

Old Sandpit sold for \$60K

By Steve Woodhouse

The Marion County Board of Supervisors voted to sell the old sandpit area, near Howell Station at

Tuesday's regular meeting. The Board opened sealed bids before approving the high bid of \$60,000, submitted by Brian Sterk.

Five bids were received, with the lowest being \$6,680. In all, the area sold covers 4.81 acres. No comments were

received during the public hearing, held prior to the Board's vote.

McKinney Named to Graceland President's List

The honor roll lists for Graceland University's 2025 spring term have been announced, and Malorie McKinney of Knoxville has been named to the

President's List. Graceland University students with a perfect 4.0 grade point average are named to the President's List.

Boards approve AEA agreements

The Knoxville and Pella School Boards each approved new agreements with Heartland Area Education Agency at

Tuesday's regular meetings. To comply with a new Iowa law, the funding for the support services AEAs provide will be sent directly

to public school districts. Both Knoxville and Pella will send 90 percent of these funds back to the AEA for services including special

education. The remaining 10 percent will be used to pay other vendors.

Knoxville renews Classroom Clinic agreement

The Knoxville School Board voted to renew an agreement for Classroom Clinic emotional/brain health support services for the next school year.

According to information provided to the board, there

were 41 students served by the program since July 1, 2024. Of those, 18 received psych services and 39 received therapeutic services.

Classroom Clinic helped set up appointments for

78 percent of the students within 30 days of first contact. Most of those in need of the services are on Medicaid (80 percent). There were 22 females and 19 males who took part.

The new agreement will

cost \$65,925. Feedback provided to the board indicated that most parents surveyed about the services were satisfied with Classroom Clinic.

Amsden Named to the Graceland Dean's List

The honor roll lists for Graceland University's 2025 spring term have been announced, and Mya Amsden of Pleasantville has been named to the

Dean's List. Graceland University students with a GPA between 3.25 and 3.64 are named to the Dean's List.

Dutch softball squad has five on academic team

Five Central College players were named to the Academic All-District® softball teams Tuesday, selected by College Sports Communicators.

Right fielder Mariah Parton (junior, Ankeny), catcher Rylee Dunkin (sophomore, Hamilton, Twin Cedars HS), third baseman Hannah Higgins (junior, Macomb, Ill.), second baseman Larissa Miller (sophomore, Ankeny) and center fielder Carley Underwood (sophomore, Mitchellville, Colfax-Mingo HS) were honored. To be eligible for consideration, a student-athlete must play in 90% of a team's contests at the

varsity level or start in 66% of the games while achieving a 3.50 or better cumulative grade point average (4.00 scale).

Parton and Dunkin are among those players advancing to the national ballot to be voted on by CSC members. Academic All-America® honorees will be announced June 17. Parton is a kinesiology major with a 3.61 GPA. She was second on the team with a .386 batting average, while leading the team with five triples. Dunkin is an elementary education major with a 3.96 GPA. She had a team-high 30 steals to go with her .367 batting average.

Knoxville Chamber Director announces departure

Nathan Sage, Executive Director of the Knoxville Chamber of Commerce and current candidate for the U.S. Senate, announced to members that his last day with the Chamber will be June 13.

"This decision does not

come lightly. Serving this community—you—has been one of the greatest honors of my life. From the moment I stepped into this role, I was welcomed with open arms. The trust and support I've received from Knoxville's

businesses and leaders has inspired me every single day. We've accomplished so much together—from new initiatives to bold conversations, to celebrating the heart and soul of this town," Sage wrote. "Thank you again

for the opportunity to serve you. I'm proud of what we've built together, and I'm even more excited for all that lies ahead for this amazing community."

Knoxville Hospital & Clinics welcomes new Chief Financial Officer Sean Dhabalt



Knoxville Hospital & Clinics (KHC) has announced the hiring of Sean Dhabalt as its new Chief Financial Officer (CFO). Sean replaces Maggie Hamilton-Beyer who is retiring at the end of June after over 40 years

of leadership experience in both the clinical and financial aspects of health care. Sean began his duties at KHC on May 19.

"We are pleased to welcome Sean to the KHC team," said Kevin Kincaid, KHC CEO. "Sean brings with him over 30 years of financial expertise and I am confident that he will play a key role in ensuring the financial stability and success of our facility. We look forward to working with him to continue providing exceptional care to the patients that we serve."

Sean has a Bachelor of Arts degree from Iowa State University in Accounting.

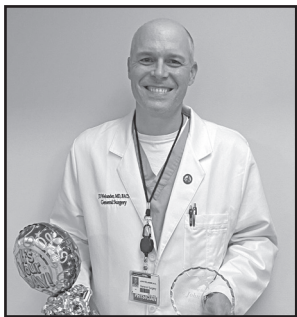
Prior to coming to KHC, Sean was the CFO at Iowa Radiology/Professional Medical Management for 23 years. His key responsibilities included direct oversight of accounting, finance, and budgeting operations, ensured the integrity and compliance of fiscal information, and maintained a financial strategy for the sustainable growth of two companies.

Sean is a native of Marion County and graduated

from Melcher Dallas High School. He currently resides in Indianola with his wife Kim. Together they have five children and three grandchildren.

"Having been raised in Marion County, I am grateful for the opportunity to join the KHC team and give back to the communities that shaped so much of my life," said Sean. "I'm excited to return to the area, take in the rural countryside, and spend more time with my family and friends."

JD Welander, MD — Shining Star for Pella Regional



JD Welander, MD, General Surgery, was selected as Pella Regional Health Center's Shining Star for his high-performance standards.

Welander, resident of Pella, was nominated based on attitude, commitment, communication, etiquette, privacy, safety, and ownership.

Excerpt from his

nomination:

"I had Dr. Welander perform a procedure, and from the first visit to surgery and follow-up, he was the kindest, most caring, and informative doctor. He made sure I understood everything and was always so sweet and reassuring. Even now, whenever I see him around, he always takes a moment to say hello or wave, making you feel like you truly matter. I really appreciate his warmth and the genuine care he shows."

Welander will receive a \$100 gift, a plaque, and will automatically be included in the nominations for the Shining Star of the Year award.

Tuesday night sports briefs

Below are briefs about sporting events around Marion County that we included in our daily Espresso email. Our goal is to learn more about these events for more complete stories in the June 6 Marion County Express.

Pella boys fall in individual tournament

Nile Rozenboom and Jordan Schaffer have both suffered two losses in the individual state tennis tournament. Rozenboom won his opening match 6-1, 6-4, but fell in the second round 6-1, 6-0. In the consolation bracket, he fell 7-6, 6-4 and 1-0.

Schaffer fell 6-0, 6-0 in the opening round and 6-1, 6-3 in the first consolation round. Both players will be on the court for the Dutch's quest for a state team title.

Knoxville boys advance

Knoxville boys' soccer will move on in its quest

for a championship, as the Panthers bested Ballard 3-1 at home Tuesday night. Cecil had 2 saves.

"He came out and was not in when we gave up the goal but we were able to play all our seniors," Coach Dylan Mick explained. "Kaison Wilder scored our first a minute in, on an assist from Joe Finnegan. Brett Watters scored our second on a throw in from Max Magana. Jensen Finnegan scored our third on a cross from Brody DeJong."

The Panthers will travel to Perry Thursday night at 7 p.m. in the next round. Perry had a dominant win last night to advance and came into Knoxville's bracket as the top seed.

Pella boys advance

Pella boys' soccer will move on to the next round as well, as they defeated Boone 2-1 Tuesday night. They will travel to

Urbandale Thursday night at 7 p.m. for the next round.

Pella Christian boys advance

The Pella Christian boys' soccer team will also be back on the pitch Thursday, after a 5-1 home win over West Branch Tuesday night. The Eagles will be on the road at West Central Valley at 7 p.m.

Knoxville girls fall in season opener

Knoxville girls' softball fell 0-9 on the road in its season opener. Addy Dunkin went 1-for-3 in the game. Coach Chris Peden said the team is excited to bounce back against Newton at home Thursday night.

Twin Cedars crushes Seymour

Twin Cedars baseball defeated Seymour 14-3 at home Tuesday night. Dallas Smith went 3-for-3 with two doubles and three RBI.

Saber girls fall to Seymour

Twin Cedars softball fell 14-6 to Seymour at home last night. Khloe French with 2-for-3 with a triple. Cristen Durian hit a home run and had two RBI.

Saints down Moulton-Udell

Melcher-Dallas baseball picked up a dominant win Tuesday night, 12-1 over Moulton-Udell. Austin Remster had two doubles and an RBI in the game, along with nine strikeouts on the mound. Leo Schrader went 3-for-4.

Melcher-Dallas softball wins

The Saint softball team completed the sweep of M-U with a 14-1 win Tuesday night. Hayden Branson went 2-for-3 with two RBI, two stolen bases and struck out five on the mound.

Marion County



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From the Marion County Express staff



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