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Diagonal Progress

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Council swears in new members

By Dalton Shadle

DIAGONAL, Iowa – The Diagonal City Council hired two part-time employees for the upkeep of Fogal Lake during its regularly scheduled monthly meeting on Monday night.

The council hired Robbie Mason, who was recently appointed as Diagonal fire chief, and Matt Stevens for the positions. The recently elected members of the council, including Mayor Lester Elliott and members at-large Ryan Parrott and David Grandfield, all took their oath of office. Newly hired city superintendent-Dave Lamb was also present at the meeting.

The council will have its next regularly scheduled meeting on January 12, 2026.

Members participate in swearing in at regular council meeting photo by Dalton Shadle

Christmas home tour raises funds for women battling breast cancer

By Ken Garner

MOUNT AYR, Iowa — When it comes to women's health, especially breast cancer, the mantra "Nobody fights alone" is often used as a rallying cry. In the past few years several local women have helped to start a movement to help those specifically battling cancer in Ringgold, Union and Decatur counties.

This year that movement has led to a Christmas Home Tour to be held on Saturday, December 13 hosted by the Mount Ayr First Christian Church. The event will start at the church at 4 p.m. with sweet confections and holiday music before heading out to various area homes for Christmas tours.

This year's holiday event has been a few years in the making and was in part inspired by the cancer battle of Cindy Glazebrook and her granddaughter. Glazebrook is a cancer survivor and in 2023 her then 29-year-old granddaughter began her own battle against breast cancer.

"Of course it just touched my heart because what I've seen people go through, and what could we do that would just bring a little more easement to them, a little more joy?" Glazebrook said. "So it all started with myself having it, and then saying, what can I do? And then when my granddaughter had it, it's like, what can we do for ladies? What could we do that would help them out? So with that, we decided, okay, let's go ahead.

At that point Glazebrook and Mitzi Hymbaugh started plans of having a style show to support women with breast cancer. The two ladies approached area business and Snyder's in Humeston hosted the 1st annual Breast Cancer Awareness Style Show.

The event drew, which drew more attendees than anyone imagined, has now become an annual event. The style show, which features women modeling clothing, also features women giving their own breast cancer testimonials.

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Pageant participants Tessa Kniep and Amber Golliday have their nails done by Kelli Jo Bjustrom of MODA 106 Salon as Videographer, Evan Howell from Greenstone TV films the occasion.photo by Jeff Snyder

Miss Amazing visits Ringgold County

By Jeff Snyder

Mount Ayr, Iowa — The city of Mount Ayr was paid a visit on December 4, by an independent film crew (Greenstone TV) who traveled all the way from New Zealand to film a number of local residents going about their pageant preparation for The Miss Amazing Pageant held exclusively for developmentally challenged people.

Greenstone TV is producing a series of one-hour specials in conjunction with the Miss Amazing organization hoping to marketing the miniseries to a major media outlet in the upcoming year.

Kelly Jo Bjustrom hosted the film crew at her MODA 106 Salon on the courthouse square.

The stars of the filming event were Tessa Kniep and Amber Golliday, two special girls who need no introductions in Mount Ayr.

The two girls we pampered with a custom nail makeover provided by the skilled hands of owner Kelly Jo herself in preparation of the impending pageant festivities.

The Miss Amazing franchise is a 501C-3 non for profit organization that has been bringing attention to girls all across the country since 2007. The program was founded by Jordan Somer, when she was just 13 years old. She has since expanded the program to include chapters in 30 states with nearly a thousand participants each year. By all accounts the program has been wildly successful.

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Courthouse offers holiday cheer at Parade of Trees

Parade of trees on display at Ringgold County courthouse Photos by Jeff Snyder

Maroonettes Take on Ankeny Chrstians in Diagnol on Friday Photo by Dalton Shadle

Maroonettes perfect to start season

By Dalton Shadle

DIAGONAL, Iowa – The Diagonal girls basketball team has gotten off to a strong start this season winning both if its games thus far.

Last Friday the Maroonettes hosted Ankeny Christian and won a 54-46 overtime thriller in Diagonal.

A game that was back and forth throughout, the Maroonettes credited their coaches for giving them the tools to succeed.

"It was a really exciting win," Halle White said. "We all stuck together and lifted each other up. We used the tools we were given to us to execute the game.

Ankeny Christian jumped out to an 8-7 first quarter lead, but the Maroonettes scored 17 second quarter points to lead 24-19 at halftime. But in a game of team runs, the Eagles came out of the break and took a one point lead going into the final quarter.

With both teams putting points on the board it would be back and forth. In the game's final moments, the Eagles made a 3-pointer to pull ahead late, but Diag-

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