

Two graduates work at Cedar County Jail

By Katelynn Toft

Two Durant graduates Cole Stineman and Dawson Frett now work together as correctional officers at the Cedar County Jail in Tipton.

Stineman, the son of Durant Elementary Principal Rebecca Stineman, has worked at the jail since October 2019.

Frett started working there in December of 2022 after he graduated from Waldorf University with a bachelor’s degree in criminal justice.

For many who enter law enforcement, working as a jailer is the first step, and it’s a way for them to get their foot in the door.

“A lot of people that I know start off in corrections then move up in a deputy position and start going into state patrol or go somewhere else,” said Frett.

Stineman has served almost four years at the jail.

“I started my job at the jail as a

stepping stone, but I have since learned that corrections isn’t just a stepping stone. It can also be a lifelong career,” said Stineman, who is also exploring options such as a patrol deputy or police officer.

“I was selected to be a reserve deputy for the Cedar County Sheriff’s Office, which should give me insight into the world of law enforcement,” he said.

Stineman and Frett have the same shift schedule, which gives them the opportunity to work together and spend time with each other.

“I have known Dawson since kindergarten, and we have always had similar goals,” said Stineman.

“It was nice to see him get hired at the jail, and it is amazing to work with someone who I have known for my whole life.”

Frett said, “It makes the day fast and fun because we have the same abilities and thinking, so when stuff goes wrong, then we will know pretty much what we’re thinking.”

ing.”

Stineman and Frett make a good team. They work during the twelve-hour night shifts.

“I work 12-hour shifts from 6 p.m. to 6 a.m. I work three days a week and have four days off unless I have overtime assigned to me,” said Stineman.

The jail’s shift schedule changes every six months and usually the people who have the highest rank get the first take on what shift they’ll have, then it goes down the line.

The day in the life of a correctional officer is never the same and always keeps Stineman and Frett on their toes.

“I like that no day is the same and anything can happen,” said Stineman.

“The people there that I work with are all great and helpful, outgoing,” said Frett. “Never a dull day.”

Frett said a single shift often consists of hourly inmate checks until 10 p.m.

Then checks are made every 30 minutes.

“At 10 o’clock, they [the inmates] go to their rooms, they go to sleep, we lock them in, we check the doors to make sure they are not open; every half hour we go around and check,” said Frett.

During the rest of the time on shift, Frett and Stineman will book new arrests and do other paperwork.

“Relationships with the inmates are complex and vary from inmate to inmate,” said Stineman. “Some inmates are very friendly, and others want nothing to do with you at all.”

In order to be a jailer, people will have to go through a minor training course, which mostly consists of the basics of the job and simple field training.

“The state also mandates that officers go to the jail school, where you learn the laws and regulations as well as procedures that you have to know to be a corrections officer in Iowa,” said Stineman.

Junis finds video gaming success at ISU

By Ava Streeter

Durant graduate Timothy Junis has taken his love for gaming to the next level after becoming captain of his Esports team at Iowa State University (ISU) last year.

“I would schedule practices with other teams, be the overall manager of the team, make sure game times were correct, as well as being the point of contact,” said Junis, who graduated from Durant in 2021

He also will be the overall Esports coordinator at ISU and manage eight games, each consisting of multiple teams, will be the voice for other players at club meetings, and will have to understand a bit of each Esport.

He had to campaign for the role of coordinator by answering questions and expressing his goals and how he planned to achieve those goals. When he finally got elected, he was excited and couldn’t wait to start.

“I love Esports, and I just wanted to do my part in improving the club and the whole Esports community in general,” said Junis.

Junis has been playing video games since he was little and got inspired by his older brother. Junis had talked about college Esports when he was in high school and purposely looked for universities with Esports programs. ISU was perfect because it had an Esports team and fit his academic needs.

Junis plays mainly Overwatch 2, a first-person shooter game that involves communication and coordination with his team to win.

He compares an Egamer to a typical athlete but without the physical aspects.

At ISU, Egamers have certain practice times where they work on different parts of the game and will go over film to find areas where they went wrong.

“It’s really interesting to go from traditional sports teams to an Esports team where in a general sense it is very similar, yet it is so different,” Junis said.

Practices for Egamers will typically consist of either just playing the game regularly and focusing on the struggle areas or scrimmaging against other schools with similar skill sets to theirs. The scrimmages only last a few matches and are usually the ones where they analyze the gameplay on areas to improve.

Competitions look a little different from the average sport and can often be done from the comfort of the player’s own home. But that’s not always the case. Within the last year, ISU teams traveled to other colleges for in-person tournaments and even hosted one of its own.

ISU competes against other college programs like Illinois State University, Ohio State University, University of Texas, and University of California, Irvine. Junis says that almost every college has an Esports program, even if it’s not recognized as an actual sport by the school.

Some leagues are funded by the college and give out full scholarships to players. Iowa State is not one of them and is a club-funded program.

There are multiple leagues that Egamers can join. Junis is in two leagues, the National Association of Collegiate Esports (NACE) and the Overwatch Colle-



Photo contributed by Timothy Junis
Timothy Junis plays a video game on game night at the Esports space at Iowa State University.

giate Championship/Overwatch Collegiate Homecoming (OWCC/OWCH).

“NACE offers a lot of different games and has tiers for competition, so everyone can get an equal amount of competition in their skill range,” said Junis.

OWCC/OWCH is available to all collegiate schools in the nation and has a prize pool worth \$75,000. This year Junis’s team finished in the top 32 out of 290.

Junis’s mother, Mrs. Venida Junis, supports her son’s interest in Esports. She enjoys listening to him talk about it and watching him play.

“I truly believe it is a great way to learn, meet others, and gain knowledge that can be used into adulthood,” said Mrs. Junis.

Mrs. Junis and her husband have

bought Timothy some of the best equipment to help him on his journey, saying, “It would be like any sport a child was playing. They [parents] want to make sure they [children] have the best tools possible to achieve largest success.”

Timothy recommends Esports to anyone else with a love for gaming, saying, “You will not regret it.”

Mrs. Junis said that China was first in earnings in Esports last year, and the United States was in second. This year, South Korea holds the top spot, and the United States is now fourth.

Mrs. Junis also said Esports is growing fast and has become a multimillion-dollar industry. Illinois State has become one of the top college scholarship givers.

Wrestler’s hunting hobby takes him to Africa

By Kaetlyn Hansell

Junior Kady Kraklio is known for his success in wrestling, qualifying for the state tournament last year, but he is also an avid hunter who even went to Africa when he was 12 years old.

Kraklio and his family got the amazing opportunity to hunt in Africa after his father won a live auction at a national turkey banquet.

“My dad’s buddy bought a hunt for \$1,000, which is really cheap,” said Kraklio. “My dad thought that we would pay the same and bought a second one to help the organization.”

Kraklio got an amazing opportunity and scored big too.

“I shot a gemsbok and an impala,” said Kraklio. “The gemsbok was 44 5/8 inches long, and the impala’s horns were 24

inches.”

Kady recalled stalking a herd of gemsboks for four miles. Kraklio eventually made it back to his family on the trail, continuing to follow the herd.

“They said not even five minutes after I crossed the road, a leopard was following in our tracks, but I finally lined up my shot at 180 yards free hand, and at the time, it was tied for the second biggest gemsbok ever shot,” Kraklio said.

He has been hunting since he could remember, and it is something that he will continue to do for the rest of his life.

“I shot my first deer when I was 6,” he said.

Hunting is a big part of his family, and to hunt, you need all sorts of supplies, including guns.

“My dad got sick and tired of hav-

ing to go to Iowa City or Davenport to get guns,” Kraklio said. As a result, his family opened its own gun store in Wheatland.

In the future, Kraklio plans to take over the gun store, keeping the family business alive.

Taking over the gun store is not the only thing he plans to do in the future. He also wants to join the Marines as a mechanic.

“It is just a family tradition,” Kraklio said. “That’s kinda why I wanted to do it.”

Kraklio has a passion for working with diesel trucks and works at Durant Collision.

He learns how to do body work on a variety of vehicles, which helps him enjoy his passion for trucks and learn more about them. At school, Kraklio likes to work with his hands.

“I enjoy ag because it’s one of the

few subjects that makes sense to me, and my favorite class is shop,” he said. He also enjoys science, art, and weights.

Kraklio has been wrestling ever since he was three years old and made it to the state wrestling tournament for the first time as a sophomore.

“It didn’t go too well,” Kraklio said. “I was 0-2.”

Being at state was a very nerve-racking experience, according to Kraklio.

“It felt pretty good, but when I was up there, I was really nervous,” Kraklio said.

However, his first appearance at state has motivated Kraklio to “put more work in the off-season and conditioning.”

Kraklio has attended wrestling camps and competed in clubs, but he also has private coaches and takes lessons to help better himself in wrestling.