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Fall Sports Preview

Area teams featured. Sections C-D

DAKOTA COUNTY STAR

Since 1909

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STAR CALENDAR

Closed for Labor Day

The Dakota County Star's offices will be closed Monday, Sept. 2 for the Labor Day holiday.

We will be open for business on Tuesday, Sept. 3 at 8:30 a.m. and will resume normal hours.

If you have a news tip or question over the holiday weekend, call Mike at (402) 660-9682 or e-mail mike@dakcostar.com.

Chamberettes Luncheon

The South Sioux City Chamberettes will host their annual luncheon on Tuesday, Sept. 10 beginning at 11 a.m. at the American Legion Hall in South Sioux City.

For ticket information, contact any Chamberettes member or the South Sioux City Area Chamber of Commerce at (402) 494-1626.

County board meeting

The Dakota County Board of Commissioners will hold their first September meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 3 at 3 p.m. at the Dakota County Courthouse. The meeting is moved from its regular Monday time slot due to the Labor Day holiday.

A current agenda is available on the Dakota County website at www.dakotacountyne.org.

Got an event?

If your school, church or nonprofit has an upcoming event that you'd like to promote, send the information to the Dakota County Star at least two weeks ahead of time.

Information can be sent to news@dakcostar.com or call (402) 494-4264.

Subscribe to the Star

Update or start your subscription to the Dakota County Star by calling Laury at (402) 494-4264, Mondays through Thursdays from 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

One-year and two-year subscriptions are available.

We are on the web!

The Dakota County Star's new website, www.dakcostar.com, will be online as of Sunday, Sept. 1.

The newspaper also has space on Facebook — search for "Dakota County Star" and look for the Star logo as the icon for the page. "Like" the page to stay up to date on local news and information.

City Council approves 1-6 yr. road plan

By MICHAEL CARNES
Star Publisher

More than 20 projects on the South Sioux City road plan for fiscal year 2024-25 are listed on the one-year plan approved by the City Council at Monday's meeting.

Another 20-plus plans are on the agenda for the six-year part of the plan, which the Council had to approve before the end of the August as required by state law.

Most of the 21 projects on the one-year plan involve milling and asphalt overlay, along with draining improvements and removal and replacement of concrete paving. Included in the plans are the construction of a quiet zone on the BNSF railroad intersection at 39th Street and a 10-foot concrete installment of the Westside Trail from the intersection of Highway 77 and 21st Street to one-half block east of Third Avenue on 21st Street.

City Administrator Lance Hedquist said that projects listed on the six-year plan can

be moved to the one-year plan if it is deemed to be necessary and is approved by the City Council.

Also at Monday's meeting, the Council approved the last of a series of ARPA projects that the city has undertaken with federal money that was given to city and county governments during the recent pandemic. Government entities have until the end of this year to commit the funds to projects, and those funds must be spent by the end of 2026.

"Our goal is to have everything committed by the end of September so we can get them into the system," said City Clerk Nancy Walsh. "We don't want to have to try to do it in December when everybody is using that portal."

The ARPA-related items that were approved at Monday's meeting on a 5-0 vote (Carol Schuldt, Rick Bosquet and Jason Bowman were absent) include:

— Network switch bids (Lowest bid to

Netsys Plus at \$43,356.30).

— Replacement of patron computers at the city library (Low bid to Marco at \$12,181.86).

— A 2024 Ford Maverick for the City Parks Department (State contract bid of \$26,922).

— Cameras for pickleball courts and Scenic Park (Low bid to Thompson Solutions Group for \$11,840.35).

— Library project (CMBA Architects, \$28,500).

— Replace pool deck lights (Stateline Electric, \$6,800).

— Printer/copier for fire station (Century Link, \$71,311.94 purchase or 60-month lease at \$145.56).

In other action, the Council:

— held a public hearing on an extreme blight designation on a portion of the west side of the city along Old Highway 20 and 29th Street. The hearing was held as part of a process that would allow the city to potentially carry on urban redevelopment projects

in the area.

— approved a subaward agreement to improve the lighting at one of the softball fields just east of Scenic Park.

— approved an ordinance to update the National Electric Code.

— approved a \$22.5 million promissory note that will assist in the construction of improvements to the city's wastewater treatment plant, allowing the city to construct a north-south line that will allow the plant to take in residential and commercial wastewater.

— approved a plan to install drainage under West 29th Street to move water away from the Senior Citizen Center.

— approved the acceptance of engineering bids to replace the Timberline Lift Station, which is rusting out.

— approved a request by First Serve Tennis Center to install a sign on the east side of the building that will be visible from Interstate 29 across the river.

OLD-FASHIONED A.C. FOR OLD-FASHIONED VESPER SERVICE



Fans -- electric and hand-operated -- were the order of the day as the annual Vesper Service was held in the "Old" Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Dakota City. With afternoon temperatures in the 90's, the lack of air conditioning made Sunday's service a steamy one for those in attendance as United Methodist Pastor Julie Raridan delivers the sermon.

(PHOTO BY MICHAEL CARNES)

A Sunday tradition in D.C.

Vesper Service looks back at church history

By MICHAEL CARNES
Star Publisher

DAKOTA CITY — How did our forefathers do it?

Sitting in the "Old" Emmanuel Lutheran Church for the annual Vesper Service on one of the hottest Sundays of the summer, the question was asked — silently — as the sweat rolled off the brows of the two dozen who were in attendance at the oldest wood-framed church still standing in Nebraska.

The church's long history, which dates back to 1860 (seven years before Nebraska officially became a state), was evident as a cooler full of bottled water and several strategically-placed fans tried in vain to keep cool those in attendance.

The church, which is cared for by the Dakota County Historical Society (DCHS), was built only 58 years after Lewis and Clark trudged through the area on their way west in their discovery of America in the early 19th century. It has seen quite a bit in its 164 years at its location at 1500 Hickory Street in Dakota City, and every summer the Dakota County Historical Society opens its doors for a "Vesper Service," which is a regular worship service held in the late afternoon or evening.

The church was the first Lutheran church building constructed in the

state and is the oldest building of its type still standing in Nebraska. An older building that had been built in Bellevue several years earlier burned down about a decade ago, according to Dennis Reiner, president of the DCHS.

The current structure came after plans to move a building to the location from South Sioux City went up in smoke — literally.

"The Lutherans in the area back in the 1850's had found a building somewhere in South Sioux City and were in the process of moving it to Dakota City," he said. "Prairie fires were common back in those days, and about halfway into its move a prairie fire came through and burned the building down."

According to the DCHS' website, the congregation was first served by Rev. Henry W. Kuhns, a missionary sent by the Allegheny Synod to the Nebraska Territory. Kuhns preached his first sermon in the front room of the old Bates House (hotel) in November 1850 and formally organized the church on July 22, 1859.

The membership immediately made plans to move an abandoned building from the long since-abandoned town of Pacific City, but those plans were thwarted when the struc-

SEE VESPER, 2A



(PHOTO BY MICHAEL CARNES)

A cooler holds ice-cold bottled water while a fan tries in vain to keep parishoners cool during Sunday's Vesper Service at the "Old" Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Dakota City.

Local woman waives hearing

A South Sioux City woman who is charged with helping her estranged husband avoid arrest waived her right to a preliminary hearing last week in Dakota County District Court.

Reyna Castellanos, 36, is alleged to have picked up her estranged husband, Alfredo Castellanos-Rosales at a gas station near the Tyson Fresh Meats plant in Dakota City and driven him to a Sioux City credit union and then to a home in Jackson, before later driving him to another home in Sioux City.

Castellanos-Rosales was wanted as a suspect in the April 25, 2023 stabbing death of his ex-girlfriend, Jordan Beardshear, at her apartment in Dakota Dunes, S.D. After the stabbing, he called Castellanos and asked her to pick him up.

Castellanos initially denied any knowledge of the murder, but later admitted to picking her estranged husband up at the Pony Express gas station near the Tyson plant, taking him to a bank and then leaving him on a highway in Sioux City. She denied having any other contact with him.

After a search of her cell phone that she consented to, investigators found informa-

SEE HEARING, 2A

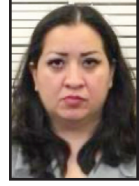
Homicide charge tossed in 2023 crash

A Hooper man who was driving a truck involved in a 2023 crash that killed a Dakota City teenager will not be charged with vehicular homicide at this time.

Chad Bundy, 50, was bound over to district court last week on a felony charge of leaving the scene of a fatal accident. Two misdemeanor charges — vehicular homicide and a load violation — were dismissed without prejudice, leaving open the possibility that charge could be refiled in the future.

Bundy was arrested in July in connection with an April 27, 2023 accident on Nebraska Highway 35 regarding an accident that killed Kassandra Claassen, 17, of Dakota City. It is believed a pipe fell from a straight truck Bundy was driving, and the pipe went through the front windshield of Claassen's Jeep, hitting her in the chest. Her vehicle left the road in the 500 block of Highway 35 and rolled. During the investigation, Dakota County Sheriff's deputies found a round metal pipe near the

SEE HOMICIDE, 2A



Castellanos



Bundy

Hootin' it up in Hubbard



There's always a nice lineup of vehicles Sunday morning at the Hubbard Hoot Owl Days car show just outside of St. Mary's Parish Hall.



I just happened to catch Bob Anderson (who wouldn't want any attention drawn to him) at the start of the Madison Avenue concert on Hubbard's main street Saturday night. Bob and his lovely wife Cindy have graciously donated a hog several years to create two fundraisers for the Hubbard Hoot Owl Days. Thanks again!



Photos by Lori Overfelt



Here's a picture of the Hubbard Hoot Owl Days 5-K Run/ walk first place female and male participants. (Left to right: Dustin Rewinkle, Charlotte Christiansen - first place female, Axel Kramper - first place male, & Stephanie Rewinkle.) Dustin and Stephanie were the chairpersons for the 5-K event.



Larry and Jeannie Grove have been faithfully selling tickets at the door for the Trinity Lutheran Church Community breakfast as long as I've been coming and that's been about 12 years!



The Trinity Lutheran Church always makes a wonderful homemade breakfast during the Hoot Owl Days and St. Mary's Catholic Church is kind enough to let them serve it at the Parish Hall to accommodate a larger crowd. I love to see the community working together!



It's seems to be becoming more popular every year. Everyone seems to like the change of holding the 5-K the opening night as the glow sticks light up the lakeshore. This is the group picture of the 5-K runners/ walkers before the start of the race around the Kramper Lake just outside of Hubbard. We even had a Kramper take first place this year. Axel Kramper from Hubbard was the first place male to cross the finish line, and the first place female was Charlotte Christensen from Walthill, Ne

Hubbard News

By Lori Overfelt

A "hoot" of a good time

What a weekend filled with lots of people doing fun activities in, what seemed to me, very favorable weather.

Friday night's 5-K run/walk had the largest turnout they have ever had with 50 participants. This year was a 'Back to the 20s' theme glow run/walk. For those who chose to walk and enjoy the activities along the trail around Kramper Lake there was a selfie station, black-jack/ lawn dice, light-up inflatable airplanes to throw through hula hoops, 1920s slang trivia and a speakeasy at the finish line.

Some came to cheer their family members and friends on as they made their way around Kramper Lake with their glow sticks. I thought it was very fitting that a Kramper was the first to cross the finish line — Axel Kramper, the 10-year-old son of Alex and Emily Kramper, turned in an impressive time of 20:05. (The Homer track coach will be wanting to talk with him soon.) Our first female to cross was Charlotte Christensen from Walthill. I don't have her time, but I was amazed at the young people participating and taking first.

Saturday morning's donuts and coffee was well attended with over 30 people who are former graduates of both Hubbard and the Emerson-Hubbard schools. This year's Parade Marshals were John and Karen Howard, driven around by the distinguished Ray Messerschmidt.

This year we also had the most craft and food vendors that I can recall. People really had a wide variety to choose from. (I like to support them and buy some unique Christmas gifts.) The kids play area is always full. Some of the highlights seem to be the pony rides, the water slide, and the famous money dig. (Too bad they don't look that hard in the couch cushions.) They were busy from the time they opened until they took the last water slide down.

Once again, Tyson donated beef brisket and Dorcey Farms the sweet corn for a freewill offering meal before the evening concert with Madison Avenue. Even though the weather was hot, there seemed to be a cool breeze on Main Street. This year they did both a silent auction and a live auction. I believe they both went well. Madison Avenue performed an amazing concert entertaining a crowd of a large age demographic and many people joined in with dancing till the close at midnight.

Sunday morning was no different, with the Trinity Lutheran Church serving over 200 people a delicious homemade country breakfast. Everyone is grateful for St. Mary's Catholic Church providing the use of their hall to accommodate the large crowd. Many people strolled through the vast variety of old and new vehicles parked outside the hall on the grassy lot next door.

I may have a few more things to mention next week, but this is all I could remember for this week. School has started and fall is just around the corner.



The Hubbard Hoot Owl Days Pickleball tournament 1st place winners are Curt and Michelle Vanlaningham from Havensville, Kan. 2nd place went to Darrell and Ashley Christiansen from Walthill. 3rd place was Josh Hassler and his daughter, Frankie, from West DesMoines, Iowa 4th place goes to Hudson Watkins and his mom, Maria. (Left to right: Frankie and Josh Hassler, Michelle and Curt Vanlaningham, and Darrell and Ashley Christiansen.)

