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**CALENDAR
TODAY**

Alcoholics Anonymous big book study, 10 a.m., Chapter 5 Club, 136 N. Main St., Fremont.

Storytime, 10-10:30 a.m., Keene Memorial Library auditorium, 1030 N. Broad St., Fremont.

Blair WIC and Immunization clinic, 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., First United Methodist Church, 17th and Colfax streets, Blair. For an appointment or for more information, call 402-385-6300.

Merry Widows, 11 a.m., Hero Deli/Gambino's Pizza, 1900 E. Military Ave. For more information on this women's group, call Shirley at 402-317-2676.

Alcoholics Anonymous meeting, noon, Chapter 5 Club, Fremont.

Fremont Kiwanis Club, noon, Presidential Dining Room, Midland University.

Measure of Life open house, 3-7 p.m., 1920 N. Bell St., Fremont. The event will include free samples of products, drawings for prizes and a free seminar at 5:30 p.m.

Lego party, 4-5 p.m., Keene Memorial Library, Fremont.

Alcoholics Anonymous meeting, 5:15 p.m., Chapter 5 Club, Fremont.

Hamburgers and tomato vegetable soup night, 5:30-7 p.m., Fremont Eagles Club. Everyone is welcome.

Trunk 'N Treat & All Halls-O-Ween, 6-7:30 p.m., Midland University, Fremont. Kids are invited to trick-or-treat in the Midland University residence dorms and at decorated vehicles on Midland University streets. There is a \$25 prize awarded to the best-decorated vehicle. Sinai Lutheran Church will offer hot coffee, juice boxes and a picture background so you can take pictures of your goblins. Parking will be available at Wikert Event Center.

Narcotics Anonymous It Works Group, 6:30 p.m., Good Shepherd Lutheran Church East Building, west of the church, 1440 E. Military Ave., Fremont. Enter through the rear door.

Bingo, 7 p.m., Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 8223, 742 N. Main St., North Bend. Everyone is welcome.

Civil Air Patrol, 7 p.m., 1201 W. 23rd St., in yellow hangar at Fremont Airport.

Fresh Hope Support Group, 7 p.m., Dunklau Gardens Conference Room, Fremont. The faith-based support group is for those

suffering from mental illness or family members and/or caregivers.

Pioneer Amateur Radio Club, 6 p.m. supper, 7 p.m. meeting, Gambino's Pizza/Hero Deli, 1900 E. Military Ave., Fremont.

GriefShare group, 6:30 p.m., Trinity Lutheran Church, 1546 N. Luther Road, Fremont. This group is for anyone who has experienced the loss of a family member or friend. For more information, contact the church at 402-721-5536.

Storytime, 7-7:30 p.m., Keene Memorial Library auditorium, Fremont.

Tally Ho Toastmasters, 7-8 p.m., Midland University's Anderson Building, Ninth and Clarkson streets, Fremont. Everyone is welcome to learn skills in communication, self-confidence and leadership. For more information, call 402-936-3479.

"Dracula," 7:30 p.m., Midland University's Kimmel Theatre, Fremont. The production, which continues through Oct. 31, is rated PG-13 for frightening images. Tickets are \$12 for adults and \$8 for seniors, students and Fremont-Midland Entertainment Series members.

Alcoholics Anonymous big book study, 8 p.m., Chapter 5 Club, Fremont.

Narcotics Anonymous open meeting, 8 p.m., First Evangelical Lutheran Church, 201 N. Davis Ave., Oakland.

FRIDAY

Cosmopolitan 100 Service Club, 7 a.m., Fremont Eagles Club.

Fremont Therapy & Wellness ribbon cutting, 9-10 a.m., 1445 N. Bell St., Fremont.

Al-Anon meeting, 9:30 a.m., Chapter 5 Club front room, Fremont.

Community Closet, 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Uniquely Yours Stability Support, 240 N. Main St., Fremont. The cost is \$5 to fill a bag. There is no limit of how many bags you can buy. For more information, call 402-727-8977.

Fremont Community Breastfeeding Support Group, 10-11 a.m., Three Rivers Health Department conference room, Fremont.

HomeStore, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., 701 E. Dodge St., Fremont. The HomeStore sells donated items at discounted prices. Proceeds support the mission of Fremont Area Habitat for Humanity.

Storytime, 10-10:30 a.m., Keene Memorial Library auditorium, Fremont.

Baby and toddler time, 11 a.m. to noon, Keene Memorial Library auditorium.

Alcoholics Anonymous 12x12 study, noon, Chapter 5 Club, Fremont.

Fremont Rotary Club, noon, Fremont Golf Club, N. Somers Ave.

Fremont Solar Farm ribbon cutting, 4 p.m., Fremont Solar Farm 1, 3002 E. First St., Fremont. The entrance to the solar farm is directly north of the power plant on the north side of First Street. Parking is available near the entrance. The public is invited to attend.

Trunk or Treat, 5-6:30 p.m., Premier Estates of Fremont, 2550 N. Nye Ave.

Alcoholics Anonymous meeting, 5:15 p.m., Chapter 5 Club, Fremont.

Dinner, 5:30-7 p.m., Fremont Eagles Club. Beef stroganoff, catfish, shrimp, chicken tenders, fries, baked potatoes, onion rings and salad will be served. Down Memory Lane will play from 7-11 p.m. Halloween costumes are optional.

Deadly Hollows Haunted Cemetery, 6:30-10 p.m., 351 S. Garfield St., Fremont. Admission is one can of non-perishable food item or an unwrapped child's gift per person. All proceeds go to Low Income Ministries and the Christmas Program.

Scary corn maze, 7-10 p.m., Camp Fontanelle. Attendees should bring a flashlight and extra batteries. The scary maze may not be appropriate for smaller children or those easily scared, though there will be "dark only" portion with no spooks this year. A free outdoor movie will be shown at dusk. Bring your own lawn chair and s'mores and sit around a campfire while watching the movie.

Zombie Prom, 7 p.m. to midnight, The Gathering Social Hall, 750 N. Clamar Ave., Fremont. Guests age 18 and over are invited to join the party in their Halloween costume and/or formal wear. There will be a cash bar, food, dancing, photo opportunities, prom king and queen contest and more. Pre-sale tickets are \$7 and may be picked up at 240

N. Main St. in downtown Fremont. Admission at the door will be \$10 per person, \$15 per couple, or \$8 per student with ID. Proceeds raised

will go to Uniquely Yours Stability Support.

"Arsenic and Old Lace, 7:30 p.m., Fremont High School's Nell McPherson Theatre. Tickets are \$7 or \$5 with a canned food donation.

"Dracula," 7:30 p.m., Midland University's Kimmel Theatre, Fremont. The production is rated PG-13 for frightening images. Tickets are \$12 for adults and \$8 for seniors, students and Fremont-Midland Entertainment Series members.

Al-Anon meeting, 8-9 p.m., Chapter 5 Club back room, Fremont. This support group is for families and friends of alcoholics.

Narcotics Anonymous Point Of Freedom Group, 8 p.m., Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Education Building, west of the church, 1440 E. Military Ave., Fremont. Enter through the rear door.

Friday Night 805 Alcoholics Anonymous meeting, 8:05 p.m., Redeemer Lutheran Church, 601 E. Fulton St., Hooper.

Alcoholics Anonymous candlelight meeting, 10 p.m., Chapter 5 Club, Fremont.

SATURDAY

HomeStore, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., 701 E. Dodge St., Fremont. The HomeStore sells donated items at discounted prices. Proceeds support the mission of Fremont Area Habitat for Humanity.

Fremont High School Key Club's Stuff the Bus, 9 a.m. to noon, Hy-Vee Food Store. Volunteers from the high school will be collecting non-perishable food items and monetary donations for the Fremont Salvation Army.

Alcoholics Anonymous meeting, 10 a.m., Chapter 5 Club, Fremont.

14th National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Fremont Police Dept., 725 N. Park Ave. The take-back day provides a safe, convenient and responsible means to prescription drug disposal, while also educating the public about the potential for abuse of medications.

Halloween Spooktacular, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Parkview Center and Park Place Plaza, East Military Avenue, Fremont. Kids are invited to trick-or-treat at the businesses and participate in a costume contest and games. LaRue's Little Horse Ranch will be providing pony rides.

Fremont Altrusa Holiday Lun-

cheon & Boutique, 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., First Lutheran Church, 3200 E. Military Ave. This year's theme will celebrate Nebraska's 150th birthday. Tickets will be available at the door.

Silent auction/bake sale, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., Izaak Walton Park, Fremont. The fundraiser will raise money for a wheelchair accessible van for three individuals. Hot dogs, chips and a pop will be sold for \$5.

Storytime, 11-11:30 a.m., Keene Memorial Library auditorium, Fremont.

Alcoholics Anonymous women's heart to heart group, noon, Chapter 5 Club, Fremont.

Camp Fontanelle Pumpkin Patch and Corn Maze, 1-7 p.m., Camp Fontanelle. Other activities include a

petting barn, zipline rides, laser tag in the maze, hayrack rides, a children's barrel train and more. Entrance fees are free for 2 and under, \$5 for ages 3-11 and \$7 for ages 17 and up. There is an additional charge for zipline and laser tag. A full concession stand also is available.

Trunk or Treat, 2-4 p.m., Izaak Walton's Fremont Chapter, 2560 W. Military Ave. The event also will include hayrack rides.

Boo Bash, 3-6 p.m., Cedar Bluffs Fire Hall. The free Halloween-themed carnival is organized by Cedar Bluffs' FBLA chapter. There also will be a small haunted house inside of the Cedar Bluffs Auditorium.

Fremont Monster Walk Carnival, 4-7 p.m., Fremont Mall. The 6th annual event will include a costume contest, games, raffle drawings and prizes. Non-perishable food items and money will be collected to support Low Income Ministry.

Alcoholics Anonymous meeting, 5:15 p.m., Chapter 5 Club, Fremont.

Tailgate party, 5:30 p.m., Fremont Eagles Club. Everyone is welcome.

Deadly Hollows Haunted Cemetery, 6:30-10 p.m., 351 S. Garfield St., Fremont. Admission is one can of non-perishable food item or an unwrapped child's gift per person. All proceeds go to Low Income Ministries and the Christmas Program.

"Arsenic and Old Lace, 7:30 p.m., Fremont High School's Nell McPher-

son Theatre. Tickets are \$7 or \$5 with a canned food donation.

"Dracula," 7:30 p.m., Midland University's Kimmel Theatre, Fremont. The production is rated PG-13 for frightening images. Tickets are \$12 for adults and \$8 for seniors, students and Fremont-Midland Entertainment Series members.

Narcotics Anonymous open meeting, 7:30 p.m., United Faith Church, 218 W. Gardiner St., Valley.

Narcotics Anonymous Lie Is Dead Group, 8 p.m., Care Corps, 723 N. Broad St., Fremont.

Alcoholics Anonymous meeting, 10:30 p.m., Chapter 5 Club, Fremont.



Darrell Grassmeyer

Nov. 26, 1928 – Oct. 24, 2017

COLUMBUS — Darrell Grassmeyer, 88, of Columbus, died Tuesday, Oct. 24, 2017, at Bryan LGH East Campus in Lincoln.

A funeral service will be held 2 p.m. Friday, Oct. 27, at Trinity Lutheran Church in Columbus with the Rev. Timothy White officiating. Interment will be in Columbus Cemetery. Visitation will be 5-7 p.m. Thursday, with a 7 p.m. Masonic Service by Lebanon Lodge #323, at the church. Visita-



tion will continue from 1-2 p.m. Friday at the church. There will be a family prayer service at 1:45 p.m. Friday at the church.

In lieu of flowers, memorials are suggested to the Shriner's Hospital in Minneapolis.

Darrell Grassmeyer was born Nov. 26, 1928, in Buffalo County to Frank "Bud" and Ruby (Harden) Grass-

meyer. He grew up outside of Riverdale where he and his siblings rabble-raised, played baseball and helped on the family farm. He went on to graduate from Riverdale High School in 1946 and then attended Kearney State Teachers College, graduating in 1950. Darrell taught history at Ogallala High School before beginning a long career with State Farm Insurance in 1960. He was a State Farm agent in North Platte before becoming an agency manager and moving to Columbus in 1963. Darrell retired from State Farm in 1992.

Darrell and Lavonne Nelson spent 67 years in faithful union, united in marriage on Aug. 20, 1950, at Bethany Lutheran Church in Axtell. He was a loyal member of Trinity Lutheran Church where he had served as an elder and on several boards. Darrell was a 50-year member of the Shriners (with a particular passion for helping children), was active in Rotary, Jaycees, Masons, OFC (Old Farts Club) and the Elks. He served on the board of "SCORE" (Service Corp of Retired Executive's) in Columbus.

With his quick wit, infectious smile and full-belly laugh, Darrell made every room he walked into brighter. He treasured every moment of every visit with his grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He loved his family, talking with strangers, the Huskers and going to coffee.

Darrell is survived by his wife Lavonne Grassmeyer of Columbus, son Randy (Debby) Grassmeyer of Holdrege, son Bryan (Lynn) Grassmeyer of Mt. Juliet, Tennessee, daughter Kay (Tim) Sprunk of Platte Center, daughter Linae (Tim) Anderson of Omaha, 10 grandchildren, 18 great-grandchildren, brother Doyle (Virginia) Grassmeyer of Schertz, Texas, brother Dale Grassmeyer of Haysville, Kansas, and sister-in-law Betty Grassmeyer of Tucson, Arizona.

Darrell was preceded in death by his parents Bud and Ruby Grassmeyer, brothers Dean and Don Grassmeyer, and sisters Peggy Palmer and Bonnie Gipson.

Condolences may be sent to www.gasshaney.com.



NCCI discusses overview, details of legislative bills and their effects

Clifford Davis

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Barry L. Kennedy and Jamie T. Karl of the Nebraska Chamber of Commerce & Industry (NCCI) presented a broad yet detailed overview of legislative issues confronting Nebraska's business community as a whole—agriculture, construction, technology, transportation, real estate, and so on, during the Nebraska City Rotary Club meeting on Wednesday, Oct. 18 at the Eagles Club,

Kennedy is President of the 2,000-member organization, and Karl is the chamber's Vice President of Public Affairs and Policy.

The mission of NCCI, which represents over a quarter-million individuals in more than 150 Nebraska communities, is to promote and advance free enterprise in the state.

In ongoing studies, the chamber's Legislative Forum tracks legislative trends as they affect the state's business climate.

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ROTARY

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Kennedy said there are three broad categories of legislation that NCCI is always involved in: first, taxation as it affects businesses and especially individuals; second, economic development (incentives that give Nebraska the ability to grow its economy); and third, labor relations, or “the cost of doing business,” especially in regard to workers compensation and unemployment compensation.

Taxation is closely related to “the workforce...(which is) the issue that trumps all in the business arena,” said Kennedy. He explained that, as NCCI surveys businesses across the state, it is clear that a strong workforce depends on attracting people here, which in turn hinges upon the individual tax burdens workers must bear.

Kennedy gave examples of several key bills affecting Nebraska business that NCCI either supported or opposed in the 2017 legislative session.

An unemployment insurance reform bill was passed that will save Nebraska employers millions of dollars by reducing the potential for abuse. The chamber also supported passage of regulatory reform for transportation projects to save tax dollars and speed up infrastructure construction.

Other important business bills enacted in 2017 involved a new grant program to help the workforce housing shortage, and a matching grant program to attract bioscience startup businesses to Nebraska.

Bills NCCI opposed and which failed to pass in the 2017 session would have raised the state sales tax by 18 percent, created a tax expansion that would have repealed many exemptions related to business, and

imposed a 5.5-percent tax on loan interest.

Also failing to pass muster was legislation intended to halt business incentives, repeal infrastructure funding in the Build Nebraska Act, and eliminate recent improvements to the tax code.

Kennedy concluded by comparing Nebraska's reliance on different state tax revenues between the 1997-98 and the 2017-18 fiscal years. During those twenty years, the proportion of tax revenue from sales tax and miscellaneous taxes (e.g., alcohol and tobacco) dipped slightly. Conversely, income taxes kept growing as a percentage of revenue and now account for nearly 60 percent of the state's general fund.

VP Jamie Karl took the podium to discuss Nebraska's competitiveness rankings in a presentation called “The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly,” from Clint Eastwood's 1966 spaghetti western, but reframing the categories as the good, the mediocre, and the weaknesses in Nebraska's business economy.

In the first category, Nebraska's areas of strength, Karl said that in Nebraska, “We can stick out our chests and say, 'Look!'” Rankings from July 2017 done by CNBC show that among the 50 states, Ne-

braska ranks 13th for business this year. That is a drop from the 11th position in 2016 and fourth in 2014, but is an improvement from 22nd in 2008.

Compared to last year, Nebraska improved in CNBC's top ten list of specific areas, ranking fifth in education, sixth in business friendliness, and tenth in quality of life.

In Forbes' “Best States for Business” analysis, Nebraska has ranked in the top ten for nine consecutive years, and in November 2016 stood at number three. Nebraska takes first place in the area of regulatory climate favorable to business, seventh place in quality of life, and ninth place in business costs.

Nebraska also ranks in the top ten in the areas of legal climate for business, favorable unemployment tax, and state fiscal solvency, according to three other independent surveys.

Karl again used CNBC and Forbes numbers for his second category, “the mediocre,” showing Nebraska at number 20 in “workforce” ranking (worker education level, labor supply, productivity,

worker training programs, etc.); 27th place in “current economy” (variety of industry, job growth, consumer spending, etc.); number 26 in “growth prospects,” and number

33 in “technology and innovation.”

Finally, Karl addressed Nebraska's weakness, projecting a slide with a single word filling the screen—TAXES. A galaxy of statistics followed, beginning with Nebraska's individual income tax rate, which is just under seven percent, or 36th in the nation. By comparison, the average income tax for states bordering Nebraska is four percent.

Total personal income taxes paid in Nebraska in fiscal year 2016-17 amounted to two-and-a-quarter billion dollars. Factoring in corporate income taxes pushes the total to \$2.52 billion.

In 2004, by comparison, total income tax revenue collected by the state was just under half that amount.

Nebraska had among the highest combined state and federal income tax burdens in the country in 2017, with personal income taxed at over 46 percent and corporate income at almost 43 percent.

Karl pointed out that the combined 46-percent

state and federal income tax Nebraskans pay does not include federal payroll taxes like social security, Medicare, and in some cases ObamaCare.

“When you factor those in, suddenly Nebraska taxpayers face a maximum 50-percent-plus combined income tax rate. You're working for half your paycheck,” he said.

Karl concluded his presentation by addressing the issue of property taxes. To get tax relief, said Karl, one must understand the difference between local taxes and state taxes.

State-collected income and sales taxes make up about 95 percent of the general fund revenue for Nebraska. Property taxes are collected by local government primarily to support local schools; as a share of income, Nebraska's property taxes are 11th highest in the nation.

Some state legislators believe local property taxes can be lowered by sending more state aid to local schools and local government.

The problem, said Karl, is “that's a tax shift...it's

been tried before and it's failed before. Multiple times.”

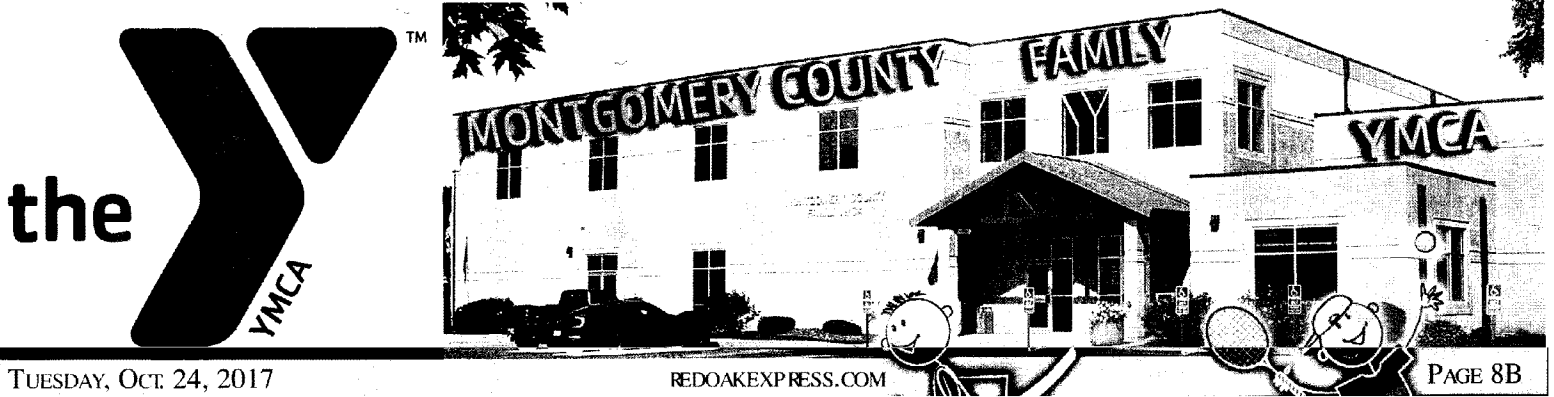
Quoting a 1996 Nebraska Tax Research Council study, Karl said that after tax shifts by the state legislature, “There were abnormally high property tax increases. Property tax credits (from the state) have not slowed property tax growth.”

The answer to tax relief? A tax bill proposed in the 2017 session would have gradually lowered income tax rates while changing how agricultural property is taxed, said Karl; it was filibustered by a small group of legislators.

But Nebraska's tax burden is the one thing that we can address immediately, and it's what's holding Nebraska back economically, Karl concluded. “Tax shifts” do not lower taxes for the majority of Nebraskans, and spending restraint needs to be realized at all levels of government. “Without restraint, we risk losing more economic opportunities as well as more citizens because of our high tax climate,” said Karl.



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TUESDAY, OCT. 24, 2017

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"WHERE THE COMMUNITY COMES TOGETHER"

**GIVING TO BAND,
TENNIS & CROSS COUNTRY**

The Montgomery County Family YMCA's Togetherhood committee and the Red Oak Rotary Club visited various Red Oak Community School District extracurricular practices during October to give out bottles of water to the high school participants, their coaches, and sponsors.

The Togetherhood social responsibility program provides Y members with an easy, fun, and rewarding way to volunteer for service projects that strengthen our community. The program is run by a committee of Y members that helps organize and run up to four service projects a year. The Red Oak Rotary Club representative present made a short presentation about the Red Oak

Rotary Club and it's mission of "Service Above Self."

The Togetherhood program has offered the following programs over the past year:

- The Cheer program, which provided holiday cards to patients at the Montgomery County Memorial Hospital, Red Oak Rehab & Care facility, Regency, Arlington Place, and Good Samaritan Center.
- The Adopt a Child program, which provided a brighter Christmas for children in need to receive a holiday gift through a sponsor.
- Helped with the Walking School Bus program/activities during the months of April and May this past spring. The walking school bus program is coordinated with

Southwestern Iowa Community College, Montgomery County Memorial Hospital, Red Oak Public Library, and other community organizations.

- Provided coordinated times with coaches, instructors, and community leaders to attend a practice or program for the youth of our community/county and/or area or adults within the community/county who are working hard on worthwhile community projects to enjoy some light refreshments provided by the Red Oak Rotary Club and the YMCA Togetherhood committee while learning about each respective program and organization.

If you are interested in volunteering with the Togetherhood program, please call 712-623-

2161, e-mail Gerry Lundgren at gerrylun@myfmmc.com, or stop by the Montgomery County Family YMCA, located in the beautiful Red Oak Legion Park at 101 East Cherry St., Red Oak.

To learn more about becoming a Red Oak Rotarian, you can attend a Tuesday noon meeting at the Red Coach Inn and Restaurant located at 1200 Senate Avenue in Red Oak or contact Chris Amos at Rubey Realty in Red Oak at 712-623-2724 to receive more information about all that the Red Oak Rotary Club is dedicated to doing for the Red Oak Community, area, region, United States, and world.

For more information on how one can become a mem-

ber, volunteer, donor, or simply involved with the Montgomery County Family YMCA, please stop in for a visit or tour of the YMCA, call 712-623-2161, or visit us on Facebook, or the Y's website at www.mcyymca.com.



ROHS Band: Interim Executive Director John Blomstedt giving water to the Red Oak High School Band on the Russ Benda Field. (submitted photos)



Tennis Teams: The 2017 Red Oak High School boys and girls tennis teams with coaches Dan and Nita Martinez receiving some bottled water after a recent indoor tennis practice at the Carder Indoor Tennis Center of the Montgomery County Family YMCA, Red Oak.



XC Team: The 2017 Red Oak High School boys and girls cross country teams with coaches Sueann French and Curt Adams being presented with water bottles by Interim Executive Director John Blomstedt in front of the Wilson Performing Arts Center where they take Yoga classes from Carrie Shalters (not pictured).



THANK YOU!

To everyone who helped make The Red Oak Express
Chili Cook-Off a Grand Success!
As a community, we raised \$2,000 to help the
Red Oak Grand Theatre with its second screen project.



Brad Hicks of The Red Oak Express presents \$2,000 to Jeanice Lester of the Red Oak Grand Theatre, proceeds from the chili cook-off on Oct. 13.

Thanks to our Chili Cook-Off Entrants

- Dave Dimmitt
- Dovel Refrigeration & Air Conditioning
- Fareway
- Good Samaritan Society & Great Western Bank
- Red Oak Grand Theatre
- Hy-Vee
- Red Oak Farmers Market
- Red Oak Fire Department
- Red Oak Rotary Club

Thank You to the Red Oak Fire Department and firefighters for use of the fire station to hold the event and their assistance in setting it up.

Thanks to all of you who attended and donated to the cause. We hope to see you next year!

Judges' Choice Winners:

1-Red Oak Rotary Club; 2-Dave Dimmitt; 3-Red Oak Fire Department

People's Choice Winners:

1-Red Oak Grand Theatre; 2-Red Oak Rotary Club; 3-Dave Dimmitt.