



# The Tipton Conservative and Advertiser

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The troupe members: William Raskin, Emily Finke, Cameron Driggers, Alissa Cox, Anya Newsome Hill, Cole Bozong and Spencer Greene. All performers and technicians are selected by vocal audition or resume and experience.

## Des Moines Metro OPERA Performs For Tipton Students

by Mary Barnum

Tipton Students in PreK to sixth grade were treated to a musical performance of *The Billy Goats Gruff*, Thursday, March 12 that was part of Des Moines Metro Opera's OPERA Iowa Educational 2026 Tour. Well over 300 students with their teachers and support staff were engaged and engrossed in the operatic telling of the classic tale of three billy goats and the challenge of crossing a bridge dominated by a mean troll.

Before the show, fourth grade students attended workshops led by the vocal artists and music director of the OPERA. Students reported enjoying learning about different styles of music ranging from pop, country, jazz and others to opera. They also commented on learning about different voice ranges such as bass, ten-

or, soprano, alto and how voices can sing the various styles as well as utilizing styles to tell a story.

When the audience for the show was assembled in the middle school gymnasium, OPERA Iowa Music Director Alissa Cox led a workshop for all students as an introduction to the performance. This included explaining the story of three little billy goats who decided to play a game of hide and seek on their way home from the first day of school. They would encounter a steep bridge, a mean old troll and a sticky situation. The students rehearsed their part of the show as well, singing a chorus together, "We will be fair and kind and true to each and every one no matter who" reinforcing the happy ending of how friendship is powerful and "kindness is contagious."

On the piano, Ms. Cox mas-

terfully provided the orchestral accompaniment for the professional singers who were selected from nationwide auditions held in New York City, Houston, San Francisco, Cincinnati, Philadelphia and Des Moines. The artists selected for 2026 OPERA Iowa Educational Touring Troupe are: soprano Emily Finke of Hudson Valley, N.Y.; tenor Spencer Greene of Chicago, Ill.; mezzo-soprano Anye Newsome Hill of Geneva, Ill; and baritone William Raskin of Madison, Wis.; Ms. Cox pianist, of Dallas/Fort Worth, Texas; and the technicians are Cameron Driggers of Hoboken, Ga. and Cole Bozong of Greenville, Mich.

This opera version of Billy Goats Gruff was adapted specifically for students in grades kindergarten through sixth by John Davies during his term as

SEE OPERA, P14

## New Tipton Community Club Junior Members Are Ready and Willing to Help

by Sandy Green

Sometimes when an idea that was successful on its first try doesn't, for a number of reasons, happen again the next year, the door is open for the formation of a brand-new community group to develop. Such is the case with the Tipton Community Club that officially registered their name at the Cedar County Courthouse on Aug. 8, 2025.

Two friends and co-workers, Cheryl Schlueter and Denise Feltes, enjoy doing things together and for the local community. The two worked together at the first Funtoberfest in the fall of 2024 which was held at the Cedar County Fairgrounds. This free family fun event was sponsored by donations from local individuals, families and businesses.

The day it was held turned

out to be windy enough that the inflatable bouncy houses that had been reserved could not be set up. Consequently, that reservation deposit was refunded. Eventually, that fee became the seed money for the activities presently put on by the newly founded Tipton Community Club. Current events for the most part will be held at the Tipton Elementary/Middle School. The designation of "Junior Members" came about in a rather natural way. Cheryl recruited some of her grandchildren, and they told their friends, and the number of young people wanting to take part just kept growing. Presently these "Junior Members" range in age from seven to 13 years old.

"What I like about the club is that I like to help develop future leaders in the community" Feltes said. "Our club has junior

members now. We have such a great group of kids.

"These kids are just amazing. When they say they're going to show up—they do. And they have ideas and goals that they're more than willing to follow through on."

She added that she is more than willing to be a volunteer at any time she can to come alongside ( the Junior Members) in their efforts.

A number of the potential young members had been aware of some activities in the past that some students couldn't take part in even though there might be just a minimal fee. They decided it would be a good idea to raise the funds to put on some fun activities so that anyone that wanted to, could take part.

Member Herb Tholen, 12,

SEE COMMUNITY CLUB, P14



Pictured above are Junior Members of the newly formed Tipton Community Club. Front row, l-r, Sage Hanson, Lucas Paul, Landon Voss, Brinley Schlueter and Kennedy Jackson. Back row, l-r, Caleb Oleson, Herb Tholen, Wyatt Voss, Hunter Oliver, Maegan Colcord, Piper Chapman, Aubrey Phelps and leader Cheryl Schlueter. Not pictured: Colton Schlueter, Riley Yerington, Ellie Tholen, Finley Engles, Jayana Bower and leader Denise Feltes. Contributed photo

## Winning \$250,000 Lottery Ticket Purchased at Tipton Tiger Mart

A Tipton woman has won a \$250,000 lottery prize.

Katherine Silvey won the eighth and final top prize in the Iowa Lottery's "Payline" scratch game.

She purchased her winning

ticket at Tiger Mart, 51 Cedar Street in Tipton, and claimed her prize Monday, March 9 at the lottery's Cedar Rapids re-

gional office.

Once the final top prize in a scratch game is claimed, distribution ends and the game is pulled from shelves.

## Supervisors Voice Support For Economic Development Contract Extension

Sue Hall, Reporter

Cedar county supervisors discussed contracts, including one for economic development, on March 17 and approved a sexual assault awareness month proclamation.

East Central Intergovernmental Association (ECIA) Executive Director Mae Hingtgen talked about ECIA's contract with the county's economic development commission CCEDCO. Following the retirement of Rod Ness, county supervisors contracted with ECIA to serve as administrator for the group.

That first contract began in August and will extend through the end of FY26 this coming June. The new leadership with ECIA's Holly McPherson began with her attending separate city council meetings and inviting representatives to a strategic planning session to develop a new focus for CCEDCO.

Supervisors asked for commu-

nity input for CCEDCO because they want county development to be a mutually beneficial relationship county-wide. About seven goals emerged from that strategic planning meeting.

Administrator McPherson has put them together to share with the board this week as a purpose forward that communities say they can support. The next step will be securing community membership in the new CCEDCO.

Hingtgen is aware of revenue constraints that counties are coping with in this budget season and into the future. She asked the board last week about ECIA's renewal contract for FY27. They told her, "We're good for the FY27 contract" extension.

But, said Supervisor Mike Bixler, "We'll be looking for essential positive results with participation from Cedar county's communities" this coming fiscal year. Without community

memberships it will be difficult to justify extending the contract into FY28.

County revenues will continue to be tight. Supervisors are aware that additional expenses not mandated by state Code, such as taxpayer funding for ECIA's administration of CCEDCO, will need to produce viable results that serve everyone countywide.

They expressed appreciation for McPherson's recent involvement with city councils when she shared advantages of membership in CCEDCO with ECIA's expertise. Mae Hingtgen said she thought a majority of towns are favorable to renewing their participation. There has not been response from Lowden and Stanwood.

In a related partnership experience with ECIA, Public Health Director Stefanie Wagaman said that her department is in the

SEE SUPERVISORS, P14

## Cedar County Fairgrounds Making Several Upgrades to Racetrack, Kathy Dlouhy Memorial Race Sept. 18

The Cedar County Fairgrounds is currently undergoing several upgrades to the Racetrack area of the Fairgrounds. The Cedar County Fair Board members have already spent countless hours working as the spring weather has allowed. The Judges/Announcer's stand has been replaced with a larger stand that will allow much more room for scorers and announcers, the flag stand has been moved and elevated. Improvements to the lighting system are planned, along with additional safety fencing and the relocation of some of the current safety rails to create a much safer pit area. Improvements to the sound system are also planned, and the pit area sign-in booth will be replaced.

With all the ongoing improvements, the Darksides Promotion team has made the de-



Duston Anderson welds a piece of railing to the upgraded Judges/Announcer's Stand Saturday morning at the Cedar County Raceway in Tipton. The stand is one of several planned upgrades to the Raceway located in the Cedar County Fairgrounds throughout the season. As a result, the March 28 Spring Fling has been called off, but racing will begin this season on April 16.

SEE RACETRACK, P8



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