



# LETTERS TO SANTA! LOOK INSIDE!



# REDHAWKS RECOGNIZE SPONSORS Page 10

SERVING THE COMMUNITIES OF TRAER, DYSART AND CLUTIER

# NORTH TAMA TELEGRAPH

Friday, Dec. 23, 2022

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## North Tama Elementary principal to resign

### Board accepts resignation, effective end of 2022-23 term

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The North Tama school district will soon be in need of a new principal yet again following the resignation of elementary principal Susan Johnson which took place during this past Monday's school board meeting.

It was only last March the district accepted the resignation of its former secondary principal Jeremiah Bliss who left for a job with Clear Lake Community Schools after serving just one full year



Johnson

in the position. Principal Howard was hired last summer to succeed Bliss. During the Monday night meeting, Johnson's resignation was approved by the four board members present as part of the consent agenda. Her resignation is effective at the end of the 2022-23 school year.

In a statement to the North Tama Telegraph following the meeting, Superintendent David Hill said of Johnson, "Principal Johnson has done a great job as our elementary principal over the past

**PRINCIPAL | P 2**



PHOTOS COURTESY OF JEREMY STENDA

Dysart Police Department's sixth annual 'Shop with a Cop' youth participants pictured in the Dysart Community Center on Dec. 12 with (back row, l-to-r) Deputy Brian Randall, Detective Trevor Killian, and Deputy Jacob Murphy with the Tama Co. Sheriff's Dept.; Jenna and Chad Scott of Harper's Public House (back row, far right); and DG Elementary Secretary Brenda Gardner (center, kneeling).

## Dysart's annual Shop with a Cop spreads Christmas cheer



Tama County Detective Trevor Killian, left, pictured on Monday, Dec. 12 in Waterloo shopping with a participant in this year's Shop with a Cop event organized by the Dysart Police Department.



DG Elementary Secretary Brenda Gardner, center back, shops with a trio of this year's Shop with a Cop participants on Monday, Dec. 12 in Waterloo.

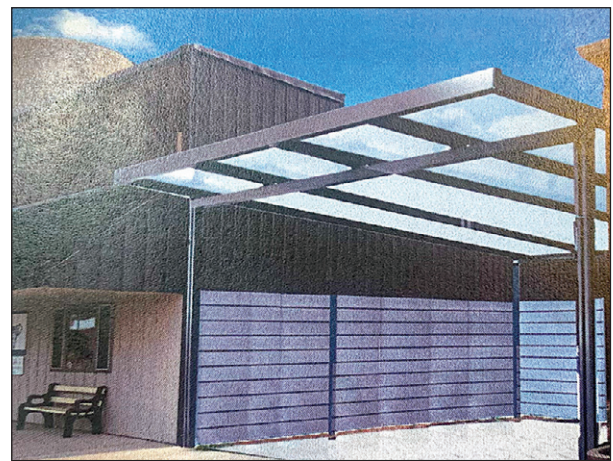


IMAGE COURTESY OF VISION DYSART

A composite sketch of how Dysart's Main Street Pocket Park structure would appear in the space between Eikamp Insurance (left) and the public library.

## Main Street Pocket Park coming to Dysart

### Council agrees to route billing through city, avoiding sales tax

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A Vision Dysart downtown pocket park project in the works since April of 2021 overcame its seemingly final hurdle during last Wednesday's city council meeting and is now slated to break ground in the spring.

Vision Dysart members

including president Mary Behrens and secretary Janet Wilson provided a presentation on the Main Street Pocket Park project to members of the Dysart City Council during the regular December meeting held on Dec. 14 in City Hall.

After Wilson presented a platter of holiday cookies to Mayor Tim Glenn to share with council members, Behrens addressed the council, outlining project progress thus far.

**PARK | P 8**

## WEEKEND FORECAST:

**Saturday: BLUSTERY**  
High: 5 / Low: -5



**Sunday: MOSTLY SUNNY**  
High: 8 / Low: -9

## INSIDE:

- Weekly Journal.....2
- Your Government.....3
- Opinion.....4
- Church and Obits.....6
- Sports.....10

**AREA DEATHS:**  
Gerene Lassen  
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## IHSAA proposed socioeconomic classification amendment addressed ahead of vote

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Following a month of uncertainty, it was decided during a Dec. 13 special meeting of the North Tama Board of Education to keep Redhawk varsity football at Class A/11-Player for at least the next two years.

During the meeting which was held in the Junior High Commons and attended by all seven school board members, Superintendent David Hill, activities director/head coach Taylor Wurth, both building principals, and more than a dozen members of the public, a motion was made by board member Doug Dvorak - seconded by Haley Blaine - to move varsity football next season from Class A/11-Player to



PHOTO BY RUBY F. MCALLISTER

Retired Redhawk football head coach Tom McDermott, left, addresses members of the North Tama school board during a special meeting held Dec. 13 to address moving varsity football from Class A/11-Player to 8-Player. A motion to do so failed, 5-2.

8-Player.

The motion ultimately failed, 5-2, with board president Rod Zobel, Cheryl Popelka, Val Bradley, David Boldt, and David Calderwood voting against the motion, and Dvorak and Blaine voting in favor.

Prior to the vote, 10 public comments were made in person, while seven comments received via email were read by Supt. Hill.

The possibility of mov-

ing Redhawk varsity football from 11-Player to 8-Player was first publicly broached back on Nov. 9 during a community meeting organized by Wurth at the urging of retired longtime head coach Tom McDermott following the end of the 2022-2023 football season during which the Redhawks finished 2-7.

More than 40 members of the public attended the Nov. 9 community meet-

ing including many of the team's players.

During the community meeting, McDermott gave a presentation illustrating how the landscape in which North Tama plays varsity football has changed dramatically in the last 10-20 years. This past season, 54 teams in Class A had larger BEDS enrollment (Basic Educational Data Survey enrollment from grades

**REDHAWKS | P 9**