

Inspiration for Our Day- "But as for you, be strong and do not give up, for your work will be rewarded." ~2 Chronicles 15:7

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Nathan Brenner and his daughter, Leah, send apples through the apple press at the Fall Festival on the Farm at Peterson Point Historical Farmstead Sept. 7. Enjoy more fall fun in this month's Our Hometown.

Photo by Amy H. Peterson

#### This year's high school thespians

### DON'T HAVE A CLUE

#### Fall play brings comedy and mystery to Estherville stage

BY AMY H. PETERSON

APETERSON@ESTHERVILLENEWS.NET

The Estherville Lincoln Central High School's drama department is presenting "I Don't Have a Clue," a laugh-packed murder mystery, Nov. 8 at the Janice K. Lund Center for the performing arts. The play was written by Chicago-

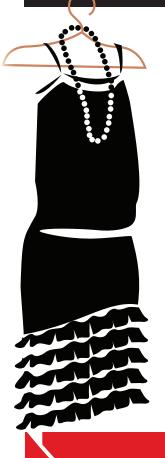
based playwright Craig Sodaro, author of over 200 plays. A playwright since childhood, Sodaro penned titles like *The Dismembered Pencil* while he was in high school. Moving on to Colorado and now to Arizona.

"I Don't Have a Clue" celebrates its 25th anni-

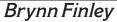
versary this year. It centers on Carol Robinson, a hostess bringing to life a 1929 murder-mystery dinner party. Guests arrive in costume as gangsters and flappers, and Carol has decorated in period style. Carol is the mother of teenagers who add to the angst of the evening.



#### Meet this year's cast and crew for the 2024 ELC Play Productions







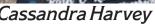


Gabe Forsyth



Zeke Funston







Jennifer Hernandez



Caden Hoffman





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**ESTHERVILLE NEWS** 







Austin Lavender



Helen Lavender



Hanna Paulson



Luna Osvaldo



Braylen Milstead



Loki Hoffman



Lily Strom







Laken Ball



Alexis Castillo-Rodriquez



Sophia Schumacher



Emily Eveleth (no picture available)

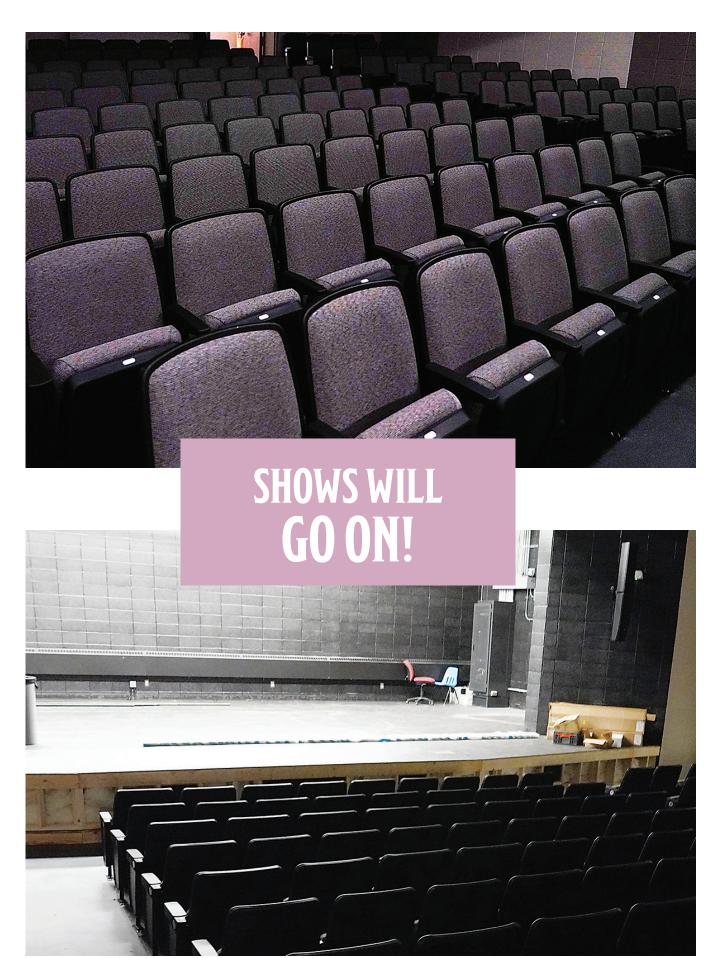


Alex Cole (no picture available)



Logan Schroeder (no picture available)

### ENJOY A NIGHT OUT AND SUPPORT OUR KIDS AT THE PLAY!



8 ★★ OCTOBER 2024 ★ OUR HOMETOWN

### LITTLE THEATER

#### **UPDATE TO BENEFIT PERFORMING ARTS STUDENTS**

is updating the Little Theater at the high school. Students.

Estherville Lincoln staff, and the Patrons Central High School of the Fine Arts have long hoped for an updated performing environment and a

numerous banners and trophies theater and speech competitors have earned at regional and state competitions, as well as those from other arts competitions. Finally this month, seats and flooring have been installed, with a seating capacity of 218.

place to display the ELC activities directors Shane Kalous told the school board at its most recent meeting that the next step is to get the curtain hung so that lighting can be finished up. Next on the to-do list: paint touch ups, finishing trim work, and testing equipment to ensure that it works.

#### PHOTOS BY DAVID SWARTZ





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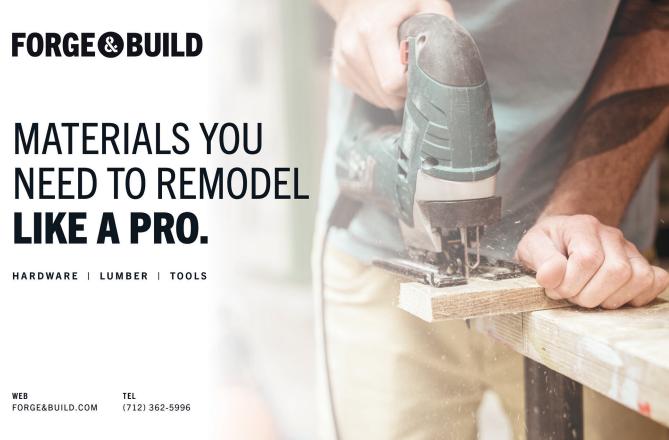
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## My Town part of Twin Cities Film Fest

Rural docuseries *My Town* includes Estherville footage

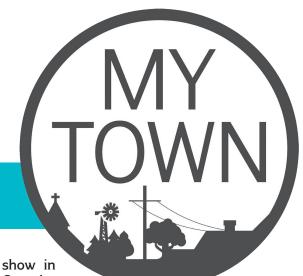
BY AMY H. PETERSON

APETERSON@ ESTHERVILLENEWS.NET

ast winter, Cory Hepola braved the early February wind and cold to bring his film crew to Estherville and Emmet County, exploring the area and adding to the story of the rural area captured in his new docuseries *My Town*. Helpola, writer and director of "My Town," told the Estherville News the plan was to release the

show in October, 2024. This month, the series will premiere at Twin Cities Film Fest.

Hepola is a three-time Emmet Award-Winning Documentarian.
Hepola told the
Estherville News, "Twin
Cities Film Fest! It's awesome! We're very excited
to be able to showcase





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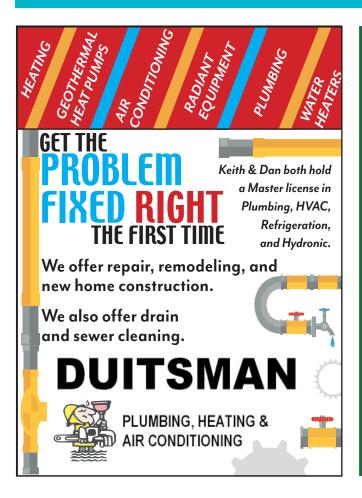
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"Our series breaks down the popular misconception about the rural lifestyle, inspiring important conversations"

Cory Hepola, Emmy Award winning broadcaster, rural developer, and filmmaker, is excited to premiere his new show at the Twin Cities Film Festival.







Estherville Chamber
Director Lexie Ruter
walks with creator
Cory Hepola on the
swinging bridge while
the crew films footage
for the My Town
documentary.

the lowa Lakes Corridor and get it out to a wider audience right away."

Hepola added that his team is honored "My Town" was hand-picked for the prestigious Twin Cities Film Fest.

"Our series breaks down the popular misconception about the rural lifestyle, inspiring important conversations, and the Twin Cities Film Fest is the premier changemaker event in the Upper Midwest," Helpola said.

Hepola grew in in small-town Minnesota. For this documentary he traveled to seven different rural communities across four states to learn why people choose to live where they do and discover the opportunity, innovation and connectedness that is





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Scan the link to watch *My Town* on Youtube!



found in rural America.

"I've always loved my hometown, but as a teenager, I was in a hurry to leave. As a 40-sometihing adult with a wife and three young children, I have a different perspective, and I'm starting to realize I missed out. 'My Town' shows the value of choosing rural life, something I didn't understand as a kid." Hepola said.

The world premiere of "My Town" consists of two separate showings at the Twin Cities Film Fest to spotlight all seven episodes from Season One. Saturday, October 19, "My Town Part 1" will feature the lowa Lakes Corridor. Beaver Dam. Wisconsin, and Rugby, North Dakota. The following week - Thursday, Oct. 24 - "My Town Part 2" will showcase four towns in Minnesota: Perham. Farmington, Willmar. and Chisolm. The venue for the film festival is the Marcus Theatre West End Cinema in St. Louis Park. Minnesota.

Helpola's compa-

ny is The Brookshire Company. Its mission is to help companies succeed and communities thrive. The commercial real estate and site selection company has now expanded into storytelling.

Gerry Norton is founder and CEO of The Brookshire Company. Norton said, "It's time to rethink rural America. You can start a business here. You can be a changemaker. You can ind the work-life balance you're after. This is the American Dream." Norton is executive producer of "My Town."

"My Town" Season 1 will explore seven rural communities across four states with full 25-minute episodes airing every Sunday night - October 27-December 8, 2024 on YouTube and Facebook. Stream free at "My Town Series."

Learn more about Twin Cities Film Fest at twincitiesfilmfest.org

Follow the progress of "My Town" on Facebook and Youtube.

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### REMINISCENCES OF EARLY DAYS BY A



The following story was published Wednesday, Aug. 13, 1924 in the Vindicator and Republican, an early newspaper of Estherville. It was the first in a series of articles by pioneers of Emmet County and was written by Mrs. Eliza M. Bemis.

Mrs. Bemis, who was 79 at the time the article was published, had lived in Emmet county since 1866, when she came here from New York with her husband, S. E. Bemis.

They came with Mr. Bemis' brother D. M. L. Bemis.

duct-

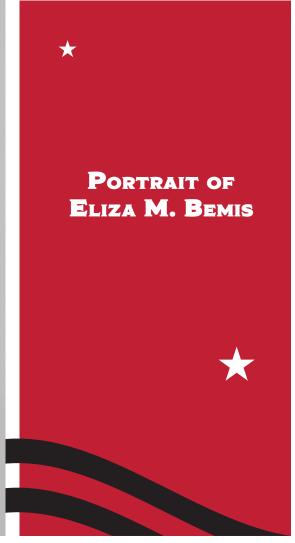
BY ELIZA M BEMIS

When we first came to Estherville, the year after the close of the Civil War, there was scarcely a dwelling house on the town site, in fact there was no town site. There was a fort, Fort Defiance, which had been built for protection against the Indians. Several families lived in the Fort.

There was a hotel, however, not far from the present Rock Island bridge. This was kept by Mr. Haskins and was known as the Haskins Hotel. Here we deposited our scant supply of dry-goods and groceries which

we had brought with us to start a store. During that first summer, while building was going on, we coned our store at the hotel but lived in a little house





which the men had put up in a few days after we arrived.

There was one other store already here when we came. It was Fisher's store, a little grocery down by the river.

Our nearest railroad was Fort Dodge. Our mail came from there, brought by stage, once a week. Goods for the store were brought from Garden City, Mankato and Blue Earth, Minnesota.

These had to be brought overland by team and wagon and it was several days' journey to any of these places. Then the goods must be purchased and the return journey made. It was no

small task in those days to make the trip.

During the first summer quite a good deal of building was done. The old store building, which used to stand where the post office is now,



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THE INTEREST OF ESTHERVILLE AND EMMET COUNTY

ESTHERVILLE, EMMET COUNTY, IOWA, AUGUST 13, 1924





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### **Edward Jones**

MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

120 N 7TH ST | ESTHERVILLE, IA 51334 EDWARDJONES.COM was one of the first ones built. The lumber was brought overland from Fort Dodge and Garden City, all except that used for interior finishing. That was sawed from native timber at the old saw mill down by the river. It was all black walnut. the shelves, the counters and even the floor. Today that lumber could not be duplicated and if it could, would be worth a small fortune.

Graves and McKay opened a store in a building where the Ford garage now stands.

The same summer brought a post office. It was a small building scarcely more than a shack, not far from the

place where the Myhre & Jeglum store now is.

Near the present site of the court house, a school house was built with Mr. Pingrey for a teacher. The school house was built for all purposes. On Sunday it was a church. Gatherings of all sort were held in it. People still living in Estherville were married there. All public records were kept in it and unless memory fails me, it was from this building that the records were stolen and carried to the town of Swan Lake in an effort to make Swan Lake, and not Estherville, the county seat. Later this landmark burned down but the records were saved by Mr. Graves.

22 ★★ OCTOBER 2024 ★ OUR HOMETOWN

Many of the early settlers lived on farms near town. This was after the Spirit Lake massacre but we had many Indian scares, most of them unfounded. One day Mrs. Ed Ridley and Mrs. Graves walked all the way to town through the corn fields because of rumors that the Indians were near. Another time the boys went to Jackson to play ball and they must have won, for late that night they came home whooping and yelling. We all thought that our time had come. It seems funny

now as we look back on it. But it was far from funny then. Things were too serious. There was too much real danger.

It is a worthwhile experience to have lived through those days and to see the wonderful things that can be done by people determined and persevering, to see a great rich prairie changed to prosperous farms with big barns and fine homes, and to see a beautiful little city grow up where once there was almost nothing.



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### UPCOMING

### OCTOBER & NOVEMBER



October 1 Night at the Performing Arts
Center (PAC) – 6:30 p.m., Iowa Lakes
Community College Janice K. Lund
Performing Arts Center. Students and community members perform music, dance and other performances.



October 3 4 p.m.

The Estherville Chamber of Commerce hosts its annual Sip the Ville event. Sip, sample, and shop your way through Estherville. Try delicious wine and drink samples and enjoy

snacks and treats at over a dozen Estherville businesses. Shop great stores in town and hit all locations to win one of two grand prize giveaways. Find tickets online: www.estherville.org.

October 11-21 VENOMventure Escape
Room - Estherville Public Library. Sign up
for a time for a group of 2-5, ages eight and
up, at bookeo.com/venomventure. Solve
science puzzles in this adventure escape game.
Estherville is one of only 11 sites nationwide to
offer the experience.

October 17 7 p.m.

Heartland Honor Choir – Janice K. Lund Performing Arts Center, Iowa Lakes Community College

October 19 6 p.m. Fright Hike

October 21 Wesley's kitchen 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Estherville United Methodist Church, 108 S. 8th Street.

### EVENTS

### OCTOBER & NOVEMBER CONT.

October 26 5 p.m. Emmet Co. Veterans
Affairs, Estherville VFW and American
Legion: Ceremonial Flag Burning event
Freewill offering for chili dinner, funds benefit Brushy Creek Honor Flight. Ceremony
will focus on American flag, proper handling,
etiquette, and a ceremonial burning of the
flags.

October 28 Community dinner

November 3 - - Daylight Savings Time ends

November 5 - Election Day

November 8 The Estherville Lincoln Central Drama Department presents "I Don't Have a Clue," a murder mystery, in the Janice K. Lund Performing Arts Center at Iowa Lakes Community College. Times are 7 p.m. on Friday and 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. on Saturday.

November 11 – Veterans Day with programs at Iowa Lakes Community College and Veterans Park at 11 a.m.

November 21 Holiday in the Ville – Visit Estherville to shop for the holidays and enjoy the festive atmosphere in downtown Estherville. The Chocolate Walk will be held from 4-7 p.m. Stop by participating businesses for chocolate treats and to see their holiday gift and décor selections. Horsedrawn wagon rides and carolers can be seen from 5-6:30 p.m. The Parade of Lights will process through downtown Estherville beginning at 7 p.m.

November 28 - Thanksgiving Day



# Parting SHOT

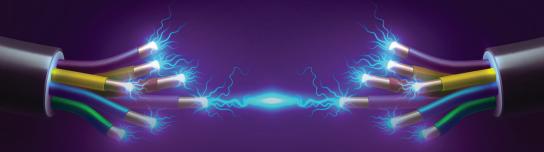
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### Michael Tidemann



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