

FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
LOW 44 HIGH 72	LOW 37 HIGH 48	LOW 32 HIGH 58	LOW 33 HIGH 62	LOW 32 HIGH 59	LOW 38 HIGH 57	LOW 43 HIGH 65

SIoux COUNTY

CAPITAL-DEMOCRAT

April 13, 2023

75¢ • THURSDAY
One Section • Volume 141 • No. 7
www.pluimpublishing.com | Orange City, Iowa



By SARAH WEBER
Co-Editor

ORANGE CITY — The Tulip Festival has featured a Night Show showcasing local talent since 1938 in 74 separate productions.

Momentum continues to build, and the Tulip Festival is now known for putting on a great show that people travel miles to see.

This year's production of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* is no exception. Todd McDonald is directing the musical, which he directed in 2003, just 20 years ago. The show was such a success it ran for a second year in 2004.

This year's cast has many community members returning to the stage and many new faces joining.

Nick Schnell is familiar with the stage, but this is his first appearance in a Night Show. Schnell works as a motion graphics designer at Lemonly and is a Dordt graduate. Originally from Akron, he was involved in theater, was in several productions at Dordt, and starred as Bert in the Sioux Center Arts' production of *Mary Poppins*. "I didn't really know anyone coming into the show, but I am starting to get to know and jive with the squad. We haven't run through any acts yet, but we are getting to that point. I love seeing people hop into characters with ease, and it is all just really exciting." He knows this will be a big show. "It's exciting, I have heard the audience will be large and very into it, so I think it is going to be a lot of fun."

Nate Muyskens is traveling from Sheldon to participate in his first Night Show.

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Sports:

LOCAL TEAMS TAKE CROWNS AT MONDAY MEET

See page 8 for more details



New elementary school is nearing completion

By SARAH WEBER
Co-Editor

ORANGE CITY — The new MOC-Floyd Valley elementary school is on target to start school in the fall of 2023. The building will house students from Orange City Elementary and Hoppers Elementary.

The City of Orange City passed a bond issue in 2020 for the 37-million-dollar project, and the building broke ground on May 12, 2021.

Russ Adams, superintendent for MOC-Floyd Valley, shares, "The entire building design captures the creative spirit of an elementary child. The innocent possibility and the way the world could be. Adults may see crooked windows, but the building was designed with a child in mind." It was also designed to be a collaborative space. "The classroom pods are designed so there is both a separate classroom space and space that is part of a bigger community, providing the best of both worlds. The spaces are bright and light, and a place kids will want to be," Adams said. "I believe the power of collaboration in education is undersold; the more we can push and challenge and encourage and support each other, the better we are all going to be."

The new space presents different safety challenges with increased visibility into classrooms. Adams is working with the Sioux County Sheriff's office to devise a new safety plan for teachers and students. With any new building, all new emergency preparedness plans will be communicated and taught to students at the start of the school year.

The school project is mostly on schedule, and once school breaks for summer, the building will be ready for teachers to begin moving in.

"Furniture is coming on the first of May, but the interior won't be complete in all the areas," he said, adding, "The majority of what we will have will be new. We went through the current buildings, and some things will be transported out there, but most everything else will be new." The school has a

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FORMER RESIDENT BRINGS AWARENESS THROUGH PUBLICATION

By SHARON VERMEER
Correspondent



REGION — Kelly Crull has been writing since he was in lower elementary at Sioux Center Christian School, where his parents, Steve and Pat Crull, were teachers. "When I was in the second grade, my teacher gave us a blank book and said, 'Write a story,'" he explained. "I wrote *The National Guard Goes to War*." My older brother Chad was training for the Guard and the time, and I must have been worried about him! Most of the other students moved on with their lives after that, but my parents got more of those blank books, and I wrote many of them, including a joke book. I had the impression that if you write a real book, it goes to the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C. I really wanted a book in Washington, D.C.! I have no idea if that's true, but in second grade, you believe everything."

"Somehow, the librarian at the Christian School found out I was writing," he continued, "and put a bunch of them on a book rack. Then the eighth graders found my joke book and thought it was hilarious! There was a waitlist of people to check it out. I thought that was so great! Some of the jokes I stole, and some I made up. I did my own illustrations. Some jokes weren't even funny: Why did the chicken cross the road? Because he did."

When Crull was in 5th grade Orange City had a Young Author's Competition, and Crull could go to Northwestern College to represent his class. That was the first time he met a real writer. By high school, he had given up writing stories, and was writing song lyrics for a band he was in with other Unity students and one Boyden-Hull student, called *The Temp*, named from Revelations 3:16. But by the time he was in college at Dordt, he was a Literature Major. He remembers taking a class with Jim Schaap and winning a Dordt writing contest. Schaap was also his writing mentor while he took a semester abroad in Amsterdam.

Crull met his future wife, April Te Grootenhuis, daughter of Dale and Rachel of Orange City), at Unity, and they married while both at Dordt, right before both went to Amsterdam. Crull graduated in 2002 with a Secondary Education degree with a Literature emphasis and April with a degree in Psychology. Crull's parents

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