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Calnan still looks to the sky, thanks to the Air Force

Tess Nelson
 The Red Oak Express

Every day Tom Calnan of Red Oak goes outside and looks to the sky, searching for clues as to what the weather will bring. It's a habit he picked up in the Air Force, where he was a weather observer for more than three years.

"At that time I wasn't interested in school, but I wanted a diploma. In the military, I could get a diploma," recalled Calnan. "I knew I wasn't tough enough to be a Marine and the Army wasn't right for me. I wasn't a swimmer at the time, so the Navy wasn't for me, either. That left the Air Force."

Calnan, a native of Boston, entered the Air Force in February 1960 and completed basic training at Lackland Air Force Base in Texas.

"We were there for six to eight weeks. It was quite an experience, especially being in the barracks. I was an only child, so I went from having my own room to sharing quarters with 59 others. Initially, it was a shock to me," Calnan said.

Prior to basic training, Calnan completed the Air Forces Qualifying Test. His highest score hinted he should go into intelligence or weather.

"I wasn't asked what I preferred. I was told, 'Well I hope you enjoy doing weather.' I thought they would at least ask me what I'd like to do," Calnan said.

Weather observation school was completed at Chanute Air Force Base in Rantoul, Ill. Calnan said the very first day in class he was told something that rang true since.

"This guy said, 'From this day forward, you'll always be interested in weather and when you leave your house, you'll look up,' and he was right. That is exactly what I do," Calnan said.

He added he still finds himself examining weather maps on television during the weather forecast and checking the skies when outside.

"Weather is very interesting. As a weather observer I would record weather conditions. There were certain numbers and symbols used to convey what was happening outside."

Once he completed weather school, Calnan was stationed at Loring Air Force Base in northern Maine, not far from the Canadian border.

"I recall one winter day the weather was terrible. I'm out there in my observation post and a colonel came out to see me. He said, 'Airman, I've got jets that need to land and you're

CALNAN, Page 2A



Winter fun

Charlie Payne, 8, of Red Oak slides down Chautauqua Park hill in Red Oak. (Tess Nelson/Red Oak Express)

The Express moves to Wednesday

Staff Report

Starting next week, the Red Oak Express will have a new look as it moves printing operations to its sister newspaper in Harlan. The move means the newspaper will go from 22" wide to 25", meaning larger photos and a more readable font. Color registration, which has long plagued the newspaper, will also improve.

Red Oak Publication General Manager Tess Nelson said the decision was necessary in order to continue operations and put out a quality product.

Head Pressman Paul Dumler said years of post production neglect led to this day, noting prior ownership bought machinery like bundlers that weren't compatible with the Goss Press while neglecting routine maintenance.

"We just couldn't put out the quality product for the people of Red Oak," Dumler said.

Regional Publisher Joshua Byers said Dumler and his entire crew over the year's but in particular Shawn Parker were to be commended for

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Third generation stylist joins Red Oak's The Beauty Nook

Nick Johansen
 The Red Oak Express

The Johnson family tradition is continuing with a new generation at The Beauty Nook in Red Oak.

The salon, which opened in Red Oak in 1976, was started by Linda Atkinson-Wollenhaupt. Following that, daughter Tracy Johnson started the second generation of family working for the salon, and on Jan. 18, the third generation of family had her first day on the job, Tracy's daughter, Madalyn Johnson.

Tracy spoke about the family's long history with the salon, and said it's been a privilege to keep the Beauty Nook in the family over the years.

"We've been pretty successful over the years. My mom had an original partner, and my mom retired after 47 years. Her partner, Sally Ratcliff, also retired after 47 years in the business. Also, my dad's folks we're both a hairdresser and a barber, so in a way, Madalyn is fourth generation in the hair-dressing business, but she's third generation here," Tracy said.

When it came time to pursue a career, Tracy said she always knew that she wanted to follow in her mom's footsteps as a hairdresser.

"It was great to follow in her footsteps. I did work in another salon for a little bit of time, but I grew up here, and it was different. I needed to work here," said Tracy.

Much like Tracy and Linda, Madalyn said she always knew she wanted to be a hairdresser when she grew up.

"I think one of the things that sparked my interest is that I grew up being in the salon, and even as far back as when I was in kindergarten, I said I was going to be a hairdresser; it was on my school papers," Madalyn commented.

Madalyn added that her skill set allows her to serve clients who are both older than younger.

"I trained in school with a lot of older clients, and I've also done work on teenag-



Tracy Johnson, left, poses with her daughter, Madalyn Johnson. Tracy followed in her mother's footsteps as a stylist at The Beauty Nook, and is now working alongside her own daughter, a third generation stylist. (Nick Johansen/Red Oak Express)

ers. The other girls who work here are in their 20s, and so the younger clients tend to go with us, and Tracy serves our older clientele," stated Madalyn.

In the future, Madalyn said she hopes that she will be able to keep the trend going by taking over as the Beauty Nook's manager from her mom. She started out her tenure with the salon with three clients, and has hit the ground running. As she keeps working on the job, Madalyn said she'll regularly have to maintain her training.

"You have to have continuing education hours every two years, and we also have to renew our license regularly," Madalyn explained.

While she already loves her job, she said the most rewarding part of being at the Beauty Nook is being with her mom.

"I love being able to work alongside my

mom in the salon that she grew up in, and that my grandmother started," Madalyn said.

Tracy, who has had the opportunity to work alongside both her mother and her daughter, shared a similar sentiment.

"I love my job. We love to go to work every day and make people feel good. Sometimes it can be hard, or a lot of hours, but I love it. And now I know how my mom felt when I came to work. It's a different feeling, to know that she chose this, and she'll love her job too," explained Tracy. "My mom and I have the same personality. We worked together for 15 years, and never had an argument. Madalyn and I have a little different personality, so I'll be honest and say I was a little nervous about that, but I know it's going to be fine. She's good at her job, and that's all I ask."



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Norris appointed to imminent domain board

Nick Johansen
The Red Oak Express

The Montgomery County Board of Supervisors has finalized several committee appointments, as well as set a public hearing date for the proposed solar ordinance amendment. Prior to the vote, Jan Norris, who had sought an appointment to the imminent domain board, said she hoped for an appointment. "I have submitted an application for appointment to the board, and I hope you will give me the same consideration as others who do not regularly attend your meetings. You said you need property owners within the city, and I am one," Norris said. Norris added that imminent domain and the condemnation of someone's property for another's use was a big deal. "You know I will do my homework, and you know I will show up. Sometimes you may disagree with my views, but I do have Montgomery County's best interests at heart. That is my only motivation," commented Norris. She also urged the supervisors to take some time before deciding on approval of the proposed solar ordinance. A recent meeting of the Montgomery County Planning and Zoning Commission focused on potential revisions of the ordinance, but no action was taken after a motion to revise died for lack of a second.

"Vicky Rossander, who serves on the planning and zoning commission, spent 40 hours researching solar ordinances to get Montgomery County the best one they could draft, but the commission chose not to even hold a discussion on it. Her only goal was to protect the county," advised Norris. County Auditor Stephanie Burke discussed the latest list of people under consideration for appointment. For the imminent domain board, Jan Norris was appointed to fill the vacancy, and Grant Vrba was appointed as an appraiser. For the Montgomery County Veterans Affairs Commission, Jim Jones was reappointed. For the Montgomery County Conservation Board, Jon Spunaugle was reappointed, and Diane McGrew was appointed to the Montgomery County Board of Health. While several new members were appointed, Supervisor's Chairman Mark Peterson said the item would remain on the agenda as there were still spaces to fill. "We still need to add one more realtor, and we need two more appraisers, auctioneers, or bankers in order to fill out that board," Peterson said. The supervisors also set Feb. 8 at 8:45 a.m. as the date for the public hearing on the proposed solar ordinance. In other business, the supervisors:

- Approved the treasurer's semi-annual report for December, 2021, in the amount of \$11,223,143.

Councilmember Bills approaches council about funds for water and wastewater improvements

Nick Johansen
The Red Oak Express

The Red Oak City Council discussed an available funding stream for a design study for water and wastewater planning. Red Oak City Council member Brian Bills said he had gathered some information from the DNR's State Revolving Fund program coordinator, Theresa Enright, who said there is a lot of money available for water and sewer improvements. "There's money available for us. But the problem for us is that we don't have any long-range planning, which is going to be required for us to apply for this grant funding. If we become eligible, there's no limit on the finding, and there's no minimum," Bills said. Even without a long-range plan, Bills said the city already qualified for the grants on a couple of different levels. "Because of our demographics, we would be considered a disadvantaged community, which means that any money we received from them would be granted, or forgiven, and we would also qualify for low interest loans," advised Bills. The first step, Bills said,



was for the City of Red Oak to come up with a plan, as well as a survey. "They are willing to loan us some money for a survey at no interest for three years. At the end of that three years, if we didn't do anything with our planning, we would start paying the loan back at a preferred rate. If we do decide to go ahead with it, from everything that I can gather with this, all the money spent during the planning process will be refunded to us in the form of other grants," said Bills. According to Bills, Enright has shared with the city a step-by-step process on how to determine if the city is eligible to apply for the grant funding, applications, and flow charts.

"It's not going to cost us anything if we're awarded the grant money. We don't have to use any certain amount of it; there are no limitations. There's a lot of money out there for us to get this study, so we can identify what we need for our water and sewer system, then we can apply for this grant money to make those improvements," commented Bills. Councilperson Jeanice Lester advised Bills and the other council members that even if the city received a zero interest loan, it would still affect the city's debt limit. "That will affect how we borrow for anything in the future. I just want everyone to be aware that even at 0 percent, it's not free," Lester advised. City administrator Brad Wright said the city did have a long-range plan as part of the capitol improvement planning every year. Wright said the city looked at five-year plans for systems. He also said the city had some money loaned through the SRF program, and part of the debt on the city's wastewater plant was SRF funding. Wright said he was also unfamiliar with the availability of grants through SRF, and so far he had only seen them offer loans. Bills said the grant money was only available to apply for if there was a plan in place. Otherwise, the city was ineligible for any of it. Action was tabled until the council could hold a work session and have all the questions the council had answered by Enright. In other business, the council:

- Approved a resolution accepting the work of McCarthy Trenching, LLC, on the Fir Avenue sanitary sewer and water main extension.
- Approved the final pay request of McCarthy Trenching, LLC, on the Fir Avenue sanitary sewer and water main extension, in the amount of \$4,669.
- Approved a performed services agreement between the Red Oak Park & Tree Board, the City of Red Oak, and the Montgomery County Family YMCA.
- Approved a Class E liquor/Class B beer and wine renewal for the Red Oak Fareway.
- Approved a Class C beer and wine renewal with Sunday sales for the Red Oak Hy Vee.
- Approved pay request number four to Omni Engineering for the 2021 street asphalt project, in the amount of \$63,655.

CALNAN

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A

not giving me a good weather forecast. "He is trying to read all the machines and is asking all these questions. He was on the verge of commanding me to change the weather forecast, but I wouldn't fudge the reports. He eventually left frustrated, but I maintained my integrity and that was important to me." After two years in Maine, Calnan was transferred to Guam, where he remained for the remainder of his time in the service. "It was a big change from Maine," Calnan said. "As a weather observer in Guam, the weather was always around 70 degrees and virtually never

changed. On a daily basis, because it's an island in the middle of the ocean, it was always extremely humid." He said the only weather issue was typhoons but added he was in Guam during the Cuban Missile Crisis, which made things a little more tense than usual. He added it was when he was in Guam that he really dove into religion and Christianity. "It's here where I felt the calling to go into teaching." After he was honorably discharged from the military, Calnan returned to Boston, where he received a bachelors degree and masters degree in education. He taught in various public and

private schools in New York state and Nebraska. He then attended Grace Bible School, where he met his wife, Linda. The two of them continued to mold children through education for several years, mostly at Christian schools. He even earned a masters in theology and history and began preaching in churches. In 2004, when Linda's father got ill, they moved to Red Oak to be closer to him. Linda passed away several years ago. Tom enjoys reading, specifically the Bible, in his free time. He added the military was an experience he cherishes, as it taught him whom he wanted to be as an adult.

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If you would like to apply please send a resume to janderson@cityofiowafalls.com and jv@nisslyandnissly.com or the address below.

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The Red Oak Express supports healthy community discourse and encourages readers to submit a letter to the editor. Letters must be signed and include a phone number for verification purposes. They can be submitted by mail or dropped off at 2012 Commerce Drive, Red Oak, Iowa, 51566, or emailed to news@redoakexpress.com, or entered through our website at redoakexpress.com. Letters should be concise and centered on a single topic. All letters are subject to editing for length, taste, accuracy, liability, or other reasons. The Express is under no obligation to print any letter. If you have questions, contact the Express office at 712-623-2566 or news@redoakexpress.com.

VIEWPOINTS

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REDOAKEXPRESS.COM

TUESDAY, JAN. 25, 2022

THE TIME CAPSULE | ROY MARSHALL

Six-day remedy for post-winter Solstice

Each year, at about the time of the winter solstice, children circled around Aunt Mollie.

The dear spinster, with none of her own, would gather youngsters, move her arms and fingers in the manner of an abra-kadabra magician, stare into our eyes and say, in her deepest and most mysterious voice, "As the da-a-a-ays begin to lengthen, the co-o-o-old begins to strengthen!"

She would then hug herself with both arms, twist vigorously from side-to-side, shiver, and utter a prolonged "Brrrrrrrrr."

We would shriek with laughter, paying no attention to the warning she then issued. Not until years later did she fully explain, and I begin to appreciate, her prediction of dark days to come.

We upper Midwesterners know that winter will be hard. We are lured into it, though, by short memories.

Thanksgiving beckons us. We delude ourselves, Mollie said, imagining that we've had a taste of winter and it's not bad at all. We love Thanksgiving. Then we look forward to Christmas, the perfect holiday; the joy of Christ and of family and merry-making.

We even hope for a "white Christmas" and misread the the passing of solstice.

Solstice tricks us. The sun grows weaker



and farther away, the days grow shorter, the longest night of the year passes and we look forward to the sun coming back, growing stronger as days grow longer, and after Christmas this happens. The worst, we might think, is behind us.

"Ha," Mollie would say. This will only get worse, and always it does.

January is never a bargain. Meteorologists were not trained by Mollie. They are fooled by their computers, promising 40 degrees and seeing 20.

About 15 years ago I decided to not only expect those post-solstice days to be bitter, I'd be prepared and fortified to deal with them.

I struck a deal with Cecil Metz, a friend who lives on the Texas gulf. Metz and I make an exchange each Christmas. He sends me dried guajillos, chile de arbol and anchos, the "Holy Trinity" of Veronica Beraza's six-day chili.

I mail him two or three dozen black walnuts, which do not grow in the area where he lives.

Metz thinks black walnuts are better in his Christmas pralines than traditional pecans, and I have a fondness for Beraza's "Chili Queens" six-day version, which will thaw anyone's pipes.

This year I decided to share, starting a batch for Stanton's third-Monday pot luck in January.

Beraza's creation, which she supposedly sold at a San Antonio food plaza in the 1880s, has no tomatoes. The deep mahogany color is provided entirely by peppers and beef stock.

I doubt Ms. Beraza had an ice box, but Metz's version requires refrigeration as part of the process. Wife won't eat it, saying friends of Swedish descent will not go for it either, and she may be right.

I was into day four of the process when Harriet Olson called. She said the January pot-luck had been called off.

This left me with a gallon of chili, which brought to mind the time I entered our newspaper's charity chili cook-off. Contestants were to make five gallons; a sample for each judge with the remainder served to attendees.

The competition, and I swear this is true, included a white version made with chicken and artichokes. Another was a combination of Campbell's tomato soup, pork and beans

and Jimmy Dean sausage. We also had an insurance agent who brought one that contained oysters.

Those and others that weren't actually chili rated higher than authentic, so I had four and a half gallons to take home. Much of the half gallon that was dished out, including the judge's, was trashed after one bite and a coughing fit.

It freezes well, though, and lasted well past the deep freeze that followed winter solstice.

Beraza used beef from half-wild cattle that lived on a diet of mesquite, sagebrush and sand.

They carried little fat, if any, have a more mature flavor and require a long simmering. Beef from that sort of cow is hard to find.

Venison works, though, and anyone having that and three to four each of the previously listed chillies can make their own. I'm in the book and would be glad to share the Beraza process.

The post-solstice deep freeze extends into February, so there's still value in insulating.

Roy Marshall is a local historian and columnist for the Red Oak Express. He can be contacted at news@redoakexpress.com.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY HISTORY CENTER | DAVE MCFARLAND

What does yesterday truly mean?

I have heard it phrased many different ways, but the meaning is always pretty much the same.

Those who forget the mistakes of the past are doomed to repeat those mistakes. I for one am more comfortable with the past than I am at trying to figure out the tomorrow.

Several people have poked their heads in today, wondering about tomorrow's weather. See what an advantage you have; by the time you read this today will be in the past and you will know what happened.

The History Center has been working on a new exhibit focusing on the old Johnson Hotel that once sat where the Houghton Bank is now.

It was once reputed to be the finest hotel between Chicago and Kansas City. It is unbelievable how many people around here still have fond memories of the Johnson, although a lot of us do not want to confess to remember the Johnson for fear of dating ourselves. But the artifacts and stories keep surfacing.

Now it may sound confusing, but in searching the past you never know what tomorrow (the future) may bring. We have furniture that once resided in the Hotel, that

was sold back in the 1960s and left the area, and then suddenly 60 years later is coming home.

I wish you could share my excitement of getting a surprise email from someone who is willing to give back a piece of our community's history, and I cannot help but love the stories that people are sharing. Forgive me for feeling sorry for those who do not know about the huge piece of our national history that the Johnson Hotel was part of.

Take the time and listen for the echoes of the names of the local men that gave their all in World War II. Their names were read out loud so many years ago on the front porch of the Johnson. No houses would be untouched by war's end.

If you do not know the name Mae Stifle, you have my pity.

I was doing research this week, when someone told me about building a snowman in front of the hotel. Now get this, they were part of a highway crew here to clear the snow from a storm in 1961 and to work on a preliminary survey on moving Highway 34 from Coolbaugh Street and the south side of the square to Oak Street.

The weather was so bad that day, they did

not send them out to clear the roads. How is that for a lesson from the past, bearing in mind that 34 will be changing again.

Excuse the old photo of the snowman, but it is probably the only one out there. In the photo, the lower part of the snowman looks dark or even dirty, but it was actually purple dye or food coloring.

It seems the guys got carried away and borrowed something from the hotel kitchen to make it look like the snowman had on pants.

Funnier yet is our man on the ladder, Bill Hocamp, who worked for the State Roads Department. He was transferred to Montgomery County, and he rented an apartment on the third floor of the Johnson. From what I am told, he did not like having to carry things all the way up to that third floor, so he borrowed a rope which he hung out the window. Thereby, he could haul up things like food and lower things like laundry.

So for all you who want to tear down statues and rewrite the past, be forewarned of all the sacrifices made to give meaning to our past. I for one would not want to have to repeat some things.

If you only lived for the here and now,



ignoring and forgetting the past, I do not see how you can look forward to the future.

David McFarland is director of the Montgomery County History Center. You can reach him at mchsociet@qwestoffice.net.

LETTER TO | THE EDITOR

Norris praises Sierra Club for efforts to oppose Summit Carbon Pipeline plans

To the Editor:

I am not a Sierra Club member, however, I appreciate them organizing to oppose the proposed carbon pipeline. Recently, the Sierra Club's work was attacked in a letter sent to landowners written by Summit Carbon Express Senior Policy Advisor, Terry Brandstad.

"The difference is the for profit company Brandstad represents is saying, "shut up, trust us, sign away your rights to your own land." The non-profit is saying "landowners, you have a choice. And by banding together you also have a voice." It's about money for Brandstad's employers; it is not about the good of the farmer. The only people coming out in support of the pipeline are those that stand to profit off it. It is not green or the

environmentalists wouldn't be opposed to it, and it's not for the farmers or they wouldn't be opposed to it. Brandstad is no longer an elected official but a paid spokesman. He went from representing Iowans to representing his employer." Mike Ossian, landowner from Clinton County.

One only has to fly over the path of the Dakota Access pipeline to realize five years later, you can still trace the pipeline route. Construction reduces farm values - mixing of soil horizons, compaction, changing and interfering with groundwater flow. One farmer at a public meeting said you don't have to know where the pipeline is, your combine will tell you.

Summit is trying to keep landowners from working together, even going to court

to keep the landowners' names from being shared, but sent a mailing to the list claiming the Sierra Club would be lying to them and intimidating them. However, numerous landowner complaints have been filed with the Iowa Utilities Board about the bullying and intimidation Summit's land agents employ.

Although Brandstad claims that the landowners will be partners with Summit, the reality is that they will not be sharing in the profits even though their land is absolutely essential for the carbon pipeline project. Unlike wind turbines, the pipeline will only compensate landowners with a one-time payment plus three years of graduated crop loss. Landowners are expected to give a permanent easement, and then be dictated to

concerning how they can use their own land in the future.

Summit needs our land and our money to make their private profits. DO NOT SIGN AN EASEMENT. Without voluntary easements, eminent domain will have to be pursued making the project's viability questionable.

"I appreciate the Sierra Club's support of farmers in this fight against Summit. Taking my land without my consent is WRONG on every level." Dan Wahl, farmer and landowner from Dickinson County.

Jan Norris
Red Oak

DEADLINES
Newspaper Inserts: Noon Wednesdays.
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Public Notices: 4 p.m. Thursdays.
Display & Classified Display Advertising: 4 p.m. Thursdays.
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THE RED OAK Express

Dedicated to Freedom Since 1868

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WHO WE ARE
Employees in order of continuous service: Doug Tye, Mail; Paul Dumler, Production Manager; Trish Deitchler, Graphic Design; Shellie Welbon, Mail; Peggy Boeye, Office Manager, News; Ann Watt, Mail; Nick Johansen, News Reporter; Charm Carpenter, Sports Reporter; Tracy Schooling, Driver; Tess Nelson, General Manager/Editor; Shawn Parker, Press; Beth Steeve, Advertising/Sales; Nanny Crowe, Circulation; Joshua Byers, Regional Publisher.

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Community Calendar

26 January

2-5 p.m., Christ's Cupboard Food Pantry and Clothing Cupboard, 206 E. Coolbaugh St. Donations accepted 1-5 p.m. at back door.

2 p.m. Mobile food pantry, ROCHS football field/fairgrounds parking lot, line up at 2, food distribution at 3:30 p.m.

27 January

Noon: SCORE webinar, "Getting the Most Out of a SCORE Mentorship to Help Your Business Soar." Go to omaha.score.org/content/take-workshop-242 for more information and registration.

12:30 p.m. Bingo, Red Oak Senior Center, 2700 N. 4th St. Call 712-623-3497 or Carolyn 402-926-8683 for more information.

4 p.m., Community Prayer Time, Fountain Square Park. Call Bonnie at 623-4759.

7 p.m., Alcoholics Anonymous, Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 1101 Summit St.

28 January

10:15 a.m., Storytime "Hats", Red Oak Public Library, 400 N. 2nd St.

5:30 p.m., Alcoholics Anonymous, Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 1101 Summit St.

7 p.m., "Space Jam 2," theatre #1; "A Journal for Jordan," theatre #2; Red Oak Grand Theatre.

29 January

7 p.m., "Space Jam 2," theatre #1; "A Journal for Jordan," theatre #2; Red Oak Grand Theatre.

30 January

2 and 7 p.m., "Space Jam 2," theatre #1; "A Journal for Jordan," theatre #2; Red Oak Grand Theatre.

3 to 4:30 p.m. "The People's Art" WPAC, 300 Commerce Dr.

5:30 p.m., Alcoholics Anonymous, Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 1101 Summit St.

31 January

12:30 p.m. Bingo, Red Oak Senior Center, 2700 N. 4th St. Call 712-623-3497 or Carolyn 402-926-8683 for more information.

7 p.m., Alcoholics Anonymous, Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 1101 Summit St.

1 February

8:30 a.m., Montgomery County Supervisors, North Meeting Room in Courthouse basement.

Noon, Rotary Club meeting. For location, go to <https://rotarydistrict5650.org/clubinfo/red-oak>.

1 p.m., Card games (pitch and/or cribbage) Red Oak Senior Center, 2700 N. 4th St. Call 712-623-3497 or Carolyn 402-926-8683 for more information.

"Unbreakable Boy" counterparts speak at Rotary



The real life people from the movie "Unbreakable Boy," which comes out on March 18, spoke to the Red Oak Rotary Club on Jan. 11 at the Red Oak Pizza Ranch. Pictured are, front row, from left: Teresa LeRette, mother of Austin LeRette, and Marty Barnett, Red Oak Rotarian. Second row, from left: Scott LeRette, father of Austin LeRette, and Brenda Rieken, Red Oak Rotary Club Member who coordinated the appearance of the LeRettes. Back row, from left: Emily Martin, Red Oak Rotarian, Austin LeRette, the Unbreakable Boy, Tim Fridolph, Red Oak Rotarian, Doug Rieken, Red Oak Rotarian, and Nick Zimmer, Red Oak Rotarian. The LeRettes lived in Red Oak for more than 20 years before recently moving to Omaha, Neb. (Photo provided)

YES Mentoring group celebrates Mentoring Month

We all want our children to have a bright future and a great way to help secure a strong future is investing in the youth.

January is national mentoring month and Red Oak Community Schools has an ongoing mentoring program called YES (Youth Experiencing Success). This program has been successfully investing into lives of the youth since 2007.

YES is funded by grants, fundraising, and personal donations. YES has been fortunate enough to be the recipient of a Boost4families grant for the 2021-2022 school year. YES's focus is to provide support and guidance to students in kindergarten through 6th grade. They believe all students have the potential to succeed in life and contribute to society. Not all students get the support they need to thrive or opportunities to experience new things.

Their mission is to help guide youth so they can become successful in school and in life. Once upon a time mentoring was a natural way of life with neighbors, families and friends taking time to mentor the youth around them.

With technology literally staring our youth in the face from all sorts of devices, such as computers, phones, iPads, tablets, video games and YouTube, our youth are not getting the one on one quality time with adults they once did. Research shows young adults who were at risk, but had a mentor, were 55% more likely to enroll in college and 130% more likely to hold leadership positions. They'll also pay it forward as they are 90% more likely to become a mentor



Mentors and mentees with YES Mentoring recently met for a holiday party last December. (Photo provided)

themselves. It could be as simple as taking some time over a lunch hour, playing some games, baking, sharing a hobby, and going to the library. There is a huge need for caring adults to become mentors in Red Oak. The program always has a waiting list of students who need to be matched up. So why not think about becoming a mentor? It can be fun, rewarding and life changing. So become a mentor; you and your mentee deserve it. For more information, contact Peggy Craig at Inman Elementary 623-6635 or email craigp@redoakschools1.org.

Happy Birthday!

Celebrating birthdays this week are:

- Wayne Sederburg - Jan. 28
- Jessica Redd - Jan. 29
- Marie Baker - Jan. 29
- Rogene Sederburg - Jan. 31
- Scott Carpenter - Jan. 31
- Ruth Hemphill - Feb. 1
- Alice Salisbury - Feb. 1

To be included on the free "Happy Birthday" list, e-mail your birthday (and those of your friends and family) to news@redoakexpress.com, mail to P.O. Box 377, Red Oak, IA 51566, or drop by our office at 2012 Commerce Dr.

Happy Anniversary!

Celebrating their anniversary this week is:

- Charlie and Pat Vestal - Jan. 27
- Lee and Delores Grismore - Jan. 29

Congratulations and happy anniversary to you!

To become a member of the free "Anniversary Club," e-mail your anniversary (and those of your friends and family) to news@redoakexpress.com, mail to P.O. Box 377, Red Oak, IA 51566, or drop by our office at 2012 Commerce Dr.

Mobile Food Pantry Jan. 26

Live Well Montgomery County is hosting a mobile food pantry this week.

The pantry will be held in the vicinity of the Red Oak High School football field/ the Montgomery County Fairgrounds parking lot.

Line up for the event starts at 2 p.m., with food distribution beginning at 3:30 p.m.

The event is free and open to anyone who is in



need, and there are no eligibility requirements for those who wish to receive items.

Anyone who is home-bound and needs items delivered can still participate by calling Laura at 623-6491.

'The People's Art' at WPAC

The Restored BNSF World War II Depot & Museum, in conjunction with the Wilson Performing Arts Center, will display "The People's Art," 100 years of calendars from the

Thos. D. Murphy Company. The art will be in display through February, and a free reception kicking off the event is from 3 to 4:30 p.m. Jan. 30 at the WPAC, 300 Commerce Dr.

Sederburg 90th card shower

Rogene Sederburg will celebrate her 90th birthday Monday, Jan. 31. Cards and well wishes may be sent to her at 310 W. Boundary St., Apt. 101, Clarinda, IA 51632.

Senior Menu

Wednesday, Jan. 26: BBQ pulled pork sandwich, au gratin potatoes, baked beans, hamburger bun, fresh seasonal fruit, milk/coffee.

Thursday, Jan. 27: Beef stew, carrots, potatoes, peas, cooked cabbage, biscuits, applesauce, milk/coffee.

Friday, Jan. 28: Baked chicken breast

with chicken gravy, mashed potatoes and gravy, lima beans, wheat bread, carnival cookie, milk/coffee.

Monday, Jan. 31: Liver and onions, or hamburger patty, whipped potatoes with onion gravy, roasted Brussel sprouts, wheat bread, lemon pudding, milk/coffee.

Tuesday, Feb. 1: Not available.

For more information, call the Senior Center at 623-3497 or Carolyn at 402-926-8683.

Please call for reservations by 9:30 a.m. the day before you plan to eat lunch.

CHURCH DIRECTORY

Advent Christian

300 S. 2nd Ave., Villisca, Rev. Jeff Eason, Sunday School, 9:30 a.m., Worship, 10:30 a.m., Celebrate Recovery, Tuesday, 6:30 p.m.

Assembly Of God

1005 Senate, Red Oak, 623-2174, Services, 10:30 a.m.

Baptist

The Bridge (First Baptist Church), 406 N. 3rd St., Red Oak, Rev. Len Taylor, Worship, 11 a.m.

Grace Baptist, 1510 N. 6th St., Red Oak, Gary D. Walters, Bible class, 10 a.m., Worship, 11 a.m., Worship, 6 p.m.; Wednesday, Prayer, 7 p.m.

Grace Baptist, 525 Main St., Griswold, Victor Maxson, Bible study, 10 a.m., Worship, 11 a.m. **Online:** 11 a.m. livestream.

Southern Baptist

Crossroads Community Church, 303 E. Oak St., use the alley entrance, Rev. Ricky Rohrig, Sr., Celebration Services with Kids' Church, 9:23 a.m., Wednesday in the Word, live on Facebook, 6:30 p.m. 712-357-1060, crossroadsredoak.com. **Online:** 9:45 a.m. approx. live on Facebook.

Catholic

St. Joseph's, 131 W. High, Villisca, Father Eze Venantius Umunnakwe,

Sunday Mass, 8:30 a.m. St. Mary's, 1510 Highland Ave., Red Oak, Father Lazarus Kirigia, Saturdays, 5 p.m. (1st, 3rd, 5th Saturday); Sunday, 10:30 a.m., in Spanish, 1 p.m.

Christian

First Christian, 1909 Summit St., Red Oak, PreKindergarten - Sunday School, 9:30-10:15 a.m., Fellowship, 10 a.m., Worship, 10:30 a.m. **Online:** 10:30 a.m. live on Facebook.

Christian & Missionary Alliance

Citylight Southwest Iowa, 705 Bradford, Emerson. Co-lead pastors Matt Keller, Tyler Mass. Worship with children's church, 10 a.m. in-person gathering. **Online:** 10 a.m. live on Facebook.

Faith Community, 2701 N. 8th St., Red Oak, Rev. David MacDonald, Worship, 9 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. Sunday School for kindergarten-adults, 10:45 a.m. Wednesday activities: JUMP, Pre-K grade 4, 4-5:20 p.m. or 6-7:20 p.m. SHOUT, grades 5-6, 4-5:30 p.m. EXIT, grades 7-12, 7-8:30 p.m. **Online:** 9 a.m. on KCSI, 9 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. Facebook, also Youtube/Red Oak Faith Community Church.

Church Of Christ

Church Of Christ, Elliott, Sunday

Bible School, 9 a.m., Worship, 10 a.m., Men's and Women's Bible study and breakfast, first Sunday of the month at 7:30 a.m.

Nishna Church Of Christ, Hwy. 48 North, Red Oak, Teaching Pastor: Kelvin Jones, Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Worship, 10:30 a.m.

Church Of the Nazarene

Red Oak, 401 E. Prospect St., Rev. Lori Lathrop. Radio ministry, 8:30 a.m., worship with children's church at 10:30 a.m.

Covenant

Evangelical, Rev. Matt King, 308 Eastern, Stanton, Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Worship, 10:45 a.m. **Online:** 10:45 a.m. live on Facebook and later on Youtube.

Faith Covenant Church, 212 Alice St., Essex, Pastor Gordon Scott, Pastor Staci Shearer, Worship, 8:30 a.m.

First Covenant, Rev. Alan Dean, pastor, 3rd & Hammond, Red Oak, Worship, 9:30 a.m.

Jehovah's Witness

210 Argus Road, Shenandoah, Thursday, 7:30 p.m.; Sunday, 10 a.m., public Bible discourse.

Lutheran

Bethesda Lutheran, Rural Clarinda. Worship 9:30 a.m. Worship, Sunday School 10:30 a.m.

Bethlehem Lutheran, 1101 Summit St., Red Oak, Rev. Jennifer Yeske-Drown, Sunday worship, 11 a.m., evening service 4 p.m.

Strand Evangelical, Rural Villisca, Rev. Marietta Nelson-Bittle, Worship, 9:45 a.m.

Fremont Lutheran (Nyman), 1147 Ironwood Ave., Red Oak, Pastor Ann Albert, Worship, 9:30 a.m., Sunday School, 10:30 a.m.

Mamrelund Lutheran, 410 Eastern Ave., Stanton, Rev. Eric Kutzli, Sunday School and Confirmation, 9:15 a.m., Worship, 10:30 a.m. **Online:** 9:30 a.m. FMTC Cable Channel 1, also live on Facebook.

Mt. Calvary, 107 S. 5th, Villisca, Jerome Wagoner, Worship, 9:00 a.m.

Tabor Lutheran, 1711 Q Ave., Stanton, Worship, 8:15 a.m., Sunday School, 9:15 a.m.

Peace Lutheran, (A WELS Congregation), 411 Church St., Shenandoah, Saturday Worship, 5:30 p.m.; Bible and Sunday School, 6:30 p.m.

Non-Denominational

Hope For Life Christian Church, 300 Oak St., 623-6072, Bill Frey, Pastor, Sunday School, children and adults, 9 a.m., Worship, 10 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Monday, Daytime - Ladies Bible Study, 10:30 a.m., Night - Bible Study, 7 p.m.; Wednesday, Bible Study, 7 p.m.

Oaks Community Church, 41310 Ellington Rd., Emerson, Rev. Ron Perry, 712-824-7218, Sunday School, 10 a.m., Worship, 11 a.m.

Presbyterian

Center Ridge, RR 2, Red Oak, HR Dr. Keith Cook, Worship and Sunday School 9:30 a.m.

First Presbyterian, 109 S. 3rd Ave., Villisca, Rev. Sandra Wainwright, Sunday School, 9:30 a.m., Worship, 10:30 a.m.

Red Oak Presbyterian, 511 E. Coolbaugh, PO Box 402, Red Oak, Caryn Pedersen, redoakpresbyterianchurch.com, Service, 10:30 a.m. **Online:** 10:30 a.m. live on Facebook/Red Oak Presbyterian Church

Reformed Evangelical

Heartland Sovereign Grace Church, new church plant. Bible study Sunday, 5 p.m., www.swiacrec.com, contact@swiacrec.com.

United Methodist

First United Methodist, 600 E. Hammond, Red Oak, Rev. Dr. Eric Sayonkon, Worship, Sunday, 10:30 a.m.; Youth group Wednesday 6:30-8 p.m., grades 6-12, snack is served. **Online:** 10:30 a.m. fumcro.org; click on the media tab to see previously recorded services.

Wesley Chapel UMC, Rev. Carl

Phillips, Worship, 8:45 a.m., Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.

Red Oak Circuit, Linda Westerhold; Hawthorne, 1248 210th St., Red Oak, Worship, 10 a.m.; Stratton, 1695 150th St., Red Oak, Worship, 11:15 a.m. **Online:** 11:15 a.m. live on Facebook.

Elliott United Methodist, Rev. Terry McClain, Sunday School, 9 a.m., Worship, 10 a.m. **Online:** 10 a.m. live on Facebook.

Emerson United Methodist Church, Rev. Denise Stevens, 801 Bradford Ave., Emerson, (712) 824-7368, Sunday School, 9:30 a.m., Worship, 10:30 a.m.

Grant United Methodist, Rev. Jenn Van Nostrand, Worship services, 9 a.m. **Online:** 9 a.m. live on Facebook

United Methodist, 203 S. 3rd Ave., Villisca, Rev. Jessica Jacobsen, Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Worship, 10:30 a.m. **Online:** 10:30 a.m. live on Facebook.

Strahan United Methodist, Hastings, Rev. David Kwangki Kim, Worship, 9:30 a.m., Sunday School, 10:30 a.m.

United Church Of Christ

First Congregational, 608 Reed St., Red Oak, Pastor Jenny Folmar, Sunday Worship, noon., Outdoors if weather permits, otherwise in the chapel. If outdoors, bring your own lawn chair.

Stanton Honor Rolls

FIRST SEMESTER A HONOR ROLL

6th grade: Nolan Case, Cooper Dreyer, Gabrielle Grebin, Brett Hart, Addison Jones, Hayden Jones, Gabriel Kingery, Owen Marsh, Addie Peterson, Lauren Roberts, Janae Schwery, Jayden Snow.
7th grade: Addelyn Gettler, Nicholas Herrick, Corinne Hopf, Adrianna Valdez.
8th grade: Jailyne Beacham, Rylan Grebin, Jasmine Osher, Meredith Roberts, Britney Silva.
9th grade: Adam Benson, Riley Burke, Kiela Franzen, Evan Gettler, Kyla Hart, Lauren Johnson, Brianna Mitchell, Hannah Olson, Anna Peterson, Ella Peterson, Emma Sallach, Simon Showalter, Clark Spencer.
10th grade: Alli Baker, Preston Carpenter, Alexis Chambers, Nolan Grebin, Evan Hopf, Axel King, Ellyanna McDonald.
11th grade: Abigail Burke, Addison Olson, Brooklyn Silva, Jenna Stephens.
12th grade: Roary Blair, Tristan Frank, Aidan Graham, Ashley Henneman, Allie Sandin.

FIRST SEMESTER B HONOR ROLL

6th grade: Deacon Bruce, Cash Culver, Hannah Gibbs, Victoria McFarland, Nicholas Roberts.
7th grade: Oliver Dykes, Lilly Ford, Caedmon Olson.
8th grade: Clayton Culver, Kennedy King, Eric Kutzli, Alizabeth Maranville, William Roberts, Brodee Sowers.
9th grade: Gavin Ford, Brody Gibbs, Andrew Johnson, Jameson McDonald, Beau Sallach, Caden Sallach, Evelyn Stoakes, Max Yeager.
10th grade: Stephanie Bair, Alexis Frank, Dacey Henneman, Brody Holmes, Jackson Krueger, Carly Roberts, Leah Sandin.
11th grade: Emily Adams, Alice Duckett, Samantha Helberg, Marleigh Johnson, Damian Meek, Dartangan Most, Carli Smith, Marissa Strough, Kywin Tibben, April Vanderholm, Jonan Wookey.
12th grade: Slade Graham, Carston Johnson, Carter Johnson, Ty Meier, John Peterson, Jackson Roberts, Logan Roberts, Cameron Sallach, Madison Sickels.

Three local students named to U of I dean's list

More than 6,900 undergraduate students at the University of Iowa were named to the dean's list for the 2021 fall semester. Among the local students named to the list were:

- Nicholas Mueller of Red Oak, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences; Major: Anthropology.
- Michael Schafer of Emerson, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences; Major: Pre-Business.
- Madion Bruce of Red Oak, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences; Major: Pre-

Hamilton graduates from the University of Iowa

Allen Hamilton of Stanton was among the almost 1,800 undergraduate, graduate and professional students who were conferred their degrees last month at the University of Iowa.

Hamilton was a student in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences whose program of study was Health and Human Physiology. The degree awarded was a Bachelor of Arts.

Despite the challenges of navigating their college education through a pandemic, Hawkeyes like Hamilton persisted. They continued to excel and stretch, to engage and choose and serve.

School Activities

- Wednesday, Jan. 26**
- Griswold: District STAR events, Loma
 - Griswold: Winter FAST testing
 - 6:15-7:10 a.m., Southwest Valley: Dance team practice, activity center
 - 6:15-7:15 a.m., Southwest Valley: High school softball pitching, new high school gym
 - 1 p.m., Griswold: FFA District review, Manning
 - 1:05/1:15 p.m., Stanton: Early dismissal
 - 5 p.m., Griswold: High School girls pitching practice, middle school gym
 - 6 p.m., Griswold: Third and fourth grade boys basketball practice
 - 5-6 p.m., Southwest Valley: Corning youth basketball practice, third grade girls, Corning Elementary gym
 - 6-7:15 p.m., Southwest Valley: Corning youth basketball practice, fourth grade girls, Corning Elementary gym
 - 6:30-9 p.m., Southwest Valley: Men's volleyball league, activity center
- Thursday, Jan. 27**
- Griswold: Elementary assembly, 8:30 a.m., auditorium, high school assembly, 9:35 a.m., auditorium, middle school assembly, 10:50 a.m., auditorium
 - 6:30-7:45 a.m., Griswold: High school boys throwers, middle school gym
 - 6:45-7:45 a.m., Southwest Valley: High school baseball open gym, new high school gym
 - 3 p.m., Griswold: "CATS" musical rehearsal, auditorium
 - 3:30-5 p.m., Red Oak: Sixth grade boys basketball practice, Inman Elementary gym
 - 5-6 p.m., Southwest Valley: Corning youth basketball practice, third grade boys, Corning Elementary gym
 - 5-6:15 p.m., Red Oak: YMCA basketball practice, fourth grade boys, Inman Elementary gym
 - 6-7:15 p.m., Southwest Valley: Corning youth basketball practice, fourth/fifth grade boys, Corning Elementary gym
 - 6:15-7:30 p.m., Southwest Valley: Corning youth baseball practice, sixth grade girls, new high school gym
 - 6:15-7:30 p.m., Southwest Valley: Corning youth baseball practice, sixth grade boys, activity center
 - 6:30-8:15 p.m., Griswold: High School AAU volleyball, high school gym
- Friday, Jan. 28**
- 1:30 p.m., Essex: Early dismissal
 - 3:45-5 p.m., Southwest Valley: Corning youth basketball practice, fifth grade girls, Corning Elementary gym
 - 5 p.m., Stanton: Music department meal
 - 5:30-6:15 p.m., Griswold: Kindergarten-second grade wrestling practice, elementary gym
 - 6:30-7:30 p.m., Griswold: Third-eighth grade wrestling club practice, elementary gym
- Saturday, Jan. 29**
- Griswold: IHSMA State Jazz Band Festival
 - East Mills: EMAYS basketball games, East Mills Elementary gym
- Southwest Valley:** Corning youth club basketball tournament, activity center
- Southwest Valley:** FBLA youth leadership conference, Creston
- 7 a.m., Red Oak:** Club volleyball, Red Oak Jr./Sr. High School
- 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Southwest Valley:** Corning youth basketball practice, junior kindergarten-second grade, new high school gym
- 4-7 p.m., Essex:** Fundraiser supper and auction for Michael Fort, Trojan Hall
- 8 p.m., Red Oak:** YMCA boys basketball, Inman Elementary gym
- Sunday, Jan. 30**
- Southwest Valley: Youth wrestling tournament, activity center
 - 1 p.m.-5 p.m., Southwest Valley: AAU volleyball, practice, activity center
 - 2-4 p.m., Griswold: High school baseball practice, middle school gym
 - 4:5-5:45 p.m., Southwest Valley: High school girls basketball practice, high school gym
 - 4:15-5:45 p.m., Southwest Valley: High school girls basketball open gym, new high school gym
 - 5-6 p.m., Griswold: High school girls pitching practice, middle school gym
 - 6-7 p.m., Griswold: Third/fourth grade basketball practice, elementary gym
 - 6:15-7:30 p.m., Southwest Valley: Corning youth basketball practice, sixth grade boys, new high school gym
- Monday, Jan. 31**
- East Mills: Late Start, 90 minutes
 - Stanton: State show choir contest
 - 3:30-5:30 p.m., Red Oak: Sixth grade boys basketball practice, Inman Elementary gym
 - 3:45-5 p.m., Southwest Valley: Corning youth basketball practice, fifth grade girls, Corning Elementary gym
 - 5:30-6:15 p.m., Griswold: Kindergarten-second grade wrestling practice, elementary gym
 - 5:45-7:15 p.m., Red Oak: YMCA fifth and sixth grade girls basketball practice, Inman Elementary gym
 - 6-7:15 p.m., Southwest Valley: Corning youth basketball practice, sixth grade girls, new high school gym
 - 6 p.m., Griswold: Middle school AAU volleyball practice
 - 6:30-7:30 p.m., Griswold: Third-eighth grade wrestling club practice, elementary gym
- Tuesday, Feb. 1**
- Griswold: Snow date, IWCC junior and senior high Honor Band
 - 6:15-7:10 a.m., Southwest Valley: Dance team practice, activity center
 - 6:30-7:45 a.m., Griswold: High school boys throwers, middle school gym
 - 6:45-7:45 a.m., Southwest Valley: High school baseball open gym, new high school gym
 - 7:15 a.m., Griswold: Teammates meeting, board room
 - 6-7:15 p.m., Southwest Valley: Corning youth basketball practice, fourth/fifth grade boys, Corning Elementary gym

School Lunch Menus

East Mills
 Wednesday, Jan. 26: Breaded chicken sandwich on a bun, or pepperoni pizza slices, sliced green peppers, peas, pineapple tidbits, Doritos.
 Thursday, Jan. 27: Macaroni and cheese, or pepperoni pizza slices, steamed broccoli florets, carrot slices, mixed fruit.
 Friday, Jan. 28: Chicken and cheese quesadilla, tomato salsa, or pepperoni pizza slices, refried beans, corn, diced peaches.
 Monday, Jan. 31: Crispy popcorn chicken, cheesy broccoli florets, french fries, pineapple tidbits.
 Tuesday, Feb. 1: Pork chop, mashed potatoes, winter mix, sliced pears, dinner roll.

Essex
Salad and fresh vegetables served most days to grades 6-12, based on availability
 Wednesday, Jan. 26: BBQ rib shape sandwich on a bun, seasoned peas, cucumber slices, sliced peaches.
 Thursday, Jan. 27: Crispy popcorn chicken, tri-tater, pineapple tidbits, chocolate chip cookie.
 Friday, Jan. 28: Uncrustable peanut butter and jelly sandwich, string cheese, mixed vegetables, fruit cup, chocolate chip cookie.
 Monday, Jan. 31: Orange chicken, steamed brown rice, broccoli florets, bread stick, pineapple tidbits.
 Tuesday, Feb. 1: Not available.

Griswold
 Wednesday, Jan. 26: Breaded chicken patty sandwich on a bun, french fries, baked beans, cottage cheese, mixed fruit.
 Thursday, Jan. 27: French toast with maple syrup, sausage patty, cheese omelette, hash browns, mandarin oranges.
 Friday, Jan. 28: Hamburger on a bun, cheese slice, lettuce, sliced tomatoes, sliced onions, hamburger dills, tri-tater, mixed vegetables, sliced pears.
 Monday, Jan. 31: Hoagie sandwich on a bun, potato chips, cheese cubes, celery sticks and peanut butter, peas, applesauce.
 Tuesday, Feb. 1: Not available.

beef; or spicy chicken sandwich on a bun; or taco salad, shredded lettuce, shredded cheese, diced tomatoes, diced onions, ground beef, cornbread; or BBQ grain bowl; fresh garden salad with choice of dressing, cowboy beans, Italian bean salad, fresh fruit, orange/pineapple mix.

Red Oak Jr./Sr. High School
Chicken patty, cheeseburger, and pizza are offered daily
 Wednesday, Jan. 26: Breaded chicken patty on a bun, hot roll; or greens, eggs, and ham salad, hot roll; or jalapeno jack cheese burger; or club stacker; mashed potatoes and gravy, glazed carrots, baby carrots, ranch dip, fresh fruit, sliced peaches.
 Thursday, Jan. 27: BBQ pulled pork nachos; or taco salad, shredded lettuce, shredded cheese, diced tomatoes, diced onions, ground beef, cornbread; or roasted chicken sandwich; or chicken and avocado club wrap; fresh garden salad with choice of dressing, Texas pintos, fresh fruit, banana/orange mix, black bean dip.
 Friday, Jan. 28: Mini corn dogs; or jalapeno popper pizza; or chicken bacon ranch salad, pineapple muffin; or cheesy chicken Caesar sandwich; fresh garden salad with choice of dressing, broccoli florets, fresh fruit, pineapple tidbits.
 Monday, Jan. 31: Bacon pickle grilled cheese sandwich, garlic biscuit; or cobb salad, garlic biscuit; or club sandwich; fresh garden salad with choice of dressing, french fries, broccoli florets, fresh fruit, applesauce.
 Tuesday, Feb. 1: Frito pie, ground beef; or spicy chicken sandwich on a bun; or taco salad, shredded lettuce, shredded cheese, diced tomatoes, diced onions, ground beef, cornbread; or BBQ grain bowl; fresh garden salad with choice of dressing, cowboy beans, Italian bean salad, fresh fruit, orange/pineapple mix.

Southwest Valley
 Wednesday, Jan. 26: Pizza slices, green beans, bread stick, fruit, lettuce salad with choice of dressing.
 Thursday, Jan. 27: Cheesy hamburger nachos, tomato salsa, corn, marinated bean salad, fruit, lettuce salad with choice of dressing.
 Friday, Jan. 28: Popcorn chicken wrap, mashed potatoes and gravy, fruit, lettuce salad with choice of dressing.
 Monday, Jan. 31: Cook's choice.
 Tuesday, Feb. 1: Beef enchilada casserole, Mexican rice, refried beans with cheese, fruit.

Stanton
 Wednesday, Jan. 26: Shrimp poppers, potato wedges, corn, mixed fruit, pineapple tidbits, graham crackers, cheese sticks.
 Thursday, Jan. 27: Teriyaki beef, Asian vegetables, fried rice, egg rolls, savory cooked carrots, mandarin oranges, sliced peaches, fortune cookie.
 Friday, Jan. 28: Breaded chicken fried steak sandwich on a bun, sweet potatoes, baked beans, sliced pears, mixed berries.
 Monday, Jan. 31: Deep dish pizza slices, lettuce salad with choice of dressing, carrots, sliced pears, applesauce.
 Tuesday, Feb. 1: Chicken Alfredo pasta, California blend vegetables, savory cooked carrots, apple slices, sliced peaches, dinner roll.

Red Oak Elementary/ Preschool Center
 Wednesday, Jan. 26: Breaded chicken patty on a bun, hot roll; or greens, eggs, and ham salad, hot roll; or jalapeno jack cheeseburger; or club stacker; mashed potatoes and gravy, glazed carrots, baby carrots, ranch dip, fresh fruit, sliced peaches.
 Thursday, Jan. 27: BBQ pulled pork nachos; or taco salad, shredded lettuce, shredded cheese, diced tomatoes, diced onions, ground beef, cornbread; or roasted chicken sandwich; or chicken and avocado club wrap; fresh garden salad with choice of dressing, Texas pintos, fresh fruit, banana/orange mix, black bean dip.
 Friday, Jan. 28: Mini corn dogs; or jalapeno popper pizza; or chicken bacon ranch salad, pineapple muffin; or cheesy chicken Caesar sandwich; fresh garden salad with choice of dressing, broccoli florets, fresh fruit, pineapple tidbits.
 Monday, Jan. 31: Bacon pickle grilled cheese sandwich, garlic biscuit; or cobb salad, garlic biscuit; or club sandwich; fresh garden salad with choice of dressing, french fries, broccoli florets, fresh fruit, applesauce.
 Tuesday, Feb. 1: Frito pie, ground



Thank You to area businesses and individuals for donating to the newspapers in education program.

Support Newspaper in Education

Newspaper assignments are due Monday at the start of class

Sellergren Lindell Demarce Funeral Home
James Sage
Brian Johnson
Duane Altstadt
Kiwanis Club
Optimist Club of Red Oak
Altrusa Club of Red Oak

In Memory of Curtis Swanson

Your donations help to enrich the education of students at the following schools:

Red Oak Jr./Sr. High School	Stanton School
Red Oak Inman Primary School	Southwest Valley High School
Essex School	Southwest Valley Middle School

Your donation of \$13.32 will buy newspapers for one student for the entire school year, because the Red Oak Express matches each and every donation!
 If you would like to contribute to Newspapers in Education, or if you are a teacher who would like to use the Red Oak Express in your classroom, contact Laura at 712-623-2566 or circulation@redoakexpress.com.

THE RED OAK
Express

A Shade Better



New Year, new calendar, new goals



Elaine Carlson
Director of Membership & Finance

We have rolled up our sleeves and are busy working on event planning, new programs and projects for 2022. Marketing Red Oak, our business community and organizations are a huge part of what the Chamber does every day. I am happy to be working with Kesandra as we begin a new year with new opportunities, new initiatives with a renewed energy.

As we begin a new year, it is a good time for our Chamber Members to look over their business listing on our website. Please contact our office with any edits or additions as one of our focuses at the Chamber is to have the most up to date and accurate information

available on our website.

New in Twenty-two
ROCIA Membership Decals have a fresh look this year. We are excited about the new design and appreciate CR Graphics helping us with this project. You will see them placed in our Chamber Members' windows or at their entrances.

Last week our new billboard was revealed, and we are thrilled at how it turned out! Promoting our website is one of the impactful ways to promote Red Oak, our business community, and all that we have to offer. It is the first billboard you see coming toward Red

Oak from the west on Highway 34. Let us know what you think!

Lastly, we received our 2022 Red Oak Living Magazines and are incredibly pleased with the new publication. This magazine is a collaboration with the Red Oak Express and is published every other year. Thanks to all who supported this project by advertising in the 2022 issue! The magazines are available in our office and in businesses around town and will be shipped to Welcome Centers around the state.

2022 Board of Directors
President – Sharon Bradley, Valley Antiques & Gifts

Vice President – Andy Rea, United Group Insurance

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Director - Ryan Beeson, Davis-Taylor Insurance

Director - Diana Hietbrink, Pudgy Pumpkin Patch Gift Shop and Rubey Realty & Rentals

Director - Ben Lundgren, Houghton State Bank

Director - Corrine Jenkins, The LaLa Project and Montgomery County Soil & Water Conservation

Ex Officio Directors

Brian Bills – City of Red Oak

Randy Cooper – Montgomery County Supervisors



A ROCIA Ambassadors ribbon cutting was held at CR Graphics recently. Pictured is CR Graphics owner Carter Bruce with members of the ROCIA Ambassadors. (Photo provided)

This space available!

Call Beth at
712-623-2566!

Southwest Iowa BUY LOCAL EXPO

SOUTHWEST IOWA BUY LOCAL EXPO 2022
Southwest Iowa's Premiere Trade Show

WHEN | Saturday, April 9th, 2022 | 9 AM - 2 PM
WHERE | Red Oak High School | 2011 N. 8th Street

FOOD, GIVEAWAYS, HOURLY DRAWINGS, SHOPPING, & MORE!

ENTERTAINMENT
Gardening Class | 9 AM
Legislative Briefing | 10 AM
TBD | 11 AM

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For more information about the Expo or to register as a vendor please visit our website: www.redoakia.com or call our office at 712-623-4921



The January 2022 Red Oak Living magazines are at the ROCIA office in downtown Red Oak. Come pick one up!

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Ag appreciation dinner, buy local expo up next for events



Kesandra Pullen
Events and Marketing Coordinator

munity becomes a more prosperous community. And with that I have some upcoming events I want to highlight.

4th Annual Ag Appreciation Dinner

I know it seems like we just had our last Ag Appreciation Dinner, but after being postponed in 2021 the ROCIA Rural Commerce Committee is moving the event back to where it was always supposed to be, National Ag Appreciation Day, which falls on Tuesday, March 22 this year. This is a free ribe sandwich dinner for Montgomery County farmers and those who work within the Ag economy.

More details about this event will be released soon with your chance to R.S.V.P. for the evening.

Southwest Iowa Buy Local Expo 2020

Registration is now available for the Southwest Iowa Buy Local Expo! The Expo will again be at the Red Oak High School.

It is a great opportunity to network and learn more about all the different businesses, services, and organizations that are available in our area. We hope to grow the Expo to fill both gymnasiums at the high school, so this event can grow and become the region's premiere trade show with Red Oak being the Heart of Southwest Iowa.

For more information about this event, or to register your business/organization, you can visit redoakia.com or contact the Red Oak Chamber office for more details.

The Red Oak Chamber along with their Marketing and Tourism committee has been working for quite awhile now on new branding for the City of Red Oak.

Many of you may have seen or heard about what we are working on from a service organization or club you are in as we have presented to quite a few here in town. Monday, Feb. 7, at 5:30 p.m., at the fire department we are presenting our work to the city council, and we would love to have as many of our members as can make it in attendance.

It would be amazing to see the community support our efforts, and if you haven't heard about the re-branding effort yet, then you should definitely come to see what we have been working on.

Red Oak Re-Branding

CLARIOS

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Annual surveillance effort finds 36 Iowa deer with CWD

Samples from nearly 5,000 deer have been tested as part of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) effort to monitor for chronic wasting disease, resulting in 36 confirmed positives from the 2021-2022 hunting season.

The samples were collected over the past 10 months from willing hunters and taxidermists, as well as from deer killed along Iowa's roads. Hunters have been a willing and important partner. They voluntarily provide the samples for testing, and execute the slow the spread plan should one of those deer turn out to be positive.

"Hunters are key to our monitoring effort, and we are grateful for their assistance. We hit our quotas in almost every area of the state, which is good," said Tyler Harms, wildlife biologist coordinating the disease surveillance for the Iowa DNR.

The DNR uses a weighted surveillance strategy focusing on high priority samples – older bucks – to increase the likelihood of finding the disease if it is present in the area. In areas where CWD is detected, the DNR increases the number of samples collected in order to monitor the spread of the disease. As additional positives are detected, the DNR will engage hunters to help to manage the herd toward the lower end of the population goal.

Hunters can still participate in select deer management zones hunts through Jan. 23, while licenses are available.

Chronic wasting disease is a neurological disease belonging to the family of diseases known as transmissible spongiform encephalopathies (TSEs) or prion diseases. It attacks the brain of infected deer and elk causing the animals to lose weight, display abnormal behavior, lose body functions and die. It is always fatal to the infected animal.

Most of the 36 positives came from existing deer management zones except for three – a road-killed deer five miles south of Jefferson in Greene County, a deer taken in northwest Fremont County, and one from just outside the zone in Jackson County. The DNR will be scheduling meetings in these counties to discuss chronic wasting disease and how hunters can help to slow the spread. With the addition of Greene and Fremont, Iowa now has 12 counties where chronic wasting disease has been confirmed.

"We will be updating our surveillance plan to include these new positives and will consider increasing the overall number of samples collected in the state. Early detection is key," Harms said. "Increasing harvest to catch any other positives will help us to manage for it more effectively. In these areas, we want to manage the



herd on the lower end of our population goal to help slow disease transmission while still maintaining a quality recreational opportunity for our hunters."

The Iowa DNR contacted all hunters with a positive deer and offered the opportunity to come collect the deer meat, hide and other animal parts or were provided other options for disposal.

This is the 20th year the Iowa DNR has tested deer across the state. The first deer tested positive in 2013. To date, 148 deer have tested positive for chronic wasting disease in Iowa. More information is available online at iowadnr.gov/Hunting/Deer-Hunting/Deer-Health/Chronic-Wasting-Disease.

County: Number of Positive Deer (Year Detected)

- Allamakee: 72 (2013)
- Appanoose: 3 (2020)
- Clayton: 29 (2016)
- Decatur: 1 (2019)
- Dubuque: 3 (2018)
- Fayette: 2 (2019)
- Fremont: 1 (2021)
- Greene: 1 (2021)
- Jackson: 2 (2020)
- Wayne: 22 (2017)
- Winneshek: 10 (2019)
- Woodbury: 2 (2019)

Democratic caucus set for Feb. 7

The Montgomery County Democrats will hold their organizing caucus on Monday, Feb 7, at 7 p.m.

Agenda items include: precinct committee persons, delegates to county convention and county platform resolutions.

Every two years the political parties of Iowa hold a party caucus to determine precinct committee persons, delegates to the county convention, and resolutions to the party platform.

The Montgomery County Democrats are weighing options on how to safely perform the caucus requirements. This is further complicated by delays in state precinct maps and an all-time high state hospitalization rates due to the pandemic.

At this time they are encouraging Democrats to contact them to learn how to safely participate. They also are not publishing a location two weeks in advance, recognizing they may need to reserve flexibility to protect their members.

Please call or email the Montgomery County Democrats to learn more: 515-454-0205 or iowamocodemocrats@gmail.com.

Remembering Our Fallen

The traveling "Remembering Our Fallen" memorial will be on display at the Red Oak Community Junior/Senior High School from Jan. 24 through 28.

The exhibit can be viewed from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. and will be located in front of the auditorium. Attendees are requested to check in at the office.

Better Financial Living

What is a family business succession plan and do I need one for my business?

Dan Miller
Miller Financial CFP

If you are a small business owner and you intend to pass your business on to the next generation, developing a business succession plan should be top of mind when considering the future of your company. Eventually, you will want (or need) to retire, but rather than waiting until that time comes to decide what will happen to your business, it is prudent to develop a succession plan early on.

When it comes to family businesses, succession planning can be complicated. Because of the emotions and close-knit relationships involved, many people are uncomfortable when it comes to discussing topics involving death and finances. But in order to set yourself and your family up for success, you'll need to implement a reliable plan.

Management vs. Ownership

If you're considering transferring your business, it's important to first realize that management and ownership are not one and the same. For example, you may decide that you'd like to transfer the management of your business to only one of your children while transferring equal shares of ownership to all of your children, whether they are actively involved in the operation of the business or not.

Regardless of how you define management and ownership, you will want to work closely with financial professionals who specialize in business succession planning. They will be able to offer advice and strategies focused on the details of your business, including how to potentially minimize taxes when the transfer does take place. This is crucial, as failing to have a proper tax strategy in place is one of the greatest mistakes you can make when it comes to business succession planning and your own retirement.

Family Business Succession Planning Tips

For many businesses, family is the primary consideration of succession planning. From the future management of your company to ownership details and tax liability, your decisions will ultimately have an impact on one or more members of your family. Here are a few tips to keep in mind:

Tip #1: It's Never Too Early to Begin Planning

While 5 years out may be a good time to start planning, 10 years prior to your succession may be even better to begin implementing details that may be involved. You may wish to build an exit strategy directly into your business plan, which will be

beneficial in the long run. The greater amount of time you are able to spend on succession planning, the smoother the transition process will likely be.

Tip #2: Involve Family Members

Creating a succession plan quietly on your own (and then "announcing" it to all those who will be affected) can potentially be a recipe for disaster. Instead, you'll want to get your family members involved early on, so that you can discuss and strategize together. This will also give your loved ones time to decide if they do want to be involved directly, or if they would rather pursue other interests.

You may also discover during this time that some family members are passionate about certain components of the business, while others are most capable of handling other aspects. Most importantly, by involving your family members, you may also discover that a succession plan that keeps the business in the family is not the best decision after all. You may realize that ultimately, it would be best to sell. Communication is key to creating and implementing a plan that will help your business thrive while keeping your family dynamic strong.

Tip #3: Train Your Successors

You're more likely to achieve success with your transition plan by working with your successors for an ample amount of time before you hand over full responsibility. Beyond the day-to-day, also consider involving your successors in strategic planning and decision making 5 or 10 years out. While it may be difficult to give up some control while you are still very much "in charge," allowing your successors to be a key part of strategic initiatives will greatly improve their ability to continue to handle this after your exit.

Tip #4: Acquire Outside Help

A variety of professionals, including attorneys, accountants, financial advisors, etc. can help you organize and develop a successful succession

plan. With their expertise, you may find yourself analyzing options and considering details that you wouldn't have thought of otherwise. By partnering with professionals that specialize in family business succession planning, you'll get the added benefit of having a team to facilitate the process of working through potential issues.

Do What's Best for the Business (and Your Retirement!)

At the end of the day, it's important to take into consideration what will ultimately be in the best interest of your business. Family business succession planning can be complicated because it may require you to make difficult decisions with your loved ones in mind. By connecting with professionals and utilizing a process that outlines the details, you'll be better able to ensure an effective, more efficient, and successful plan to help both you, and your business to prosper into the future.

Daniel S. Miller, CFP® is President of Miller Financial Group, Inc. with offices located in Red Oak, IA and Omaha, NE. Dan and his team serve clients throughout the country as they prepare for the next stages of their financial lives. Dan is a published author of the book "Retirement Built to Last: Planning for When the Paychecks Stop" and has had articles published in the Wall Street Journal, Financial Advisors IQ, Successful Farming and The Hill. He is also a dedicated husband, father, and advocate for the financial planning process and financial education.

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EXPRESS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A

keeping the press running as long as they did.

"I've seen a lot of presses in my time and while Red Oak wasn't in the worst condition, it would have needed major repairs to put out the quality product we want for our customers," Byers said.

All press and mailroom employees were offered a job in Harlan.

With an opportunity to reexamine printing schedules as they relate to news content, Nelson said the newspaper will move its print day from Monday to Tuesday, which will allow for more up-to-date content.

"With the Red Oak City Council and Red Oak School Board meeting on Monday nights, and the Montgomery County Board of Supervisors meeting Tuesday mornings, it was impossible for us to deliver that information to our subscribers without it being more than a week late," said Nelson. "Moving to a Wednesday publication will allow us to cover those entities in a more timely manner. It is something we have discussed the past several years."

Changes go into effect Tuesday, Feb. 1.

Advertising pricing will remain the same and advertising deadlines will not change, but ad sizes will increase, giving more value to current and future advertisers.

"We take pride in what we do here at Red Oak Publication. The decisions to improve the content and packaging of our newspapers are ones I feel will allow us to continue delivering the news you trust and rely on for the next 154 years," said Nelson.

Stanton FFA Chapter Presents

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A true friend of Red Oak

Charles E. Richards was a lifetime Red Oak resident and practicing attorney in Red Oak since the early 1970s. He served as a Montgomery County Magistrate for many years. In addition to many other boards he served on, he was a Red Oak Library Trustee for most of the 1980s. The bequest is an unrestrained outright gift to be controlled by the current Board of Trustees of the Red Oak Public Library. The Trustees can invest same and/or use the principle for any library purpose or capital improvement. The only condition placed on the bequest is that the Red Oak City Council cannot reduce its current library budget and must keep funding same at current or higher levels.

Charles E. Richards died after a brief illness in Red Oak on June 21, 2020. He was a "friend of Red Oak" and obviously a friend of the Red Oak Library.

Pictured is Drew B. Swanson, partner at Swanson Law Firm in Red Oak and Executor of the Estate of Charles E. Richards presenting a check in the sum of \$563,661.78 to Kathi Most as Director of the Red Oak Public Library. This sum represents a substantial partial bequest from Richards per his Last Will and Testament. When the estate closes later this year, the Red Oak Public Library should receive approximately an additional \$60,000. (Photo provided)

Budget approved for EMA

Nick Johansen
The Red Oak Express

The Montgomery County Emergency Management Commission has finalized the county's emergency management budget.

At a meeting of the Montgomery County Emergency Management Commission on Jan. 17, a public hearing was held to discuss an amendment to the current 2021-22 FY budget. Montgomery County Emergency Management coordinator Brian Hamman said the amendment was largely due to additional income raised over the course of the year.

"The amendment covers additional funding that came in that wasn't accounted for in the original budget to include donations and

grants in the amount of nearly \$50,000.00. Projects included the 4-gas monitoring equipment for the fire departments as well as a portable generator/light tower unit."

The EMA commission approved the 2021-22 FY budget amendment, then held a public hearing over the county's 2022-23 FY budget. Again, Hamman said, no oral or written comments were received. Hamman said there were few changes to the budget from the one that was approved a year ago.

"The only increases were for salary, benefits, and health insurance costs. Overall operational costs stayed the same," commented Hamman.

The EMA commission also approved the county's 2022-23 FY budget.

Republican Caucus is Feb. 7

The 2022 Republican Caucus in Montgomery County is scheduled for Monday, Feb. 7, at the White Fair Building, within the County Fairgrounds on Legion Park in Red Oak.

Doors will open at 6 p.m. for check-in, and will close at 7 p.m. when the caucus begins. The caucus is open to all registered Republican voters including those voters who will be 18 years of age by Nov. 7. All voters from all precincts within Montgomery County will caucus at this location.

Voter registration forms will be available for those persons who have not previously registered to vote, or those wanting to update their information (please bring a photo identification and proof of residence such as a lease, utility bill, etc). For such registrations, 'same day voter registration' rules, as published by the Iowa Secretary of State, will be followed.

With the decennial redistricting that coincided with the 2020 Census, the County Supervisors approved a reprecincting that reduced the voting precincts in Montgomery County from seven (7) to six (6), and realigned those precincts according to the map provided by Montgomery County. The map can be found at montgomerycountyia.gov/wp-content/uploads/Departments/Auditor/Reprecincting_2021/Proposed-Precincts-Map.pdf.

Business conducted at the caucus will include approving members of the County Central Committee, Delegates, Alternate Delegates, and Junior Delegates to the Montgomery County Convention, and acceptance of platform planks to be forwarded to the County Convention.

House fire in Villisca

Around 3:29 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 19, the Red Oak Fire Department was dispatched to 104 E. Elm Street in Villisca on a report of smoke coming from the structure. Residents were evacuating.

At 3:32 p.m. firefighters reported light smoke coming from the basement area. The residence was checked. No fire had occurred. The residences utilities (furnace and hot water heater) were located within basement area, so service technicians were contacted to come check the resident's utilities.

The resident was in contact with the landlord. Residents did not require any further assistance at the time of fire ground termination. No damage from smoke and no injuries to residents or firefighters.

This property is a rental registered to William Richard Moore Trust of Nodaway.

Rural housing assessment grant received

Nick Johansen
The Red Oak Express

The Montgomery County Development Corporation (MCDC) met Jan. 14 for its regular monthly meeting.

MCDC executive director Steve Adams informed the board they had received a \$10,000 Rural Housing Assessment grant from the Iowa Economic Development Authority.

"This will allow us to do an assessment, but we're going to need a steering committee to help us on that, and a general committee that will participate in some workshops," Adams explained.

The steering committee will aid in organizational purposes, and Adams said he anticipated the general committee would host two or three interactive workshops.

"After the workshops, the committee will then go out and try to get public input on what their thoughts are, and the final phase is the actual planning workshop where we decide what we want to do moving forward," commented Adams.

Adams added that he needed committed members, as this was going to be a working group, and he didn't want anyone to volunteer who wouldn't be able to attend the meetings.

MCDC Board Chair Ann Carder added that the committee did not need to be comprised solely of MCDC board members, and instead could include some board members and some active members of the community. Adams said they needed to get all the information, workshops, and meetings taken care of by end of 2022.

Final decisions on committee members will be finalized between an upcoming executive board meeting and the next MCDC regular meeting in February.

Carder also updated the board on their efforts for retail recruitment, and said they had a meeting discussing recent retail and real estate trends for 2021 with Retail Strategies, Inc. Also, they had made specific progress on a local level.

"We have come up with a plan in which they will be conducting a monthly Zoom meeting with Steve Adams and I, and others who want to be involved, so that we're getting updated results monthly," Carder said.

Also, a recap will be provided that Carder said will be shared with the other members of the retail recruitment committee and the board. Also,



efforts continue to boost the number of retailers in the Red Oak community.

"Their national retail recruitment focus will be under the direction of Steve Adams, looking at national firms that have a regional presence in the general merchandise area, and specialty retailers. They will be updated on our property availability on a regular basis. Also, we're not going to be prioritizing restaurant recruitment, but if there is someone interested in coming, we won't turn them down," advised Carder.

The next regular meeting of the MCDC Board is scheduled for Feb. 11.

Community Heart & Soul program explained

Nick Johansen
The Red Oak Express

The Red Oak City Council is considering a proposal for grant funding. At the regular city council meeting on Jan. 17, the council met with Michelle Franks, executive director with Golden Hills Resource Conservation and Development. Franks was on hand to share details of the Community-Heart and Soul program.

According to communityheartandsoul.org, Community Heart & Soul is a "resident-driven process that engages the entire population of a town in identifying what they love most about their community, what future they want for it, and how to achieve it."

Developed and field-tested over a decade in partnership with over 100 small cities and towns across America, Community Heart & Soul is a proven process for engaging a community in shaping its future."

"I came across this opportunity, and it piqued my interest because I saw it as a potential tool for my toolbox that would benefit rural communities in Southwest Iowa," Franks said.

The grant, Franks said, serves as a framework that communities can use to identify what matters most in the community.

"It can help city governments develop connections with citizens, and at the end of the day, it will allow them to come up with a collaboratively-developed vision for the community with action steps to move forward. It's not a comprehensive plan, it's more of a grassroots process that focuses on several areas," explained Franks.

Ultimately, Franks said the goal is to improve engagement and input from people from all walks of life, and gain feedback, and then it sets forth a community engaged process that will address what is noted as most important to community members.

Franks said she has developed her skills as a coach, and would work with Red Oak and other communities to help translate, train, and help mobilize the community members to make a plan.

"I'm not an outside consultant coming in and creating a plan, then giving it back to you. This is something built in the community, and requires community interest and a core group of leaders who want to move forward," commented Franks.

The process takes around 18-24 months to complete. Franks said what she has seen from other communities that have participated in the program in the past are increased citizen engagement, a stronger sense of community pride, community togetherness, and economic benefits.

There was no cost to hire Franks as a coach. Additionally, Franks said there was a community seed grant available of up to \$10,000, with a one to one community match, available to communities of 2,500 or more.

"Red Oak is the perfect size for this, and there is still plenty of funding available, which they are looking for



towns and cities to apply for. The money would then be used how the leaders of the local Heart and Soul program saw fit. It could be used for staff, marketing, events, whatever they feel is the best way to engage the community and bring people together," advised Franks.

Councilperson Jeanice Lester raised the question of how they would attract involvement from people who normally aren't active in the community. Franks stressed it would probably require the formation of a core group of people who wish to move the program forward.

"There might be people who want to share ideas, but can't attend, so instead of expecting them to come to a community meeting, we would bring the questions to them, be it interviews, or surveys, and gather a solid percentage of every demographic," Franks said.

Additionally, Franks said the program, once completed, was a done deal, and would not be in place for a long term. Councilman Brian Bills asked if there were any downsides to the program. Franks said the main issue was having people that wanted to do it.

"You have to have a committed group of people that will see it through for the two-year process. It won't require all of their time, but you will need to have people that will champion it, move it forward, and help draw others in; that's the only downside I can think of," advised Franks.

Red Oak Mayor Shawna Silvius said she had a group of between 12 to 20 people who were interested in being involved in this.

"We've been looking for ways to bring unity and inclusion into the community, and I felt this was a perfect opportunity to utilize a program that would help make that happen and is already successful," said Silvius.

Lester said her biggest concern involved the grant, and how the city would go about securing the matching funds.

"I don't want to go out and ask for money, as I've already done that with the Grand Theatre. I'm not sure we want to go out and ask for money, and yet I'm not sure it should just fall on the shoulders of the city if others want to be a part of it," Lester stated.

Franks said one of her jobs was finding grant resources, and targeting places for fundraising so it was not all out of the city's coffers. Also, the program itself wouldn't require the grant funding, it could be implemented without funding, with committed residents.

The council will have a resolution of support to apply for the \$10,000 grant on the council's next agenda at the first February meeting



All smiles

Bella Etchternach and Easton Morrison enjoy sledding down Chautauqua Park hill. (Tess Nelson/Red Oak Express)

RED OAK GRAND THEATRE

THIS WEEK'S MOVIES

JANUARY 28-30

THEATRE #1 capacity is 182

SPACE JAM 2
Superstar LeBron James and his young son get trapped in digital space. LeBron's team, consisting of the Looney Tune gang must win against a Goon Squad to get home Safel. Rated-PG

THEATRE #2 capacity is 107

A JOURNAL FOR JORDAN
Based on a true story, First Sgt. Charles Monroe King keeps a journal for his infant son while being deployed to Iraq. Rated-PG

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IN THE NEWS



Trail Members

Happy New Year!

We are excited for things to come in 2022. Here are a few quick updates.

Strengthening Communities Grant for Outdoor Basketball Court

The Stanton Viking Center and Stanton Community are honored to be awarded a Strengthening Communities Grant for the outdoor basketball court project. Through the leadership of Jenna Stephens and Abby Burke and support of many others, we look forward to completing the project this spring. Great community volunteers and partnerships such as the Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs is how we continue to move forward.

We are still \$7,127 away from reaching our \$30,000 goal for the basketball court. If you would like to contribute to the project, checks can be dropped off at Great Western Bank or mailed to Stanton Community Foundation, PO Box 311, Stanton, Iowa 51573.



New Trail Markers

If you have been along the Stanton Greenbelt Trail lately, you may have noticed the new Swedish Dala Horse mile markers.

Thank you to Sheila Mainquist, Stanton High School Students, and all other volunteers who made this happen. A special thank you to AARP for the honor of receiving the AARP Challenge grant and Red Oak Fabrication for making them.

Healthy State Annual Awards Finalist

Congratulations to the City of Stanton on being announced as a finalist for the 2022 Healthiest State Annual Awards Finalist in the Healthy Hometown Powered by Wellmark Blue Cross and Blue Shield Community category. Winners will be announced in February.

STANTON SURVEY

The City of Stanton has partnered with AARP and The University of Iowa to launch a survey for Stanton area residents. The survey link is below and takes around 10 minutes. If you would like a paper copy, please contact Jenna Ramsey at (712)829-7340 or stop by Southwest Iowa REC to get a copy from Marilyn Rubel, City Clerk. Thank you for providing feedback as we continue to move forward in the Stanton Community!

<https://bit.ly/SurveyStanton>

City of Stanton Age-Friendly Community Survey

The City of Stanton has partnered with the University of Iowa Planning & Public Affairs graduate program and AARP to gather input on livability in your community.

The survey findings will (1) identify community goals (2) help your community make a plan to improve the quality of life for people of all ages.

This 20 minute survey is anonymous and you may skip any questions. If you would like to receive updates, you may share your contact information at the end. Thank you for your time!

<https://bit.ly/SurveyStanton>

Next
Clear form

HELP MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Want to help make a difference while you shop in the Amazon app, at no extra cost to you? Simply follow the instructions below to select "Stanton Community Foundation" as your charity and activate AmazonSmile in the app. They'll donate a portion of your eligible mobile app purchases to us.

How it works:

1. Open the Amazon app on your phone
2. Select the main menu (=) & tap on "AmazonSmile" within Programs & Features
3. Select "Stanton Community Foundation" as your charity
4. Follow the on-screen instructions to activate AmazonSmile in the mobile app

**Stanton American Legion Post 406
Annual Biscuits & Gravy Supper**

February 20, 2022, 5-7 p.m.

Don't feel like cooking supper on a Sunday night? Join American Legion Post #406 on Sunday, Feb. 20, from 5-7 at the Community Room in Stanton for their annual Biscuits and Gravy Supper. Bring the whole family; invite your friends! All proceeds will go towards the construction of the new Stanton Child Resource Center. Free will donation.

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