

5 teachers join Durant High School staff

By Madison Weber

As the 2021-2022 school year begins, the Durant school district will gain five new teachers in the high school alone.

They include choir teacher Ms. Jeanine Link, English teacher Mrs. Cathy Pearlman, art teacher Mr. David Houk, special education teacher Mr. Joe DeGeorge, and science teacher Mr. Andy Strunk.

Ms. Link previously taught at Grinnell Middle School as a choir director and general music teacher and has been teaching for 10 years. She has also taught vocal music at Bettendorf High School and Pleasant Valley High School and Junior High.

She is excited to make music and teach voice lessons with students at Durant. Ms. Link looks forward to teaching different styles of music throughout the year and the Florida band and choir trip during spring break.

She is eager to have her students

perform at community events, concerts, and several honor choir opportunities.

"I want to provide students with a variety of music to sing in different styles and also give them the chance to create their own music," said Ms. Link.

When the position became available, Ms. Link was thrilled to apply. She wanted to teach high school and junior high music and graduated from North Scott High School in Eldridge, so a small-town environment was perfect for her.

"I like the open air of Durant with corn and bean fields nearby," said Ms. Link.

Ms. Link's passion for music came from growing up in a musical home and continued to grow from her high school choir experiences.

"I want to provide a similar experience to my students here in Durant where they excel as musicians and learn the power of making music together," said Ms. Link.

Ms. Link composes her own music and also writes music for other choirs.

She also enjoys biking, running, hiking, water skiing, and cross-country skiing.

Mrs. Cathy Pearlman is starting her first in-person teaching position after teaching virtually for three months last spring.

"I am just excited to have a classroom," she said. "I taught virtually in the spring, and it wasn't the same as being in a classroom."

She had previously been a substitute teacher and associate at Durant, so when the position opened up earlier this month, she was excited to have the opportunity to work in the same community.

"I want to build excellent relationships with my students, and I am excited to share my love for English literature with the students," said Mrs. Pearlman.

From her previous experiences as

an associate and substitute and being the mother of two Durant students, Zachary and Garrett Pearlman, she gained this love for teaching, which drove her to go back to school and get her teaching degree.

Mr. DeGeorge has been teaching for 22 years and has previously taught at three different high schools and three different colleges.

"I am really looking forward to the educational environment on a daily basis," said Mr. DeGeorge. "I consider myself a lifelong learner and hope to learn with the students as the year progresses."

Mr. DeGeorge is excited to form great relationships with students and staff at Durant and to get back into a full-time teaching position.

"I wanted to pay tribute to the many teachers and coaches who have helped me and to make a positive difference in the lives of students," said Mr. DeGeorge.

Shop students volunteer time to build storage shed

By Karissa Hoon

Every summer, Mr. Tim Rouse, industrial arts teacher at Durant High School, gives his high school shop students a chance to volunteer to build a house with him to gain hands-on experience.

This summer, however, he had to come up with his own project because of COVID-19 restrictions, so his students used a pole barn kit to build a storage shed adjacent to his classroom.

Because summer schedules are hectic and hard to line up, Mr. Rouse was more than willing to work around anything to get the job done.

The building will be used to house all of the equipment that students might need at the shop.

"It's going to be a 24x40 building that we're going to house all of our equipment and things in, like our skid steer, mini excavator, and job trailer. All of that stuff will get housed in there," said Mr. Rouse.

In order to get the building pro-

cess complete, the students had some help from local community members including Tim Ruth, Doug Schwarz, Bruce Feuerbach, Ryan Storjohann, and Jeffrey Workman.

Local residents also donated helpful supplies, which included two truck loads of lime from Jeff Graves, a scissors lift from Ruth, a JLG lift from Travis Bullard, and concrete forms from Schwarz.

Gerdau of Wilton supplied the rebar.

Ten businesses and community organizations helped to fund the building project. These included the Durant Education Foundation, Iowa 80 Group, Leland R. Smith Foundation, Liberty Trust and Savings Bank, Hills Bank, Land O'Lakes, Corteva, Cedar County Community Foundation, and Croell Inc.

Mr. Rouse said that Kalona Post and Frame also provided the school with a great price on the building package.

Four high school shop students, Ty Seligman, Ethan Schlapkohl, Braden Bar-



Photos contributed by Mr. Tim Rouse

Senior Ethan Schlapkohl works on the framework of a shed for the summer shop program.

clay, and Spencer Meinert, were the major volunteers for the project, while other students offered assistance during the project.

Meinert thinks this building opportunity is good for students to get involved in.

"I think it's a good way to learn how to do stuff because you get to do stuff

hands on as Rouse watches you and gives you pointers and tips as you need them. And I think when you do it hands on, you retain it more," said Meinert.

Schlapkohl said he knew it would be hard work building the shed, but he enjoys working with Mr. Rouse.

Driver From page 1

"It makes me nervous to think about all of the inexperienced drivers out on the roads."

According to the *Quad-City Times*, the DOT received over 500 applications from parents in July after the law went into effect. With this new law comes not just new requirements for the students, but also the parents teaching their children, and involves a three-step process

Step one: Parents complete and submit the pre-qualification application. Although this step is optional, it is highly recommended, according to the DOT website. This application shows the DOT that the parent is fit to teach the course. Parents must have a valid driver's license themselves and have a clear driving record for the last two years. If approved, an email will be sent to parents confirming that they have completed the requirements. If denied, a letter will be

sent listing what was missed in the requirements.

Step 2: Students must complete the course requirements. Parents are allowed to purchase one of four pre-approved courses in order to teach their children how to drive. Once the course has been completed, the parent must submit the application, which includes an approved course completion certificate and a copy of a completed driving log.

According to the DOT website, the driving log must include 30 hours of street and highway driving. Three of those hours must be at night.

The recorded log must have "the dates and times when the lessons were conducted and notes on driving activities including a list of driving deficiencies and improvements, and the duration of the driving time for each session," the DOT website

says.

Step 3: Students obtain driving privileges. After receiving the certificate of completion, parents must set up an appointment for their children to take the driving test. If the test is passed, the child is granted driving privileges.

Shop teacher Mr. Tim Rouse, a former driver's education instructor himself, said he is concerned that parents may not take their roles as instructor seriously enough.

"I am more scared of how this will affect student school permits," said Mr. Rouse. "Younger drivers spend way too much time texting and multitasking when they are not ready. So short answer is I'm a little more worried about the lack of practice. Parents will need to definitely take a more active role. I do not think that parents will honor that commitment."

Freshman Lauren Callison said she would prefer to learn how to drive from her parents because the driver's instruction would be "more on the go with my parents because I think it might put you in more real-life situations."

Callison said that she would be comfortable taking a DOT driving test because it makes sure that she is qualified to drive.

"I personally would rather have my parents teach me the course rather than having to spend hours in a classroom, and I feel like it would be easier if they taught me, and I would learn more," said Callison.

Callison hasn't actually talked with her parents yet about teaching her how to drive.

"I think that they would be willing to take the initiative and help me out and make it easier on me," said Callison.

Senior Nate Voss follows line of students to work for Dick Taber Estate Sales

By Shannon Head

Senior Nate Voss is the latest in a long line of Durant students who have worked for Dick Taber Estate Sales.

For two years, Voss has been working for the local business, which travels to different households in the Quad Cities area that have to be cleared due to a death or a move out.

Voss and fellow employees empty out any household items that will likely not be sold. Then the estates sales prices each of the saved, valuable items that it thinks might be successfully bought during the selling period.

Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays

are the end-of-the-week sale days. Voss and his coworkers sit and wait for any possible customers who might want to purchase heavy-duty objects.

If that time comes, Voss helps carry or deliver any of the items that the buyers can't do alone.

The first day of the sale has fully priced items. The second day, items are 25 percent off and relatively cheaper. The third and final day of the sale extends the sale to 50 percent off.

Overall, the job has been relatively easy for Voss especially since the job is mostly a clean out of the home followed by a waiting period for potential buyers.

"The hardest part is carrying something heavy," Voss said.

So far, he has cleared and emptied around 105 houses in his time with the job. On average, Voss carries around five to ten items from each household he has been through.

Since Voss is now a senior at Durant, his next chapter after high school is right around the corner. His plans are to attend a trade school and leave Durant after he graduates. Voss is interested in continuing with the Dick Taber Estate Sales "for a couple more years," he said.

"I think other people should get into it," he said. "You meet a lot of people."

In fact, this business has employed several students from Durant in the past, according to Mr. Taber, including graduates Nick Keimig, Alex Rouse, Jake Benischek, Justin Moeller, Logan Keese, Aaron Bartenhagen, Russ Young, Kevin Young, and many others.

Mr. Taber has been in business for 22 years and has 40 years of experience in antiques and estate sales.

Mr. Taber believes this business is a great job choice for students in high school considering it is not a full-time position.

In fact, Voss played baseball for the Wildcats during the summer and was able to fit both activities in.