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T-M PHOTOS

## Madelia City Council certifies election results, renews business licenses

BY MICHELLE VAN HEE  
VAN HEE MEDIA EDITOR

The Madelia City Council held a workshop and meeting on November 14.

During the workshop, the budget for the police department and the fire department were reviewed. There was discussion about inflation and how that will affect all the city budgets. Current balances as of October 31 of all the loan funds that the city currently has were provided to the Council by Madelia City Administrator Chris Fischer.

In the regular meeting, the results of the 2022 general election were certified. Cody Eager was elected to the Madelia City Council (mayor position) for the term of four years. Mark Slater was elected to the Madelia City Council (councilman position) for the term of four years. Glen Christensen was elected to the Madelia City Council (councilman position) for the term of four years. Phyllis Schickling was elected to the Madelia City Council (councilman position) for the term of two years.

The council approved splitting parcel 17 .277.0010. Gary Anderson's property at 418 Second Street NE was sold to Madelia Health. This is the new location for two of the hospital houses that need to be moved. This parcel needs to be split into the following:

1. Lot 18, Farnsworth's 2nd Addition
2. Lot 17, Farnsworth's 2nd Addition

Due to splitting the lot, a new address needs to be assigned to Lot 18 as 414 Second Street NE. The address of Lot 17, Farnsworth 2nd Addition was established as 414 Second Street NE.

These lots will be 8,760 square feet each. Although City Zoning Ordinance 153 says that each building erected shall be located on a lot having an area of not less than 10,000 square feet and width of not less than 80 feet and depth of not less than 120 feet, these lots were platted and recorded prior to the passage of the ordinance and therefore buildings are approved to be

put on these lots. Josh Schoener from Madelia Health assured the Council that the homes being put on the lots will fit without needing any variances of current set back ordinances.

The Council approved the following 2023 business licenses: Theater: Madelia Theater-CCC. Cigarette licenses: American Legion, Dollar General, Sunshine Foods, Casey's and Staples/Holiday.

Liquor licenses: American Legion-club license; Madelia Lanes-wine/strong beer license; Plaza Fiesta-full license; Lost Sanity Brewing-brewery license; and Evoke Winery-full license.

Also approved was advertising for 2023 open commission seats: Light Plant - two seats; Golf Commission - one seat; and Park Board Commission - one seat.

The Council approved Mark Skarpohl Agency's submission for the city's insurance agent request for proposals.

The Council went into closed session for conferring with legal counsel.

## 2023 Razzle Dazzle Kicks Off With Lighted Parade

On Friday, November 18, businesses, organizations and the school participated in the lighted parade. It was well attended and a great time was had by all, despite the frigid temps.



## Living Meadows welcomes new Social Services director

BY JULIE MORGAN  
LIVING MEADOWS

Living Meadows at Luther in Madelia is pleased to welcome to our care team Skyla (Smith) Benzel as the director of Social Services. Skyla is a Madelia native and a Madelia High School graduate.

She also graduated from Minnesota State University in Mankato in 2020 with a degree in Social

Work and has worked in social service positions for the past two years in the Mankato area.

"Accepting the position at Living Meadows has been like coming home for me. My first job ever was working in the Living Meadows as a dietary aide during high school," said Benzel.

She recently moved back to her hometown after marrying her high school sweetheart and fellow Madelian, Josh Benzel.



SUBMITTED PHOTO courtesy of Julie Morgan  
**Skyla Benzel**

## Watonwan County 4-H holds 87th annual achievement banquet

BY MICHAELA KELLNER  
4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT  
WATONWAN COUNTY

We at Watonwan County 4-H just had our annual banquet on October 30 at the St. James American Legion, and we had many youth, volunteers, and businesses attended that received awards and recognition.

Sponsors of the banquet included: South Central Electric, Compeer Financial Services, Citizens Bank Minnesota, Crystal Valley Co-op, Ormsby State Bank, Triumph State Bank of Butterfield, La Salle Meats and the Carlson Family in Memory of June Tonn.

Approximately 135 parents, leaders, 4-H members and friends of 4-H attended the banquet. We enjoyed a roast beef

dinner catered by Gutes Essen Deli & Catering, and dessert was provided by Sweet! Indeed Bakery and the Watonwan Dairy Association.

The theme for 2022 was "4-H America Choice," which featured American flag decorations on top of red, white and blue place mats. This year's hosts were 4-H members of Jimmies, Speedway Builders and Independent Members.

### Awards and Recognition

The new 2022-2023 Federation officers served as emcees of the banquet: Lydia Cavanaugh - President, Ryan Pierson - Vice President, Keeley Runge - Secretary, Ryan Koberoski - Treasurer, and Diana Sargent - Youth Representative. The 4-H Extension Educator Michaela Kellner and Youth Representative

Christopher Hagen handed out awards.

To start the banquet, members recited the Pledge of Allegiance followed with the 4-H Pledge.

### Achievement Awards

Achievement Awards - sponsored by South Central Electric - were announced for 22 4-H members who applied for one to two project areas they worked exceptionally hard on and felt they excelled and learned a new skill with.

Emily Braaten: Horse, Clothing & Textiles

Lydia Cavanaugh: Rabbit, Creative Writing

Owen Eischen: Beef

Carter Gieseke: Citizenship, Industrial Technology

Christopher Hagen: Poultry, Aerospace

Matthew Hagen: Poultry, Crafts & Fine Arts

Annika Hagen: Poultry, Foods & Nutrition

Kaitlyn Kirchner: Health & Wellness

Kendra Kirchner: Food Preservation

Kiera Kirchner: Food Preservation, Natural Resources

Ryan Koberoski: Needle Arts

Cora Lehman: Fashion Revue

Oden Lehman: Consumer Education

Abbey Lepp: Fashion Revue, Plastic Sculpture Challenge

Ava Lepp: Clothing & Textiles, Safety

Abigail Meyer: Goat-Meat, Needle Arts

Levi Miest: Dairy, Photography

Adrienne Missling: Sheep, Crafts & Fine Arts

Trey Missling: Goat-Meat, Horticulture

Diana Sargent: Citizenship, Quilting

Lynnzae Van Wyk: Goat-Meat, Horticulture

Allie Winrich: Goat-Meat, Exploring Animals



Photo courtesy of Watonwan County 4-H

SUBMITTED PHOTO

L-R: Recipients of Clover Awards included Samuel Braaten, Brynlee Winrich and Rebecca Meyer.

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See next week's Times-Messenger for more Razzle Dazzle coverage



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