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Dianne H.B. Welsh, Iowa Falls native, won the Lifetime Achievement Award for Entrepreneurship. Her parents were Holden and Helen Welsh of Iowa Falls, and her father was the president of Boyt Division Welsh Sporting Goods until 1979. Dianne graduated from Iowa Falls High School and went on to the University of Iowa, Emporia State University and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, where she earned her PhD. Her parents created soft-sided luggage that revolutionized the luggage industry.

Welsh receives award for lifetime achievement

The United States Association for Small Business and Entrepreneurship (USASBE) presented Dianne H.B. Welsh, PhD, with the Max S. Wortman, Jr. Lifetime Achievement Award for Entrepreneurship and Dr. Charles H. Matthews with the USASBE Entrepreneurship Educator of the Year Award as part of the USASBE 2024: Forging the Future Together annual conference held in Birmingham, Ala., in January.

Dr. Welsh is the Hayes Distinguished Professor of Entrepreneurship at the University of North Carolina Greensboro. She is a known scholar in entrepreneurship, family business, and franchising. She is past president of the Small Business Institute®, past division chair for the Technology and Innovation Management Division of the Academy of Management, and past president and Justin G. Longenecker Fellow of USASBE.

Dr. Welsh was also invited by the United Nations to present the keynote address on Women and Entrepreneurship and served on the first NC Innovation Council.

In addition, she served as a Presidential Appointee to the USAF Academy. Dr. Welsh was the architect of the University of North Carolina at Greensboro's Entrepreneurship Program and founder of

both the Southern Entrepreneurship in the Arts Conferences in Tampa, Fla., and Greensboro, N.C.

Dr. Welsh has published 130 journal articles and eight books, including the go-to book for cross-campus entrepreneurship programs, Creative Cross-Disciplinary Entrepreneurship.

Jill Kickul, professor of entrepreneurship at the University of Southern California Marshall School of Business, presented the award to Dr. Welsh at the conference.

“Dianne has been a prolific researcher, educator, and program builder for our discipline,” Kickul said. “The range of courses she has taught both locally in her community as well as internationally is astounding.”

Established in 2004 and presented annually, the Max S. Wortman, Jr. Lifetime Achievement Award for Entrepreneurship is the organization's highest individual honor and recognizes a deserving individual or organization for a career spent consistently and enthusiastically pursuing the highest of entrepreneurial ideals via academic study, pedagogy, or venture creation.

Previous award winners include GMF Academic Advisors, LLC's Dr. Geralyn McClure Franklin (2023); and Indiana University's Dr. Donald (Dr. K) Kuratko (2022). ■

Craighton acknowledged in Inner Circle

Hardin County Emergency Management Coordinator Thomas A. Craighton has been acknowledged in the Inner Circle for his contributions to the field of Emergency Services.

Craighton began his education at Iowa Christian College in 1981 where he received a Bachelor of Science degree in Ministry. He pursued a new career path in 1982 earning certification as an EMT-A and continued to add to his skills with multiple certifications including EMT-I; Respiratory Therapy Technician; EMT-P; Paramedic Specialist; Critical Care Paramedic; State-endorsed EVOC Instructor; American Heart Association BLS Instructor/Trainer; Fire Fighter I; Fire Fighter II; and Fire Instructor I. He further pursued higher education earning an Associate of Applied Science at the California College of Health Sciences in 1990 and AHA ACLS Instructor credentials from North Iowa College.

With more than 40 years of experience across the emergency medical and fire services; healthcare, and continued education industries, Craighton is considered an expert in emergency



Craighton

management, preparedness, safety, hazmat, flammable liquids training, and EMS. His services are often utilized in conflict resolution for public safety; within safety and security companies of all sizes; and serving those seeking assistance with personnel issues, business ethics, budgeting, grants, crisis management, and problem-solving.

Craighton has held many leadership positions with Franklin County Emergency Management; Franklin General Hospital; and Coulter Volunteer Fire Department. As the first full-time Franklin County Emergency Management Coordinator, Craighton was tasked with establishing the role, launching the individual county Emergency Management office, and setting up 911 central communications/

dispatching for the county.

He is currently serving in concurrent roles as a Hardin County Emergency Management Director; a Medicolegal Death Investigator for Hardin County; and is Training Specialist I with the Iowa State Fire Marshal, Fire Service Training Bureau.

Craighton served as a member of several organizations including the IDPH Preparedness Advisory Committee where he served as Region 2 HPP Representative; National Fire Protection Association; Iowa Telecommunicators Training Advisory Board; Iowa E911 Council; National Association of EMTs; Iowa Society for Respiratory Care; National Board for Respiratory Care; and Iowa EMS Association where he served as secretary in 1998, has been a member of the Board of Directors from 1994-2000; 2002-present, and Legislative Chair from 2010 to 2013. He has held many leadership positions during his career including Chairperson of Region 2 Hospital Preparedness Committee 2009-present; Vice Chair of Region 2 Hospital Prepared; Chairperson of Region 2 Hospital Preparedness Committee 2001-2008,

2009-present; Coordinator of Franklin Medical Center, Inc. relocation project in July 1997; Co-Chair of the 1997 IEMSA Convention and Trade Show and chair in 1998; Chairman of Franklin General Hospital Fire/Safety Committee 1995-2013; President of the Franklin County EMS Association from 1995 to 2013; and President of North Central Iowa EMS serving as president from 1995-1998 and 2002-2014.

Craighton has participated in more than 37 trainings for specific skills related to his profession, including Telecommunicator Basic Training School including IOWA/NCIC Certification in 2014; Emergency Management Institute-FEMA-IS 002711 Anticipating Hazardous Weather and Community Risk in 2009; Homeland Security Region 2-School Safety and Terrorism Seminar in 2011; NATA Fire School-Fort Dodge-Fire Scene Rehab in 2008; and ISU Fire School-Life Safety Code Seminars for Health Care Facilities in 1997.

He is considered an asset across emergency management, emergency medical services, fire services, healthcare, and continued education industries. ■

Commercial ag course set in Iowa Falls, Hampton

Iowa State University Extension and Outreach Hardin County will host a Commercial Ag Weed, Insect, and Plant Disease Pest Control Continuing Instruction Course (CIC) for commercial pesticide applicators Wednesday, Feb. 14, in Iowa Falls, and Wednesday, Feb. 21 in Hampton. The program, provided by the ISU Extension and Outreach Pesticide Safety Education Program (PSEP), is also available at office locations across Iowa.

In Iowa Falls, the local attendance site is at Ellsworth Community College Ag Building at the Hardin County Extension Office. Pre-registration is required at <https://www.extension.iastate.edu/hardin>. Walk-ins are

not guaranteed admission. The course runs from 9 to 11:30 a.m. The registration fees apply on or before Feb. 7, and go up after Feb. 7. To register or to obtain additional information about the CIC, contact the ISU Extension and Outreach Hardin County office at 641-648-4850.

In Hampton, the local attendance site is 6 2nd St. NW. Pre-registration is required. Walk-ins are not guaranteed admission. The course runs from 9 to 11:30 a.m. The registration fee is \$45 on or before Feb. 14, and \$55 after Feb. 14. To register or to obtain additional information about the CIC, contact Traci Kloetzer at the ISU Extension and Outreach Franklin

County office at 641-456-4811.

The course will provide continuing instruction credit for commercial pesticide applicators certified in categories 1A, 1B, and 1C. Topics covered will include application equipment use, maintenance, and calibration; safe application techniques; and pests, pest management, and pesticides.

Certified Crop Adviser (CCA) Continuing Education Units (CEUs) will be offered at this program. Interested participants should bring their CCA number.

Additional information and registration forms for this and other courses offered by the PSEP program can be accessed at <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/PSEP>. ■

CWU makes January disbursements

In January 2024, CWU was pleased to make donations to the following organizations/projects:

Ackley Food Pantry, Alden Public Library, American Legion Post 252, Barlow Library, Barna-

bas House, The Bridge, Calkins Nature Area, CCC Museum, Easter Baskets, Edgewood, Eldora Community Garden, Eldora Public Library, Ellsworth College, Friendship Club, Friends of Ackley Library, Greenbelt Humane Soci-

ety, Hardin County Farm Museum, Iowa Falls Chamber/Main Street, Iowa Falls Community Garden, Iowa Falls Historical Society, Iowa Falls Ministerial Association, Iowa Falls Parks & Rec, Iowa Falls Schools, Iowa

Falls Vocal/Band Boosters, NAMI of Central Iowa, Reach Out & Read, RIF, Ruth Project, Scenic City Boat Club, St Mark Cemetery Board, Union Cemetery.

Their next disbursement will be in April. ■

Tri-L 4-H'ers hold January meeting

BY BRAYDEN BALL
Reporter

The January meeting of the Tri-L 4-H Club was at Green Belt Bank. Jonathan Jordahl brought the meeting to order. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Brayden Ball, and Brody Fischer led the 4-H Pledge. Roll call-“Name a New Year's Resolution” was answered by five members and two guests. Leader, Dawn England, discussed upcoming events, especially the tour of Nimrod Meats at their February meeting. Alex and Brayden Ball gave a presentation called “Safe Sledding.” Their activity was playing Bingo with prizes. Alex and Brayden Ball served lunch. ■

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Community Briefs

ECC Without Borders

The next Ellsworth Without Borders is scheduled for 1 p.m. Monday, Feb. 5 at the Barlow Memorial Library in Iowa Falls. There will be three Ellsworth Community College student-athletes in attendance including volleyball players Ludine Charron and Manon Morillo, and men's basketball player Bessanty Saragba. They will be talking to students about France.

Alden Days fundraiser set

The Alden Horizons Group is planning a meal, silent auction and live auction on Saturday, Feb. 3 at the Alden Legion Building to help defray the costs of Alden Days. Supper is from 5 to 6:30 p.m., Silent Auction is from 5-7:30 p.m., Live Auction starts at 6:30 p.m. If you would like to donate an item for the auction, please contact Alden City Hall at 515-859-3344.

Riverbend Rally auction

Iowa Falls Chamber/Main Street is hosting a Riverbend Rally 2024, Community Auction on Saturday, Feb. 3 at Highland Golf Club. Heavy appetizers, a cash bar, social time and music will be from 5 to 7 p.m. with the auction beginning at 7 p.m.

St. Mark turkey dinner


St. Mark Catholic Church in Iowa Falls will be hosting their annual turkey dinner from 3:30 to 6:30 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 4 at the church, 415 Main St. The meal is carry-out only and the cost is \$14.

Hardin County group to meet

The Hardin County Iowa group will meet at 11 a.m. Monday, Feb. 5 at the Golden Corral 300 W. Expressway 83, Weslaco, Texas. For questions call Alan Meeker 319-329-5665. ■

Happy Birthday!

The family of **Robert Renfro** will be hosting an open house **Sunday, January 28** from **1-3 p.m.** at Cedar Ridge to celebrate his **100th birthday.**



Cards may be sent to:
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