

**ELDRIDGE**  
Council votes to  
extend paving contract  
Page 2A

**SPORTS**  
Lancer gridders  
crush Falcons  
Page 8B

# NSP

The North Scott Press



PICKLEBALL/Page 23A

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Members of the LP production team at North Scott High School include (l-r) Emily Heyer, Bridget Whitmer, Stacie Kintigh, Renae Mohr, Josh Tipsword and Tom Goodall.  
NSP Photo by Scott Campbell

## A new direction

*North Scott's Lancer Productions goes back to the future*

**By Scott Campbell**  
NSP Editor

When Joanie Demmer-Freeman decided to give up the reins to North Scott's Lancer Productions last spring – after leading the department for the past nine years – high school administrators didn't have to look far to find a replacement.

In fact, the replacement came looking for them.

Now, using an Academy Award-winning recipe for success, new director Stacie Kintigh is taking LP back to the future and "Into The Woods" as the opening night curtain prepares to rise on the school's fall musical.

Kintigh, the highly successful coach of the school's speech department, was immediately interested when Demmer-Freeman's decision was announced, but she didn't take the prospect of doing double-duty lightly.

"It was a big decision, no doubt about it," said Kintigh, who has led the speech program since 2005, and assisted longtime LP director Judith Jacobs for the previous three years. "My husband, David, and I had a really big talk about it, because the speech program has grown so much over the last few years, and it's really time-

**LP**  
continued on page 5A

## Mayor Koehn responds to recent criticism

■ McCausland leader won't stop asking students questions

**By Sarah Hayden**  
NSP Staff Writer

McCausland held its first city council meeting since Mayor Damien "Buzz" Koehn was criticized for asking North Scott High School government students questions during the Sept. 9 meeting.

On Tuesday, Oct. 14, Mayor Koehn responded to what he called, "blowback" and negative comments from McCausland residents and letters published in *The North Scott Press* for asking the students if they could name the state's governor or any current or world events.

Koehn noted the absence of students in city hall, but welcomed North Scott School District Superintendent Joe Stutting, who asked to be placed on the agenda.

Stutting stood before the council and said, "I just wanted to stop by and introduce myself. One of my objectives is to get to all the communities, knowing we need to work together."

He continued, "I've sat in your position before as a public official, so I know what it's like to be on that side of the table. I know there are times districts and city councils have to work together. I wanted to make sure you know who I am if something comes up. All of our communities are North Scott, and we're only as strong as all of our parts."

Mayor Koehn responded, "I'm sure you're aware of us not being able to please every-

**McCAUSLAND**

continued on page 13A

## No shortage of candidates in race for Scott County Board of Supervisors

■ Six names are on the ballot for three open seats

**By Sarah Hayden**  
NSP Staff Writer

The Scott County Board of Supervisors has three seats up for grabs in next month's general election.

One belongs to retiring chairman, Larry

Minard, a member of the board since 2000, while the seats of incumbents William Cusack and Carol Earnhardt, both Republicans, will also be up for grabs.

Cusack and Earnhardt are both seeking reelection to second terms, and they are being challenged by fellow Republican Diane Holst, and Democrats Bernie Peeters, Brinson Kinzer and James Laird.

The five-member board of supervisors makes policy and handles administrative tasks affecting the county.

County supervisors have many roles: levy

taxes for county use; approve an annual budget; manage all county buildings and grounds; appoint boards and commissions; fill vacancies in county offices; approve zoning changes; approve liquor licenses outside of incorporated areas; and weigh in on tax-increment finance district requests by municipalities.

The board is also the employer of all county employees, and must therefore bargain over pay, hours and working conditions.

Here's a closer look at the candidates:

**SUPERVISORS**

continued on page 8A

## INSIDE...

### SECTION A

Eldridge City Council .....	2
Election 2014: NS School Board .....	4
Election 2014: Scott County Recorder .....	6
Branstad Visits North Scott Rotary .....	12
Progress Show Draws A Crowd .....	14
Sample Ballots .....	15-18
Editorial Pages .....	19-23
Fair Board Holds Annual Meeting .....	24

### SECTION B

Grissom Celebrates Ecology Day .....	1
Family News .....	2
Obituaries .....	4-5
Scott County Sheriff's Reports .....	7
Eldridge Police News .....	7
Sports .....	8-10
Classified Advertising .....	12-13

### SPECIAL SECTIONS:

- Fareway
- Theisen's Supply
- American Profile
- Eastern Iowa Bizzzy Bee

## ELECTION 2014:

## Scott County Board of Supervisors

## Supervisors: Incumbents face strong challenges

continued from page 1A

**William Cusack**

Cusack is seeking his second term as a county supervisor. If the name sounds familiar, it's because he has a long history of public service and community volunteerism to his credit.

"I've been around for many, many years. I was county treasurer for 17 years. I've been an alderman-at-large, and on the park board when it was an elected position. I feel this (county) board has accomplished a lot and the future holds challenges we can address," he said.

Cusack served on the park board from 1974-75, as Davenport alderman-at-large from 1976-77, as county treasurer from 1978 to 1994, and was elected as county supervisor in 2010.



He credits former Davenport fire chief and county supervisor Lester Schick for submitting his name as county treasurer and beginning his career in public office.

Cusack earned his bachelor's degree from St. Ambrose Academy, and a master's degree in 1972 from the Graduate School of Banking at University of Wisconsin in Madison. In 1985, he graduated from the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy.

He also volunteered with the Sheriff's Reserve, formerly called the Sheriff's Posse, for 29 years.

"At that time, there were very few deputies, so we were used quite regularly. I was on stake-outs, patrol, and I even worked at North Scott and Pleasant Valley high schools on security."

Cusack and his wife, Nadine, retired to Show Low, Ariz., for 10 years, before moving back to Davenport in 2005. While in Arizona, he worked for the Show Low Police Department for three years. He and Nadine have four grown children.

As one of the first rangers for Scott County Park, he witnessed its dedication saying, "When the county hosts the state conservation meeting, they can't believe we have a county park that is state quality."

With an 18-year career in banking at First Trust and Savings Bank and his experience as county treasurer, Cusack said he supports the current board's philosophy of fiscal conservatism.

"We have put our money where our thoughts are. We support the entire Quad-Cities rather than just Scott County."

He is proud the board is able to fund construction of a new permanent patrol station for the sheriff's department without bonding. A site has yet to be chosen for the facility. The courthouse remodeling project, which was in limbo for a decade, was also funded without borrowing money.

"We are funding these projects with no bonding and I'm really proud of that," he said. "Along with the other supervisors, we have set capital improvement money aside to be able to fund these projects."

Cusack noted the county does hold bonds on the Scott Emergency Communications Center construction and the jailhouse expansion and renovation, but said the county is within two years of paying them off.

Other projects that are close to being paid for include the River Renaissance Project and the GIS (Geographic Information System), which allows citizens to research county information using a computer.

Cusack said the board of supervisors subsidizes Quad-Cities First, an economic development organization through the Quad-Cities Chamber of Commerce, and has budgeted \$30,000 for the GDRC—the Greater Davenport Redevelopment Corporation.

"We do support industrial expansion in the county," he said.

Another accomplishment Cusack is proud of is an agreement the county entered into

with Clinton County to provide roadside weed management, saving Scott County \$40,000.

"Anytime we enter into an agreement with a neighboring county, it seems to benefit all involved," he said. "We also created a regional group for mental health to administer funds to area agencies. This is a new group with Scott, Clinton, Jackson and Cedar counties. That's what we're striving for; to get people the treatment they need."

"The other thing I'm proud of is after this harsh winter, we had the proper equipment on hand to take care of secondary roads. Many times I would see county trucks clearing snow. We are second-to-none in terms of taking care of county roads."

Cusack is also proud to announce he has been endorsed by the AFL-CIO, (the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations).

"I'm the only Republican supervisor who has received their endorsement," he said.

As supervisor, Cusack sits on the Bi-State Region 9 Transportation Policy Committee and the Partners of Scott County Watershed Commission.

"I'm 74, and as I look back on my life, I'm very proud of some of the positive things I've done for the community and proud of the people I have helped."

**Carol Earnhardt**

Earnhardt was elected to the board in 2010. Her path to the county board followed years of experience in working on city and county elections and volunteering in the community.

Most notably, she was the organization director for Doug Gross when he ran against Gov. Tom Vilsack in 2002. She has also worked on campaigns for Jim Nussle and Jim Leach, and on Lamar Alexander's presidential campaign in 2000.

"I used to follow up on absentee ballots. I've always had an interest in politics," she said.



In addition to her interest in politics, Earnhardt is educated and trained as a nurse, having worked in her home state of Pennsylvania and Indiana, and at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Md.

Earnhardt has a history of volunteerism. She has worked as a volunteer with the Red Cross Disaster Services, and served on the boards of directors for the Friends of the Davenport Public Library, River Center/Adler Theater, Gilda's Club, Boys and Girls Club and River Music Experience.

She is also a past member of the Davenport Citizens Advisory Committee and the Scott County Civil Service Commission.

As a supervisor, Earnhardt was instrumental in organizing Scott County's first economic summit in February, inviting a state-wide panel of experts including Debi Durham, director of the Iowa Economic Development Authority.

The event drew more than 130 participants, including local mayors, council members and county officials, who listened to panels on how to revitalize downtown areas, historic preservation, finding resources, developing talent, retaining youth and growing small towns.

The summit was considered a success, she said, and Earnhardt has received requests to repeat it. She said she was inspired to organize the event after visiting smaller communities.

"That was really a good thing for the community and the county," she said. "We had two tracks: One rural and one for the region. Out of that comes something else—maybe every few months hold forums for smaller communities to find grants. We have to take it a step further."

Like Cusack, Earnhardt lists additional achievements on the board of supervisors as the courthouse expansion and the Sheriff's Department patrol station construction projects without borrowing money.

"We've been able to maintain our infrastructure. Some counties have to bond to repair roads and we are in good shape."

She also mentioned the collaboration with

Clinton County in eliminating road-side weeds, saving Scott County \$40,000.

Another partnership she is proud of is with the Solid Waste Commission. The county provides information technology expertise, data support and storage to the Commission in exchange for a fee.

"And we provide fiber infrastructure, so that's pretty impressive," she adds.

But most notably, Earnhardt worked to lower county taxes for residents.

"I'm proud we were able to lower the property tax levy over the last three years. Both urban and rural rates were lowered."

Earnhardt said the urban rate was \$6.24 and decreased to \$6.13 per \$1,000 of estimated assessed valuation, while the rural rate was lowered from \$9.28 to \$9.17.

She said she was inspired to run for reelection because she wants to follow through on county projects.

"I just feel there is more to do. I want to make sure the region is operational and build on the ideas we developed during the Economic Summit. I want to make a positive impact on the residents of Scott County."

In her current role on the board of supervisors, Earnhardt serves as treasurer on the Bi-State Regional Commission, and is on the Scott County Resource Enhancement and Protection Committee, Health and Community Services Committee, and River Bend Transit.

She and husband, Brock, have been married for 42 years and have a grown daughter who works in West Des Moines as a lobbyist at a bi-partisan firm. Brock Earnhardt retired in 2009 as president of Iowa American Water Company.

After her husband's retirement, Earnhardt said they decided to remain in the area because, "Scott County is a great place to live. This is truly our home. It is a great community and the people have been wonderful."

**Bernie Peeters**

Well-known in the Eldridge community, Bernie Peeters retired in May from North Scott High School after teaching art for 39 years. He also coached football, boys and girls track, boys tennis, boys cross-country, and spent eight years coaching football at St. Ambrose University.

A Democrat, Peeters has spent the last six years on Eldridge City Council. He likes to stress that he is not a politician, but rather a public servant.

As a teacher and council member, Peeters said he's been working with budgets and taxpayer's money for years.

"With all my teaching and coaching experience, I've learned how to get things done. You have to work with people and not against them. People have not only entrusted me with their money, they've entrusted me with their kids," he said.



Peeters graduated from North Scott High School in 1968, Luther College in 1972 and has taken graduate classes from University of Iowa and Drake University.

He and his wife, Maria, have three children, ages 21, 14 and 12.

Serving on the Eldridge City Council has been a great experience, Peeters said, adding the city has a history of good management and good councils.

"I think everybody has the best interest of citizens in mind. Occasionally, we have differences of opinion, but we don't let emotions or egos or party politics get in the way."

"We respect each other and we get things worked out. Everyone is working for the betterment of citizens and keeping our tax dollars in line."

Peeters said he has been considering a run for county supervisor for a number of years and felt the time was finally right.

"The main thing for the citizens is it gives them another choice. I think the more options there are to pick from, the better you feel about

your decision.

"The only thing I can promise is I will work my hardest. I would never vote on anything until it's been thoroughly discussed and I was very comfortable with my decision, and that it is ethically correct and in the best interest of the citizens," he added.

"I know how to ask questions to get answers. Knowing how to phrase a question can be an important part of that process. I know how to research things."

"I've been working with people all my life and I've been a public servant all my life. I just want to pay that forward."

Peeters said his family has been in Scott County since the 1840s. He would often tell his students that if they worked hard in school and got involved in their community, they could have good lives. He wants to lead by example.

"One of the stated goals of the board (of supervisors) is to take care of the integrity of the agricultural lands, but there is progress to be made. I'm certainly not in favor of converting a lot of agricultural land into developments. I would like to see recycling take place with land. I'd like to see a (developer) reuse a structure rather than taking up new ground."

"But you can't predict what will happen in the next four years, so everything is going to have to be treated on an individual basis."

Peeters recalled an incident when he was a young Boy Scout out hiking in the wilderness in rural Long Grove. When he came to a clearing, he saw big earth-moving machinery and realized the area was under construction. He was sad thinking his secret hiking area was being developed.

The construction he witnessed was the creation of Scott County Park—a park whose trails he later used for training his cross-country teams.

"Now it's really neat. I'm impressed someone had the foresight to plan it. Some things are going to be there for a long time to benefit a lot of people."

Peeters said he is fiscally conservative and "a penny-pincher. I don't like to overspend. When you do spend money on projects, you can't jeopardize anything in the future."

"The basic function of the board is to manage the county budget. I've been looking over it. They've done a good job managing it and I would like to maintain that. My bottom line is if you don't have the money, you don't buy it. Eldridge has done a very good job with that and I have too in my personal life."

"I don't think there's any place in the county where there's enough tax money to satisfy all the needs. Any kind of development or business coming in has to be accountable and a good fit with the county. We can't give away tax-increment finance (incentives) to lure people and then get stuck holding it. We can't have people coming in for the short term and pulling out later."

"I am for progress and development but each (request) has to be handled individually."

"Most issues have multiple sides not just two sides. I think you have to listen to all kinds of input. Everyone wants progress. New business is good to a point, but you've got to look at all the other things."

Peeters said if a project is not a good fit for the county, he would not be in favor of approving it to move forward or rezoning land.

"I'm a common man with common sense. I don't want to get tied in rhetoric or emotional issues. Just sit back, take your time, look at things and think what is best for the citizens. What kind of county do I want for my kids? What kind of county do I want for the students I've worked with?"

**Diane Holst**

It's hard to miss the large, impressive, campaign yard signs bearing Diane Holst's name. They have made Scott County residents familiar with her name, despite her lack of political experience.

With an aggressive mail campaign, a website—[dianeholst.com](http://dianeholst.com)—and the yard signs, she wants to make sure residents know who she is.

"I'm not concerned about anything I say because I don't change what I say. I am very specific. I want them to know about me before

continued on page 9A

# ELECTION 2014:

## Scott County Board of Supervisors

continued from page 8A

they make their decision. I'm even mailing to Democrats because I think I have positions that appeal across the board. I just want them to be aware that I'm out there and they can make the judgment," she said.

Holst has never held political office or even worked on a campaign, but her level of involvement and knowledge of the political process rivals the incumbent candidates.

"I became active about five years ago when I noticed my taxes were going up," said Holst, "and I realized I didn't understand. I didn't even know who to call. I didn't understand the whole structure."

"I started by going to a budget public hearing. I realized if that was going to take place and I had no clue it was going to happen, then



I wasn't going to be uninformed again. It was a personal issue that I started following," she said.

"People need to be informed. By the time you show up at a public hearing, it's already been in the works for five years. The first public hearing I went to, I thought they had to respond to me!"

Holst quickly learned that county business was more detailed than she had anticipated.

"Once you go to the supervisors' meeting, you realize there are a lot of other meetings because there are boards and commissions. Then I started going to other meetings because if you really wanted to know what was going on, you had to go where the product was being made. If I was going to be informed, I needed to go to those. I've gone to about 125 meetings where county business is discussed over the last four-and-a-half years."

"But I wasn't changing anything. I was informed, but I didn't represent anybody because I wasn't elected. Someone said to me, 'Diane, you know more about what's going on than anyone, you need to run.'"

Holst is Scott County born and raised. Her parents were onion farmers in Pleasant Valley. She graduated from Pleasant Valley High School and has been married for 39 years to her high-school sweetheart, Dave. Together they have two children, three grandchildren, and one on the way. They moved to rural Eldridge seven years ago.

Holst works as a renewal sales support specialist for Hewlett-Packard, TS Americas Services. She manages federal accounts and has worked there for 35 years.

"My background is researching," she said. "In order to vote on an agenda item, I want to do my own research. I've looked into these issues and I would have my own set of questions. You raise your voice and discuss it as a group."

Holst said she wants to "bring people in to the property tax process so they understand what drives what piece of it, because we have moving parts."

"The levy rate is set on how much money they need for the budget and the budget has been growing every year. Our budget has doubled in the last 14 years and our population has only grown 5 percent."

If elected, Holst would like to make county meetings more accessible to the public by streaming them live via satellite. She would also make recordings available to the public.

Furthermore, she would try to change regular meeting times from 5:00 p.m. to later, making it easier for those who work full-time to attend. Committee of the Whole meetings,

which are currently scheduled at 8:00 a.m. would also be moved to a more agreeable time, if she could influence a change.

"The county needs to discontinue loading their documents via scanning to a .pdf. They are not searchable documents, and no one can search the county site by a word like 'server' or 'storage.' They need to print to pdf. This will do much to promote transparency and gain trust," she added.

Holst said she supports Scott County's current policy that the intention of tax increment finance districts should be for blighted areas.

"That gets back to informing the public on who owns the pieces of pie. In the area of taxes, as long as you (point fingers at others) you can't pinpoint who raised taxes. The law is a state law for tax increment finance. It's still back to the city's discretion and you have no power over it."

"When you give incentives, the taxpayer always pays. Until we inform people of the process, we don't fix the problem if we don't identify it."

### Brinson Kinzer

With 18 years of political experience to his name, Blue Grass Mayor Brinson Kinzer is making a strong case for a seat as a county supervisor. The Democratic candidate served as a Blue Grass City Council member for 12 years and has been mayor for the past six years.

Kinzer wants to provide a voice for rural communities.

"I don't think anybody sitting on that board is doing a bad job by any means. I'm born and raised in the west end of Davenport and I moved to Blue Grass in late '80s."

"After becoming involved in the community and sitting on the council, I feel the rural communities need a voice," he said.

One example is how small police departments struggle to



serve towns like Blue Grass, which has two full-time and two part-time officers. Kinzer said he would seek to expand services from the Scott County Sheriff's Department to help smaller communities, such as adding satellite staging areas for deputies to work out of.

"When (Blue Grass police) aren't on because they're sick or on vacation, we still need coverage. I would like to be that voice of the communities that feel like they're forgotten."

Long Grove just lost their police department. That's a blow because the Scott County Sheriff's Department is tight. I'd like to change that.

"What a unique idea if you could have satellite offices and stage out of those areas. I don't know if it's possible, but it's an idea. I would reach out to those folks that know best and ask if there is anyway to commit an officer and that deputy's sole purpose would be to take care of those communities."

Kinzer, a journeyman electrician for 28 years with the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers LU #145, is employed as safety director for Davenport Electric.

He is also very involved in the Blue Grass community as a soccer coach and president of Dad's Club, vice president of Blue Grass Little League, and as a founding member of the Little Falcon Wrestling Club.

"To this day I still help at the tournament," he said, adding that he is also a Center for Active Seniors, Inc., volunteer, hanging Christmas lights and helping with CASI's annual St. Patrick's Day run.

Kinzer and his wife, Donna, have been chairmen of the Blue Grass Days 5K Run/Walk for the past 11 years.

"Let's put it this way - I'm there whenever they need me. I'm also a member of the Blue Grass Community Club and I volunteer with the Durant Classic Wrestling Tournament. You know what? It's a lot of fun helping folks."

In his experience as an electrician, council member and mayor, he said he is a collaborative partner who solicits ideas from those around him.

"One thing you can do with department heads, you want to encourage their thoughts. Sometimes they're afraid to step up and offer an idea when you can bring them in and ask, 'How can we make Scott County better?' They realize I really want their ideas."

"If there is one unique idea that can save the county money, isn't that what we're all about?"

Kinzer said his experience in working with city budgets gives him an advantage.

"Our budgets might not be \$78 million, but it's a budget and you work within your means. Running as a Democrat, I believe that if you need it and you have (the money), you buy it. I think it's (wise) to spend what you've budgeted for."

Kinzer said he works well with everyone, regardless of politics.

"When you sit on the Blue Grass City Council, it's non-partisan. We were able to get things done and we're able to do things now," he said.

Speaking of the Republican-dominated board of supervisors, he said, "We're not going to agree on everything. If you had two Democrats, you're not going to agree on everything. If it meets the needs of Scott County, I think I can reach across and do that. And then it would be my job to convert them all to Democrats," he added with a laugh.

Kinzer has already decided that if he does not win a seat on the county board, he will not seek another term as mayor, which expires in November 2015.

"It's been a pleasure to be out on the campaign trail and meet everybody. If I'm not successful with this venture, I'm not going to run for mayor again. It's been a joy, but I would certainly entertain another run for county supervisor!"

"I'm still going to help my community in some way. I've been blessed with a good staff, and they make the role of mayor very easy. The city staff has been absolutely wonderful. It's a collaborate venture."

Kinzer and his wife, Donna, have been married for 26 years. They have one son, Justin, who is a plumber apprentice with Lo-

cal Union #25 Plumbers and Pipefitters and is also a volunteer firefighter with the Blue Grass Fire Department.

### James Laird

This is Laird's second run for county supervisor. He ran two years ago, and is hopeful about his latest campaign.

"I was a late entry into the race two years ago. The Democratic Party had a spot they wanted to fill. But honestly, I've been interested in politics since a very young age. I was volunteering for campaigns, taking elderly (voters) to polls and helping with absentee ballots," he said.

Laird graduated from Bettendorf High School in 1996 and earned two bachelor's degrees from University of Iowa: business administration and political science.



He works as an assembler at John Deere Davenport Works. He is a single father of two children, ages 16 and 12.

"I've always wanted to perform some sort of public service. This affords me an opportunity to do so and stay here locally so I can still be here with my kids. It's the best of both worlds."

Laird has many ideas he would implement if elected to the county board. One would be to retro-fit all county buildings with solar panels.

"It puts local people to work, even if it's only temporary. It reduces energy costs and then if you run into a crunch down the road, you don't have to raise taxes because you've saved money through energy costs," he said. "Also I just think it's the responsible thing to do. It shows the residents of Scott County that we take climate change seriously."

"Another thing I would like to do is repave and expand county roads. Again, it puts local people to work. It also makes it safer for bicyclists too. If we can widen the road, it makes it easier to pass them."

Laird would also like to provide high-speed internet access to everyone in Scott County.

"It gives farmers and those in rural communities access to more markets to sell their products," he said.

Overall, Laird wants to make a difference for Scott County.

"Look at the state of politics in Washington and Des Moines and there's not a lot getting done. We need to start taking care of things ourselves."

## MAYSVILLE FIRE DEPT. ANNUAL

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