Corrections

This space is dedicated to providing a public notice of any factual mistake in a previously published article. The Mount Ayr Record News is committed to delivering the highest quality journalism possible and recognizes the ethical responsibility to correct all factual errors promptly and in prominent reserves space in the paper. **To report an error, email: news@mtayrnews.com or call 641-464-2440.**

Knapp

Main

Shaffer

Stewart

2025/2026 National Honor Society inductees Pt 2

Scholarship, Leadership, Service, Character the four pillars of NHS

Bios available on Page 7

Mount Ayr, Iowa - Last week the 2025/2026 National Honor Society introduced the newest members to the Mount Ayr community. This week, we continue with the individual introductions of the honorees.

This weeks honorees include Trace Knapp, Calvin Main, Jaylee Shaffer and Dannie Stewart.

Last weeks honoree's were Ivy Bice, Adley Dredge, Izzy Gilbertson and Kelbey Greenland.

Each of these honorees met, and in most cased exceeded, the thresholds that afford induction into the NHS.

Next week the final three inductees will take center stage allowing the entire community to get to know these exceptional young people.

Hero

Continued from front page

the situation he gathered up his granddaughter Jenna, who was upstairs with him, and headed down the steps. By the time he reached the bottom of the staircase visibility was almost zero.

"I got to the bottom of the steps and saw the smoke traveling across the ceiling and then I saw the flames," Corum said. "I could only see about a foot off the floor because of the smoke. I stumbled but caught myself and headed for the front door. The smoke was so thick I couldn't see the door. I just moved to where I knew it should be because we have lived there so long."

Once outside he made sure that everyone was out and then realized his dog and cats were still inside. He called to them but by that time it was too late.

Corum was transported to Ringgold County Hospital where he spent the next five hours being treated for smoke inhalation.

The family believes that the fire represents a total loss and the home they spent the last 24 years in was gone.

The family's daughter, Christina, has set up a "Go fund me" account in hopes that the community could lend a financial hand. They are currently residing in the Mount Ayr Hotel and are awaiting information from their insurance company to let them know what options they have moving forward.

Fire avenged home at 601 East Madison photo by Jeff Snyder

They literally left the home with the clothes they had on their backs. All else was lost.

The Go Fund Me account is set up under Christine and Ellen Corum.

They wanted to express their gratitude for the outpouring of the community in helping them through this tragedy, but most importantly they wanted say how much they owed to their hero grandson Kyro.

Kyro's grandma Ellen said ironically "Kyro just had fire safety at his school the week before the fire. I wonder if that helped"

They both said how proud they were of his bravery.

ADVENTURES IN THE AYR

Kids posing for a picture with Sparks Members after a fun day at Little Sparks Camp

Editors Note: Adventures in the Ayr is a new weekly series by MACS student employee Ivy Bice. Adventures in the Ayr will generally be a first-person account of Ivy Bice's weekly "adventures" in and around Mount Ayr from a high school student perspective.

By Ivy Bice

This weekend, the Mount Ayr Sparks Drill Team hosted their annual little sparks camp on Sunday. The little sparks camp is for kids pre-kindergarten through eighth grade interested in learning a dance routine to be performed at the Sparks Expo.

The kids are divided up by grades, for example, pre-kindergarten and kindergarten kids are in a group together. As a member of the Sparks team, I helped at the camp this weekend. One to two Sparks members get assigned to one group of kids. I taught first and second graders with Eva England. I choreographed a dance to Winter Wonderland by Michael Buble. Eva and I chose this song because the theme for the Sparks Expo this year is Holiday Sparks, and we thought it fit perfectly.

To start off the day, we welcomed everyone inside and made sure that every parent picked up their child's Sparks Expo T-shirt before leaving. We then went into the high school gym and divided up the kids into their groups. Eva and I taught our dance to the kids for about an hour. I had so much fun this year spending time with the little ones. I enjoy teaching the little kids cool dance moves and seeing the joy on their faces when I tell them they are doing a good job. I think they enjoyed their song and their dance just as much as I did.

After that, we took them to munch on a snack in the commons. During this time, they get to socialize a little bit with one another, and the Sparks members get a small break as well. Powered and ready to rock and roll, we then lined up in the high school gym to run through all of the routines. We started with the youngest group and ended with the boys' group.

We had a little extra time, so we ran through all of the routines twice. I think getting more practice than usual in the big gym and feeling out how it will be on Expo night helped the kids a lot. Ryann Martin videoed all of the routines as well, so that kids can practice if they so choose. I am very excited for the Sparks Expo this coming weekend to dance with the littles again. If you are interested in joining us, it will be held on Saturday, December 13, at 6 p.m. in the High School gym. Adults are $5, and kids are $3.

Soggy

Continued from front page

attention was then turned to the annual city tree lighting ceremony in front of the Skelly gas station on the south side of the square.

Unfortunately, the tree lighting was short lived as a breaker was tripped rendering the tree to darkness apparently blamed on the damp conditions. Several attempts were made to revive the electrical malfunction with no success.

Sometime later in the evening the breaker issue was solved and the tree sprang to life.

Additional festivities were conducted inside the Ringgold County Courthouse where Santa greeted anxious children and received their whispered Christmas wishes.

The courthouse itself was aglow with numerous decorated trees provided by the different offices located throughout the county seat building.

Unfortunately, the choir scheduled to take place in the assembly room was canceled at the last moment.

All in all, the festivities were well received and appreciated by all those who were lucky enough to attend.

CTE

Continued from front page

The actual metal building for the CTE is expected to be delivered on approximately January 14 with construction to begin soon thereafter.

The board also reorganized as Patricia West was elected president and Russell Schuitema as vice president.

The board approved a $5,000 auction bid to purchase a lot across from the middle school gymnasium.

Although no specific plans are in place for the lot's usage, some uses discussed were additional gymnasium parking, a youth football practice field or a house project.

The board was also informed of upcoming changes to the lunch payment system.

The district is currently moving from Total Access to Etrition.

Parents will have to make a new account with the new system to be able to deposit money for their students' school lunch. Any existing funds in the old system will be moved to the new system.

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The Policy of the Record-News is to cultivate the good-will spirit; to recognize the county as a unit and devote its best efforts to promoting the religious, educational, social, business and professional interests of the county, with emphasis upon agriculture as the basic industry; to promote the co-operative spirit in all lines of endeavor.
Respectfully, SAM SPURRIER, Publisher, 1911-1940