



Wilton-Durant Advocate News



December 6, 2018

Wilton, Iowa

Volume 124, No. 49

www.wdadvocatenews.com

20 pages

\$1.00

State auditor questions numerous Stockton practices

By Layce DeLong
of the Advocate News

On Friday, Nov. 30 the *Advocate News* received two reports from the office of Auditor of State for the state of Iowa. The first showed that the city has failed to make several changes recommended by the state auditor in 2016; the second uncovered more than \$3,000 worth of misused city funds.

The report on the Status of Findings and Recommendations from the city's Periodic Examination Report from July 7, 2016 stated, "The city council has a fiduciary responsibility to provide oversight of the city's operations and financial transactions. Oversight is typically defined as the 'watchful and responsible care' a governing body exercises in its fiduciary capacity. Many of the findings included in this report indicate the city council needs to exercise additional fiduciary oversight. While two of the 13 findings reported in the Periodic Examination Report dated July 7, 2016 were corrected and three were partially corrected, eight of the findings are reported as 'not corrected.' Four additional findings identified during the follow-up procedures are also included in this report."

The second report by the Auditor of State detailed a special investigation into the city of Stockton that uncovered the misused city funds and equipment, particularly by its mayor Patrick Baker. The following is the release on the special investigation provided by the auditor.

Auditor of State Mary Mosiman today (Nov. 30) released a report on a special investiga-

tion of the city of Stockton for the period Jan. 1, 2016 through March 31, 2018. The special investigation was performed as a result of concerns regarding certain financial transactions including payroll, reimbursements and donations collected for city-sponsored events held for the youth in the community.

Mosiman reported the special investigation identified \$3,303.77 of improper and unsupported disbursements and undeposited collections. Mosiman reported the improper disbursements of \$3,051.94 included:

— \$1,435.00 of improper payroll payments to Robert Russell, the former city maintenance employee, for additional hours he recorded but did not work. According to the former maintenance employee, the mayor told him to "pad" his hours and pay him (the mayor) for the work he helped with. The mayor denied this occurred.

— \$1,299.47 of improper payments to U.S. Cellular for the mayor's cellphone plan and cellphones.

— \$54.54 of improper mileage reimbursements to the mayor.

The \$85.03 of unsupported disbursements was a payment made to the mayor for which no support was located.

Mosiman also reported the \$166.80 of un-

deposited collections was the result of rebates issued by Menards to the city which were used by the mayor to offset expenses he incurred on behalf of the city. The mayor repaid the \$166.80 in rebates to the city in April 2017 and subsequently submitted a request for reimbursement and supporting documentation totaling \$211.64 which included \$166.80 of supply purchases he made for the city.

In addition, Mosiman reported donations and disbursements for city sponsored events held at City Hall for the youth of the community did not include adequate internal controls over donations and disbursements for the events.

Mosiman also reported it was not possible to determine if additional amounts were improperly disbursed or if additional collections were not properly deposited because adequate documentation was not available.

In addition, Mosiman reported the mayor used city property for personal use in violation of the Constitution and the Code of Iowa. The mayor admitted to using the city's backhoe to dig a hole for a resident's pet, digging a foundation for a basement and using the city's plow in the city of Durant. The mayor stated he had received verbal approval from the city council. However, the city council cannot approve an act which does not meet the requirements of

the Constitution or the Code of Iowa which prohibits the use of city equipment for personal use. In addition, Chapter 21.3 of the Code of Iowa requires "The minutes shall show the results of each vote taken and information sufficient to indicate the vote of each member present. The vote of each member present shall be made public at the open session." As a result, verbal approval does not meet the requirements of the code and does not constitute an official action of the city council.

The report includes recommendations to strengthen the city's internal controls, such as improvements to segregation of duties and ensuring all disbursements are properly supported and the public purpose is documented.

Copies of the report have been filed with the Muscatine County Sheriff's Office, the Iowa Division of Criminal Investigation, the Muscatine County Attorney's Office and the Attorney General's Office. A copy of the report is available for review in the Office of Auditor of State's website at <https://auditor.iowa.gov/reports/audit-reports/>.

Former employee claims mayor asked him to 'pad' hours

The 61-page report (which can be viewed at wdadvocatenews.com) details the findings made in the release. According to the report, in December 2017, the city clerk contacted the city's attorney to notify him of issues with the city maintenance employee's time sheets and concerns the mayor was using city equipment

STOCKTON REPORT continued on page 14



Hundreds attend Window Walk—The Wilton Chamber of Commerce sponsored its annual downtown Wilton Window Walk Dec. 2. Hundreds of area residents and children attended several downtown open houses and the Christmas Tree Extravaganza at the Wilton Depot during the festivities, which included a parade, lighting of the community Christmas tree, visits with Santa and hayrack rides courtesy of Nathan Sawvell. Above left, Santa is shown lighting the community tree located at the Wilton Meal Site. At right, are youngsters meet Santa and Mrs. Claus. See more Window Walk photos on page 20. Photos by Derek Sawvell and Brandy Marquez

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SPECIAL SECTIONS:



Westfair Drug will remain open during transition.

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Wilton and Durant enrollments trending in different directions

Wilton enrollment: 874
Durant enrollment: 641

By Derek Sawvell
Managing Editor, Advocate News

With holiday break right around the corner for Wilton and Durant schools, Superintendent Joe Burnett is nearing the halfway point of his first year in a sharing role within the two school districts.

In the days after the official “count day” in both Durant and Wilton, Burnett presented each school board with enrollment summaries — simple pieces of paper he calls the most important documents the board members need to see and understand. Something he calls the school’s lifeblood.

“It drives everything. Neither school had ever seen these until I presented them with it,” he said. “You have to know your finances and you have to know your future. The best way to know your future is to know your enrollment.”

In both communities, the enrollment summaries tell different stories.

Wilton enrollment on the rise

Wilton’s enrollment has steadily been rising since the 2012-2013 school year. At that time, the K-12 enrollment was 784, down significantly from a high of 1,041 in 1998-1999. “It was bleak. We lost 100 students in my first two years as superintendent,” said Burnett. “Talk about cutting your teeth.”

The district began doing what it could to “tighten its belt” as Burnett would say. The main way to do it was by consolidating and/or not filling positions when teachers would retire. Wilton also began several sharing opportunities with Durant, many of which are still active today. Elementary grades also only had two teachers/sections at that time rather than three.

In February 2014 with enrollment numbers still low, residents of Wilton voted “Yes” at a rate of 72 percent to approve a \$13.8 million bond project to build a new elementary school, shared cafeteria and baseball diamond, relocating the elementary school to the site of the junior/senior high school.

Wilton’s current K-12 enrollment is 874, up 190 students since the low of 784 six years ago. And in recent years, it’s become difficult to find houses for sale or rent in Wilton.

When the district built its new school, it did so with three classrooms for each grade. “People said we’d have empty classrooms. Now all our elementary grades are three sections,” said Burnett. “Build it, you’ll fill it.

Don’t build it, it will get worse.”

There have also been many other additions to Wilton over the past 10-15 years, including a new library/community center, retirement community/nursing home and health clinic, all located across the street from the schools. The town is also in the middle of a downtown revitalization project. Burnett has also been involved in the Wilton Development Corporation over the years.

“This is a community effort, it can’t just be the school,” said Burnett.

The result has been large kindergarten classes coming into Wilton in recent years, with six of seven grades K-6 having at least 70 students. The average number of kids in grades K-6 is 73 while in grades 7-12 it’s 60. These numbers mean Wilton will graduate (on average) smaller classes than those coming in, meaning enrollment projections are now strong.

Durant numbers going down

Durant’s K-12 enrollment for 2018-2019 is 641 students, down from 668 in 2013-2014. Small incoming kindergarten classes have been a driving factor in the decline. This year’s kindergarten class has 42 students while first grade has 40 and second grade has 35. Those three are the lowest in Durant’s 13 grades.

The average number of students in grades K-6 is 44 while the average is 57 in grades 7-12. As senior classes graduate from Durant High School in coming years, the school’s overall enrollment will decrease more. If incoming kindergarten classes continue on the trend the district has seen, enrollment could be as low as 607 by 2022.

One major factor affecting the decrease, according to Burnett, is what he referred to as the “Davenport desegregation plan,” which limits the number of students that can open enroll to outside smaller districts from Davenport schools. This means there are far less students enrolling in Durant from Walcott and other western Quad Cities area small towns than in the past.

“The department of education allows (Davenport) to do that, which I don’t agree with,” Burnett said.

Another factor is that the Bennett School District now has whole grade sharing with Tipton as well as Durant for its students. Burnett also notes that in the average 7-12 numbers, there are Bennett students mixed in. That’s not reflected in the K-6 averages, although the main issue is still small incoming kindergarten classes.

In September, residents voted down a \$10.8 million bond project in resounding fashion.

Burnett was quoted as saying he came in during the ninth inning of the project, but was able to meet far more community members early as a result. It’s unknown whether the school board will explore another project in coming years, but the district is exploring a facilities study under Burnett’s direction, a key element at the beginning of Wilton’s successful bond project four years ago.

“There’s two lines of thought,” said Burnett with regard to a bond project. “One person can look and say we need to build this so we can grow. Another can look and say ‘why build this when (enrollment is) going down?’”

Durant has an aggressive tax abatement program and is looking to add a new housing addition. It is also exploring renovating its downtown district. “Both communities are

trying to put their best foot forward. There’s no such thing as status quo. You’re moving forward or backward,” said Burnett.

Regardless of whether or not a bond project would pass and/or help Durant’s future enrollment, Burnett said he’s focused on one thing: relationships. “When you have strong relationships and you’re working toward a common goal of making things better, the sky’s the limit. We’ve established it in Wilton and it’s starting to happen in Durant. That’s not a Wilton thing, that’s a Joe Burnett thing. I don’t believe people in Durant are against improving the school or investing in it. The seeds are there. I’ve enjoyed the teachers and community members I’ve met. They’re hungry.”

Wilton Community Schools Enrollment Summary



Grade	13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17	17/18	18/19	19/20	20/21	21/22	22/23
K	61	72	75	75	71	61	71	71	71	71
1st	77	65	76	71	81	71	60	71	71	71
2nd	59	80	68	76	67	76	71	60	71	71
3rd	63	58	78	72	74	71	76	71	60	71
4th	58	60	57	77	71	74	71	76	71	60
5th	63	60	65	62	80	78	74	71	76	71
6th	57	67	59	67	61	82	76	74	71	76
7th	54	52	64	58	68	65	81	76	74	71
8th	58	57	54	60	58	68	65	81	76	74
9th	59	64	60	55	64	55	68	65	81	76
10th	68	64	63	58	56	65	55	68	65	81
11th	46	59	59	60	53	55	65	55	68	65
12th	67	49	53	54	58	53	55	64	55	68
Totals	790	807	831	845	862	874	888	903	910	926

DURANT COMMUNITY SCHOOLS STUDENT ENROLLMENT SUMMARY

GRADE	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22
							<i>*Estimated Enrollment</i>		
K	38	44	45	41	37	42	<i>*41</i>	<i>*41</i>	<i>*41</i>
1	50	42	45	50	36	40	42	<i>*41</i>	<i>*41</i>
2	45	51	41	46	53	35	40	42	<i>*41</i>
3	45	50	49	45	42	52	35	40	42
4	54	47	48	49	48	45	52	35	40
5	44	57	48	50	49	45	45	52	35
6	48	43	58	52	51	48	45	45	52
7	51	55	52	64	54	56	48	45	45
8	54	52	51	53	65	51	56	48	45
9	60	55	51	53	51	70	51	56	48
10	64	62	55	51	54	51	70	51	56
11	52	61	53	54	55	50	51	70	51
12	63	52	63	51	50	56	50	51	70
TOTAL	668	671	659	659	645	641	626	617	607

Enrollment summaries for the Wilton and Durant school districts are shown above. Students enrolled in grades K-12 are shown, with the current school year in bold. Wilton’s enrollment this year is 874 while Durant’s is 641. Wilton’s has been trending up while Durant’s is trending down.

Santa at the Wilton Public Library Dec. 8

Stop by the Wilton Public Library, 1215 Cypress St., for a special Santa Story Time and craft on Saturday, Dec. 8 from 10:30 to 11 a.m.

Wilton band concert Dec. 10



Fifth grade through 12th grade Wilton band students will present their holiday concert Monday, Dec. 10 at 7 p.m. in the Wilton High School gym. Performing ensembles will include the fifth grade band, sixth grade band, junior high band, high school band and a selection by the 8-12th grade band students. The bands are taught and conducted by Brad Miller and Pete Wyatt. The public is encouraged to attend. The Wilton junior high band is shown above preparing for the concert.

Contributed photo

Wilton - Durant Advocate News

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Official Newspaper
for Cities of
Durant, Wilton and Stockton
School Districts of
Wilton and Durant
and County of
Muscatine

The mission of the *Wilton-Durant Advocate News* is to provide information to its readers in an accurate, dependable and professional manner which reflects the uniqueness and similarities of the communities it serves.

Published by North Scott Press, Inc.
Eldridge, Iowa (563) 285-8111
William F. and Linda Z. Tubbs: Publishers
Derek Sawvell: Managing Editor
Carissa Hoekstra: Advertising Manager
Layce DeLong: Reporter/Ad Design/Office Manager
Brandy Marquez: Circulation/Office Manager
Perry Kalen: Contributing Sports Reporter
Barbara Rochholz: Contributing Reporter
Connie Brown: Contributing Reporter
Phil Roberts: Contributing Reporter

Consulting & Technical support by North Scott Press:
Charles S. Campbell, Editor; Becky Wentworth
and Cindy Crain, Circulation.

Published every Thursday. Editorial and business offices at 410 Cedar Street Wilton, Iowa, telephone 563-732-2029, with an outlet at Westfair Drug, 621 5th Street, Durant.

Periodical postage paid at the Post Office in Wilton, Iowa. Exceptional dispatch at the Post Office in Durant and Stockton, Iowa (Wilton-Durant Advocate News USPS 685-760). Postmaster: Send address changes to Wilton-Durant Advocate News, P. O. Box 40, Wilton, IA 52778.

Subscription rates: \$35 per year in Muscatine, Cedar and Scott Counties, \$39 in Iowa and Illinois, \$41 elsewhere in the continental USA and for members of the armed forces. All subscriptions expire with last issue of the month printed on the mailing label. Deadline for material/change of addresses is 3 p.m. Monday.



The Advocate News is a proud member of:

Tipton woman wins \$50,000 Iowa lottery prize



Lawaunda Williams of Tipton is shown with her \$50,000 lottery prize check.

Contributed photo

CLIVE — A Cedar County woman has won a \$50,000 lottery prize.

Lawaunda Williams of Tipton won the fourth of 12 top prizes in the Iowa Lottery's "\$50,000 Holiday Super Crossword" scratch game. She said she was in disbelief even after claiming the prize Nov. 20 at the lottery's regional office in Cedar Rapids.

"I'm still not believing it," she told lottery officials with a laugh. "It's shocking."

Williams, 41, and her fiancé, Trevor Foster, purchased a pair of scratch tickets at Casey's, 1107 Cedar St. in Tipton.

"We bought two of them and we went home," Williams said. "He scratched his, then handed me the other ticket and said, 'Good

luck.' And we had good luck there!"

She said she'd only told close family so far; wanting to make sure the big win wasn't a dream.

"It's definitely a blessing, that's for sure," Williams said. "But we haven't really told anybody because I wanted to make sure it was true."

The \$50,000 Holiday Super Crossword is a \$5 scratch game. For more information about this game, and the number of prizes still available, visit www.ialottery.com.

Cookies in the Commons

The 11th annual Cookies in the Commons will take place on Saturday, Dec. 15 from 9 a.m. until noon at the Wilton High School media center.

Assorted cookies and candy will be on hand. Stop by and take some of the stress out of your holiday season.

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Members of the Mississippi Valley Fair Board of Directors elected officers at the board's annual meeting in October. Rich Coussens of Davenport is president. Dr. Jim Berger DVM of Walcott is first vice president, and Jon Lafrenz of Eldridge is second vice president. Roger Friederichs of Walcott is treasurer. Shown left to right with Mississippi Valley Fairgrounds general manager Shawn Loter of Bettendorf (far right) are Coussens, Friederichs and Lafrenz. Berger was absent from the photo. Photo by Phil Roberts



CLUBS, ORGANIZATIONS

Wilton Hustlers 4-H Club

The regular meeting of the Wilton Hustlers 4-H Club was held Nov. 4 at Oak Tree Homes. Twenty-eight members answered roll call, "What dish would you like to create for Thanksgiving?"

Samantha Anderson and Hallee Driscoll led the Pledge of Allegiance and Aiden Hewitt led the 4-H Pledge.

New members were Draven Cole and Jarald Stranberg.

In old business: The club discussed County Council and County Awards Night.

In new business, the following were discussed: Dec. 2 Window Walk with the Christmas Committee coming up with ideas

for crafts to make during the walk.

All enrollment fees need to be paid by Nov. 15.

Family Day of Caring, where families can come together and clean up yards for senior citizens on Nov. 10.

The Beef Blast will be held on Dec. 1 at Iowa State University and this is open for 7th-12th graders.

Jessie Mach gave a presentation on cattle. Mason Nolte provided a demonstration on how to make obelisk.

The next meeting will be Dec. 5 with Angel Tree shopping and a pizza party.

Secretary Abby Brown

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<p>NEW LISTING</p> <p>1488 Vail Ave., Durant This is a great find with a custom built 2' x 6' construction, 3 bedroom, 4 bathroom home with over 4,000 finished square feet, 3 outbuildings and 1.76 acres on a PAVED ROAD that is located just off of highway 61 with an easy commute to the Quad Cities, or Muscatine. This amazing home has a huge great room for entertaining with 12' walls and a cathedral ceiling. Large kitchen with adjacent deck and generously sized bedrooms with a private deck off of the Master Bedroom. The finished lower level has a family room, game room, 3rd bedroom with private bathroom, TONS of storage and 2 Safe Rooms. A 4th Bedroom could be added if an egress window were installed. 3 outbuildings include: man cave complete with bar and covered porch great for entertaining, 36' x 52' barn and 32' x 36' storage garage.</p>	<p>901 2nd Ave., Durant This custom built home is located on a quiet street close to school with beautiful landscaping and fully fenced yard. It has 5 bedrooms; 3 full baths - Oversized 2 car garage. This open design has beautiful white cabinetry with tons of storage and huge island; Corian countertops. There is a large entertaining dining area. Family / living room with fireplace. Lower level is fully finished including entertainment area with office; 2 bedrooms and full bath. There is extra storage in lower level. This home is in pristine condition and exceptionally maintained.</p>	<p>2172 Spicer Ave., Wilton A wonderful farm homestead with 2.48 acres MOL is waiting for you that is perfect for animals with 4 outbuildings that include a separate 2 stall garage, corn crib, small machine shed and a barn with concrete inside and out for a livestock lot. This home has 2 bedrooms on the main level and 2 non conforming bedrooms in the finished lower level. Quality built home by Tri-County Builders in Durant has an abundance of features: In floor heat in the basement and garage ran by an electric boiler, brick and steel siding home, central vacuum, gorgeous 4 seasons room, an amazing amount of closets and storage, game room, family room, main level laundry and an enormous formal dining room. This is a great acreage in the Wilton School District that must be seen! (LOT ACREAGE TBD BY SURVEY AFTER OFFER ACCEPTANCE)</p>
<p>2391 Plum Ave., Wilton Wonderful one-owner 3 bedroom 4 bath ranch on almost 1 acre built in 1999. Main floor offers 2 master suite options, large open concept Kitchen/ Living/Dining room, powder room, 3 season sun room, office with laundry hookups and an additional powder room. The Walk-out lower level features 1 bedroom with attached bath, large family room, utility/workshop room, and several storage rooms. Spacious 2 stall garage features direct access to the basement. With over 1000sqft patio/ deck outdoor living, abundance of landscaping beds, you will enjoy this private country home.</p>	<p>1100 and 1102 Crestview Dr., Durant These condos qualify for the City of Durant 7 YEAR TAX ABATEMENT. Each is a brand new spacious no step 2 bedroom condo with open floor plan and everything on the main level. 12" Sound proof common wall, breakfast bar, hardwood flooring, ceramic tile, huge master with walk in closet, fireplace, cathedral ceilings, full basement with egress windows, and bathroom rough in. Great location in Paper's South Lake Addition. Seller is a licensed real estate agent. UNDER CONSTRUCTION, PHOTOS OF LIKE PROPERTY.</p>	<p>PRICE REDUCED</p> <p>1160 290th St., Tipton Relax and Enjoy Country living on this 2.8 acre property. This unique 2 bedroom brick bermed style ranch home features offers single story living, with main floor laundry and bedrooms and open concept living room and a 3 season room. The Large yard offers tons of possibilities, additionally a 13X33 steel building was completed in 2003. Only a mile outside of town. Great location for commuters to IC, Muscatine, Tipton or Quad Cities, only minutes away from the I-80. This is a must see property! Septic Tank new in 2008, Community Well (approx. \$7/ month) Neither bedroom have egress windows due to the home being built into the berm.</p>
<p>PRICE REDUCED</p> <p>1518 River St., Moscow Great open floor plan in this large 2 bedroom, 2 bathroom home with main level laundry. Completely updated in 2007 with: new windows, kitchen, bathroom, paint & floor coverings. 2009: Roof. 2 stall finished attached garage, .75 acre lot, 30'x40' shop with 10' sidewalls has plumbing in the floor for a boiler and a partially finished basement that could have 2 more bedrooms if egress windows were installed. Kitchen appliances, washer, dryer & window treatments stay, very affordable taxes.</p>	<p>PRICE REDUCED</p> <p>501 3rd St., Durant PROFESSIONALLY REMODELED FROM THE STUDS IN AND OUT! This home has been completely redone with new wiring, insulation, plumbing, drywall, doors, trim, floor coverings, kitchen with granite counter tops, bathroom, driveway, windows, siding, roof and it is all here on a corner lot in Durant. This 3 bedroom 2 bathroom home boasts an open floor plan, main level laundry and 3/4 bathroom, all new kitchen with stainless steel appliances and a generously sized living room. The second level has 2 bedrooms and a full bathroom. Inviting front entry, back porch and 1 1/2 stall garage with opener. All updates were done in 2018 including new central air. Furnace was installed by previous owner. Make sure to put this one on your list!</p>	<p>NEW LISTING</p> <p>2394 Hwy 38, Wilton 6,480 sq ft building with 1,800 sq ft living quarters. Living quarters has 3 bedrooms 3/4 bathroom, full bathroom, Lg kitchen and dining area and living room. Retail space has 2 restrooms, 12 foot side walls and is located on a highly traveled highway. Building is very visible from the road and has a variety of uses. Property is currently vacant. You could have the building for business or storage and rent the apartment to pay for it, or live here yourself with tremendous possibilities.</p>

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Welcome Neighbor

STEM Council releases 2017-18 Iowa STEM Evaluation Report

CEDAR FALLS – The Iowa Governor’s STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) Advisory Council released the 2017-2018 Iowa STEM Evaluation Report. This independent evaluation measures the STEM Council’s progress toward increasing student interest and achievement in STEM education and workforce development in Iowa.

“Engaging, relevant STEM education is changing the lives of students across Iowa,” said Gov. Kim Reynolds. “The annual STEM Evaluation Report demonstrates how STEM is transforming schools and our future workforce. With the growth of well-paying STEM jobs expected to outpace other occupations, STEM Council education programs provide teachers with the tools they need to inspire

young people from preschool through high school to prepare for STEM careers.”

Highlights of the report include:
 * In 2017, 96 percent of Iowans said STEM education should be a priority in their local school district.

* Students who participated in the STEM Scale-Up Programs, a menu of exemplary STEM programs available to teachers and students in Iowa, scored an average of two points higher in National Percentile Rank on the Iowa Assessments in mathematics and reading and three points higher in science.

* Among educators taking part in the STEM Scale-Up Program, 91 percent agreed or strongly agreed that they now have more confidence to teach STEM topics and have

increased their STEM knowledge.

* The percent of students who said they were very interested in someday working in Iowa was 45 percent of STEM Scale-Up Program participants compared to 36 percent of students statewide.

* From 2012-2013 to 2016-2017, STEM post-secondary credentials (including certificates, associate’s degrees, bachelor’s degrees and other awards) have increased 26 percent at Iowa’s four-year public universities, 20 percent at Iowa’s four-year private colleges and universities, and 2 percent at Iowa’s two-year community colleges.

* Individuals in STEM occupations earned \$27.58 in average hourly wages in 2016 and

\$57,357 in mean salaries, compared to all occupations overall earning \$20.12 in average hourly wages and \$41,843 in mean salaries.

* More than half of all Iowans (59 percent) had heard of the STEM acronym in 2017. This is an increase of 10 percent compared to 2016, and more than double compared to 2012.

“The results of this report will have a significant impact on STEM education and workforce development for years to come as it will help guide future STEM Council programming and projects in Iowa,” said Accumold President and CEO Roger Hargens, co-chair of the STEM Council.

To view the entire report, please visit <http://IowaSTEM.gov/iowa-stem-evaluation>.

Kaufmann named Government Committee chair

DES MOINES – House Speaker Linda Upmeyer (R-Clear Lake) recently announced that Rep. Bobby Kaufmann (R-Wilton) will serve as the Chairman of the House State Government Committee during the 88th General Assembly.

Kaufmann has been a member of the State Government Committee since 2017. Most recently, he served as Chairman of the

Government Oversight Committee.

“Rep. Kaufmann is a strong and capable leader who has proven himself to be a valued member of our caucus. He will do a great job leading the State Government Committee as we head into the 2019 session,” said Speaker Upmeyer.

The legislative session begins Monday, Jan. 14, 2019.



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- Personal Health Services Available Through Cedar County VNA

Winter Special

FIRST MONTH FREE

Call Mike
309-236-0021
Expires Dec., 31st

807 3rd St.,
Durant, IA

Hein Manor

Assisted-Living Retirement Home
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Community Calendar

DECEMBER

Let the Advocate News ad team help you design & promote your next event!
Give Carissa a call today at 563-732-2029!



TO DURANT HS CLASS OF '69

Save the Date, you Wildcats!

50th Reunion

FRI/20 & SAT/21 • SEPT 2019

More Details Coming!!

CLIP & SAVE

HAY & STRAW SALE

Dec. 8, Jan. 12, Feb. 9, March 9

Sale Begins Promptly at 12:00 p.m.

For info - Danny Winkelman, (563)381-3097 or (563) 508-1715. Membership in the Hay Assoc. is required to sell your hay or straw.



Hay and straw for sale must arrive by **11:00 a.m.** Hay will be sold by the bale.

CLIP & SAVE

NEW YEAR'S EVE BASH

New York Strip Meal

Meal 5-8 p.m.
Band 8:30 p.m.-12:30 a.m.
Meal Cost \$30 per person

Join us in the Mathews Building at the Cedar Co. Fairgrounds
RSVP by Dec. 22
Call 563-886-6157

Proceeds go to New Show Ring
 Sponsored by the Cedar County Cattlemen & Cedar County Fair Board.

What's For Lunch?



Wilton

(We reserve the right to change the menu at any time without notice. There will be an alternate main entree that is listed on the menu and will change from week to week. Applesauce is the second fruit. Milk, cereal, pop tarts, 100% juice, bagels, yogurt, string cheese and fruit are offered at each school for breakfast.)

Monday, Dec. 10

Breakfast: Egg omelet and toast.
Lunch: Mandarin orange chicken pepperoni pizza, celery sticks, glazed carrots, flavored rice and apple slices.

Tuesday, Dec. 11

Breakfast: Ham and frudel.
Lunch: Walking taco, pepperoni pizza, refried beans, tossed salad w/tomatoes, green beans and peaches.

Wednesday, Dec. 12

Breakfast: Sausage biscuit sandwich.
Lunch: Salisbury steak w/roll, pepperoni pizza, whipped potatoes, broccoli w/cheese and watermelon.

Thursday, Dec. 13

Breakfast: Egg patty and toast.
Lunch: Fiesta pizza, pepperoni pizza, fresh cauliflower, sliced tomatoes and mixed fruit.

Friday, Dec. 14

Breakfast: Ham and a muffin.
Lunch: Hot dog, baked beans, carrot sticks, bananas, cookies and chips.

for more information visit
<http://www.wiltoncsd.org/>

Durant

(We reserve the right to change any menu without notice. A variety of milk and juices

are served daily. Breakfast has choice of cereal, yogurt or toast, fruit and a variety of bagels with cream cheese.)

Monday, Dec. 10

Breakfast: Mini maple pancakes w/syrup and a sausage patty.
Lunch: Crispito w/cheddar cheese sauce, WG mini soft pretzel w/cheddar cheese sauce, Cat Pack (muffin, string cheese and yogurt), steamed broccoli, shredded lettuce, cucumbers, carrots, apple slices, fruit cocktail and a carnival cookie.

Tuesday, Dec. 11

Breakfast: Bacon scramble breakfast pizza.
Lunch: Multi cheese garlic French bread pizza w/spaghetti sauce, hot dog w/bun, Cat Pack (turkey and American on a WG bun w/chocolate graham bears), green beans, lettuce salad, carrots, celery sticks, fresh oranges and diced pears.

Wednesday, Dec. 12

Breakfast: Hard boiled egg and raspberry rainbow Trix yogurt.
Lunch: Walking taco, mostaccioli with one Beacon Street cheese stuffed stick, Cat Pack (WG crackers, hard boiled egg and string cheese), corn, shredded lettuce, carrots, cowboy caviar, fresh strawberries and sliced peaches.

Thursday, Dec. 13

Breakfast: Apple frudel and a sausage patty.
Lunch: Philly cheesesteak sandwich, breaded chicken sandwich, Cat Pack (ham and American on a WG bun with goldfish crackers), tri taters, flame roasted peppers and onions, carrots, lettuce salad, cantaloupe and strawberry mango sidekicks.

Friday, Dec. 14

Breakfast: Donut Friday!
Lunch: Ham & cheese croissant, sloppy Joe w/bun, Cat Pack (PB Jamwich) baked beans, lettuce salad, carrots, onions, Mandarin oranges and fresh pear.

for more information visit
<http://www.durant.k12.ia.us/>



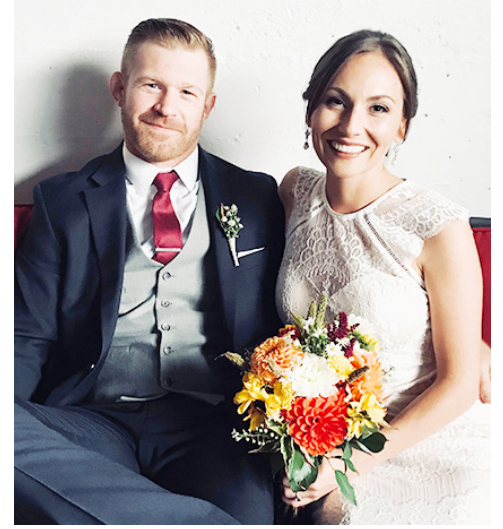
FAMILY NEWS

Harreld-Beatty wed Sept. 21 in Oregon

Michelle Katherine Harreld and Chad Carl Beatty celebrated their commitment to one another on Sept. 21 in Portland, Oregon, surrounded by family and close friends.

Chad is the son of Paul and Karen Beatty of Muscatine. He is a 2005 graduate of Wilton High School. Chad attended the University of Iowa where he was a three-time National Championship team member for the Hawkeye Wrestling Program. He graduated in 2010 with a BFA in 3D design. Chad is currently an industrial arts teacher as well as head wrestling coach at Forest Grove High School and is an active board member for the Oregon Wrestling Association's Women's Division.

Michelle is the daughter of Mark and Laura Harreld of Strawberry Point, Iowa. She is a 2006 graduate of Starmont High School. Michelle earned a bachelor's of science degree in psychology from the University of Iowa in 2010 and a master's of science degree in nutrition from the National University of Natural Medicine in Portland in 2015. Michelle currently works as a medical education clinical coordinator for the Institute for Functional Medicine and is an adjunct professor for



Portland Community College's Institute for Health Professionals.

The couple met while attending the University of Iowa and currently reside in Portland with their 10-year-old Boston-Bulldog, Jude.

Johnson joins Iowa National Guard

Pvt. FirstClass Reid L. Johnson, of Wilton, was part of more than 50 Iowa Army National Guard Soldiers recently recognized during a patching ceremony held at the Camp Dodge Joint Maneuver Training Center in Johnston, Iowa.

This ceremony represents a time-honored tradition, where Iowa Citizen-Soldiers officially receive the left-shoulder military patch representing their unit of assignment in the Iowa Army National Guard.

It also marks completion of the Iowa National Guard Recruit Sustainment Program, a preparatory training program that provides new recruits the education and skills needed to excel during their Army Basic Training and Advanced Individual Training (military school).

These Soldiers represent today's Iowa Army National Guard, which consists of 7,000 Citizen-Soldiers based in more than 40 communities across the state. Pvt. Johnson



now becomes a member of the 133rd Infantry Regiment in Dubuque.

Wellmark Foundation awards more than \$370,000 in Small MATCH grants

DES MOINES — The Wellmark Foundation has awarded 17 Iowa organizations Matching Assets to Community Health (MATCH) grants. Applicants were able to request up to \$25,000 in grant funding. To ensure community support for the grant projects, recipients were challenged to match this grant at 50 percent. Each of the grant recipients submitted projects that will help individuals, families and communities achieve better health through built environment initiatives that encourage physical activity and/or access to and consumption of nutritious foods.

"The Wellmark Foundation is proud to support organizations that have identified sustainable initiatives that provide opportunities for citizens to improve their overall well-being," said Becky Wampler Bland, The Wellmark Foundation executive director. "The longevity of these projects will continue to pay dividends years after the initial investment."

The 17 Iowa organizations that were selected to receive a 2018 Small MATCH grant include:

* City of Earlham, \$15,000 Tennis court restoration: The city of Earlham plans to restore its tennis courts, which are conveniently located in the center of town. The restoration will include resurfacing and repainting the courts while also installing new posts, nets and lights to enhance the safety and functionality of the area.

* City of Forest City, \$25,000 J Street Trail Connection: The J Street Trail Connection includes a trail extension, adding a pedestrian crosswalk and a sidewalk extension. This connection will create a safe area for pedestrians to cross Highway 69 so they can easily access community services, schools, parks and businesses.

* City of Glenwood, \$25,000 Trail and trailhead project: This project will connect Glenwood, Iowa, to Bellevue, Nebraska, and Council Bluffs, Iowa. It will create nearly 2.5 miles of paved trails with six bridges that will improve access to parks, youth athletic

facilities, the aquatic center and several area schools. The trailhead will include a safe parking area for residents to engage in school and park activities.

* City of Glenwood, \$25,000 Vine Street pickle ball courts: The city of Glenwood and the Southwest Iowa Pickle ball Committee are working to create six pickle ball courts. This project will replace the city's dilapidated 50-year-old tennis courts with well-designed, low-maintenance pickle ball courts. These new courts will provide the first opportunity for outdoor pickle ball play in Southwest Iowa.

* City of Granger, \$24,970 Trail hub and creek crossing: Through a community visioning process, Granger residents identified a need for more pedestrian and bicycle-friendly routes and facilities. As a result, the city will create a creek crossing and trail hub to connect residential neighborhoods, a sports complex, a park, an existing walking path and an elementary school for both walkers and bicyclists.

* City of Ionia, \$12,133 City park walking trail: This project will create a walking trail around the perimeter of the city park, which is comprised of nearly four acres of green space. The trail will be both pedestrian and bicycle friendly and will connect with two existing hard surfaces within the park.

* City of Lamoni, \$25,000 Recreational trail home pond spur: The city of Lamoni and the Recreational Trails Commission will develop a paved, 900-foot trail extension from the existing trail across the dam and spillway of Home Pond. The trail will provide a loop option for users and improve connectivity and safety. The extension will provide the user a panoramic view of the city of Lamoni's scenic beauty.

* City of Preston, \$25,000 Westside Park walking path: This project will create a 2,000-foot walking path that will circle around Westside Park. The new concrete walking path will be well-lit and kept clear of snow and ice for year-round use. The path is designed to provide a space for residents to safely engage

in activities that promote the health of mind, body and soul.

* City of Vinton, \$25,000 Splash pad: The Vinton Splash Pad will create a water-based play area for residents and visitors to enjoy healthy play interactions with others and their environment. The splash pad will have no admission fees and will be open to the public throughout the summer months.

* City of Wapello, \$4,200 Basketball court for Wapello's North Park: After losing an existing basketball court, the Wapello Hometown Pride Committee is working to create a new court in North Park. The basketball court will be installed by the fall and will create a safe environment for residents of all ages to use and enjoy.

* Clarke County Conservation Board, \$25,000 East Lake Trail: An 8-foot wide, concrete, multi-purpose trail connecting East Lake Park in rural Clarke County to Clarke Elementary School in Osceola will be constructed. The trail will also connect with a network of Safe Routes to School sidewalks and link multiple neighborhoods, activity centers, schools and retail establishments throughout Osceola together.

* Community Foundation of Greater Des Moines, \$25,000 Lauridsen Skate park: This project will create a state-of-the-art skate park in downtown Des Moines for all ages and abilities to enjoy. The park will provide a safe and healthy place for all to be active. As one of the largest outdoor skate parks in the Midwest, it will engage both beginners and experienced skaters.

* Des Moines County Conservation, \$25,000 Big Hollow Recreation Area natural setting playground: The Big Hollow Recreation Area is a 798-acre county park that offers many outdoor recreation opportunities including camping, hunting, boating, hiking and swimming. This project will add an

Americans with Disabilities Act-compliant playground to the park. It will include slides, swings, rock walls, and a perimeter barrier with a concrete sidewalk that safely leads to the campground.

* Friends of Garrigan High School, \$21,177 Playground improvement project: This project involves the construction and installation of new playground equipment for children between the ages of four and 12. The project is centered on the need for safe, educational, and handicap-accessible activities to stimulate movement, encourage exercise, and promote a healthy and active lifestyle for all students and residents.

* Keokuk Parks Foundation, \$25,000 Fifth Street pickle ball courts: This project will convert a deteriorating, unused tennis court into six new pickle ball courts. The city has multiple tennis courts, but no pickle ball courts. Pickle ball is a sport friendly to all ages and is rapidly growing in popularity.

* Ottumwa Community School District, \$25,000 Wilson playground project: This project will improve the quality of play for students and enrich the community with a new playground to serve the area. All existing equipment will be replaced and the park will be resurfaced with soft rubber.

* Waukon Economic Development Corporation, \$25,000 Let's Get Our Walk On, Waukon: This project supports efforts to connect existing sidewalks along high-traffic areas in Waukon to create walking loops and paths for the community. The grant will allow the city to construct one of four sidewalk connections.

Since 2011, The Wellmark Foundation has provided more than \$9 million in grant funding to communities across Iowa and South Dakota. Visit The Wellmark Foundation website to learn more about the 2019 grant opportunities, which will be posted in late December.



OBITUARIES



Twitter: @WDAAdvocateNews
Facebook: WDAAdvocateNews

Jeanne Hensen

Jeanne Laura Hensen, 84, of Palm Harbor, Florida, died on Oct. 26, 2018, due to complications of a stroke.

A celebration of life service will be held at Bentley Funeral Home in Durant on Saturday, Dec. 8 at 11 a.m. One hour of visitation will be held prior to the service.

Memorial donations may be made to the Walcott Church, Walcott Legion, or to the Palm Harbor United Methodist Church in Palm Harbor in her memory.

Jeanne was born on Nov. 25, 1933 in Stockton to Donald and Clara Mordhorst.

She was raised in the Durant, Stockton and Walcott areas, and was a 1951 graduate of Davenport Central High School. Upon graduation, she worked at Walcott Bank. On Feb. 2, 1957 she was united in marriage to Jerry Hensen in Davenport. They made their home in Walcott for 30 years.

After her children were born, Jeanne worked as the city clerk for Walcott for 18 years and then went to work for Hensen's Insurance Agency in 1978 until they retired in 1987. They retired to Palm Harbor.

While living in Walcott, they were members of Calvary United Methodist Church in Walcott. After moving to Florida, Jeanne became a member of the Palm Harbor United

Jeanne Hensen



Methodist Church, where she volunteered a couple of days a week. She also volunteered to sit at polling sites. Jeanne loved to play dominoes, cards, golf and Words With Friends. She enjoyed doing cross-stitch and crossword puzzles.

Jeanne is survived by her husband Jerry; her daughters: Jodi Grunwald (Steve Herlica) of Greensboro, North Carolina and Jane (Curt) Christopher of Urbandale; four grandchildren: Brandon and Cara Grunwald of Greensboro and Kevin and Hope Christopher of Urbandale; two sisters: Donna Davison and Sally Mordhorst, both of Walcott; and several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents and a brother-in-law, Burt Davison.

Ronald Rath

Ronald W. Rath, 66, of Wilton, died on Thursday, Nov. 29, 2018 at his home.

Private family inurnment will be held at the Rock Island National Cemetery with full military honors.

Memorial contributions may be made to The Wall that Heals, the traveling Vietnam memorial.

Ronald was born in Davenport on Oct. 12, 1952 to Bernhart and Etta (Gage) Rath.

Ron retired from the U.S. Army after 20 years of service.

Ron is survived by his daughter Stephanie (Terry) Benway of Moscow, two grandchildren and several nieces and nephews.

Preceding him in death are his parents, three sisters and three brothers.

David Thomsen

David V. Thomsen, 59, of rural Moscow, died of an apparent heart attack on Saturday, Dec. 1, 2018 at his home.

Following David's wishes he was cremated and a celebration of life will be held at a future date.

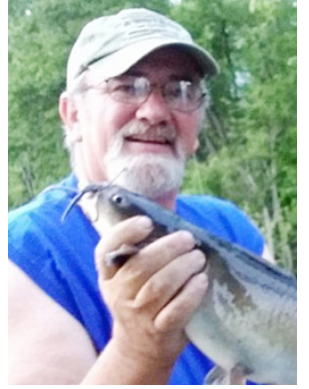
A memorial fund in his memory has been established. Online condolences may be shared at www.fryfuneralhome.com.

David was the son Thomas Thorvald and Barbara Jean Chapman Thomsen. He was born on Dec. 9, 1958 in Muscatine. David was a 1976 graduate from Tipton High School.

David was united in marriage to Leigh Ann Capshaw on June 23, 2005 in Tipton. David was a process engineer and machine operator for Lewis Industries in Muscatine. David loved to hunt and fish and be outdoors. He died suddenly after returning from doing what he loved, hunting deer.

David is survived by his wife, Leigh Ann Thomsen of Moscow; daughters: Nikki Thomsen (Troy Harsh) of Des Moines and Beth Thomsen of Wilton; stepsons: Jimmy Sell

David Thomsen



(Lynn Lackey) of Muscatine and Jeff (Amy) Sell of Muscatine; sisters, Jeanne (Bill) Ely of Mulberry, Florida, Marie (Larry) McLeod of Central City, Iowa, Penny Werling of Atalissa and Joleen (Ray) McGee of Newton; brothers: Richard (Connie) Thomsen of Columbus City and John (Jacie) Thomsen of Rochester; four grandchildren: Ryan Miller, Jake Sell, Whitney Sell and Katelynn Sell; two great-grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews.

David was preceded in death by his parents.

Sharon Heesch

Sharon K. Heesch, 76, of Bettendorf, formerly a longtime resident of Davenport, passed away suddenly and unexpectedly on Wednesday, Nov. 28, 2018 at Palmer Hills Senior Living, Bettendorf.

Visitation was held on Monday, Dec. 3 from 5 p.m. until 7 p.m. at Halligan-McCabe-DeVries Funeral Home, 614 Main Street, downtown Davenport. Funeral services were held on Tuesday, Dec. 4 at 10 a.m. the Halligan-McCabe-DeVries All Faith Chapel. Burial was held in Pine Hill Cemetery, Davenport.

Memorials may be made to the Davenport Police Department Canine Unit.

Online condolences may be left for the family at www.hmdfuneralhome.com.

Sharon Kay Toft was born April 27, 1942 in Davenport to Evald V. and E. Ruth (Avery) Toft. She was a 1960 graduate of Durant High School and, while employed as bookkeeper at Wilson Chevrolet in Durant, also attended classes until graduating from Marycrest College in 1971 with a BA in business education. She taught at Clinton High School and West High School in Davenport, as well as Scott Community College.

Sharon was united in marriage to David Edward Heesch on March 29, 1975 at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Durant. DPD Captain David Heesch preceded her in death on Aug. 13, 2009.

Sharon Heesch



She enjoyed music and singing with the Sweet Adelines, serving as a member and an officer in the Daughters of the American Revolution, researching genealogy, raising German Shepherds, spending time with family and friends, watching the cardinals outside and completing crosswords and puzzles.

Survivors include her brother, Brian (Darlene) Toft, Davenport; sisters, Barbara (Don) Klaessy, Peoria, Arizona, Judith (Terry) Dell, Camanche and Debra Toft, Bettendorf; brothers-in-law, Roger Heesch, Kingman, Arizona and Craig (Jane) Heesch, Bettendorf; and several nieces and nephews, including Kimberly (Doug) Fee and Kevin (Lisa) Toft, all of Davenport.

She was preceded in death by her husband and parents.

Custom obituary

Grieving Your Spouse meeting Dec. 12

Grieving Your Spouse is a professionally led ongoing support group for people whose spouse or significant other has died in the last two years. The group is set up to help the grieving partner reconcile the loss. In the group, we not only learn from others who are also grieving but also have an opportunity to process our own grief. This is also a great opportunity

to network with others who understand what you are going through.

This group meets on the second and fourth Wednesday each month from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at the Iowa City Hospice offices at 1025 Wade Street, Iowa City.

To RSVP or for more information call 319-351-5665 or email info@iowacityhospice.org.

Worship Directory

AREA

Calvary United Methodist, Walcott
Rev. Allen Coffin • www.walcottchurch.org
9 a.m. Sunday School
10 a.m. Praise and Worship Service with Coffee Fellowship to follow

Cedar Valley Church, West Liberty Area
Pastor Mary • 563-320-0501
South of West Liberty on F70
5:30 p.m. Sundays - Free Dinner, Worship & Discussion at Living Faith Service

Church of Christ, Atalissa
Pastor Karl Roberts • (563) 649-2220
8:30-9:15 a.m. Sunday School
9:30-10:45 a.m. Morning Worship Service
10:15-10:45 a.m. Junior Church

Moscow United Methodist Church
Jon Gimmy, Pastor • (319) 351-1877
1st, 3rd & 5th Sundays: 10 a.m. Worship

Peace Church of Christ United, UCC
www.peacechurchofchristunited.com
414 Maple St., Bennett
Pastor Scott Meyer • 563-893-2565
Office hours: 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Wed-Fri
9 a.m. Sunday School
10:15 a.m. Worship
11:15 a.m. Fellowship

St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Bennett
260 E. 4th St. • 563-890-6619
Pastor Bill Traphagan
7:15 a.m. Bible Class
8:30 a.m. Church Service, followed by Sunday School

Trinity United Church of Christ, Rural Moscow • Pastor Jon M. Merritt
8 a.m. Sunday School 1st & 3rd Sundays
9 a.m. Worship every Sunday

Zion Lutheran, ELCA, Atalissa
(563) 649-3343
10:30 a.m. Worship

DURANT

Gloria Dei Lutheran, ELCA
Nate Montover, Pastor • 785-4936
606 4th Ave., Durant
9 a.m. Worship
Mon. 6:30-7:30 p.m. Adult Bible School
Wed. 5:30-6:30 p.m. Kids' Bible School
Wed. 8 a.m. Confirmation (7th-8th Grade)

St. David's Anglican Church
Fr. Peter Vaughn, Pastor
peterrvaughn@gmail.com • 309-798-8376
801 5th St., Durant • 563-785-4916
www.stdavidsdurant.info
9:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist & Sun. School
10:45 a.m. Fellowship & Refreshments
Youth interested in taking part in WyldLife or YoungLife should call 563-785-4916.

St. Paul's Episcopal
Rev. Dr. Alice Haugen, Pastor
website: stpaulsdurant.org
9 a.m. Sunday Worship w/Eucharist
Children's service, 2nd Sunday
Healing service, 3rd Sunday

WILTON

First Presbyterian Church
Rev. Jennifer Jennings, Pastor • 732-2258
213 W. 5th St., Wilton • fpcfowilton.org
email: fpcpastor@netwtc.net or fpcsec@netwtc.net
9 a.m. Sunday School
10:15 a.m. Worship

Grace United Church of Christ
Pastor Patrick Slessor
www.graceuccwilton.org
9:15 a.m. Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Sunday Worship Service
Friday: 7 p.m. AA and Al-Anon.

Heartland Fellowship Church
Rev. Tim Leathers, Pastor
9:30 a.m. Children's Ministries
10:30 a.m. Adult Worship/Children's Church
Wed. 6 p.m. The Crux: Youth Ministries
Small Group Meetings throughout the week

Peace United Methodist
Jon Gimmy, Pastor
8:45 a.m. Sunday Worship.
9:45 a.m. Sunday School

Send holiday worship changes to:
adnews@netwtc.net or call 563-732-2029

Sugar Creek Presbyterian
Kerry Jennings, Pastor • 732-3199
1900 Rose Ave., Wilton
9 a.m. Sunday Worship

St. Mary's Catholic
Rev. David Steinle, Pastor
701 E. 3rd, Wilton • 732-2271
email: Steinled@diodav.org
<https://www.stmarywilton.org>
8:30 a.m. Sunday Mass
9:30 a.m. Sunday School
Tues-Fri Mass: 8 a.m.

United Methodist
Pastor Steve Braudt • 732-2084
1401 Maurer St., PO Box 57, Wilton
www.umcofwilton.org
email: umcwilt@netwtc.net
9 a.m. Sunday School
10:15 a.m. Worship

Wilton Baptist Church
Pastor Bob Danielson • 563-732-2458
203 East Railroad St., Wilton
10 a.m. Worship

Zion Lutheran, Missouri Synod
Rev. Daniel Ognoskie • 732-3651
1000 Maurer St., Wilton
9 a.m. Divine Service
10:15 a.m. Bible Study/Sunday School
Dec. 5, Dec. 12, Dec. 19
5:45 p.m. Advent Dinner
7 p.m. Advent Service





OPINION



Twitter: @WDAAdvocateNews
Facebook: WDAAdvocateNews

Bush presidency was the first I truly remembered

The passing of President George H.W. Bush last week had me traveling down several different avenues of thought in the days that followed.

Bush served the nation as the 41st president from 1989-1993, being elected in 1988. Based on my age, he's the first president I truly remember, at least with regard to being more than a name.

Born in 1982, Ronald Reagan was the only president in my lifetime prior to Bush. However, as a very young child during Reagan's presidency, of course I knew who he was and certainly remember him as the leader of our nation. Yet I don't remember watching speeches, reading about him or retaining information.

Of course Bush was vice president at that time but I was oblivious to that as a young child.

I know more about him now than I ever did then. The Bush presidency is the first that really

started getting committed to memory with me. He also had deep sports ties so I also knew his family's affiliation with the Texas Rangers and have loved reading in recent days about his time at Yale after World War II and his playing in the first two baseball college world series.

We received a great letter to the editor this week from Mark Patton (see on this page), so I'll defer to him to further talk about his character and impact on us as Americans.

To stick with my lifeline in the world of politics, Bush was the only one-term president in my lifetime, meaning that there haven't been many in the 36 years I've been alive. I admired his wonderful temperament over the past 10-15 years or so and will miss that in this ever politicized world we are currently living in.

Case in Point

By Derek Sawvell



Follow @SawvellAN



Another curve ball given to newspapers this week is that President Trump declared Dec. 5 a day of mourning in the wake of Bush's death. This caused the closing of most government agencies for the day, including most operations within the U.S. Postal Service.

You may have experienced delays in getting your paper this week. We apologize for that but when most weeklies are dated for Thursdays and print Tuesdays in order to hit the mail stream Wednesdays, you can understand the predicament we found ourselves in this week —

for all the right reasons.

Window walk—We want to thank all who visited our AN office during the Wilton Chamber of Commerce's annual Window Walk Dec. 2. As usual, I think it was safe to say all had fun, as visitors have grown accustomed to gratifying their sweet tooth upon coming to our office.

We rolled out a new homemade hot chocolate recipe this year. I have to thank my mother Tami for that, along with all the treats she makes annually, and preparing several different meats and cheeses.

She also donated and decorated the ornaments and Christmas tree in our office. Layce DeLong from our staff helped her with decorating the tree.

Our staff has also helped give the Window Walk a great shot in the arm the past two years

with their crafty and innovative ideas. With our own Carissa Hoekstra and Brandy Marquez being on the planning committee, they've helped implement fun events for all ages.

For the second year in a row there was a scavenger hunt for children. This year it was finding the pieces to make a rainbow wreath. There was a gingerbread house theme for windows this season. With a more publicized central theme, it has resulted in more downtown businesses getting involved in window prep, much like in years past.

There was a candy cane challenge for downtown businesses as well this year and, perhaps my favorite addition, businesses and/or community members were able to "adopt" downtown poles to decorate.

How neat was it to see several decorated light poles in downtown Wilton? It was a result of a wonderful brainstorm by Brandy Marquez on our staff and boy was it a hit. Something tells me we're in for many more next year!

It was a strange weather night, as Mother Nature couldn't decide if it wanted to rain or not. There was a bit of a drizzle. However, as I told several folks, we could have been dealing with a foot of snow.

For the first time in the many years my family has been attending, my father Stan was counting heads as they came through our doors. He stopped around 250 and that was long before the event was over. I feel it's safe to say we had more than 300 visit us this year. We thank all who spent some time with us and are already looking forward to next year.

Bush 'a gentleman and public servant'

Editor:

George Herbert Walker Bush's passing reminded me that he challenged us to be a kinder and gentler nation. What a positive and poignant reminder on how we should strive to improve ourselves and our country.

While few would say he was without shortcomings, President Bush never stopped trying to understand what was needed for the greater good and to actively work across the aisle to get legislation that worked for all.

President Bush helped put into place the Americans With Disabilities Act, enabling those who are physically handicapped access to public places. Curb cuts, wider doorways and construction of handicap accessible ramps resulted in much greater independence for

those confined to wheelchairs.

President Bush also pushed for the Clean Air Act, relieving many urban areas of smog, the fouled air they had to breathe daily. Sulfur dioxide pollution came down 67 percent since the passage of the Act. He recognized coal as a major man-made polluter of air and water by putting into place a "cap and trade" market device, against the advice from some of his political advisers.

He was a gentleman and a public servant, an ideal we could all strive to emulate. His life is a reminder of what a civil political life can and should be.

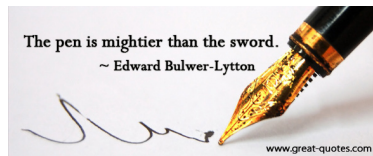
Mark Patton
Wilton

Advocate News letter to the editor policy

The Advocate News welcomes letters to the editor. Letters have a 400-word limit and will run at the editor's discretion. The author's name and address must be included, along with a phone number for verification. Writers are limited to one letter per month. Letters and/or questions may be directed to AN Editor Derek Sawvell, dsawvell@netwtc.net or 563-732-2029. Email is preferred. They may also be mailed to:

Letters to the editor
Advocate News
PO Box 40
Wilton, IA 52778

The pen is mightier than the sword.
~ Edward Bulwer-Lytton



WTC Communications recently collected items to deliver to the Durant-Wilton Food Pantry. Pictured above with boxes of food and other items to donate include (from left) Paula Grings, Stacie Harris, Deanna Marks and Julia Peterson. Contributed photo

One of the few hooked on fruitcakes

This column contains everything you ever wanted to know – or perhaps never wanted to know – about fruitcakes. And when I say fruitcakes, I'm talking about those cakes that contain dried fruit and nuts and are prevalent this time of year.

I'm not talking about your eccentric uncle or some other wacky member of your family.

What prompted this discussion was an article in the Nov. 7 *North Scott Press* noting that Camp Courageous is in its 30th year of selling one-pound fruitcakes that do not contain citron, a fruit similar to lemons, or alcohol for \$10 each.

They're being sold through December at 20 locations across Iowa, including Home Hardware in Davenport.

I got hooked on fruitcakes in my early teens. My mother's good friend baked them every year and handed them out. They contained rum.

For some reason, fruitcakes have long been maligned by comedians and others.

Here are some examples:

• "The worst gift is a fruitcake. There is only one fruitcake in the entire world, and people keep sending it to each other." — Johnny Carson

• "The easiest way to make a fruitcake is to buy a darkish cake, then pound some old, hard fruit into it with a mallet. Be sure to wear safety glasses." — Dave Barry

• "Have you ever known anyone who bought a fruitcake for himself? Of course not. They are purchased as Christmas gifts, mostly for people you don't particularly like." — Phyllis Diller

• "Political advice is a bit like your average Christmas fruitcake: something everyone gives and no one wants." — Bob Dole

Laugh if you will, but I like fruitcakes, rum or no rum.

It would be nice if you bought one or more fruitcakes this month to support Camp Courageous. Give them to either friends or enemies. For those who don't want them, I'm told fruitcakes make nice doorstops.

Everyday People

By Phil Roberts



KIB to award five \$1,000 scholarships

Keep Iowa Beautiful (KIB) will award five \$1,000 scholarships to Iowa high school seniors in 2019. Four scholarships will be awarded to students who plan to enroll in an Iowa college or university to study environmental science, community development, landscape architecture or architecture (historical emphasis) or community planning and sustainability are eligible to apply.

A fifth scholarship will be awarded to a senior planning on studying communications, public relations and/or marketing. This scholarship is in honor of William J. Fultz, long time KIB founding Board member and artist. Bill served as Chairman of CMF&Z that was acquired by Young & Rubicam and became the largest agricultural advertising agency in the world.

"KIB seeks to foster positive values in younger generations and reinforce them in older generations. We encourage respect for home, neighborhood, community and state,"

said Gerry Schnepf, KIB Executive Director. "KIB serves as a key resource for educating youth on the importance of environmental stewardship and community betterment."

Through the leadership of Bob Byers, KIB's Litter-Free School Campus program was initiated in northwest Iowa in 2003. In memory of Byer's dedication to young people and environmental concerns, KIB and the Byers family established the Byers Environmental Scholarship Fund in 2009. "My dad recognized from the beginning that Keep Iowa Beautiful encourages youthful idealism and fosters service to community. This scholarship program is a great tribute to him," said Jay Byers.

For more information or to apply on-line go to www.keepiowabeautiful.com/grants/byers. Applications are due Jan. 4, 2019 with notification in March. All award recipients will be invited to a ceremony in the Governor's Office in Des Moines in March or April.

Wilton-Durant Advocate News

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Wilton girls remain undefeated after big RVC road wins



Wilton's **Aubrey Putman** (right) fights for post position in road action at Regina Nov. 30. Putman had 12 points as the Beavers defeated the 2A No. 12 Regals 42-34.

Photo by Derek Sawvell

By Derek Sawvell
Managing Editor, Advocate News

The Wilton girls' basketball team had a big week, defeating both Camanche and Regina on the road. It was the first time the Beavers had beaten Camanche since the Indians entered the River Valley Conference. And the win at Regina was the first win over the Regals in the careers of Wilton's senior class.



Girls Basketball

In the process, the Beavers moved their record to 3-0. "Their goal is to get to the top of our conference. To do that you have to beat Camanche and Regina on the road," said head coach Jeremy Putman.

Wilton 58, Camanche 43

The Beavers traveled to Camanche Nov. 27 and a slow start found them in a hole they'd use quarters two and three to climb out of.

The host Indians used a 19-point first quarter to build a double-digit 19-7 lead. Wilton responded with 22 second quarter points to take a 29-27 lead to the break.

The Beavers built on the lead in the third quarter, outscoring the Indians 12-4 and overall 34-12 in the middle quarters.

Wilton was up 10 heading to the fourth and kept the intensity down the stretch, pulling away to a 58-43 win.

"We played really great in the second half. Our defensive rebounding was great," said coach Putman.

Emily Lange led Wilton with 21 points and 12 rebounds for a double-double. Aubrey Putman also had a double-double with 15 points and 11 rebounds. Kortney Drake filled the stat sheet with 10 points, nine rebounds, four assists and two steals. Linsey Ford led the team with four steals.

Wilton 42, Regina 34

The Beavers were on the road again Nov. 30 at Regina, where they won a grind out game

against the Class 2A No. 12 Regals 42-34.

Regina was without Alex Wiese, who sat out with a knee injury. Wilton turned its defensive focus to Kennedy Wallace who, despite leading Regina with 15 points, was shadowed much of the night defensively by Kortney Drake.

Both teams played soft 3-2 zone defenses most of the night and Regina keyed on Lange and Kortney Drake defensively, constantly sagging off the other Wilton players on the court, daring them to shoot.

Aubrey Putman picked up a bit of the offensive slack, starting with a three to open the game. Regina led 8-7 after a quarter of play as both teams were missing shots while trying to figure out the defenses.

Drake hit a three midway through the second and Lange scored the final four points to send Wilton to the locker room with a 19-17 lead at the break.

After the break, coach Putman urged his team to play its offensive sets closer to the rim, resulting in an 8-1 run Wilton used to create a cushion for the rest of the game.

Drake hit a three to start the third and Putman followed with a three-point play. Drake hit another three and Wilton (4-0) had built an 11-point lead 32-21. Regina responded with a 7-0 lead to cut the lead to 32-28 heading to the final period.

Linsey Ford picked up her defensive intensity in the fourth quarter, creating havoc for Regina's guards. She also made four free throws down the stretch to help Wilton to a 40-32 lead and eventually a 42-34 win.

Drake led the way with 15 points while Putman added 12 points, four steals and two blocks. Lange had a frustrating night from the field, scoring eight points on 4-19 shooting.

"We shot terrible. Their defense dictated how we played," said coach Putman. "They didn't even guard our other girls, they just let them shoot jump shots, which made it tougher for us to get the ball inside. Luckily our defensive showed up big tonight, especially Linsey Ford at the top of the key."

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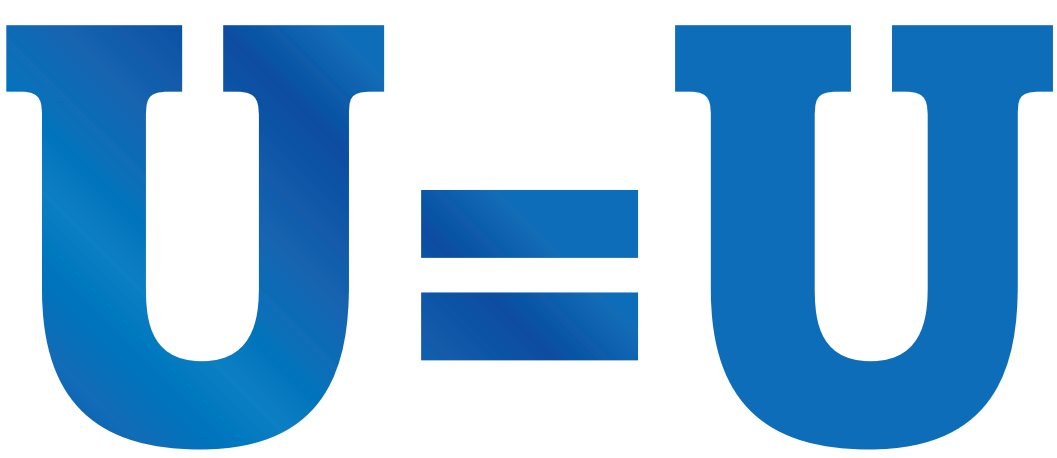
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BACKYARD CHALLENGE

Durant hosted Wilton for Backyard Challenge basketball action Dec. 4. Results were not available by press time. Watch next week for coverage.

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Source: <https://www.cdc.gov/hiv/risk/art/index.html>



#UequalsU



Wrestlers hit the mats



Members of the Wilton wrestling team celebrate a win by **Zach Rubendall** (center) at 285 pounds in a season opening dual in North Cedar Nov. 29. Photo by Derek Sawvell

By Derek Sawvell
Managing Editor, Advocate News

The 2018-2019 wrestling season is going to be a bit more interesting for the Wilton wrestling team. After several successful seasons, including a record setting season with 29 wins and just four losses last year, the Beavers began the winter schedule with six open weights listed on the lineup in opening dual action at North Cedar Nov. 29.

In a triangular with River Valley Conference schools North Cedar and Northeast, Wilton was open at four weight classes but picked up two victories. Head coach Gabe Boorn stressed that it may take more strategy this season when preparing for meets.

The Durant wrestling team is trending in the right direction, with five wrestlers in the lineup during opening quadrangular action at Anamosa Nov. 29. While the Wildcats were open at nine weights, the five wrestlers on the mat is a vast improvement from last season's lineup that typically had no more than two or three wrestlers competing in varsity meets.

Wilton sweeps triangular

The Beavers picked up their first win of 2018 in North Cedar Nov. 29 with a 54-18 win over Northeast. The Rebels were dealing with open weight classes of their own, as the dual featured just three contested matches.

Trey Sulzberger (145 pounds) and Zach Rubendall (285 pounds) each picked up pins for the Beavers while Jacob Creamer (182 pounds) got pinned in his first mat action after swimming earlier in his high school career.

Wilton picked up seven forfeits en route to the 54-18 win.

The Beavers had to come from behind to defeat host North Cedar 35-27. After picking up a forfeit at 152 pounds with Cory Anderson, Wilton then lost the next four classes (after two open weights), including a 4-1 loss at 220 pounds by Coy Baker and a loss by fall at 285 by Calib Lilly.

Down 21-6, Wilton rallied to win six of the final seven weight classes, including a tech fall at 113 by Kael Brisker and a fall by Colton

Cruse at 132 to get to the final match up 32-27. Trey Sulzberger won an 11-6 decision to seal the 35-27 win for Wilton.

Durant drops three at Anamosa

The Durant wrestling team will again focus on individual matches this season as the Wildcats began 2018 fielding five of 14 weights in a River Valley Conference quadrangular at Anamosa Nov. 29.

The Cats were defeated 63-16 by Anamosa, 72-12 by Camanche and 48-22 by Monticello.

Ethan Gast was 3-0 on the night at 113 pounds for Durant with two falls and a 12-1 major decision against Monticello's Dylan Bowser.

Against host Anamosa, Durant's other wins came at 126 pounds as Nathan Moomey won by major decision 13-1 and at 132 with a fall from Kenny Salemi. Moomey also picked up a forfeit against Camanche and a fall in the Monticello dual to also finish 3-0 on the night for the Cats.

Tysen McKinley (145 pounds) and Cameron Ruggiero (160 pounds) each picked up falls in the Monticello dual.

Teams compete at Wapello

Durant and Wilton both traveled to Wapello Dec. 1 for the annual Willard Howell Invitational.

Wilton finished sixth in the team standings with 86 points. Mount Pleasant won with 165 points.

Brisker (106 pounds) and Cruse (126 pounds) each won titles at their respective weight classes. Brisker was 3-0 on the day and won in the finals by major decision 15-7 over Mount Pleasant's Corbin Broeker. Cruse was also 3-0 on the day and won the title with a fall over Mount Pleasant's Dalton Moyle.

After opening the week wrestling at 152 pounds, Cory Anderson had cut to 145 by the weekend and finished third in Wapello. He fell by fall in the semis to Nathan Wallace of Mount Pleasant but won his way back to third with two falls in consolation.

Calib Lilly also wrestled to third at 220 pounds. He lost in the semis by fall to Mount

Durant boys run into hot Bears team

By Derek Sawvell
Managing Editor, Advocate News

West Branch 77, Durant 52

After a 13-10 campaign last season that ended in District play at Camanche, head coach Matt Straube's Durant boys' basketball team returns much of its production for the 2018-2019 season.



Boys Basketball

Junior Joe Lilienthal will work the post and senior Will Iossi will also get post touches. Seniors Bryce Lafrenz and Zac Badtram, and juniors Marcus Engstler and Brendan Paper, will play the wing positions. Guard play will come from seniors Easton Botkins, Jack Voss and Mason Compton, along with juniors Drew DeLong and Jake Willkomm.

With Botkins out of the lineup for the opening game of the season Nov. 27, Durant traveled to West Branch, where the host Bears were hot in the River Valley Conference opener. The Bears shot 56 percent (29-52) including 9-20 from three in a 77-52 win.

Beau Cornwell led the way for West Branch with 23 points, nine rebounds and eight assists.

The Wildcats (1-1) started in a 2-3 zone and Cornwell hit two threes to start the game. After a third West Branch three, Durant began playing man-to-man. Down double digits, the Cats got back-to-back threes from Lafrenz and Compton to get back into the game. A fast-paced first quarter ended with the Bears on top 25-18.

Joe Lilienthal picked up his second foul early in the second and the Bears went on a 9-2 run to open the period and ended with a 13-0 run to push the halftime lead to 49-24.

Durant didn't get its first second half bucket until there was 4:23 left in the third as West Branch continued to shoot well, rebound and push the lead. Durant was down 30 (65-35) entering the fourth and the Bears finished the game with a 77-52 win.

Lilienthal led Durant with 15 points while Compton added 11 and DeLong had 10.

Pleasant's Zach Beason but won in the consolation semis and won an 8-2 decision in the third place match over Mediapolis' Keegan Akers.

Gast turned in the best performance for Durant with a 2-1 record and third place finish at 113 pounds. He lost in the semis by fall to Matthew Lewis of Centerville before winning by fall in the third place match over Carson Coleman of Mount Pleasant.

At 160 pounds, Ruggiero lost for the second time in a week to Baylor Crigger of Camanche in the semifinals. He then lost a 5-4 decision in the consolation semis to Highland's Jordan Sosa before winning the fifth place match by fall over Davenport West's Dylan Tomlinson.

The Wildcats finished 12th with 34 team points.

"Joe was really outstanding offensively but he and the rest of the team were not close to where we need to be defensively," said coach Straube. "Our on and off ball defense was really bad, and our rebounding was worse. Can't give up double-digit offensive rebounds to anyone, especially a team that was shooting that well. We will emphasize defense and rebounding going forward and hopefully see improvement in those areas."



Durant's **Marcus Engstler** puts up a shot in the lane in road action at West Branch in the season opener Nov. 27.

Photo by Derek Sawvell

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Wilton basketball opens with tough RVC road tests

By Derek Sawvell
Managing Editor, Advocate News

The Wilton boys' basketball team enters the 2018-2019 season in the midst of a rebuild, starting at the head coaching position as Erik Grunder has taken the reigns from former longtime coach Mark Patterson.

Grunder has had coaching experience in several sports but heading this year's boys' squad will be his first ever varsity head coaching experience.



Boys Basketball

Wilton has had a 3-40 collective record over the past two seasons, including just one win last year. Grunder said he's teaching a new offensive set to the Beavers and he'll look often to play a 2-3 zone defensively.

"I like a hard 2-3 zone where you make guys settle for jump shots. Offensively we've got more of a motion style. I'd love to have our guys look for good shots and move off screens. This group is responding to my expectations: hard work, defense and hustle."

The Beavers came out of the gate with

two tough road tests last week in losses to Camanche and Regina, two of the better teams in the River Valley Conference in recent years.

Camanche 78, Wilton 37

The Beavers found themselves in a huge hole early and never got out in a 78-37 road loss at Camanche Nov. 27. The host Indians began the game on a 25-6 run and never looked back.

Camanche had coasted to a 51-17 lead by halftime en route to the 41-point victory. The Indians were led by junior Cameron Soenksen, who had a game-high 32 points, including eight threes.

Senior Jared Townsend led Wilton with 19 points, including 11-11 from the free-throw line. He also had nine rebounds. Ashton Stoelk had eight points and seven rebounds.

Regina 67, Wilton 32

The Beavers were on the road again Nov. 30 and made just 13 shots in a 67-32 loss to River Valley Conference South foe Regina.

Wilton slowed the pace early, trailing 5-2 midway through the first quarter. The Regals

ended the period on an 8-0 run to lead 13-2.

In the second, Townsend hit a shot and Brock Hartley followed with a three off the glass. Later in the quarter, Wilton used a 6-1 run to cut the Regal lead to 22-13. Coach Grunder took a timeout.

"The game plan was to play four tough minutes to start then call a timeout, then play four more tough minutes at the end of the first quarter," said Grunder. "We made a run to get down nine then took a timeout to refocus. I told the guys if we hit another shot we could go to half down single digits."

Instead the Regals came out of the timeout with a quick 10-0 run to end the half with a 32-13 lead.

"The game started going fast and we got a little flustered. We couldn't slow it back down," said Grunder.

Regina used another 11-0 run in the third to push the lead to 45-19 en route to the 67-32 win.

Townsend had 12 points and 11 rebounds for a double-double. Stoelk added nine points and eight rebounds. Wilton is 1-2 on the season after a win Monday night against L-M.



Wilton's Isaac Hunter is shown attempting a shot in the lane at Regina Nov. 30.

Photo by Derek Sawvell



Wilton senior Kortney Drake recently signed a letter of intent to play college basketball at Kirkwood Community College. The ambidexterous ball handler will look to work her way into the Kirkwood rotation while getting her collegiate general education studies out of the way. Kortney went on a visit and said she loved the team's style of play. "I felt like I fit in with their style, full court man defense and up-tempo offense," she said. Pictured above at the signing Nov. 29 are (seated) Kortney Drake with her parents Melanie and Reggie Drake and sister Kelsey Drake; back row, Wilton Activities Director Marc Snavely, Kortney's grandparents Nancy and Don Drake and Wilton girls' basketball coach Jeremy Putman.

Photo by Derek Sawvell

Pressure getting to Cats early

By Derek Sawvell
Managing Editor, Advocate News

West Branch 76, Durant 43

The Durant girls' basketball team traveled to West Branch Nov. 27 and had a tough time dealing with the full-court pressure of the host Bears in a 76-43 defeat.

Down 12-2 early, the Wildcats clawed back into the game at the end of the first quarter with a 6-0 run fueled by two straight buckets from Kamryn Meyer to cut the lead to 12-8.



Girls Basketball

A few minutes into the second quarter, Durant had pulled to within two (16-14) and freshman Ally Happ was brought into the game. She insisted on guarding West Branch guard Sasha Koenig, who proceeded to hit a three as Happ was called for a foul on the play. Koenig converted the 4-point play and the Bears were off to the races, scoring 25 points in the period to lead 37-24 at halftime.

"I had (Ally) guard her," said Durant head coach Ross DeLong. "We had some foul trouble and I only had Ally for two quarters. We were deliberate early and slowed the pace. Eventually the flood gates opened and they got a lot of steals on their press. That's how the season's gone so far. We have one bad spot and then it snowballs."

The Bears doubled up the Cats in the third 20-10 to push the lead to 57-34 as the full-court press continued to force Durant into turnovers. West Branch had 25 steals in the game and Koenig led all scores with 31 points. Taya Young added 23.

Kamryn Meyer led Durant with 18 points, eight rebounds and three blocks. Hannah Happ scored nine points.

West Liberty 73, Durant 51

The Wildcats were back on the road Nov. 30 at West Liberty, where they got in an early hole and couldn't get out in a 73-51 loss.

The host Comets scored 20 first quarter points and had a 20-7 advantage.

Durant got into the swing of the game, losing the middle quarters just 34-30 but the Comet lead continued to grow marginally en route to the 73-51 win.

"West Liberty's guards put a lot of pressure on our guards and caused a lot of turnovers," said DeLong. "Our energy level was bad and West Liberty was ready to play ... We just got off to a bad start."

Annie Taylor and Hannah Happ each had 13 points to lead Durant. Meyer added eight points and 11 rebounds.

Sailor Hall led West Liberty with 23 points while Macy Akers added 17.

The Cats fell to 0-3, with all losses coming in River Valley Conference South play.



Durant's Jordyn Ostrand attempts a shot over a West Branch defender Nov. 27.

Photo by Derek Sawvell

Cedar County New Year's Eve bash

The Cedar County Cattlemen and Cedar County Fair Board are planning a New Year's Eve bash featuring a New York strip meal in the Mathews Building at the Cedar County Fairgrounds.

The meal will be served from 5 until 8 p.m.

on Monday, Dec. 31 with the band beginning at 8:30 p.m. and playing until 12:30 a.m.

RSVP by Dec. 22 by calling 886-6157. Cost is \$30 per person. Proceeds will benefit the new show ring.

Milestones announces emergency wish list

Milestones Area Agency on Aging will be collecting for the older adults they serve in a 17-county region to help re-stock its emergency supply closet.

Wish list items include: all-purpose cleaner, glass cleaner, laundry detergent, dish soap, dish towels, sponges, brooms, dust pans, toilet paper, shampoo and conditioner, toothpaste and toothbrushes, towels, soap, wash cloths

and much needed gift cards from Walmart, Target, Aldi, Hy-Vee and Walgreens.

You may drop off needed items to any Milestones office locations in Davenport, Burlington or Ottumwa.

For more information on needed items contact, Cheryl Badolato, elder rights specialist, at 563-484-3105 or cbadolato@milestonesaaa.org.

Stockton city officials accused of holding private meetings

STOCKTON REPORT
continued from page 1

for his personal use. The Muscatine County Sheriff's Office and the Office of Auditor of State were subsequently notified of these issues.

According to the information provided to the city attorney, the maintenance employee, Robert Russell, told members of the city council he had been padding his hours and then would turn around and pay the mayor (Baker) for work the mayor had helped him with. He also stated he had been told to pad his hours by the mayor since the mayor could not be paid by the city for the work he was performing. Russell recorded 102.5 hours that he claimed he did not work but was paid for.

Russell submitted his resignation noting he would resign during the period Dec. 15, 2017 to Jan. 11, 2018. The report stated his resignation letter indicated he was resigning because of "constant harassment from the mayor." Russell's last day of employment was Dec. 25, 2017.

As a result of a written statement by Russell, it was found that \$1,435.00 of improper payroll checks had been issued to him. An additional \$237.93 was spent for the city's share of FICA and IPERS paid as a result of the improper payroll checks.

The report detailed an interview held with Russell and a detective from the Muscatine County Sheriff's Office in which Russell admitted to padding his paychecks at the request of Baker.



Stockton Mayor Patrick Baker

"Mr. Russell stated this started as a way to pay the mayor for performing plow work while Mr. Russell was out of town for his regular job as an over-the-road truck driver. Mr. Russell stated the mayor acknowledged to him, that he couldn't be dually compensated by the city so they would just add a couple hours to his (Mr. Russell's) timesheets when the mayor helped him with work around the city and they would be even. Mr. Russell stated this stopped in June 2016."

The report also explained the repercussions that happened after he refused to continue the agreement with Baker, "According to Mr. Russell, he had a falling out with the mayor in late 2016 after he had some issue with plowing the rental properties of the mayor's."

"According to Mr. Russell, his hours decreased after August 2017. During the interview, Mr. Russell stated the mayor asked him if they would have the same arrangement as in 2016; however, because Mr. Russell's son-in-law was hired to assist him he told the Mayor no."

"Mr. Russell stated the mayor started scrutinizing his timesheets after Mr. Russell refused to increase hours on his timesheets as he did in the prior year at the request of the mayor."

"During our review of Mr. Russell's time sheets beginning in February 2017, many of Mr. Russell's timesheets included notes on the timesheets, initialed by the mayor, about issues with Mr. Russell's time. According to the mayor, he began to closely scrutinize Mr. Russell's timesheets."

Auditors found that there were no records available showing when Russell would have been out of town where the mayor would have worked for the city. Russell also said he cashed his payroll checks and would pay Baker with cash, and that sometimes Baker would go to the bank with him to receive his portion of the check.

"We interviewed Mayor Baker regarding the statement he was paid by Mr. Russell for work he performed for the city. The mayor denied this ever occurred. Because Mr. Russell stated he paid the mayor in cash, we are unable to determine if Mr. Russell paid the mayor for the extra hours he included on his timesheets as Mr. Russell stated he was told to do by the mayor," said the report.

The office of the auditor has recommended the city council adopt a policy requiring employees to prepare and sign detailed time sheets. Times sheets should be approved and initialed by the employee's supervisor or by an independent official who is not involved

with payroll.

Improper cellphone payments

In the report, it was stated that \$1,299.47 of improper payments were made to U.S. Cellular to provide a cellphone for the mayor. It was also uncovered that \$25.00 of improper cellphone reimbursements had been made to a former city clerk.

Stockton's city council made the decision to pay between \$50-\$100 monthly for the mayor's cellphone plan during a meeting on Feb. 9, 2012, under a previous mayor. The report said that the council meeting minutes did not include a reason or public purpose for paying for the cellphone plan.

For the period covered, the city paid U.S. Cellular a total of \$1,839.47 for the mayor's cellphone plan. The bill for the period Feb. 24, 2017 through March 23, 2017 also included the purchase of a "LG K8 Indigo Blue" phone and a "LG K8 Ballistic TJ Case." The \$120 cost of the phone was included as a credit as part of the retail installment deferment plan. Because the phone and case are included in the cost of the plan, the phone and case are city property and should be returned when the mayor leaves office.

The city council also had passed a resolution on March 10, 2011, providing the city clerk a \$20 per month cellphone allowance. However, a look at former reimbursements found that a previous city clerk was receiving \$25 per month for the five months she was employed with the city. As a result, \$25 was over paid to the former city clerk. The current city clerk has not requested the city provide her the allowance.

The report said, "As previously stated, the city council approved a \$20 allowance for the city clerk. As a result, we will accept a \$20 allowance as reasonable for the mayor for using his personal cellphone for city business. For the period of our investigation the stipend paid to the mayor for the use of his personal cellphone would total \$540. The \$1,299.47 difference between the \$1,839.47 paid to U.S. Cellular and the amount which would be paid to the mayor as a stipend for the period of our investigation is considered improper."

The report made additional recommendations for cellphone allowances including the documentation of its public purpose.

Issues with mileage reimbursement

A total of \$54.54 was paid in improper mileage reimbursements to Baker. "We identified 18 reimbursements to Mayor Baker totaling \$2,356.29 for the period of our investigation," stated the report. There were 18 reimbursement checks to the mayor, with two regarding meetings in Muscatine for the Muscatine County Solid Waste Commission (MCSWC).

The first was for check No. 8125 for \$90.50 issued on March 9, 2016. "Mayor Baker's mileage claim report showed 54 total miles for a MCSWC meeting held on Feb. 6, 2016. According to officials from MCSWC, there was no meeting held on Feb. 6, 2016. The city reimburses mileage at \$0.505 per mile. As a result, the city reimbursed Mayor Baker \$27.27 for a meeting which did not occur," said the report.

The second was for check number 8209 for \$35.35 issued on June 10, 2016. The Mayor included 54 miles on April 28, 2016 for a MCSWC meeting held April 28, 2016. "The mayor previously included the 54 miles for the April 28, 2016 meeting on his April reimbursement request. The Mayor was reimbursed \$0.505 per mile, or \$27.27 for the 54 miles on check No. 8179 issued on May 9, 2016. As a result, the Mayor was reimbursed twice for the mileage," explained the report.

According to the report there was also check No. 8134 for \$85.03 issued on March 10, 2016 that was not supported by documentation. As a result, the \$85.03 check issued to the mayor has been labeled an unsupported disbursement.

Review of community event spending

"The procedures also identified the city did not issue receipts for all donations received and did not ensure the \$2,163.37 of reimbursements to the mayor and another resident for purchasing items for city sponsored events for the youth in the community included only items previously approved by the city council and did not include items which may have been for personal use," said the report.

Full Stockton report available
online at wdadvocateneews.com

It explained that the city council meeting minutes did not include any discussion or approval of the type of food and other supplies the city approved to be purchased, or discussion of the amount of donations received for the events. Because the events were held, the funds are not included with the improper disbursements.

"Because supporting documentations was not available for all transactions, it was not possible to determine if additional amounts were improperly disbursed or if additional collections were not properly deposited," said the report. It recommended disbursement policies, which included all disbursements being supported by invoices or other supporting documentation.

Concerns of private city equipment use

According to legislation, the city may not authorize the use of city property by city employees for their private use. There were multiple claims, both verified and unfounded, that Baker used city equipment.

"Mayor Baker used the city plow at his property on Railroad Street to clear way for personal home building supplies like rock. Mayor Baker denied this claim and stated he would not work on rock outside his property in the middle of winter," said the report.

It also said Baker used the plow at Soda Blasting, in the city of Durant, in lieu of a charge to the city for repairs the business made on the plow truck.

The report also stated, "We received separate concerns from various residents that Mayor Baker's girlfriend owns rental properties in the city of Durant and they suspected Mayor Baker was plowing her properties with the city of Stockton plow truck. When asked about the concerns of plowing his girlfriend's properties in the city of Durant, Mayor Baker denied this and said he has never plowed any of his girlfriend's rental properties in the city of Durant."

With reports of Baker using the backhoe to dig a hole for a pet and dig a foundation, the report said, "Mayor Baker also stated it has always been a standard practice for mayors or city council members to help citizens using city equipment." He gave the auditors a booklet of old work orders done by previous officials who used city equipment on private property.

The report went on to say that Baker explained the council had given verbal approval of the use of the city equipment, but the meeting minutes did not include any discussion. "During our interview and in a subsequent email from Mayor Baker, he stated the recordings of the city council meetings would have included the approval; however, the tapes had been destroyed by a former city clerk after being told to maintain the recordings."

It was recommended that city officials develop policies or procedures that prohibit the use of city equipment. It also recommended to address the use of city property.

City equipment taken to mayor's shop

"While reviewing reimbursements to Mayor Baker, we were also told he owned Stockton Auto. During our interview with Mr. Russell, he stated the city plow's alternator seized up while Mayor Baker was plowing his own property and he fixed it at his personal business and billed the city for the work," said the report.

On March 10, 2016, a check was made for \$487.26 to Stockton Auto. Documentation

provided included two invoices, one for \$342.29 for an alternator, Micro-V Belt, antifreeze, oil and installation services. A second invoice for \$144.97 was for fixing a quick release pin on the Kubota backhoe, 3 gallons of hydraulic fluid and shop supplies. The documentation also included a quote from Firestone Automotive for \$405.36 for fixing the alternator on the city plow.

"According to Mayor Baker, the quote from Firestone was provided to show it was cheaper for his business to repair the city equipment than to take it to Firestone. Mayor Baker also stated because the plow needed to be towed, he decided to get the city plow repaired at Stockton Auto to save the towing expense. Mayor Baker stated he spoke to city council members by phone and received verbal approval to do the work at his business," explained the report.

The auditors found no discussion in the city council meeting minutes for the repairs. It added that because Chapter 362.5(3)(k) allows payments to city officer and employees, the \$487.26 is not included as an improper disbursement.

"In addition, verbal approval does not meet the requirements of Chapter 21.3 of the Code of Iowa requiring the vote of each member be documented in the minutes during an open meeting. As a result, verbal approval does not constitute an action of the city council," said the report.

Meetings before meetings?

"During the course of our review, we were provided information which alleged the mayor and city council members would meet at the mayor's home or another location prior to the regular city council meeting in order to discuss the agenda and make decisions prior to the city council meeting. We were unable to determine if this occurred," said the report.

It was recommended that council follow meeting guidelines and it was noted that, "Because verbal approval by the city council does not constitute an official action of the city council, the city council should ensure they comply with Chapters 21.2(2) and 21.3 of the Code of Iowa, and not discuss or take any action related to any matter within the scope of their policy-making decisions outside of a public meeting."

Baker has been serving as the mayor of Stockton since 2015. He ran against two opponents in the most recent election last year. In 2017, Stockton had four open seats, one mayoral and three for council. Ten citizens ran with three running for mayor, including Baker and (former city employee) Russell.

Mayoral terms are voted on every two years and Baker's runs through 2019, when Stockton's mayor seat will next be on the ballot. Information on removing an elected official from public office can be found at www.legis.iowa.gov under Iowa Code Chapter 66. Chapter 66.29 states, "Any city officer elected by the people may be removed from office, after hearing on written charges filed with the council of such city for any cause which would be ground for an equitable action for removal in the district court, but such removal can only be made by a two-thirds vote of the entire council."

The *Advocate News* reached out to Baker via email for comments but none were received as of press time. A full copy of the report can be found at <https://auditor.iowa.gov/reports/audit-reports/>.

Iowa K9 Memorial contest

The Iowa Department of Public Safety and the Iowa Peace Officer Memorial Committee are hosting a design contest for an Iowa Law Enforcement K9 Memorial. The K9 Memorial is to be located on the State Capitol grounds near the current Peace Officer Memorial.

The Iowa Law Enforcement K9 Memorial will recognize those K9s that were killed or died in the line of duty, along with representing the dedication and commitment of all K9s that

have served in Iowa law enforcement, their departments and communities that support their local K9 programs.

Contest guidelines and instructions on how to submit a design for consideration can be located at: <http://www.dps.state.ia.us/commis/pib/ipom/>

All submissions must be received no later than 4:00 pm on February 1, 2019.



POLICE REPORTS



Twitter: @WDAvocateNews
Facebook: WDAvocateNews

Durant

The following information was received from the office of the Durant Police Department:

Nov. 25—Police assisted the Blue Grass Police Department with a stolen vehicle pursuit and getting occupants in custody in Blue Grass.

Nov. 25—Police were called to Highway 927 and West Third Avenue for a motor vehicle accident with an animal. Teresa Witoske of Muscatine reported a car vs. deer accident. A report was initiated.

Nov. 25—Police responded to motor vehicle accident at 332nd Street and Yankee Avenue. Jesse Garcia of Crete, Illinois was the driver of a single vehicle rollover accident during a snowstorm. The Durant Fire Department and Durant Ambulance also responded. An accident report was completed.

Nov. 25—Police responded to a motor vehicle accident at 332nd Street and Yankee Avenue where a vehicle slid into a ditch.

Nov. 25—Police responded to the 500 block of Fifth Street for a report of stranded motorist due to the snowstorm and road closures.

Nov. 25—Police received a report of a city plow knocking down a mailbox in the 900 block of 14th Avenue. The call was referred to public works/city hall.

Nov. 25—Police received a complaint on snow removal in the 300 block of Third Street.

Nov. 25—Police issued a parking citation in the 300 block of Third Street during a snow emergency.

Nov. 26—Police issued a parking citation in the 500 block of Third Avenue.

Nov. 26—Police issued a parking citation in the 900 block of Third Street during a snow emergency.

Nov. 26—Police issued a parking citation in the 200 block of Ninth Avenue during a snow emergency.

Nov. 26—Police issued a parking citation in the 600 block of Seventh Street during a snow emergency.

Nov. 26—Police assisted the Cedar County Sheriff at mile marker 275 on eastbound Interstate 80 with a car accident during a snowstorm.

Nov. 26—Police handled a disgruntled citizen complaint at city hall.

Nov. 26—Police responded to a dispute between siblings in the 800 block of Eighth Street. The officer handled the call and referred them to family.

Nov. 27—Police assisted the Durant Ambulance with a medical call at Casey's.

Nov. 27—Police issued a warning for placing from a driveway into the middle of the street in the 1000 block of Second Avenue.

Nov. 27—Police notified Iowa Interstate Railroad of faulty crossing arms at the Eighth Avenue crossing.

Nov. 28—Police notified Iowa Interstate Railroad of faulty crossing arms at the Fifth Avenue crossing.

Nov. 28—Police handled a nuisance/abatement call between parties in the 900 block of Fifth Street.

Nov. 28—Police conducted a traffic stop at the Durant exit of Interstate 80. The officer stopped an elderly driver who was lost and was beginning to go westbound in the eastbound off ramp of the Durant exit. The driver was attempting to head back to Muscatine.

Nov. 28—Police issued a warning for parking violations in the 300 block of Seventh Street.

Nov. 28—Police handled a speak with officer call at the police department.

Nov. 28—Police conducted Stop the Bleed kits training for law enforcement and EMS staff.

Nov. 28—Police handled an intelligence info/data call in the 700 block of Fifth Street.

Nov. 29—Police received warning notices for snow removal from sidewalks and driveways from city hall.

Nov. 29—Police issued a warning notice for snow removal from a sidewalk in the 700 block of 10th Street.

Nov. 29—Police conducted a follow up at the police department on a pending case.

Nov. 29—Police responded to a request to check a disabled vehicle on Vail Avenue north of Highway 61 by MUSCOM. The vehicle was gone upon arrival.

Nov. 30—Police met with an administrator at the Durant school.

Nov. 30—Police initiated a report on an incident at the Durant school.

Nov. 30—Police conducted a traffic stop at Fifth Avenue and Fifth Street. A traffic violation warning was given.

Nov. 30—Police conducted a traffic stop at West Third Avenue and Fifth Street. A traffic violation warning was given.

Nov. 30—Police conducted a traffic stop at West Third Avenue and Fifth Street. Steven Hippler of Durant was cited for driving under suspension.

Nov. 30—Police handled an extra patrol call in the 100 block of Eighth Avenue.

Nov. 30—Police conducted a traffic stop at Fourth Avenue and Fifth Street. A citation was given.

Dec. 1—Police conducted a traffic stop at Fifth Street and Seventh Avenue. A traffic violation warning was given.

Dec. 1—Police conducted a traffic stop at Fifth Street and Eighth Avenue. A traffic violation warning was given.

Dec. 1—Police handled a speak with officer call at the police department.

Dec. 1—Police conducted a traffic stop in the 600 block of Fifth Street. Christopher Brinkley of Davenport was cited for no seatbelt and operation without registration.

Dec. 1—Police conducted a traffic stop at Golfview Drive and Highway 927. Tyhera Thomas Hansen of Tipton was arrested on a warrant out of Muscatine County for failure to pay child support. The Wilton Police Department assisted in transport to the Muscatine County Jail. Passenger in the vehicle, Timothy McLoughlin of Muscatine, was cited and released for possession of drug paraphernalia.

Dec. 1—Police conducted a traffic stop at Golfview Drive and Highway 927. Tyhera Thomas Hansen of Tipton was arrested on a warrant out of Muscatine County for failure to pay child support. The Wilton Police Department assisted in transport to the Muscatine County Jail. Passenger in the vehicle, Timothy McLoughlin of Muscatine, was cited and released for possession of drug paraphernalia.

Wilton

The following information was received from the office of the Wilton Police Department:

Nov. 25—Police performed a vehicle unlock in the 800 block of West Third Street.

Nov. 25—Police conducted a follow up to

a pending investigation in the 1100 block of Maurer Street.

Nov. 25—Police received a report of a snow plow driving recklessly in the 100 block of Walnut Street. The officer was unable to locate the plow on Walnut Street.

Nov. 25—Police received a report of a parked vehicle struck by a snow plow in the 100 block of West Sixth Street. The call was referred to the city.

Nov. 26—Police received a report of a possible stolen vehicle in the 100 block of Spruce. It was found to be a civil issue and options were given.

Nov. 26—Police responded to a medical call in the 600 block of Spruce Street. The patient refused.

Nov. 26—Police responded to a medical call in the 600 block of Spruce Street again. The patient was transported by personal vehicle.

Nov. 26—Police responded to a medical call in the 500 block of East Spruce Street. The patient was transported by ambulance to a hospital.

Nov. 26—Police handled a reported disturbance in the 600 block of East Third Street.

Nov. 26—Police performed a vehicle unlock in the 800 block of West Third Street.

Nov. 26—Police received a report of a fire alarm in the 300 block of Cedar Street. The call was turned over to the Wilton Fire Department.

Nov. 27—Police had a vehicle towed in the 400 block of Cedar Street that was not moved for snow removal.

Nov. 27—Police were called to the 300 block of East First Street for a reported disturbance.

Nov. 27—Police had a vehicle towed from the 2800 block of Highway 927 that was broken down and partially in the roadway.

Nov. 27—Police assisted the Muscatine County Sheriff's Office with a single vehicle accident in the county.

Nov. 27—Police investigated suspicious activity in the 300 block of West Third Street. The officer found subjects to be walking home from the bar.

Nov. 27—Police conducted a follow up to an ongoing investigation. The matter remains

under investigation.

Nov. 27—Police responded to a reported minor damage accident in the parking lot of Dollar General. Information was exchanged.

Nov. 27—Police spoke with a subject in the 100 block of East Fourth Street in reference to parking during posted snow removal times.

Nov. 28—Police investigated suspicious activity in the 1200 block of West Fifth Street.

Nov. 28—Police were called to the 1000 block of Cypress Street for a call in fire alarm. The alarm was deemed to be weather related.

Nov. 28—Police conducted a traffic stop in the high school parking lot. A juvenile male was given a warning for driving habits.

Nov. 28—Police were called to locate an individual for the Scott County Sheriff's Office in a vehicle that was stolen in Davenport. The subject was located.

Nov. 28—Police talked with two UPS drivers in town about Facebook posts that were talking about a black truck that was supposedly following trucks. The officer informed them and they will be watching for vehicles following them.

Nov. 29—Police assisted the Wilton First Responders and the Durant Ambulance on a medical call in the 100 block of West Fourth Street.

Nov. 29—Police responded to an animal call in the 100 block of Spruce Street. A dog was returned to the owner.

Nov. 29—Police conducted a traffic stop in the 500 block of Maurer Street for an equipment violation. A warning was given.

Nov. 30—Police assisted the Durant Police Department with a traffic stop in Durant.

Nov. 30—Police took a report of an accident in the 1000 block of Cypress Street. The parties exchanged information.

Dec. 1—Police had a vehicle towed that was blocking the roadway at the corner of West Third Street and Highway 38.

Dec. 1—Police assisted the Durant Police Department with a traffic stop in the 2200 block of Highway 927.

Dec. 1—Police responded to the 300 block of Locust Street for a possible no contact order violation. Eric Hood, 36, of Wilton was arrested for violation of a no contact order.

2018 Iowa general election results certified

DES MOINES—The State Canvassing Board officially certified the results of Iowa's 2018 general election.

"I would like to thank all Iowans who made their voices heard in the 2018 election," Secretary of State Paul Pate said. "Iowans turned out in record numbers and we remain one of the top states in the country for voter participation."

Below are some statistics from the Iowa 2018 general election:

* Total voter turnout was 1,334,279. That is a state record for the most voters in a midterm

election.

* Voter turnout percentage was 61.55 percent. That is the highest for an Iowa midterm election since 1994.

* Ringgold County led the state in highest turnout percentage, with 71.49 percent. The second highest was Harrison County (68.57 percent), followed by Dallas (68.13 percent), Warren (67.88 percent), Sioux (67.42 percent), Fayette (67.11 percent), Polk (66.77 percent) and Linn (66.32 percent).

* Every county in Iowa surpassed 50 percent in voter turnout. The lowest was 52.53 percent.

* 547,205 voters cast absentee ballots, a record high for a midterm election.

* 41.01 percent of voters cast absentee ballots, on par with the 2016 and 2014 elections.

* Jefferson County had the highest percentage of absentee voters, with 56.64 percent. Winneshiek County was second with 55.79 percent and Dickinson County was third with 50.03 percent.

* Nine legislative races were decided by 500 votes or less. The closest was House District 55, decided by nine votes. House District 82 was decided by 37 votes.



The reconstruction of West Otis Street between Main Street and Rowe Lane in Walcott, shown Nov. 15, is nearing completion. The project, which involved the concrete paving of the street, also included sanitary sewer replacement, a new storm sewer, water main replacement and parking areas for Wescott Park and the Walcott splash pad. Funds from the city's road use tax and local option sales tax are paying for the reconstruction project. The splash pad, to be located on city-owned green space just east of the community's batting cage and tennis courts on West Otis, is scheduled to open in next summer.

Photo by Phil Roberts

Durant one of 10 communities selected for Community Visioning Program

Durant is one of 10 Iowa communities selected to participate in Iowa's Living Roadways Community Visioning program.

The award-winning program integrates technical landscape planning and design techniques with sustainable community action to assist community leaders and volunteers in making sound and meaningful decisions about the local landscape.

The other 2019 visioning communities are Audubon, Bedford, Coggon, Hinton, Royal, Sumner, Treynor, Van Meter and Walcott.

Since 1996, 255 Iowa communities have benefited from the Community Visioning program. To qualify for the program, a community

must have a population of fewer than 10,000 residents, existing transportation-related issues and a committee of volunteers willing to dedicate their time and talents to the visioning process.

The Community Visioning program is sponsored by the Iowa Department of Transportation in partnership with Iowa State University Landscape Architecture Extension and Trees Forever, an Iowa-based nonprofit focused on planting trees and native plants. In addition, professional landscape architects offer expertise in creating conceptual design plans for the communities.

Plant yourself in STEM event Dec. 8

Eastern Iowa Community Colleges (EICC) will again this year host its popular Plant Yourself in STEM event. This will be the fifth year of the event that has filled to capacity the last four years.

This year's event will be even more exciting because it's the first time it will be held at Scott Community College's new Urban Campus, 101 W. Third Street in downtown Davenport. Scheduled for Dec. 8 from 9 a.m. until noon, Plant Yourself in STEM is free of charge and open to everyone from fifth grade through adults.

Participants will tear apart computers just to

see what's on the inside, enter Virtual Reality environments with Oculus, play around with Spheros and Pi, have a little friendly competition in picking locks in Locksport and decode combinations on boxes to reveal prizes in breakout.

Osmer's pointed out that no experience or specific knowledge is necessary. The emphasis is on giving students a taste of what some of these fields are about.

Registration has filled up early in past years. To register go to www.eicc.edu/plant. For more information, call 1-888-336-3807.

Wilton woman wins \$100,000 lottery prize

CLIVE — A Wilton woman has won a \$100,000 lottery prize. Shannon Belknap claimed the third of six top prizes available in the Iowa Lottery's "\$100,000 Holiday Mega Crossword" scratch game. She purchased her winning ticket at Kum & Go, 1429 Park Ave.


in Muscatine, and claimed her prize Nov. 27 at the lottery's regional office in Cedar Rapids.

The \$100,000 Holiday Mega Crossword is a \$10 scratch game. For more information about this game, and the number of prizes still available, visit www.ialottery.com.



Shannon Belknap is shown above collecting her \$100,000 Iowa lottery prize.

Contributed photo



Wilton-Durant Advocate News

Holiday Hours & Early Deadlines

We will be closed on Monday, December 24 and Tuesday, December 25.

Early deadline for the Dec. 27 edition will be Friday, Dec. 21 at Noon.

We will also be closed on Tuesday, January 1.

Early deadline for the Jan. 3 edition will be Friday, Dec. 28 at Noon.

563.732.2029 • anads@netwtc.net



Due to the upcoming holidays expect delivery delays of the Dec. 27 & Jan. 4 issues

Advocate News

LEGAL NOTICES

Public Notices are democracy insurance, protecting your right to know.

...Continued from page 16

TELSROW, BETH, CLEANING.....	400.00
US CELLULAR, CELL PHONES.....	624.40
VISA, HOTEL-CLOTHING-MEAL-TV-PAPER-... 2,136.93	
REFUNDS OR REIMBURSE.....	
BALANCE OF DEPOSIT.....	41.97
REFUNDS OR REIMBURSE.....	
BALANCE OF DEPOSIT.....	34.48
CITY OF WILTON.....	
DEPOSITS APPLIED TO FINALS.....	673.55
ADVOCATE NEWS.....	
LEGAL NOTICES, COUNCIL MEETING.....	411.87
ARNOLD MOTOR SUPPLY.....	
TOOLS, FILTER, SIREN BATTERIES.....	868.84
AVEVIS THIRD PARTY ADMIN, VISION INS.....	326.38
CEDAR COUNTY SOLID WASTE, LANDFILL.....	5,270.00
DOGHOUSE DIESEL LLC.....	
REPAIR AIR COMPRESSOR ON.....	1,962.92
ELLIOTT EQUIPMENT COMPANY.....	
GARBAGE TRUCK RENTAL.....	1,750.00
GREEN COMPANY, HOWARD R.....	
4TH ST, I&I ASSISTANCE, CONST.....	20,004.24
HALE PRINTING.....	
DECALS FOR 2019 F-550 DUMP.....	34.00
INTEGRATED TECHNOLOGY PARTNERS.....	
NETWORKING & ARNOLDS SIGN.....	902.75
IOWA DOT, LEATHER WORK GLOVES.....	54.00
JRS CARS & TRUCK REPAIR.....	
HALOGEN LIGHTS FOR 2007.....	6.13
KLINGNER ASSOCIATES.....	
CDBG POST AWARD SERVICES.....	139.52
KRIEGER'S, F-550 DUMP TRUCK.....	38,966.00
MENARDS, POLICE DEPT SINK & COUNTER.....	29.54
MID AMERICAN ENERGY, GAS SERVICE.....	82.77
MID-IOWA SOLID WASTE EQUIP CO.....	
BROOMS FOR STREET SWEEPER.....	650.73
MUNICIPAL CODE CORPORATION.....	
SUPPLEMENT PAGES.....	532.00
MUSCATINE COUNTY TREASURER.....	
TAXES ON 4TH ST OFF OF MAPLE.....	48.00
PEPSI-COLA BOTTLING CO OF DAV.....	
COMMUNITY CENTER POP.....	254.40
SHIELD TECHNOLOGY CORP.....	
SHIELDWARE SOFTWARE.....	1,000.00
SITLER ELECTRIC.....	
DOWNTOWN LED STREET LIGHTS.....	332.58

TALL GRASS BUSINESS RESOURCES.....	
INK, PAPER, TOWELS, TP.....	344.04
TELSROW, BETH, CLEANING.....	400.00
UTILITY EQUIPMENT CO.....	
EXTRA HYDRANT & METER PARTS.....	1,170.50
VALET'S, FUEL.....	2,522.53
WHITE PIGEON INC, ADD F 550 DUMP TRUCK.....	517.00
WILTON MUNICIPAL LIGHT & POWER.....	
ELEC SERVICE.....	8,740.52
WRH INC, PAY APP #5.....	819,411.39
WTC COMMUNICATIONS, PHONE.....	955.85
ADVOCATE NEWS, ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION.....	40.00
ALTORFER, SERVICE GENERATORS.....	2,582.00
BI STATE REGIONAL COMMISSION.....	
MANAGERS/ADMINISTRATORS.....	14.88
BRAMMEIERS GARAGE.....	
CAR WASH & OIL CHANGE.....	102.45
CARDMEMBER SERVICE.....	
COMMUNITY CENTER BAR SUPPLIES.....	556.60
CENEX FLEETCARD, FUEL.....	1,645.53
COMMUNITY BANK.....	
WATER REVENUE BOND.....	10,192.86
D W INC.....	
TORCH TANKS & GRATING BAR FOR.....	1,035.00
DEWITT BANK & TRUST.....	1,144.75
DISPLAY SALES.....	
LED LIGHTS FOR CHRISTMAS.....	161.00
DOG WASTE DEPOT, DOG WASTE BAGS.....	132.99
EASTERN IOWA LIGHT & POWER.....	
ELECTRIC SERVICE.....	697.19
ECONOLIGHT.....	
LED LIGHTS FOR DOWNTOWN STREET.....	1,079.96
EMPLOYEE BENEFIT SYSTEMS, PFS ADMIN.....	196.58
FERGUSON WATERWORKS #2516.....	
1 1/2" METER & FLANGE FOR.....	808.98
FUTURE LINE TRUCK EQUIPMENT.....	
SNOW PLOW FOR F-550.....	7,614.85
GIS BENEFITS.....	
LIFE/SHORT TERM DISABILITY.....	539.36
GORSUCH EXCAVATING, LLC.....	
REPAIR WEST END OF YORK & HOLE.....	4,000.00
GREEN COMPANY, HOWARD R.....	
SRF, WWTP, 4TH ST, WATER TOWER.....	21,141.69
HENDERSON PRODUCTS INC.....	
BOX ON 2019 F-550.....	12,212.00
IOWA DOT, BATTERIES & LEATHER GLOVES.....	59.16
IOWA ONE CALL, LOCATES.....	73.80

IOWA RURAL WATER ASSOCIATION.....	
MEMBERSHIP DUES.....	325.00
JEFF'S MARKET, DISTILLED WATER & BLEACH.....	13.53
JOHN DEERE FINANCIAL, LEAF VAC PARTS.....	203.08
KAPPELER FARMS.....	
SLUDGE HAULED & APPLIED.....	14,317.00
KEYSTONE LABORATORIES INC.....	
WATER ANALYSIS.....	999.50
KIMBALL MIDWEST.....	
LUBRICANT & ELECTRICAL KIT FOR.....	147.20
MENARDS.....	
SNOW PLOW PARTS, BATTERIES, TP.....	144.32
MUNICIAPL EMERGENCY SERVICES.....	
AIR PACK MAINTENANCE & REPAIR.....	2,300.80
MUSCATINE POWER & WATER.....	
QUARTERLY MAGIC AFFILIATE.....	825.00
PAPER'S LUMBER & SUPPLY.....	
GARDEN HOSE, RAIN GAUGE, LIGHT.....	110.27
PITNEY BOWES, POSTAGE.....	658.87
REFUNDS OR REIMBURSE.....	
MILEAGE REIMBURSEMENT FOR 286.....	155.87
SPRAGUE LAW LLC.....	
LATCHKEY MATTER, CODE ON.....	241.00
TRIPLE B CONSTRUCTION CORP.....	
SEWER REPAIRS AT CEDAR & 6TH.....	2,677.41
TURKLE TREE SERVICE.....	
DROP & REMOVE MAPLE TREE ON.....	925.00
TYLER TECHNOLOGIES.....	
ANNUAL MAINTENANCE.....	3,354.81
WELLMARK BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIEL.....	
HEALTH AND DENTAL.....	20,400.32
WENDLING QUARRIES INC.....	
ROCK FIR NORTH RR STREET AND.....	781.88
WILTON DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION.....	
ALLOCATION.....	15,000.00
ADVANCE BUSINESS SYSTEMS, CONTRACT.....	327.88
ADVOCATE NEWS, AD.....	29.15
BAKER & TAYLOR, LIBRARY BOOKS.....	455.44
CHILDREN'S PLUS INC, CHILDRENS BOOKS.....	2,516.72
CONSUMER REPORTS, LIBRARY MAGAZINE.....	30.00
INTEGRATED TECHNOLOGY PARTNERS.....	
NETWORKING.....	519.37
IOWA HISTORY JOURNAL.....	
LIBRARY MAGAZINE.....	18.95
MASTERCARD, BOOKS-DVDS-SUPPLIES.....	218.68
STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF IA.....	
IOWA ANNALS.....	24.95

TASTE OF HOME BOOKS.....	
ANNUAL RECIPE BOOK.....	33.98
WAL MART COMMUNITY BRC, SUPPLIES.....	53.11
WILTON PUBLIC LIBRARY-PETTY CA.....	
PETTY CASH.....	82.50
WTC COMMUNICATIONS, LIBRARY SERVICE.....	609.50
Grand Total.....	1,134,608.65

Wilton Community School District Work Session Meeting Minutes Nov. 28, 2018

On November 28, 2018 at 5:07 P.M., the Wilton Community School Board of Directors met in the Central Office for the purpose of a work session. Present were: Linda Duncan, Tony Hurd, Gary Maurer, Rob Metzger, and Tara Oien. Absent: None. Also present were Superintendent Joe Burnett, School Business Official/Board Treasurer Staci Owens-Kirkman, Jr/Sr High School Principal Marc Snavelly, and Elementary Principal Denise Austin.

The work session began with Board Member Linda Duncan offering information concerning a meeting with Durant. Linda has corresponded with Durant Board President Julie Rivera and they have agreed to meet sometime in December to review the superintendent sharing agreement. With input from each of the Boards, the meeting would be with the presidents, vice presidents, and business managers from each district.

Next, the retirement incentive was discussed. School Business Official/Board Treasurer Staci Owens-Kirkman shared cost data generated from the pool of employees that would be eligible for the retirement incentive for FY19. The incentive will be brought to the December board meeting for consideration.

The 2018-2019 SAVE/PPEL fund balances were presented for discussion. Principal Reports: Jr/Sr High School Principal Marc Snavelly presented information concerning professional development exercises in relationship to AIW (Authentic Intellectual Work) and EC (Elaborated Communication) framework training. Elementary Principal Denise Austin shared information concerning LIM (Leader in Me) activities, the completion of the playground turf installation, and the mural painting in the auditorium commons area. A Q&A time with the principals followed.

Lastly, the IBB (Interest Based Bargaining) process and potential hirings for FY20 were discussed.

There being no other business, the work session was adjourned at 6:45 P.M.

**President, Board of Directors
Secretary, Board of Directors**

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Durant Community School District has a **Full-Time Lead Custodian and Full-time Custodian Positions** available. To receive an application form, please direct all inquires to Durant Community School, 408 7th St., Durant, Iowa 52747, www.durant.k12.ia.us or **563-785-4432**.
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Employment

LOOK to The Wilton-Durant Advocate News, when searching for new job opportunities. Check out local and area job openings every week, then tell them you saw the position in the Advocate News.

Apartment Rentals

Bennett: Large one bedroom apartment for rent, all utilities included. \$550 per month. No pets, no smoking. Call 563-210-2181. 41-TFN-RB

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- High School graduate or GED
- Associates Degree or work experience a plus
- Valid motor vehicle Operator's License required
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- Ability to maintain and evaluate records with computers/software programs
- Ability to perform all required duties for public works employee
- Physical strength and endurance to perform medium stamina work involving considerable amount of walking, some climbing ladder and stairs, balancing, lifting and reaching with occasional heavy lifting required
- Ability to learn how to operate equipment such as mowers, back hoe, etc.
- Ability to work in close quarters such as manholes, wells, or large tanks
- Ability to communicate information clearly both orally and in writing
- Ability to understand and follow moderately complex oral and written instructions and diagrams
- Ability to accurately follow operating and recording procedures and instructions
- Ability to perform ordinary arithmetical and algebraic procedures in standard, practical applications
- Ability to establish and maintain good working relationships and clear communications with supervisors and co-workers
- Must be able to work days, evenings, nights, weekends and holidays
- Must live within ten minutes of the City corporate limits.

Applications are available at: www.cityofdurantiowa.com or at City Hall, 402 6th Street Durant, Iowa 52747. Dead line for applications is Jan. 3, 2019. No email requests.

Freelance SPORTS WRITER

The Wilton-Durant Advocate News and West Liberty Index are seeking freelance help in covering Wilton Beaver, Durant Wildcat and West Liberty Comet sports. The ideal candidate would be seeking supplemental income and must be available at night to attend sporting events 1-2 times per week. Keyboarding skills, ability to meet weekly deadlines and an understanding of high school athletics required. Must have access to email, cellphone and transportation. Digital photography skills/experience a plus. Please send all inquiries to Derek Sawvell at dsawvell@netwtc.net

Apartment Rentals

APARTMENTS FOR RENT

Durant: 1 bedroom with large closets, large living room, kitchen, bath and storage room. Stove and refrigerator included. No smoking, no pets. Available Jan. 1. Call 563-785-6494 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. 49-TFN-LIA

Muscatine: 2 bdrm. Clean, private entrance, washer and dryer in unit. High-efficiency furnace and central air. No pets, no smoking. \$600/mo plus utilities and deposit. Call 563-210-4181. 45-TFB-EB

Stockton: 2 bedroom, newly renovated apartment. Stove, refrigerator, washer and dryer. Water, sewer, garbage also included. No pets, no smoking. \$665/mo. Call 563-210-7088. 46-TFN-BB

Walcott: MOVE IN SPECIAL: \$200 off 1st month's rent. A must-see apartment in Walcott! 1-bedroom, \$535/month. CAC, appliances, laundry, wall-to-wall carpet and off-street parking. No pets, Extremely clean, quiet and well-managed. Call 563-320-4592. 44-TFN-NSP

Wilton: 2 bedroom apartment with great neighbors. Clean, new paint and carpet last year. \$550 per month. No pets, no smoking. Call 563-210-2181. 06-TFN-RB

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Wilton: Spacious two bdrm. apartment for rent. All newly renovated. Northcrest Apartments in Wilton offers over 1,000 square ft., kitchen appliances, AC, cable connections, on-site laundry, off-street parking, and much, much more! Call Maynard at 563-506-5775. 10-tfn-bem(nc)

House Rentals

For Rent

Bennett: 3 bdrm house w/ 2-car garage. \$850/mo. No pets, no smoking. Well maintained, great neighbors, great town. Call 563-210-2181. 24-TFN-RB

Stockton: 4 bedroom, 1 bath acreage for rent. Available immediately. Durant School District. No pets, no smoking. New flooring. \$600 per month plus one month deposit. Call 515-290-9251. 47-TFN-CR

For Sale

Grass fed beef: Carcass, halves and quarters. Call 563-785-4916. We will pay all processing costs. 47-03-PIA

Jeep accessories: Chrome grille and chrome brush guard for Jeep 2014 and up. \$100 for all. Call 563-271-5190. 47-03-FWR

Wheel Deals

1967 Impala: 2 dr. All original car w/44,890 miles. 283 w/25 power-glide tran. No rust, runs beautifully, Air shocks for smooth ride. Original wheels & hubcaps included. \$24,999. Serious inquiries only. No Paypal. Call 563-210-3074. 34-NSP

1992 Chevy Cavalier Convertible RS: White, power windows. New Battery, only 500 miles on new tires. Runs great. Always garaged. Original condition, 121,000 miles. Must See. \$2500 - OBO - CASH ONLY. Call 563-391-1112. 32-NSP

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NEW LIST: 4.63A commercial lot next to Dollar General in Walcott. 40' x 120' building. \$240,000 Dennis
NEW LISTING: 54 acres, Muscatine County. 53.8 tillable, 83 CSR, NHSL parcel, open lease for 2019. Ken
DAVENPORT: 55 A, 45.09 tillable, 83 CSR. Nice investment. Ken
NEW LIST: 39.29A. Residential Development land north of LeClaire. Country setting with some river views. Call Dennis
NEW LIST: 57 A +/- Buffalo on 100th Ave. Older farm house, 24' x 34' shop and 40' x 60' pole barn. 56 A. tillable. \$9649/A. Dennis
BOWERSOX FARM: Blue Grass Township. 155 acres, 148.7 tillable. Brochure available. Ken
DURANT: Two industrial sites. Shovel ready. Lot 1: 6.63 acres. Lot 2: 3.21 acres. All city services and fiber optics. Priced at 68¢ per square ft. Ken
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1998 Chevy Silverado 1500: Engine: 5.7i 350CL V8 Vortec, only 59k miles, 8 Cylinders, Automatic Transmission. \$2,300! Call 319-346-3564. 39-NSP

2007 Yamaha V Star 650 Custom: Regularly maintained. Comes with windshield, cover, saddlebags, iso grips. \$3,199.00 OBO. Located north of LeClaire. 563-468-7536. 17-NSP

2012 Ford Edge SEL: New tires, new battery, very clean. 64,000 miles. \$15,000. Call 563-249-4012. 44-NSP

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Contact **Carissa at 563-732-2029** to appear in the next edition of the Bizzzy Bee. Deadline is 10 a.m. Thursdays.

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A Trip Down Candy Cane Lane ... Wilton Window Walk



Photos by Brandy Marquez, Derek Sawvell and contributed



Above, Wilton Bank won "Most Original" in the window contest during the Window Walk on Dec. 2. Shown is a replica of the new bank being built on Fifth Street.



Above, Dwayne Lenker shows an enthusiastic onlooker how one of the model trains works at the Wilton Depot during the Window Walk on Dec. 2.



Eva Belitz (right) awarded Brenda Ochiltree of the Candy Kitchen "Judge's Choice" and "Best Window."



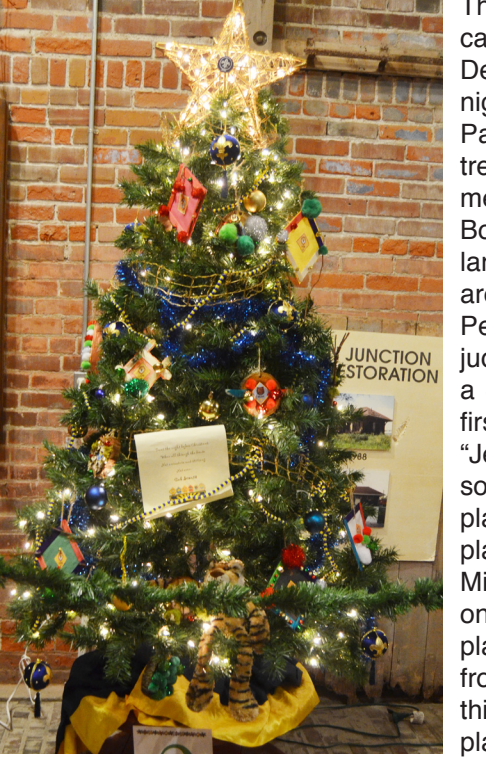
Eva Belitz awarded Brad Zaizer and Missy Daufeldt of Country Financial winner of the candy cane challenge.



Wilton Hustlers 4-H Club hosted ornament building at the Wilton Cafe during the Window Walk.



Left, Wilton Chamber Director Eva Belitz awarded Mark Knouse and White Pigeon with a gift certificate for best "Adopt a Pole" light post. **Middle**, Tommy Derksen got a gift from Mrs. Claus after telling Santa what he wanted for Christmas. **Right**, Jayden Everson (left) and Mallory Lange (right) passed out treats and scavenger hunt pieces at Sassy Stylz.



The Wilton Depot had 180 visitors stop and cast votes for their favorite Christmas tree Dec. 2. Winners included: (right) "Scouts night before Christmas" from Cub Scouts Pack 151, first place judges' choice for large tree, second place popular vote; "Records are meant to be broken" from the Wilton Athletic Boosters, second place judges' choice for large tree, third place popular vote; "All hearts are welcome home for Christmas" from the Peace United Methodist Church, third place judges' choice for large tree; (middle) "Ode to a candy cane" from WTC Communications, first place popular vote for large tree; (left) "Jesus' Birthday" from the kids club sponsored by the United Methodist Church, first place judges' choice small trees, second place popular vote; "While mom is away the Mikes will play" from the Bollinger family, second place judges' pick for small trees, third place popular vote; "Thank you veterans" from the Wilton American Legion Auxiliary, third place judges' choice for small trees, first place popular vote.