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Candidates Address Issues at Fairgrounds Forum

Sue Hall, Reporter

Twelve candidates for elected state and federal offices, one of whom was a Republican, attended a Democratically-sponsored Eastern Iowa Rural Revival and Candidate Forum at the Cedar County Fairground on Sept. 28. Nineteen Republican candidates declined to attend. The audience, who provided candidates with written questions, was composed of around 200 citizens from Johnson, Jackson, Scott, Linn, Muscatine and Cedar counties.

The two-hour long rally-like affair began with a passionate speech by farmer and former

Iowa Farm Service Agency Director Matt Russell urging voters to demand candidates lean into values rural Iowans believe in. He likened today's democracy to a tractor-driven, swaying grain cart, slopping its load onto both sides of the roadway and finding itself difficult to keep from ending in the ditch. He said government is what we make it and this is a time to be hopeful by working together in joy. Change is possible where the action is—rural Iowa, he added. Turn what works into something better and what are voters going to do to invest in a better productive life? he asked.

Those at the forum, who were running for the office of U.S. Senate, were Nathan Sage, Zach Wahls, Bob Krause and Josh Turek.

The single candidate, who was running for the office of governor was the only Republican attending, Eddie Andrews.

Ryan Peterman was a candidate for Secretary of State. Nate Willems was a candidate for State Attorney General.

U.S. House District 1 candidates were Christina Bohannon, Travis Terrell and Taylor Wettach. Kathy Dolter attend-



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About 50 people begin the 1-mile Color Run Saturday afternoon, Sept. 27 outside VFW Post 2537 of Tipton, at the corner of Lemon Street and West Fourth Street. The event raised almost \$3,000 for Blue Star Mothers to send packages to Iowans in active military overseas.

VFW and Auxiliary Post 2537 Color Run

About 50 people turned out for the Tipton VFW and Auxiliary Post 2537 Color Run on Saturday afternoon, Sept. 27, raising nearly \$3,000 for deployed servicemembers.

The 1-mile run around east side neighborhoods raised money for Blue Star families – families with currently serving military members – through free-will donations and sponsorships.

This was Post 2537's first time hosting such a run, and Post Commander Gordon Ledoux said the money would specifically target the families of servicemembers on active deployment. The funding would benefit Blue Star Mothers of Iowa, which sends care packages to Iowa servicemembers deployed overseas.

He credited the Auxiliary with spearheading the event, and Auxiliary President Jessica Ledoux, Gordon's wife, took over welcoming the attendees

and participants.

Jessica first recognized the volunteers.

"As you can see, this is a family," she said to applause.

The volunteers brought the event together in about two months, from ordering T-shirts to advertising to marking the route.

Blue Star Mothers recently sent out 2,700 packages – one to each of Iowa's deployed men and women – at a cost of about \$77,000, Jessica said, and this money would help that effort.

"All of our proceeds that we make today are free and clear and will be going to our Blue Star Moms, and we have almost \$3,000 raised," Jessica said to more applause.

Jessica introduced Lisa Wilson of Carlisle, the president of the Blue Star Mothers of Iowa, who made the trip to see and participate in the event.

"We are so grateful for all of you guys gathering together today to support our troops," Wilson said. "We have 2,700 deployed right now and they need us. They need a little package from home this holiday season. We're going to have a lot of empty seats around the holiday table, so we want to send them a package of love this year from Iowa."

Wilson said the organization spends the year raising money and packaging the goods for

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Getting Involved

Blue Star Mothers of Iowa: bluestarmothersofiowa.com
VFW Post 2537 is on Facebook: "VFW 2537 Tipton, Iowa"
and can be reached at 563-886-6140

Young Liberian Woman's Legs Saved Due to Mid-Westerners' Caring Involvement

By Sandy Green

While Tiptonite Mike Herring, a member of Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church (TELC) was in Liberia on a mission with four others in 2015 on behalf of Liberian Harrison Kpartipa's village, Harrison took the group to a neighboring village to meet a 13-year-old young woman. The village elders were seeking medical help for her from the United States.

Harrison's church community, Trinity Lutheran Church and School in Cedar Rapids, Iowa began to seek help for this young girl, whose name is Thinking.

The main idea of the Cedar Rapids church was to bring Thinking to the U.S. for treatment at the Shriners' Hospital in Minneapolis, Minn.

Back in Tipton, Iowa Brenda and Mike Herring once again invited the Methodist and UCC churches to come alongside Trinity in Tipton in a fund-raising effort on behalf of Thinking. This took place in late November 2015 through 2016.

Part of the money from the fundraiser provided for her travel from her village to the capital of Liberia, Monrovia for a medical assessment. That team of doctors suggested that her medical concerns were neurological. That medical team was heading toward a diagnosis of a double amputation of both her legs. Harrison and his wife knew that she would not be able to survive as a double amputee in the rainforest in West Africa where she lived. The couple asked for permission to adopt her and bring her to live with them in Cedar Rapids.

In early October 2017, Har-

rison flew to Liberia to bring Thinking back to the U.S. On Oct. 14, 2017, Thinking's 15th birthday, Brenda and Mike Herring met her and Harrison at O'Hare International Airport in Chicago and took the two of

with the American food UNTIL she bit into a piece of pizza! She actually turned her nose up to some of the American dishes such as lasagna and others."

Mike, on the other hand, wasn't impressed with some



Young Liberian girl, Thinking, arrives at Chicago's O'Hare International Airport on her 15th birthday in 2017. Mike and Brenda Herring of Tipton were there to welcome her and her adopted dad, Harrison Kpartipa, to the U.S.

them to Cedar Rapids where Harrison's immediate family and other fellow Liberians waited to welcome her to her new home with a birthday party.

Mike said, "I'll never forget this. They had both American and Liberian food brought to the potluck birthday party. Thinking was not impressed

of the foods available either. Recalling his trip to Liberia he said, "I darn near starved when I was in Liberia!"

In late October, Harrison took Thinking to Minneapolis to her first medical examination. During this assessment, Harrison asked how and when

SEE LIBERIAN, P12

St. Paul Lutheran Church in Stanwood Celebrates 150 Years

St. Paul Lutheran Church of Stanwood turns 150 years old. The congregation and friends will celebrate this milestone with a special worship service at 10 a.m. on Sunday, Oct. 19, followed by a catered meal and time to reminisce with all who attend the event. The current pastor, Rev. Dr. Andrew Watkins asserted, "We want to celebrate God's love and faithfulness to the church and community with this special event."

St. Paul Lutheran church has been a part of the Stanwood community since 1875. In 1875 the Rev. J. H. Brammer saw the potential growth for missionary work. He began to visit families in Mechanicsville and Stanwood. The growing group of Christians began holding worship services in private homes and then rented church buildings. Later in 1875 the group was officially organized and named St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church of Stanwood, Iowa.

At this time, they were still speaking in the German Language. But as more and more people joined the congregation, and immigrants chose to build lives here in the fertile fields of Iowa, the members chose to speak English and better connect with their community neighbors.

On June 19, 1893 the property on which the church stands, at the corner of Highway 30 and Ash Street, was purchased from Perry B.

Miller for \$200 by the members. Construction of a wooden church building began almost immediately. The members were a hardy and self-sufficient group of men and women and a majority of the church building was constructed by the members themselves. The first church had outbuildings for horses and equipment.

In 1908, with a congregation of over 100 people, they called Rev. William Nagler to be its first resident pastor. The Rev. Nagler was ordained and installed at St. Paul on Aug. 16, 1908. Since the congregation had no parsonage yet, the pastor made his home with one of the member families. It was not long before news spread that the pastor would soon set up housekeeping. On March 10, 1909, property for the parsonage was purchased from Mr. and Mrs. Louis Lehrman. The property is adjacent to the church on the north side.

In addition to his ministerial duties, Pastor Nagler was instrumental in starting a parochial school. For nine years he was the sole teacher. Then in 1917 a female teacher was called to serve and build the educational work among the young people of the congregation. The current pastor, Watkins, who himself has his doctorate in education and teaches at Concordia University, Nebraska online, explained that education is a vital part of the Christian's

SEE ST. PAUL CHURCH, P7



St. Paul Lutheran Church in Stanwood



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