainfall next week.

Meaghan Anderson, field agronomist for central Iowa for Iowa State University Extension, said the impact of the rain will be substantial for Marshall County.

"It was starting to get dryer and we are reaching crop peak water usage," she said. "It is a critical time for crops to have water. Having it come the way it did is incredibly helpful."

The timing of the rain also coincides with corn tasseling season. The purpose of the tassel is to encourage growth and ripen the ear. Anderson said both corn and soybean crops are approaching the time when they use as much water as possible on a daily basis.

"This is the time the plants will use it the most," she said.

While the rain is very beneficial to the fields right now, there might also be some damages caused by the strong downpour. Anderson said whenever there is a heavy rain, the biggest issue is the movement of the soil.

"When rain comes quickly, there is a greater risk it will pick up the soil and move it somewhere else," she said.

Anderson said the rain could bring forward some weeds and they are looking to germinate.

"What's good for the crops is good for the weeds," she said.

Lastly, the rainfall could cause diseases in corn and soybean crops. Gray leaf spot is a common disease for corn and Anderson said it is one the area gets every year. A newer disease for corn is tar spot. The disease, caused by fungus, produces black spots on the leaves. Tar spot is relatively new, having been discovered in Michigan in 2016. Anderson said they do not know whether or not it will be problematic.

"It likes moderate temperatures and moisture," she said. "It has the potential to be destructive to corn."

For soybeans, Anderson said farmers should watch for two bacterial diseases - bacterial blight and bacterial pustule. Another is a fungal disease - frogeye leaf spot.

Even with the potential for soil movement and possible diseases, Anderson said the rainfall is still a positive. The longer crops lack moisture or under stress, the more dramatic the effect will be. For example, if the dryness had lasted longer, eventually the leaves would have started to roll or wilt. She said ideally, the amount of moisture - in the soil and from the rain - for a good, healthy crop is 20 to 25 inches.

"That is another reason why getting a rainfall like this will help sustain," she said. "It's great we got this rainfall."

Contact Lana Bradstream at 641-753-6611 ext. 210 or lbradstream@timesrepublican.com.

Out of the rubble, into the spotlight



T-R PHOTO BY ROBERT MAHARRY

The Flying Elbow Owner/Operator Garrett Goodman pictured in 2022 after he made the Top 10 of the Iowa's Best Burger contest. He went on to win and has since been crowned the champion of "Pulled Pork Madness" as well.

The Flying Elbow finds unprecedented success after tornado destruction

By **SARA JORDAN-HEINTZ**
 TIMES-REPUBLICAN

(Editor's note: This is the first in a series of stories looking back at the July 19, 2018 EF-3 tornado leading up to the fifth anniversary, but also looking forward and detailing rebuilding and revitalization efforts since then.)

When Marshalltown native Garrett Goodman opened the Flying Elbow at 35 N. Center St. in May 2018, he never imagined that almost two months to the day the eatery would be destroyed by an EF-3 tornado.

He also couldn't have foreseen it taking more than three years to reopen a brick and mortar location



A special commemorative series celebrating 5 years of continuous growth after the July 19, 2018 EF-3 tornado

due to also enduring the COVID-19 pandemic and the August 2020 derecho. And even more surprising

a wrestling-themed establishment with an emphasis on hot dogs.

As Goodman noted, life can change in a second.

On July 19, 2018, Goodman was in Des Moines picking up supplies for the restaurant while three employees were hard at work serving customers. As the winds picked up and the siren sounded, his staff secured the front door, only to have difficulty with the side entrance.

"My employees were holding the door shut as it was happening," he recalled.

The interior of the restaurant remained intact.

"Judging by the inside of our building, you would have never known anything happened," he said. "There

ELBOW | A3

Thein recognizes MPD leadership in heartfelt goodbye to Marshalltown

By **ROBERT MAHARRY**
 TIMES-REPUBLICAN

Lt. Tricia Thein will soon take on a new title as she is set to become Chief Thein in Decorah on July 19, but the longtime law enforcement officer will always have a special place in her heart for Marshalltown.

With assurance from Mayor Joel Greer that the three-minute time limit for public comments had been waived for her during Monday night's city council meeting, Thein took the chance to reflect on her time here and thank Police Chief Mike Tupper, along with the late Capt. Brian Batterson, for their support through the years.

"Professionally, I'm su-



T-R PHOTO BY ROBERT MAHARRY

Marshalltown Police Department Lt. Tricia Thein, center, was recognized during Monday night's city council meeting as she prepares to take on a new role as Decorah's police chief beginning July 19. Thein spent 20 years with the MPD. Also pictured are Capt. Chris Jones, left, and Police Chief Mike Tupper, right.

per excited and ready for the challenges brought by this new opportunity, but mixed with the excitement that comes with a move such as this, a bit of sadness lingers at the thought of leaving Marshalltown," she

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