



Wettstein’s appeal denied



Matthew Wettstein

By Karen Spurgeon, Publisher
The Court of Appeals of Iowa on May 19, 2025 affirmed the sentence of Matthew Wettstein of Davis County after he appealed the sentence handed down on May 3, 2024. On May 3, 2024 Wett-

stein was sentenced in District Court to two consecutive terms of incarceration and two concurrent terms of incarceration for a total of 20 years.

The sentence was handed down in response to four Class C felony charges for sexual abuse in the third degree between Sept. 1, 2020 through December 31, 2021. Wettstein pled guilty to the charges and was found guilty of the charges by District Court following his trial.

Wettstein appealed the sentence shortly thereafter, saying “the court abused its discretion when it relied on unproved or unprosecuted conduct as relayed in

the victim impact statements” given by K.W. and her parents.

Wettstein argued for a suspended sentence and probation in an appeal from the District Court to the Supreme Court of Iowa, which transferred the case to the Court of Appeals.

The Court of Appeals found the District Court “properly exercised its discretion” and affirmed Wettstein’s sentence.

Davis County Sheriff Zach Dunlavy said Wettstein was transported from Davis County Jail to Oakdale Monday, June 9, for classification and assignment within the Iowa prison system.

Norris wins bid for asphalt overlay of square

By Karen Spurgeon, Publisher
The Bloomfield City Council approved a bid of \$738,768.50 Thursday night from Norris Asphalt of Ottumwa for an asphalt overlay of Franklin, Madison, and Jefferson Streets around the square plus one block off.

Though Norris was the only company to bid the project, the council was pleased the bid was lower than the engineer’s original estimate of more than \$800,000 due to a decrease in the cost of asphalt.

The resurfacing project will take approximately a week — two days for milling and three days for laying the asphalt. The end date of the project is set for Oct. 15, 2025.

The meeting began with a public hearing on a budget amendment for FY2025. According to the notice of public hearing published in the Bloomfield Democrat, the amendment was needed because “more property tax was collected than estimated; grant proceeds were larger than anticipated; capital assets were sold that were no longer in use; SRF loan proceeds were granted for

sponsored project; and transfers were completed to close out funds that were sitting idle from past completed projects.”

Also, on the expense side, “public safety was amended to cover additional expenses for a car; airport was increased for unexpected building maintenance as well as engineering for FY26 grant; library had unexpected repairs as well; P&A was increased to cover a new website; debt service was amended to cover streets plans; capital projects was increased to close out past streets project expenses; enterprise funds needed increased due to the increase in price for purchased power, building repairs and truck purchase. Transfers were also increased to close out past projects holding excess funds.”

The council approved the resolution to adopt the budget amendment.

The third reading of water and demand electric rate increases was approved and new rates will go into effect July 1. Water rates were increased to \$10.66 per 1,000 gallons beyond the first 1,000 gal-

lons used during a month.

The demand electric rate is increasing to \$14 per kWh.

Updates to the handbook for city employees included an increase in bereavement leave from two to three days for the death of a sibling and setting working hours for the Parks and Rec Department to 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

The council approved a resolution to set a date for a public hearing on the proposal to enter into a Development Agreement with Panos Holdings, LLC and SKP Industrial, LLC. This is the final step for Panos in securing a TIF Agreement with the city.

The council set a public hearing for June 19 to discuss selling parcel 01000053. City Administrator Tomi Jo day said the half-acre parcel is in a residential area on Lake Road and is owned by the city. “Plans were originally to get a grant and put a park there,” she said.

The council was asked to set a public hearing to give the public an opportunity to suggest uses for the half-acre parcel.

The council approved a

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Shively, Moore win Look to the Stars 5K

By Karen Spurgeon, Publisher
Overall winners of the Look to the Stars Cancer Foundation’s 5K on June 7 were Sutton Shively with a time of 18:39 and Kierston Moore with a time of 22:02. Both ran in the 11-20 age category.

Other age category winners and their times were:

Female 10 and under: Abby Archer, 37:53
Male 10 and under: Brandon Chaney, 22:48
Female 21-30: Samantha Elliot, 55:39
Male 21-30: Weston Shively, 22:45
Female 31-40: Angie Chaney, 27:49
Male 31-40: Brian Martin, 19:55
Female 41-50: Tonya Oliver, 43:00
Male 41-50: Seth Houston, 22:44
Female 51-60: Robin Goering, 49:33
Male 51-60: Eric Henriksen, 55:35
Female 60+: Donna Kinsler, 47:13
Male 60+: Dave Rasmussen, 32:27

Organizers Randy and Jeri Housholder were thrilled to have 50 participants in the 5K after beginning the event four years ago with only 20 runners. They estimate proceeds from this year’s event will be able to help



Runners in Saturday’s 5K start the race by running up the hill in the City Park from the pedestrian bridge near the Mutchler Center.

four local families with cancer expenses.

This is the second year the 5K has been run on the trail from the Mutchler Center to the McGowen Recreation Area and back. “It’s a workout with all those hills,” Randy Housholder noted.

The couple intends for the Cancer Foundation’s 5K to annually be the first run of the season to serve as a training run. “Those that are serious runners will bring people back to this location,” Randy said.

Randy and Jeri were

also pleased that people of all ages and abilities participated in the event. At least one mother pushed her two-year-old in a stroller for the full route and a gentleman with a cane managed to complete the course.

First place runners in each division won medals. Door prizes such as Randy’s handmade cutting boards, Pampered Chef items, Avon items and Color Street Nails were given away.

Collin Raye and Blake Jack and South 35 to perform at fair

By Kimra Hines, Reporter
Blake Jack and South 35 will open for Collin Raye on Saturday, July 19, at the Davis County Fair.

Tickets are currently for sale online for \$33. Collin Raye is the 64-year-old’s professional name. He was born in De Queens, Ark. and named Floyd Elliot Wray.

He released his first solo album in 1991 titled “All I Can Be.” The song “Love, Me” became Raye’s first number one single on the U.S. Billboard Hot Country Songs chart.

Raye charted 30 country singles between 1991 and 2007. He also charted twice under adult contemporary.

Blake Jack and South

65 are an Iowa band that performs mostly country cover songs with some cover rock as well as their own original music.

Blake Jack is the vocalist and a “serial entrepreneur” who owns a campground, construction company, real estate, and a ministorage. Dave Bloom plays lead guitar and is also a serial entrepreneur who owns a couple of shooting ranges and a guitar shop. Christian Williams, a firefighter who is in paramedic school, plays guitar. Adam Byrne, a project manager for a construction company, plays bass. Travis Wilhite plays the drums and works as the head of



Country singer Blake Jack will perform at the Davis County Fair.

human resources. The guys live mostly around Booklyn and

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Davis County teens advance to rodeo nationals



Dallas Koedem and Bryson Sprouse team roping.

Two Davis County high school students earned a position on the Iowa National High School Rodeo team during the state finals held at the Bloomfield Fairgrounds last weekend.

Teagan Snyder and Bryson Sprouse are headed to Rock Springs, Wyo. July 13-19 to compete at the National High School Finals Rodeo.

Snyder qualified for goat tying. Sprouse along with partner Dallas Koedem, of Larchwood, qualified for team roping.

The National Rodeo will feature over 1,800 contestants from 44 states, Canada, Mexico, Australia, New Zealand, and Guatemala.

Students will compete for more than \$150,000 in prizes, over \$200,000 in added money, and \$375,000 in college



Teagan Snyder earns a spot in the National High School Finals Rodeo.

scholarships.

To earn the title of World Champion, contestants must finish in the top 20 based on their combined times/scores in the first two rounds in

order to advance to the final round. The world champion winners will be determined based on their three-round combined times/scores.

Garage sales galore!

In this edition of the Bloomfield Democrat, garage sale enthusiasts will find a map locating 36 garage sales around Davis County this coming weekend with ads listing items for sale.

Garage sale customers

will be able to purchase everything from fresh baked pies (peach, gooseberry, blueberry, and cherry) made by a champion pie baker to a 2006 Subaru Outback.

Other unusual items for sale are a Hoyt bow, dou-

ble stroller, Wolf moped, drone, gymnast bar/beam, Camelback trunk, and believe it or not — much miscellaneous!

The map and ads can be found on pages 7A and 8A.



Scan to visit our website!



\$1.50



Garage Sales

7A