

# Biblical chalk artist to present at Nazarene Church



**Randy Davis**  
By Kimra Hines, Reporter

Bible teacher and chalk artist Randy Davis will do a presentation at the Grace Pointe Nazarene Church in Bloomfield on Friday, Nov. 7 at 6:30 p.m. Prior to the drawing, Davis uses a unique visual

method to convey biblical principles and how they can be applied to modern day living. Each session is concluded with a chalk drawing which is enhanced by colored lights and special black light effects revealing a previously drawn hidden picture. “It’s an unusual and illustrious way to communicate the truths of the Bible,” said Davis. “It’s also a form of entertainment because I draw a picture and people aren’t used to seeing that when they go to church.” Davis has no formal art training but was always called towards art. In 1983 he began to envision how artistry could be used along with Bible teaching

to convey spiritual truths. He founded Drawing Closer Ministries in 1987. Davis, 69, currently lives in Branson, Mo. but is originally from Ottumwa and attended school in Davis County. He now travels throughout the nation visiting churches and holding special events. “I invited him to come because our community has suffered losses this past year,” said church organizer Renita Murrell. “He’s really uplifting, and I thought it would be helpful to have an evening of fellowship.” The event is by free-will donation and everyone is invited to attend.

# Garrett serves as lay pastor of Troy Church



**Tobin Garrett**  
Tobin Garrett, a member of Grace United Methodist Church in Ottumwa, is now serving as the lay pastor of the Troy United Methodist

Church. Garrett said he is looking forward to becoming involved in the Troy community through its events and the people who attend the Troy Church. Garrett said he has always felt connected to God, but never really found spiritual growth or spiritual maturity until later in life. His father was a Methodist minister. Garrett graduated from Kennedy High School in Cedar Rapids, received his A.A. through Kirkwood Community College and his B.A. in Elementary Education from Buena Vista College in Storm

Lake. He is employed at Indian Hills Community College as a Career Planner and Business Liaison. He and his wife Melissa are the parents of Madyson (Age 26), Dawson (Age 22), Emily (Age 18), Jamison (Age 15) and Clarissa (Age 12). The Troy congregation would like to invite everyone to meet Garrett at their upcoming Fall & Harvest Supper and Sale on Saturday, Nov. 22. The meal will start at 5 p.m. with the auction starting at 7 p.m. (Please see the advertisement on page 10B for further details.)

## PLAY: Play to be held Nov. 14-16

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when we come together. It feels like real life when we’re there because we’re living in the moment, all that other stuff is secondary.” She continued, “If people can come and see their neighbor on stage who they may not agree with everything on, but they can love that character for a minute. How powerful is that?” She understands that people get tired from working and family responsibilities with children. “When we get home at night, we just pull up a screen and zone out, but that’s not real life,” she said. “We have to be intentional to seek out art and to seek out real life opportunities to volunteer and to be in our community.” Day didn’t mince words, “All those old timers out there who are complaining about those kids on screens, this is a real way to make sure there’s another option for entertainment. So, get out, turn off the TV, and come be in real life for one night.” A community play is where people who might normally not mix, get a chance to meet new people and laugh and be part

of something bigger than themselves. She said, “I feel like that is where real life is found, not in the rushing around, but in the slowing down and the getting to know new people and working on something that matters.” Day mentioned seeing the Surgeon General’s report in 2023 which said there is an epidemic of loneliness. “The most pressing health issue in America is lacking social connection,” the report said. Day says you have to step out of your comfort zone like she did to keep community theater alive in Davis County for each other and our children. TThere are at least 101 community theaters in Iowa and if Bloomfield doesn’t continue to offer it, artists along with their money will go elsewhere,” she said. “It’s not a matter of having ample free time with nothing else on your plate because there are many small roles as well as a need for support with costumes, line prompting, and set design. It doesn’t take four nights a week for two months to pick out costumes or design a set,” she said.

Day has learned a lot over the last month. She’s had to ask for help and give constructive criticism. She learned she doesn’t have an eye for set design but fortunately Shirkey does. She’s also learned that she has to meal prep if her family wants to eat during this time. Day has enjoyed the unexpected moments when actors add a new action in or say a line with a different inflection and the emphasis “just kills it.” She loves all the laughing. Her final comment was a plea for support, “I’ve seen our community rally around people and families and causes that are important. So, this is my call to action—please do this. Please show up.” She hopes to find more people interested in directing or at least sharing the responsibility. She would like to see first time actors come try out for even the smallest part promising they’ll get “hooked.” Just as important, she wants to see the theater seats filled for the performances. Check out the advertisement on page six for show dates and times.

## CHAPLAIN: Naftz presence to be beneficial

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officers through ride-alongs and “popping into” the law enforcement center. Johnson said he is grateful to have Naftz on the team and looks forward to having him present to talk to families and friends — as well as officers —following “rough incidents.” Johnson also sees Naftz’s presence as being beneficial during custody cases. “He could help those who lose custody cases work through their grief,” he mentioned. “I also hope my presence will be a comfort to law enforcement,” Naftz commented. Johnson said chaplains have to undergo an FBI background check before being accepted into their positions. The department also has policies de-

fining what chaplains can or can’t do. The policies define the purpose and scope of a chaplain’s role. Naftz said the chaplain’s role is different than that of a local pastor. “We don’t force religion, but if the person we’re serving wants more, we will offer that. We know whether or not to offer a prayer by reading people.” Johnson looks forward to having access to Naftz’s services when dealing with the “raw emotion of something that just happened.” Naftz will serve on an on-call basis and says the police department will understand he is a constant presence. “The big thing is for the officers to know someone is there for them,” Naftz said. “I’m not too proud to ask for help,” Johnson

noted. “The toughest thing is to deliver death notices. We try to do the best we can, but I prefer to have help and to deliver the notice immediately.” Naftz commented that in such situations, after-care for the family and the officers should be offered if they wish. “I also know where my ability ends and am familiar with the resources and where to send people,” Naftz said. Johnson also mentioned that safety precautions will be taken. “If we take Pastor Don somewhere, we’ll stay with him until he’s finished. We’ll work as a team.” Johnson said he feels relief knowing that Pastor Don is willing to help. “Let’s be honest, not everyone wants to talk to the police,” he said.

# Pulaski did not receive any snow removal bids

By Kimra Hines, Reporter

At the Davis County Board of Supervisors meeting on Nov. 3, City of Pulaski Clerk J. L. Stogdill informed the supervisors that the City of Pulaski did not receive any bids for snow removal this year. He inquired about the county plowing the Pulaski streets. Both Chairman Alan Yahnke and Davis County Engineer Ryan Schock expressed the same concern—how long it would take to get to it. Since Pulaski is incorporated, it is responsible for its streets, therefore, the county would be required to plow the roads the county is responsible for first; then the county could plow Pulaski streets. Yahnke said, “With a big snow, it could be three or four days before we could even get to it, and that’s going to be a problem for a lot of people in Pulaski.” The consensus was to give the matter more time to see if any snow bids come in after the city/school election. Stogdill also requested that Schock see to moving a stop sign from a driveway back to its original location on Angular Street. It was unclear why it was moved several years ago. Sheriff Zach Dunlavy reported this year his office will be participating in the Shop with a Cop program just like the Bloomfield Police Department does. Two deputies will attend a free taser training. He noted that at some point in the past, the department bought new Taser 10s but “they’re still sitting in the boxes, because nobody ever got trained to teach everybody.” “It’s like a train the trainer type thing. You have to have special training for these fancy

tasers,” he explained. “So, we’re sending two guys to do that. Then they’re going to come back and train everybody else, and then they’ll be carrying the new and improved tasers.” Dunlavy has made arrangements with the Davis County Hospital to get individual cereal servings for \$.35 to \$.55 per serving. He expects the transition from hot breakfast to cold breakfast for Davis County Jail residents to happen within the next month. Another step he’s taking to cut costs is giving the residents a spork that they keep for the duration of their stay. Currently they receive a new plastic fork and spoon for each meal. That change will begin after the current supply of forks and spoons is depleted. Yahnke attended a Davis County Historic Preservation meeting and reported back on the discussion about fixing the courthouse exterior. A business development specialist from Historic Exteriors out of Illinois presented at the meeting about the beginning step for courthouse repair. Through that company, the cost for the thorough repair estimate, which would include testing the stone, was \$75,000-\$100,000. A less thorough examination and less detailed estimate is possible through the same company for around \$15,000. Yahnke said the historic commission is working on getting a fundraising campaign going. He thought they would likely need to raise a few hundred thousand dollars at least to be eligible for any grant matching funds. The commission is at the beginning of this journey but as Yahnke put it, “We’ve got to start

somewhere.” The most pressing issue is the crumbling stone around the windows which could be a safety hazard. Yahnke reported that Davis County Development Corporation hired a new part-time assistant. The signs for Home Base Iowa will be installed along the roadways soon. The weed commissioner’s annual report showed the county having a problem with teasel. According to the Iowa State University website, “Teasel is currently invading Iowa, moving northward in the state. The distinctive flower heads are commonly used in dried flower arrangements. Common teasel is on the Iowa Noxious Weed List. In the 1950s and 60s, ISU Extension weed scientist was notorious for going to county fairs and confiscating flower arrangements that used teasel due to the presence of viable seeds in the teasel heads.” Schock reported a crossroad pipe was replaced on Scarlet Ave. and one was fixed on 270<sup>th</sup> St. Ditching will soon begin near Hoskin Elevator in Savannah moving towards the Missouri state line. Birdwatcher bridge was officially closed this week. A public hearing was held to discuss the road vacation on Franklin Ave. and Mill St. (also known as Crimson Ave. and 186<sup>th</sup> St.) A resolution to vacate the above-mentioned streets was approved. A public hearing was held to discuss the fiscal year 2025/2026 budget amendment. The amendment was approved.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR: From Page 5A

Truman wrote in a White House press release on April 5, 1946, “Unification does not mean subordination of any branch of the service. It does not mean a loss of identity...It means using our experience in World War II for the peace of the world.” Since WWII, the United States has not declared war on any country even

though conflicts have risen. Not long after President Trump came into office, he made claim that the U. S. should invade Greenland and that Canada should become part of the United States, a clear indication of his thoughts of war mongering. Canada and Greenland have long been our allies. Senator Andy Kim,

a Democrat from New Jersey, stated that “Americans want to prevent wars, not tout them.” We can either let the world know us as a country that will defend its people or a country that is ready to maim and kill. What do you say? **Joyce Proctor Ottumwa**

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