

► STATE DANCE  
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The completion of the state championships also lead into the IF-A Dance Team's annual showcase event, which is scheduled to take place this Saturday, Dec. 13.

The showcase begins at 1 p.m. and will be held inside Cadet Gymnasium. Admission is \$5 for all except for district staff/faculty, who are admitted for free.

Schott said the event serves as a fundraiser for the program, as well as celebrates the entire season.

"We have our kids clinic and other fun dances as well as the popular parent dance," Schott said. "The community will also get a chance to see our state routines. We love the kids clinic because it is a way to get youth interested in dance. We are trying to rebuild our

program participation numbers, so building interest is important."

South Hardin also competed in two events held on Thursday of the state competition. The team includes Georgia Vaughn, Hannah Perry, Kaydi Zoske, Sadie Roskens, Kiersten Winter, Taylor Hasselbrock, Brooke Blanchard and Olivia Hackney.

The Tigers received a Division I rating for their Novelty dance in Class II with an average of 81.88 score.

In Jazz Class II, SH had an average of 82.5 and earned a Division I rating in that as well.

"The girls performed well and we were excited about Division I ratings," SH co-head coach Kim Beran said.

The Tigers will host their Spring Showcase on March 28. ■



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South Hardin competed in two dances at State including Jazz and Novelty. Members of the dance team include (left to right): Georgia Vaughn, Hannah Perry, Kaydi Zoske, Sadie Roskens, Kiersten Winter, Taylor Hasselbrock, Brooke Blanchard and Olivia Hackney.

► EXCEPTIONAL RATING  
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H-R recorded an 82.62 percent overall performance, where the state average is 63.28 percent. Out of a possible 700 points, they scored a 578.31. In math, the state averages 70.93 percent proficient and H-R was 88.64. In growth, they were 68.50. For growth in English, they had 81 percent and were 83.54 percent proficient.

The surprise assembly was on Monday, Nov. 17. When students entered the gym, the Iowa State University fight song and "Sweet Caroline" was playing through the speakers. Along with Cy, the ISU mascot, former H-R principal Brian Mangold recorded a video message. As a University of Iowa fan, Teske also reached out and received a letter from Hawkeye head football coach Kirk Ferentz. She also reached out the NFL team, the San Francisco 49ers, who have two players that played college football in Iowa – Brock Purdy (ISU) and George Kittle (Iowa).

"I emailed the 49ers just to ask, here I am a principal near Ames and we know how much Brock Purdy and George Kittle are to the state and how we love their rivalry amongst each other that we have here, and so we would appreciate any message they could send. They weren't able to have them do it, but the 49ers, the group who I wrote to wrote a nice letter just about 'we're so proud of your success, just like George Kittle and Brock Purdy' unfortunately, we couldn't get them, but it was just a letter that they had so I put it on the slides," said Teske. "The kids just loved that we reached out to the 49ers and



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Following the assembly, Cy hung around and visited different classrooms, took photos and gave high fives in the hallway to the Hubbard-Radcliffe students.

I think most of the kids knew between both of them... how that might impact?"

After the 30 minute assembly, Cy hung around and visited the preschool rooms, high-fived students and took pictures with all the classrooms.

Now with the exceptional rating achieved, the bar has been set for the school and the new principal.

"For all of us, how do we maintain that status? We're doing a lot of good things and while we appreciate that recognition, we know there's a lot of good things going on that's not measurable necessarily on the test scores, on the performance profile," Teske said. "We just want to keep that culture going and we also want to just keep doing what's best for kids. That's what it is really about." ■

► KOLTHOFF  
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Nobody local. So, I started to really notice that," Kolthoff said. "That's when I decided to open Iowa River Legal."

Kolthoff deals with real estate and title work; estate planning and probate; small business and contract matters; misdemeanor and juvenile criminal defense; family and guardianship matters; and tax preparation services, which will begin in early 2026.

"What you really see, and what I'm seeing now, is people who run into the problem that (attorney services) are unaffordable," Kolthoff said. "When I built my firm, accessibility is a big thing to me. Artificial intelligence is one of the unique tools I've been able to utilize, and even before coming here, I was able to run diagnostics and see the area. The type of person that comes here can be anyone from a mom needing a will or an estate drawn up, or a power of attorney, to somebody who is in trouble or has a traffic ticket, to somebody who wants to set up their new business."

Kolthoff also offers flat fee pricing for his services. "That will cover everything... but sometimes times there's a more contested issue so that I default back to my hourly rate. The big thing that makes me different is that I'm really focusing on community access pricing."

For instance, Kolthoff will look at income and poverty guidelines, which gives him the option to deduct his rate based on that. "If you're at minimum wage, you should get an adjustment," he said. "That's how I feel, and that's how I've set myself up a little differently."

Although Kolthoff currently lives in Alden, he feels downtown Iowa Falls is a "good hub for people."

Iowa River Legal is located at 420 Washington Ave. and opened for business on Dec. 1. Kolthoff is taking on new clients and can be reached at 641-207-6800.

"I'll work with you, and I want to make this accessible," he said. "The big take-away I want everybody to know about this firm is it's about meeting people where they are in life. Just come in and talk to me and we'll work out a plan. I'm a long-term community partner." ■



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