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It's About You!

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IN BRIEF

Auditions set for spring play

Spring Play auditions are set for the Charles City High School Drama Department. Auditions will be held on Monday, Feb. 28, from 3:15-5 p.m. and 6-7:30 p.m. Casting is open to all high school students. Auditions will be held in Room 510 at the high school.

For more information, please contact Jen Burton at (641) 220-1769 or Ms. LeAnn Smith, assistant director at the high school.

Music Jam

The next Old Time Music jam session will be Thursday, Feb. 24, at 7 pm at the Senior Center in Charles City. 900 Hulin St. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. All are welcome!

Soil and Water Commission

The regular meeting of the Floyd County Soil & Water Conservation District Commissioners will be held on Thursday, Feb. 24, 2011, at 7 a.m. at the Natural Resources Conservation Service Office, 623 Beck St.

Floyd County GOP to meet

The Floyd County Republican monthly meeting will be held on Monday, Feb. 28, at 7 p.m. at the Charles City Public Library. All interested parties are invited to attend.

WEATHER

Brought to you by:

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YESTERDAY'S TEMPS

High: 26

Low: 19

8 a.m.: 19

5 p.m.: 26

Yesterday's temperature

8 degrees below normal

Precip (as of 5 p.m.):

None

Degree Days: 42

Sunrise: 6:58 a.m.

Sunset: 5:50 p.m.

Today



Area Forecast

Mostly sunny in the morning...Then mostly cloudy with a slight chance of drizzle...Light snow and freezing drizzle in the afternoon. Highs in the upper 30s. South winds 10 to 15 mph. **Tonight...**Mostly clear. Lows near 20. West winds 10 to 15 mph in the evening...Shifting to the northwest after midnight.

Thursday...Partly sunny. Highs in the upper 20s. North winds 10 to 15 mph. **Thursday night...**Mostly cloudy. Lows near 15. North winds 5 to 10 mph.

Extended Forecast

Friday...Mostly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of light snow. Highs near 20. **Friday night...**Mostly cloudy with a slight chance of light snow. Lows zero to 5 above.

Saturday...Mostly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of light snow. Highs 10 to 15 above. **Saturday night...**Decreasing clouds. Chance of light snow.

OPINION



4

COMMUNITY



2

National Exam

CCHS German students recognized for scores

SPORTS



Girls Hoops

C.C. plays for trip to state

City sets budget hearing date

By Andrea Pendergast
Staff Writer

Charles City residents will be able to have their voices heard on the proposed city budget for fiscal 2012 as its public hearing date was set for Monday, March 7.

After many budget review workshops over the course of previous months, City Administrator Tom Brownlow reported at the council's regular meeting Tuesday that a budget had been established for FY11-12.

Considered highlights of the proposal are the tax levy, which sees a slight decrease from last year's, and all of the funds — including general — being budgeted "in the black."

Down roughly 5.5 cents per \$1,000 assessed valuation on regular property, the city's tax levy ended up at \$16.19491 compared to last year's



Erb

of the debt service levy.

Among the items listed for this process are a squad car in the amount of \$23,000; Fire Department equipment, \$23,000; clothing for both fire and police departments, \$10,500; guns and ammunition, \$6,000; and tree removal, \$17,500.

Also Tuesday, the council approved final plans for a renovation project at both North and South Cedar Terrace, and awarded a contract to low bidder Hometown Construction.

Work on the buildings, Brownlow said, will consist of replacing 18 windows, six doors and

City council

Test Run



Ty Graham, of Cedar Falls, (pictured) braved the raw weather Monday to test out one of the new wave features of the white-water kayak course under construction in Charles City. Graham and fellow kayaker Steve Weliver were asked by the course engineer to do some "product testing," so to speak, to ensure that the new course is doing what it is being designed to do. Experienced kayakers who were instrumental in pitching the whitewater park idea to the community, Graham and Weliver gave the half-completed course a thumbs up Monday after a two-hour test run, but also have a few adjustment suggestions for the engineer. Please note the course remains closed to the public at this time while construction is ongoing. — Press photo by Mark Wicks

'Exceeding expectations'

Kayaking duo do a little product testing on new C.C. whitewater course

By Mark Wicks
Managing Editor

Ty Graham and Steve Weliver called it "product testing."

Others who saw the two men kayaking in the new man-made waves of the Cedar River in Charles City Monday morning — in water estimated at around 30 degrees and with freezing rain in the air — called it something else. Like "crazy."

"We have the equipment for it, so it was no big deal," said Graham, who noted his street clothes underneath his "dry suit" remained dry. "I once went out on the water in 7 degree weather."

"Moving water won't freeze like still water will," added Weliver. "There was slush, though. Ice was starting to form in the water again while we were out there."

The two Cedar Falls residents reported they were neither "renegading nor poaching these waves" in the midst of Charles City's whitewater kayak course construction project. That portion of the Cedar River between the Main Street and Brantingham bridges in

town is actually closed to the public during the construction process, which is about half completed.

"We were, in fact, asked to come up by the course engineer and get in the water to feel how the waves react and see when the water goes back down if we need to tweak things," explained Graham. "It needs to be clearly understood that just because we were out there it doesn't mean anyone else should be. We were doing some product testing at the request of the engineer and knew right where to go (in terms of finished areas vs. unfinished ones)."

Both he and Weliver are experienced kayakers, rating themselves "between intermediate and expert level," and have actually been involved with the Charles City project from the very beginning.

"We've been here since day one," said Graham. "We were the ones who first contacted your city about possibly having a

whitewater park and came up to give a presentation to your park board in March of 2006. Charles City heard the pitch, saw the future and said "Yeah, we want to be a part of that."

"We go all over northeast Iowa looking for a nice stretch of river and promoting whitewater parks — not because it is our job, but because it is our passion," remarked Weliver. "When we saw Charles City's setup, we contacted (city officials) Tom Brownlow and Tracy Meise and they invited us up."

Graham noted that certain things are needed to build a whitewater park — all of which Charles City offers.

"You've got to have the (water) flow; you've got to have enough drop, like from these old low-head dams which aren't good

Test run

Continued on page 2

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Courthouse grounds to be used for play, dinner

By Giles Bruce
Staff Writer

The Floyd County Board of Supervisors approved use of the courthouse grounds for two interesting reasons Tuesday: a school play and a dinner by the dam.

Jennifer Burton's Charles City High School drama troupe will perform a courtroom drama at the courthouse in late April. The group also plans to do its dress rehearsals there.

The students will be performing "Night of January 16th," a play written by Ayn Rand and centered on a murder trial. Judge Gerald Magee will give a presentation on courtroom etiquette to the group, according to Burton.

The drama instructor said there will be several shows — including a Saturday matinee — since, rather than using a big space like the middle school, the group will be performing in the courtroom. That means audience members will be seated in the courtroom benches.

Board Chairman Warren Dunkel told Burton just to make sure she and the students put everything back where they found it. That includes the Iowa flag, which Burton plans to swap out with the flag of New York, the state where the play is set.

"As the Board of Supervisors, we're here to work to provide education to the children and provide entertainment to the

Courthouse events

Continued on page 10

Democrats set \$6.1 billion spending target

DES MOINES (AP) — Democrats who control the Iowa Senate say they have agreed to a spending target of \$6.1 billion in the next fiscal year.

That spending level is about \$16 million less than was proposed by Gov. Terry Branstad, but is significantly higher than the \$5.9 billion that Republicans who hold a majority in the House have sought.

Democrats on Tuesday announced their proposed budget includes \$199 million in tax cuts. House Republicans have said they plan on passing about \$383 million in tax cuts for next year. House Republicans have already approved a \$47 million property tax reduction, as well as a 20 percent cut in individual income taxes.

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