

# Ellis named 2025 Great Lakes PRCA All-Around Cowboy

Clay Ellis of Dows has been named the 2025 All-Around Cowboy for the Great Lakes Pro Rodeo Circuit (PRCA), earning top honors after a standout season competing in both Team Roping and Calf Roping.

Ellis spent the summer traveling across the country, competing at rodeos in two events. His consistency and grit paid off as he secured the coveted All-Around title, one of the highest individual honors in professional rodeo. Over the course of the 2025 season, Ellis earned more than \$45,000 in winnings Across the Team Roping & Calf Roping.

A major highlight of his season came when Ellis and his team roping partner, Judd Grover of Cresco, Iowa, turned in a 5.6-second run to win the Will Rogers Memorial Rodeo in Vinita, Oklahoma, held Aug. 6–9. The win marked one of the duo's strongest performances of the year and helped solidify Ellis's position in the standings.

Riding his trusted horses, Shaggy and Rooster, Ellis delivered strong performances



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Clay Ellis of Dows competed over the summer and was named the 2025 All-Around Cowboy for the Great Lakes Pro Rodeo Circuit (PRCA).

throughout the season in both Team Roping and Calf Roping. As part of his All-Around Cowboy title, Ellis was awarded a championship buckle and saddle, symbolizing his achieve-

ment as the top multi-event competitor in the Great Lakes Circuit.

Ellis received his award on Nov. 15 during the Great Lakes Circuit Finals Rodeo in Lou-

isville, Ky., where the region's best cowboys and cowgirls were celebrated for their success over the past year.

For Ellis, the recognition marks the culmination of a sum-

mer spent on the road, pushing himself and his horses to the highest level of performance.

About the PRCA Great Lakes Circuit: The Great Lakes Circuit is one of the PRCA's regional circuits, featuring professional rodeo athletes from across the Midwest. Competitors earn prize money throughout the season in hopes of qualifying for the Circuit Finals and earning year-end honors such as the All-Around Cowboy title.

What Is Team Roping? Team roping is a timed rodeo event featuring two riders, a header and a heeler working together to rope a steer. The header ropes the steer's horns first, turns the steer, and then the heeler ropes both of the steer's hind feet. The clock stops when both ropes are tight and both horses face the steer.

What Is Calf Roping? Calf roping, also known as tie-down roping, is a solo event in which the cowboy must rope a running calf, dismount quickly, flank the calf, and tie three of its legs together as fast as possible. The event showcases horsemanship, speed, and handling skill. ■

## ► IF SCHOOL BOARD

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"I don't know how they can do that if it was voted in," Moore replied.

"I don't know how they can do a lot of things," Neumann said, adding that if he received any more information, he'll share that with the board. SAVE bonds are district-issued debt, leveraging future tax revenues for immediate improvements. "We're hoping it's a no-go because there will be a lot of schools that would be in a world of hurt. We wouldn't be as bad off as some others."

### High School construction update

Neumann gave a construction update and told the board that drywall is up, and painting is started in the new safe and secure entrance. "It's moving fairly quickly."

He added that the locker room shower walls had to be redone. He said it was usable, but not "aesthetically pleasing. If they have to redo it 100 times, it doesn't add to our cost." The coach's office also needs flooring, a shower, and toilet installed.

Neumann said the district office just has a few "punch list" items before it is finished. He also noted there were heating issues, because unit heaters were removed. "This would be putting heat in the air handler system," he said. "Also, there was no fresh air intake in there. We weren't up to code, but the AC still works and they are not touching that."

The wrestling room needs pull-up bars installed and some paint touch-ups.

Painting was done in the high school office on Monday and Neumann said office furniture will soon be moved in. Glass will be shipped on Jan. 16, and the contractors anticipate another two weeks to get that installed with frames. "That is the glass barrier between the high school office when you walk in and it's also fire rated," Neumann explained. "With that delay, I'm assuming they won't have everything done by the first of the year. Now we're hoping for Feb. 1."

A Cadet mascot has also been installed and is lit up in front of the new entrance. It has temporary power connected to it now, but will be on a timer when permanently lit.

Neumann then told the board about some change orders. The first was for \$7,800 to install power to the heater and ductwork in the district office, and \$63,740 to replace the electric and heat unit on the roof.

The board approved the change orders.

### Settlement fund

Neumann reviewed the settlement of FY25 financial records with the board:

The ending fund balances for the fiscal year, ending June 30, 2025, are supported by affidavits from the depository banks.

- a) General/Management/ASP Funds: \$3,628,794.45, \$787,315.36, \$72,034.43
- b) PPEL/SILO Funds: \$1,069,090.21, \$2,671,962.61
- c) Nutrition Fund: \$220,191.43
- d) Activity/Trust Funds: \$107,404.37, \$184,155.13

e) Self-Insurance Fund: \$468,200.82  
All funds were reconciled and tied out with the June 30, 2025, bank statements.  
The board approved the numbers.

### Election results

After the canvass of votes were complete, Kaitlyn Hoversten had 917 votes, Joel Weeks had 692 votes, Karla Damiano was third with 400 votes and David Moore II tallied 261 votes. There were also five write-in votes.

Neumann then thanked Bicknese and Moore for their service on the board.

"I've enjoyed my time here," Moore said. "And I'm glad to see two people who are passionate about it, and I'm glad to see new blood."

Bicknese said he was proud of all the accomplishments made by the district. He thanked the teachers and staff, the administration, his fellow board members, the students, taxpayers, community members, and his family. "Strong schools build strong communities, and strong communities build strong schools," he said. "We succeed together."

After the new members were sworn in, Chris Stauffer was elected president and Ryan Robison was elected vice-president.

### In other business the board:

- Approved Dana Ziesman as a half-time Wrestling Cheer coach.
- Approved Amanda Fjeld as a half-time Wrestling Cheer coach.

- Approved Brock Jacobson as a volunteer Riverbend Middle School Basketball coach.

- Approved the resignation of Lori Riley as Food Service Director effective June 10, 2026.

- Approved three open enrollment requests to the Iowa Connections Academy.

- Approved snow removal and lawn mowing with England Contracting.

- Approved \$400 for Schumaker DJ Service for a dance at Riverbend Middle School.

- Approved authorizing the district's administration to submit a request to the School Budget Review Committee in the amount of \$71,093 for MSA for increased count of certified enrollment over the prior year.

- Approved authorizing the district's administration to submit a request to the School Budget Review Committee in the amount of \$34,994 for MSA for open enrolled out students not included in the district's previous year's certified enrollment count.

- Approved authorizing the district's administration to submit a request to the School Budget Review Committee in the amount of \$10,064 for MSA for providing a Limited English Proficient (LEP) program for students who have exceeded five years of weighted funding in the Fall 2024.

- Approved a SBCR Modified Supplemental Amount Application and Supplemental Aid for the 2026–27 Dropout Prevention Program. ■

## ► SUPERVISORS

CONTINUED FROM P1

### EMS as an Essential Service

Hardin County Attorney Darrell Meyer addressed the Supervisors about the steps to follow in making EMS an essential service in the county. He handed the Supervisors a summary of the Iowa Code about the process in moving forward.

The Supervisors had passed a resolution declaring Emergency Medical



Meyer

Service to be an essential service earlier this year. The handout from Meyer states, "The Board of Supervisors may offer for voter approval the authorization to impose any of the following taxes or a combination of the following taxes:

- (1) Local option income surtax and/or (2) An ad valorem property tax."

"I would suggest that the Advisory Council be created by resolution so that at your organizational meeting, that would be part of one of the committees, and

that sort of thing that is part of your organizational meeting," Meyer said.

Meyer walked the Supervisors through the steps and said that they should pass a resolution at their organizational meeting that does the following:

1. Officially create the advisory council.
2. Name its membership (voting members and otherwise).
3. Name a Supervisor chairperson (and alternate) as an Advisory Council chairperson.
4. Operate under Iowa Code Chapter 21 and 22 (open meetings and records statutes).
5. Set first meeting date.
6. Set due date of Advisory Council annual report (if applicable) such as Oct. 1 of the first fiscal year of the county after the passage of a ballot measure.
7. Set annual meeting date of Advisory Council (if applicable) such as the last Wednesday of August.

Other points made in the handout included:

**Step 2:** Advisory Council meets to discuss EMS needs and shall make a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors for the amount of funds needed.

**Step 3:** The Supervisors decide if/what ballot measure to submit.

**Step 4:** (If a ballot measure passes) Supervisors implement any steps needed to generate the voter-approved funds.

**Step 5:** Advisory Council meets annually to assess and review EMS needs. The council creates a report and files it with the Supervisors. The report is available to the public.

**Step 6:** the Supervisors set a public hearing at least 14 days after receiving the report and shall receive public comment.

Granzow asked if the entire Board of Supervisors needed to be in attendance at the Advisory Council meetings, and Meyer said just a representative.

"But I think the creation of it should be by resolution," Meyer said. "And that could be done at the organizational meeting."

The organizational meeting has been scheduled for Jan. 2, 2026.

### Manure complaint

Hoffman said that he had received a phone call complaint about manure application. The county's Environmental Health Specialist Kendall Lienemann documented the event and contacted the Department of Natural Resources.

"From what I can tell by Iowa Code, Kendall doesn't have any enforcement or delegated authority, so she's primarily in an investigative role," Hoffman said. In addition to documentation, Lienemann also took photos, and gave the DNR a timeline. "I appreciate Kendall taking the time to go out."

### In other business the Supervisors:

- Changed the time and date of the Wednesday, Dec. 24, board meeting to 10 a.m. Tuesday, Dec. 23.

- Authorized giving the Board chair permission to cancel a scheduled board meeting with a 24-hour notice. This would be in cases where there is very little on the agenda outside of approving minutes. "It's a waste of taxpayer dollars to print that (the legal) in the paper, too," Granzow said. "I just want approval from our board that I, or the next chair, have the authority to do that." Meetings can be canceled in times of inclement weather.

- Set a public hearing for FY25–26 budget amendments for 9:02 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 31 in the large conference room.

- Approved resolution 2025–33 for certifying utility, gas and electric for the 2026/2027 fiscal year.

- Approved the promotion from part-time to full-time for Lyndsay Hamm in Dispatch at a rate of \$22.09 per hour. ■

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