



Andy Voelker solos with Jubilation at the JAVA concert last month at Benton



Singing with Celebration Company last month were Heath Hupke, Alex Volesky, Tyson Albert and Greg Wilhelmi. More pictures are on page 3 of this issue

## JAVA Benton music department gives holiday concert

# 2004

## The year in review in Benton County

### January

University of Iowa Care Center, Belle Plaine, welcomed Natalie Lanterner, M.D. to clinic staff. As a family medical physician, she will provide care for patients of all ages.

Belle Plaine's Radio Shack was named 'New Select Store of the Year 2003' at the Radio Shack Christmas Show in Minneapolis, MN.

A major improvement at the Belle Plaine Municipal Airport should take shape later this year after the Belle Plaine City Council approved a bid for the construction of a six-stall T-hanger structure. The council approved the low bid of \$228,000 from Garling Construction of Belle Plaine for a structure which will house up to six aircraft and include concrete floors and approaches. Private contributions will cover the entire cost of the project.

Benton County Democrats followed statewide trends at the Iowa Caucuses, favoring Sen. John Kerry as the Democratic nominee for president.

The Belle Plaine Planning and Zoning Board received the resignation of member Judy Breja. Breja resigned after being elected by the city council to fill an empty council seat. The board will nominate K.C. Swearingen for the vacant position.

The church was full for the dedication of the new addition to St. John Lutheran Church, Newhall. The congregation pledged over \$1 million for the project.

Marshall and Helen Freeman, Luzerne, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with a private family dinner.

Edna Kouba, a former resident of Belle Plaine, will celebrate her 90th birthday.

Toni Formanek, formerly of Elberon, will celebrate her 90th birthday.

Belle Plaine's new mayor, Jim Daify, presided over his first city council meeting. Much of the meeting consisted of routine business, but Daify also announced several appointments.

Lina Adil, Houston, TX, and Saleem Shamsee, Belle Plaine, exchanged wedding vows at the Sheraton Hotel in Houston, TX. The bride is a student at the University of Houston. The groom is a physician at the University of Iowa Family Care Center, Belle Plaine.

### February

Benton County voted in favor of the school infrastructure local option tax 2,087 to 968, easily beating the simple majority needed for passage.

Fred and Shirley DeNeve, Van Horne, will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary with family.

The Belle Plaine Area Ambulance Service recently received a boost to its new ambulance fund with a \$1,000 donation from the Belle Plaine Lions Club.

Chad Hennings and Robert Gallery received their Outland Trophies in Omaha for being the best linemen in college football. Hennings was honored in 1987 and Gallery was honored this year. Former Benton Community coach Reese Morgan was coach for Hennings in high school, and coached Gallery at Iowa.

A card shower honored Myron Knaack of Newhall on his 90th birthday.

A highlight of the Belle Plaine Nursing and Rehab's Sweetheart Supper was the crowning of the king and queen. This year's honor went to residents Angie Bannon and Ted Fredericks.

Kennedy Nicole White, daughter of Cindy Ehlen and Aaron White, has been named the winner of the First Baby of 2004 contest.

Don Magdefrau, publisher of the Newspapers of Benton County, was among those receiving the Distinguished Service Award at the Iowa Newspaper Association convention in Des Moines.

Hank Wehrman, representing the Belle Plaine Fourth of July Committee, presented a donation of \$1,500 to the Belle Plaine Parks and Recreation Department. The money will be used toward a feasibility study for a proposed new aquatics center for the city.

William and Barbara Hennings of Elberon will note their 40th wedding anniversary.

Marion and Maurice Cornelis of Belle Plaine celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with a family dinner.

Kenneth and LaVonne Karsten of Marengo will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary with a family dinner.

### March

Coon Creek Telephone Company's Board of Directors has approved a plan for an additional \$2.7 million investment in the Marengo and Belle Plaine exchanges. The project calls for overbuilding the two communities, and the adjacent surrounding areas, with new underground facilities to allow CCTC to bring the latest and future state-of-the-art telecommunications services to CCTC customers.

High school students performed ensemble and individual presentations during Speech Night at the Belle Plaine Community Library on March 23. Jeanne Malcolm coached all the students.

The Belle Plaine FFA Chapter is a recipient of a \$2,000 Environment First Grant awarded by the Iowa Farm Bureau. The announcement was made March 16 in conjunction with National Ag Week.

Randall Forsyth, who has served as Benton County's First Deputy since 1979, has thrown his hat into the ring for the position of Benton County Sheriff and will face Benton County Deputy Ron Tippet in the June Republican Primary. Tippet announced his intention to run for sheriff late last year.

Belle Plaine's Glenn Drahn was honored at the boy's state basketball tournament after being named to the State Baseball Hall of Fame. Now in private business in Belle Plaine, Drahn spent many years as a player and coached at the high school and collegiate level and was also a college athletic director.

The Belle Plaine Historical Society announced it has purchased the Belle Plaine Laundromat from the estate of the late Father John Graham and has reopened it. Due to its historic location in the former Herring Hotel, the business at 718 13th St. has been renamed the Herring Laundromat. Jim Morrow serves as the manager.

The Benton County Supervisors unanimously approved adoption of a \$19,664,109 budget for fiscal year 2005 following a public hearing. A three-percent hike was approved for elected officials.

Rose Vesely Sass will celebrate her 80th birthday with her family.

A tentative timeline for the railroad bridge project has been received by the City of Luzerne from project consultant Ament Inc. The plan anticipates that it will take the better part of 2004 to complete preliminary steps for the project with the DOT. The letting of bids is expected in late December, with construction tentatively set to begin in March 2005.

The plan calls for the new bridge to be complete in November 2005. The Union Pacific Railroad has committed to pay 20 percent of the project cost.

A security system for Benton County's courthouse will be made possible with federal funds coming to the county through the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

Carroll and Evelyn Border, Belle Plaine, will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary with a family dinner.

Lillian McNulty, Newhall, will celebrate her 90th birthday with an open house.

The Merkel-Bockholt American Legion Auxiliary Unit 107, Keystone, entertained the members of the post and guests for the 85th birthday of the American Legion.

Day to day operations of the Belle Plaine Area Ambulance Service have come under new management following the resignation of EMS Manager Barb Heller. The ambulance service board at its meeting hired Lee Weeda, Elana Malfese and Don Bringmann to replace Heller. All are members of the ambulance staff.

Dennis and JoAnn Karr, Newhall, celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary with a family dinner.

Rosalie Upham, Elberon, and George Musel, Chelsea, celebrated their 80th birthdays with card showers.

Keith and Joan Mithelman, Norway, observed their 50th wedding anniversary.

### April

Lorraine Barfels, Belle Plaine, celebrated her 90th birthday with a card shower.

Lena Pickart, Keystone, celebrated her 95th birthday with a card shower.

Deb Mescher, PA-C, joined Belle Plaine Family Practice. She will see patients at the clinic located at 1010 8th Ave. in Belle Plaine. She is a native of Dyersville and a 1996 graduate of the Physician Assistant program at the University of Osteopathic Medicine and Health Science in Des Moines. She has spent the last eight years practicing family medicine in Guttenberg.

The Benton County Supervisors decided it would take more time to research if a line carrying cattle manure can be placed in the ditch of a county gravel road. Proposing the 1.5-mile PVC line was Cedar Valley Dairy, located southeast of Blairtown.

The Sunset Riders Saddle Club joined a statewide fundraiser to raise money for Camp Sunnyside in Des Moines, a camp for crippled children. All total, from fund raising activities, the local Sunset Riders Saddle Club relayed some \$2,000 to the camp.

The Belle Plaine Parks and Recreation Department and area Master Gardeners are joining efforts to recruit volunteers to maintain flower and shrub beds in Box Memorial Park this summer.

Mr. and Mrs. Ross Kimm, Blairstown, will celebrate their 65th wedding anniversary with a family dinner.

Tanner and Tyler Schwab, Belle Plaine, earned an award for logging 100 hours in the American Quarter Horse Assoc. Horseback Riding Program. The program recognizes and rewards AQHA members for time spent with their American Quarter Horses in activities such as trail rides, working cattle, pleasure driving and simply riding.

Ron and Kaye Buch of Luzerne celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary.

Formal approval was given to set the wheels in motion for a potential change in city government. The Belle Plaine City Council voted unanimously to direct its finance committee to proceed with plans to eventually hire a city manager/administrator.

The recently enacted Medicare reform bill is far from perfect, but there's still time to change it before it becomes fully active in 2006. That was the message from Third District Congressman Leonard Boswell, who spoke to a group of senior citizens at the Belle Plaine Community Center.

Ranked fifth in the state, Benton County continued to grow in population between April 1, 2000, and July 1, 2003, according to new population estimates released by the U.S. Census Bureau. The county's growth rate is 13.2 percent and far outpaced other Iowa counties.

"Wandering Through Paradise" was the theme for the 2004 Prom. Cory Mitchell and Anna Jacobi were the Belle Plaine High School royalty who were crowned at the promenade.

Virginia May Wieben Krutzfeldt, Keystone, observed her 90th birthday. Her family joined her for a social afternoon. Edna Carolina Coleman celebrated her 97th birthday. She has a total of 204 descendants, 11 living children and two deceased; 57 grandchildren; 103 great-grand children and two deceased; and 28 great-great-grandchildren and one deceased. Ten of her children were among the guests to share her birthday cake.

Physician Assistant Deb Mescher was honored at an open house at the Belle Plaine Community Center. Mescher joined the Belle Plaine Family Practice and will provide medical care to people of all ages. St. Luke's Hospital sponsored the event.

### May

Arson is suspected in the fire that claimed three historic cabins just east of the Youngville Café, located at the corner of Highway 30 and 218. The three cabins from the 1920s were reminiscent of the cabin courts sprinkled along the Lincoln Highway in days past. The association had them primed and ready for a paint job made possible by a Keep Iowa Beautiful grant.

The Belle Plaine library has invited Henry B. Tippet to present a program on his book, "Just the Facts." He will review his growing up years in Belle Plaine and his ladder to success in the business world.

Wilma Rupp celebrated her 93rd birthday with a card shower.

KCRG-TV's Liz Mathis received the Iowa Broadcast News Association's highest honor. Mathis was recognized with the Jack Shelley Award for 27 years of dedication to professional broadcast journalism in Iowa.

Groups receiving grants from the Lincolnway Community Enrichment Committee were the Belle Plaine School Foundation, Belle Plaine Historical Society, Belle Plaine Area Ambulance Service, Iowa Valley Resource Development, Chelsea Fire Department, Chelsea Library, and the Chelsea Community Club.

Members of the Belle Plaine FFA Chapter accepted a \$2,000 Environment First Grant through the Iowa Farm Bureau. With this grant, the chapter will give residents a chance to rid themselves of unwanted tires by collecting and hauling

## Year in review (Continued on page 8)

# Supervisors make appointments

## Vermedahl is chairman for 2005

By JIM MAGDEFRAU  
Star-Press editor

VINTON—The Benton County Board of Supervisors made their annual appointments at the Dec. 28 meeting, held in the courthouse in Vinton.

David Vermedahl was appointed chairman of the supervisors. Ron Buch will serve as vice chairman.

In other appointments made at the board meeting:

The Cedar Valley Times, South Benton Star-Press and Belle Plaine Union were named as official newspapers for the county.

The supervisors appointed many to the eminent domain board. The following were appointed.

**Licensed Real Estate Sales Person or Real Estate Broker:** Arlen Gerhold, Danny Kaestner, Judy Carter, Carmie Behrens, Sandy Wedmore, Wayne Siela, Burt Day, Marion Schminke

**Persons Having Knowledge of Property Values by Reason of Occupation:** Roger Schlarbaum, Mike McNamara, Jeff Geiger, Dave Coulter, Eldon Zumbach, Jeff Akers, Duane Johnson

**Owner-Operator Agricultural Property:** Derold Happel, Wayne Newton, David Rhinehart, Richard Grieder, Ross Wiley, John Elwick, Wayne Riley, Bill Hennings

**Owners of City or Town Property:** Darold Sindt, Harold Knaack Jr., Earlene Clausen, Dave Coats, Larry Weeda, Gloria Feuerbach, Lloyd Benson

The board approved authorizing the auditor to issue warrants.

The supervisors were appointed to several boards:

**North Benton Family Resource Center (HACAP)** - Supervisor Vermedahl

**Regional HACAP** - Supervisor Sanders

**Burrows Family Resource Center (Southern Benton County HACAP)** - Supervisor Buch

**Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)** - Mary Williams

**Emergency Management Commission** - Supervisor Sanders, Supervisor Vermedahl, Alternate

**Resource Enhancement & Protection (REAP)** - Supervisor Vermedahl

**North Benton Ambulance** - Supervisor Vermedahl

**Solid Waste Disposal Commission Advisory Board** - Supervisor Buch, Supervisor Vermedahl, Alternate, Supervisor Sanders, Alternate

**County Conference Board** - Supervisor Sanders, Supervisor Buch, Supervisor Vermedahl

**Benton County Health Board** - Supervisor Sanders, Ex-Officio

**6th Judicial District Department of Corrections** - Supervisor David Vermedahl

**Workforce Development** - Supervisor Sanders

**Eastern Iowa Tourism** - Supervisor Sanders, Supervisor Buch, Alternate, Supervisor Vermedahl, Alternate

**North Iowa Juvenile Detention** - Supervisor Buch

**Area Substance Abuse Council (ASAC)** - Supervisor Sanders

**Regional Child Support Recovery** - Buch

**Benton County Empowerment Board** - Buch

**Benton County Conservation** - Supervisor Sanders, Ex-Officio

- Myron Parizek, Benton County Engineer, was appointed as Benton County's ADA coordinator.

- Jim Hodgson was reappointed to the Benton County Zoning Commission for a three-year term.

- Appointed to the Benton Development Group board of directors were Buch, Rodney Kubichek, Marty Junge, Eldon Zumbach and Dave Coulter.

- Vermedahl was appointed as trustee to the Heartland Insurance Group. Buch is alternate.

- John Stiegelmeier was named to the Vinton Airport Zoning Board and the Belle Plaine Airport Zoning Board.

- Parizek and Stiegelmeier were named to the Eastern Iowa Airport Board of Adjustment.

- Vermedahl was named to the East Central Iowa Council of Governments board of directors. Sanders is the alternate.

- Don Martin was named to the Region 10 Transportation Policy Committee.

- Rick Erickson was named to the Region 10 Transportation Technical Advisory Committee.

- Appointed as safety coordinators were Dan Higdon, Mark Hippen and Roger Witt.

- Nancy Farmer was appointed to the Benton County Decategorization Board.

- Steve Runyan and Joan Lindberg were named to the Benton County Land Use Adjustment Board for five years.

- The following were named to their respective benefited fire districts:

Van Horne Benefited #1 - Edward A Fry

Keystone Benefited #2 - Dan Busch

Newhall Benefited #4 - Robert Kaestner

Ben-Linn Benefited #3-#5 - Mike Deklotz

The board accepted the resignation of Glenn Werning from the Newhall Benefited Fire District and appointed Duane Rinderknecht to finish the term.

- Michael Beumer was named Benton County Weed Commissioner.

- Dr. Brian Meeker was named Benton County Medical Examiner, Dr. Mark Deardon is deputy medical examiner, and Shane Higgins, Michelle Burnes, Mary Phillips, Eric Dickinson and Marty Parbs were named medical examiner investigators for two-year terms.

**Landfill fees**

Parizek submitted a review of the landfill expenses and revenues, and said next year's expenses and revenues should be the same. Based on expenses expected in 2006, Parizek recommended increasing the per capita fee by \$1 in fiscal year 2006. The per capita rates will be \$17 for urban residents and \$21 for rural residents. The cost difference is for the county's expenses for recycling trailers and picking up recyclable materials at drop-off sites for rural residents.

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