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# THE RED OAK Express

WEDNESDAY

February 2, 2022

Red Oak, IA

Volume 155, No. 5

redoakexpress.com

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Since retiring from law enforcement, Drue Powers has found tranquility in landscape photography. (Drue Powers Photography)

## Powers finds peace in photography

**Tess Nelson**  
The Red Oak Express

Longtime law enforcement officer Drue Powers of Red Oak once patrolled streets and alleys; eyes peeled for those wanting to cause trouble.

Now retired, Powers can now be found on the back roads and more rural settings as a landscape photographer.

"It's a way for me to become more with nature and decompress; especially since my retirement," said Powers.

Powers was raised around photography. His grandfather was a small town newspaper editor and his father, an artist. However, it wasn't until he was in law enforcement Powers began to take it seriously.

"I ended up investigating crime scenes, in which photography plays a role. Through that, especially when I was with the City of Des Moines, I took a lot of technical training photography courses," Powers said.

He also completed a New York Institute of Photography course, which he said he gained a lot from. Over the course of nearly 40 years, cameras have changed drastically, Powers said. He said he still has all of his old cameras, but developing film is cost prohibitive, so he works in digital.

"The real shift between film and digital happened when I was with the City of Des Moines in the crime lab. I swore I wouldn't be dragged into digital, and I went kicking and screaming. At that time, cameras were exceptionally high priced and lacked the resolution cell phone cameras have today," Powers said. "To a degree, I miss the nostalgia of film, but the convenience of digital is hard to beat."

Powers said he leans toward landscape photography because it is quiet and calming. He doesn't have to be in a hurry and he never takes a photo thinking if it is something someone else will like.

"I'll go out and sit for an hour or two before I even take out my camera," Powers said.

Early morning and sunset are two of Powers' favorite times to be out taking photos. A few of his favorite local places for photography are the Anderson Conservation Area, Viking Lake, Waubesa State Park and the Loess Hills.

"Sometimes I'll sit down with Google Maps or Google Earth and just start looking around the region; see where it takes me," Powers explained. "If I am driving down the road and something strikes my fancy, I'll pull over. I always have my camera with me."

He has no seasonal preference, as they each hold their visual magic. However, he did say winter photos are impressive in black and white, while fall photos look best in color. Sunrises and sunsets are also more impressive in color, he said.

"People who live in Iowa, we take it for granted. There are some very pretty places here, but we drive by it everyday and don't take time to look at what it really is," Powers said.

To view Power's photography, go to druepowersphotography.com.



Since retiring from law enforcement, Drue Powers has found tranquility in landscape photography. (Drue Powers Photography)

## Petersen becomes partner in Pizza Ranch franchise

**Nick Johansen**  
The Red Oak Express

A Red Oak restaurant manager has recently become a part owner in the chain.

Red Oak's Tim Petersen, who is the general manager of the Red Oak Pizza Ranch, now owns a portion of the restaurant he manages. Petersen has been in Southwest Iowa his whole life, but is a bit of a transplant to Red Oak.

"I was born in Audubon, raised in Elk Horn, and graduated from Elk Horn Kimballton High School before going to college in Maryville, which is my only vacation from the state of Iowa. I worked in Clarinda for five years, and moved to Red Oak in 1990," Petersen said.

Petersen has worked in the food industry since 1985, and spent almost 35 years with Pizza Hut before the opportunity arose with Pizza Ranch and he joined the restaurant.

"After I left Pizza Hut, two weeks later, two old friends, one that still works for Pizza Hut, and one that left Pizza Hut for Pizza Ranch contacted me and asked me if I would be interested in joining the Red Oak Pizza Ranch if certain actions happened," Petersen explained.

So, Petersen said he met with Pizza Ranch representatives who were in the process of purchasing the store.

"Aug. 1, 2019, the



Petersen

Paymaster Group, which is a franchise of the Pizza Ranch, took over ownership of this one and I became manager, and recently, a co-owner of this store," commented Petersen.

Petersen said he chose to become a partner in the franchise in order to get some skin in the game.

"The group that we work for are very good people who like to give back to their managers and give them a little bit of a piece of the pie, so to speak," said Petersen. "They gave me a really good deal on a certain percentage of the store, and I took advantage of that. With my joining, there are technically five co-owners of the store, and we all have our portion of the pie. I am the working manager down here, and the other four partners all

**PETERSEN, Page 2A**

## Applicants needed for SWIPCO program

The Southwest Iowa Planning Council (SWIPCO) is seeking applicants for its Homeownership Assistance Program. The program is made possible by a \$100,000 grant from the Iowa Finance Authority and administered by SWIPCO's Southwest Iowa Housing Trust fund.

The Iowa Finance Authority provides grants and low-interest loans through several programs, many of which are available to southwest Iowans who wish to purchase a home but may otherwise struggle to obtain resources.

SWIPCO Grant Specialist Ann Anstey says the Homeownership Assistance Program is a little-known but valuable option for homebuyers. "This is a great program for folks who want to own a home of their own," said Anstey. "A lot of times, people qualify but don't even know the program's there for them to use."

Anstey said the program is available to individuals and families who earn up to 80% of the area median income where they live. The area median income is calculated each year in each city or municipality. Applications are approved subject to income eligibility and on a first-come, first-served basis.

Grants provide \$4,000 at closing in the form of a five-year, fully forgivable loan provided the homeowner stays in the home for at least five years. The loan is forgiven in 20% increments each year. Additionally, homebuyers may qualify borrow up to \$3,000 more at a favorable 1% interest rate to be paid back over a maximum of five years.

To apply, homebuyers must have a signed purchase agreement in effect and have a mortgage application in process with a lender. Applicants can request an application from ann.anstey@swipco.org or call SWIPCO at 712-243-4196.



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## ESSER funds to be used for teacher retention

Nick Johansen

The Red Oak Express

The Red Oak School Board is proceeding with two different measures to bolster the district's staff.

Under discussion by the board was the use of ESSER III funds to provide one-time retention stipends for all returning, regular, permanent employees for the 2022-23 school year, in the amount of \$2,000.

"We know that our people are our most valuable resource, and we know that they are very important to us. We also know that we're in the midst of a staffing shortage, and we want to show the staff they are valued, and not be enticed by other employers," explained superintendent Ron Lorenz. Eligible parties included teachers, paraprofessionals, and maintenance, but did not include substitutes or coaches. Lorenz felt it was an appropriate use of the ESSER funds, and was an allowable use, based on what he had received for guidance from the department of education.

"We are not the first district to propose this, there are a number of other districts who are doing similar things," said Lorenz.

The board approved the use of ESSER III funds for teacher retention, in the amount of \$2,000.

The second proposal was for use of ESSER III funds to provide a one-time \$1,000 incentive for the hire of new certified and classified employees, also for the 2022-23 school year.

"This is also commonplace, and I want to make sure the district isn't missing out on people because they are getting such incentives from other places," advised Lorenz.

The board approved the one-time use of \$1,000 for an incentive for the hire of new certified and classified employees.

In other business, the board:

- Held a public hearing for the district's



Red Oak Community School Superintendent Ron Lorenz with school board member Roger Carlson, right, at the Jan. 24 regular meeting. (Nick Johansen/The Red Oak Express)

proposed 2022-23 calendar. No oral or written comments were received. The calendar was approved by the board as presented.

The calendar included 1,093.24 hours of instruction with two days built in for inclement weather, as well as a 12-day Christmas break and a five day spring break.

- Approved a modified supplemental amount of \$190,747 for at risk/drop-out prevention to meet the additional needs of at-risk students.

- Approved an agreement with Street Smarts, LLC to provide driver's education.

- Approved the open enrollment requests for Mason and Evyleigh Currin from Griswold to the Red Oak Community School District for the 2021-22 school year, due to

a move.

- Approved the resignation of Lindsay Blaine as paraprofessional at Inman Elementary, effective Jan. 17.

- Approved the resignations of Beth Rehbein as a second grade instructor, and Brittan Sindt as a kindergarten instructor at Inman Elementary, effective at the end of the 2021-22 school year.

- Approved the hire of Dan DeGroot as junior high wrestling coach, effective for the 2021-22 school year.

- Approved a request for the Red Oak High School choir to travel to Nebraska Wesleyan University for Honor Choir Feb. 10-12.

## PETERSEN

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A

all reside in Northwest Iowa."

Becoming a co-owner, Petersen said, was really simplistic on his part.

"You go through some details, and read through some paperwork and all of the legal details that go with it, and then I bought in, and became a part owner, and now I have a little more stake in what goes on. I've always strived to run a good store, and now the better it is, the better it treats me," Petersen stated.

Petersen said his favorite part of the job over the years has been the people, and he likes seeing the people who come to Pizza Ranch for a meal or to join the team.

"I've been in Red Oak for more than 31 years now, and I've developed some relationships with the customers. I've seen them grow up, and have kids work for me that are the kids of the kids who used to work for me. Also there are a lot of friends I've made throughout my restaurants that I've seen grow up, get married, and have kids. It's been a good experience to follow the path through life with so many people," Petersen said.

As he continues his career with Pizza Ranch, Petersen shared what he was most looking forward to.

"I want to make Red Oak successful, do some bigger and better things in the store, and bigger and being a part of the community," Petersen com-

mented.

Petersen added that he loves the opportunity to work with schools and other groups.

"We have just started some bake-at-home pizzas that people can use for fundraisers, and not everything has to be just for Red Oak. We've done things in Stanton, like school feeds, and we like to offer savings for teachers. I am more than happy to work with any of the schools in the area for any type of fundraiser they would be willing to bring to us. If we can make it work, we'll make it work," explained Petersen.

Jeff Van Schepen, vice president of business with Pizza Ranch, Inc. said that Petersen was exactly the person they were looking for to operate the Pizza Ranch in Red Oak, and welcomed the opportunity for Peterson to co-own the Red Oak location.

"Tim's experience in restaurants, and his successes he has had operating in the community of Red Oak, were a perfect fit. He deserved the opportunity to become an owner, and we are proud to have him as a partner. Tim has also impacted our Paymaster Group; he's the silent leader. He has re-faced the Pizza Ranch in Red Oak, and he has improved the restaurant in so many areas. Red Oak's Pizza Ranch location will impact the community in a whole new way, with Tim Peterson leading the team," commented Van Schepen.



## County ISU Extension recognized

Iowa State University Extension and Outreach county offices in the southwest area announced award recipients for outstanding achievements in 2021.

Adams, Montgomery, and Page counties received recognition in youth development for demonstrating excellence in programming by developing partnerships that utilize a cooperative approach. Staff from three counties worked together to address a programming need identified in the Southwest Valley School District. The Youth Entrepreneur program allowed students the opportunity to explore their community, career opportunities, needs, and personal strengths. It stressed the importance of jobs that do not necessarily require a 4-year degree and the idea that businesses can thrive even in small communities. It helped youth understand that there are many options and opportunities available for them to pursue. It gave them ideas, inspiration, and hope for the future. The program helped prepare the upcoming generation to value and invest in their own communities. It helped open a door to relationships/partnerships with local businesses, assuring responsible, invested individuals to fill existing and future business positions. (Photo provided)

## 2022 Republican CAUCUS Monday, February 7, 2022

Call-to-Caucus at the White Fair Building (east of fire station) Fairgrounds, Red Oak. Doors open at 6:00 p.m., and will close at 7:00 p.m., when Caucus opens. Interested voters in ALL precincts of Montgomery County will meet at this location. To attend, you must be a Montgomery County resident, and registered to vote. Republican; please bring a photo ID; and arrive early to check-in. Iowa Secretary of State rules for same-day voter registration will apply if you wish to register to vote or update a voter registration.

Montgomery County Republican Party - email: montgomeryrpp@gmail.com

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If you would like to apply please send a resume to [janderson@cityofwafalls.com](mailto:janderson@cityofwafalls.com) and [jv@nisslyandnissly.com](mailto:jv@nisslyandnissly.com) or the address below.

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JAMES “JIM” MCCABE, 87

James (Jim) L. McCabe, 87, of West Des Moines, passed away Saturday, Jan. 22, 2022, due to complications from Parkinson’s Disease at MercyOne Johnston Hospice Care. He was surrounded by his loving wife, Dianne, 7 and immediate family.

Jim was born in Red Oak to Josephine and John McCabe. He was their only child. He graduated from Red Oak High School in 1952. The most important day of his life was visiting a malt shop in Red Oak where he met his soul mate, Dianne Kuester. Jim loved to have fun and teased her, telling a “tale” of getting free malts from her. She was not interested at first stating, “He has a nice car, but that is about it!” After a ride around town in his ‘50 Ford convertible and their first kiss he said, “I think I could learn to love you.” After 67 years of marriage, I guess he was right.

After high school, he then enlisted in the Air Force Reserves. He served as Airman Third Class with the 173rd Fighter Interceptor Squadron in the Air National Guard. He then enrolled at Grand View University in Des Moines and Omaha University. Jim’s career included working for Securities Acceptance, Associates Financial Services, and Iowa Des Moines National Bank. After leaving the banking industry, Jim fulfilled his life-long passion of owning his own car dealership and went on to open Jim McCabe Ford in Dallas Center. He loved cars of all types, and buying, trading, and selling at his Ford dealership was a “fun thing to do.” Jim ended his career as the District Manager for Shelter Insurance.

Jim and Dianne were blessed with three children, Denise, Jeff, and John. His legacy lives on with a total of 13 grandchildren and 21 great-grandchildren. Family and friends would say he was kind, loving, and a generous man. Some would say, “He was one in a million.” His greatest love was his wife’s cooking and spending time with her. Dad was a great teacher and mentor in his business and personal life. He enjoyed serving as the church deacon and counselor in his church. In his role as Dad and Grandpa, he entertained all with great food and family fun. Everywhere he went, he had a pocketful of bubble gum to give out, along with a happy smile and hello. Our family was proud of him, and his friends would say they were grateful to have known him. We will miss him dearly!

In addition to his wife, Dianne McCabe, Jim is survived by children, Denise (Doug) Nehas of Davenport; Jeff (Diane) McCabe of Eldridge; and John (Jody) McCabe of Clive.

The McCabe family wants to extend their sincere gratitude to the staff at the MercyOne Johnston Hospice Care for their kindness in the care of their father. We will always remember the true compassion they showed Dad.

Private services will be held at Lutheran Church of Hope, West Des Moines. Private burial will be officiated by Nelson-Boylan-LeRette Funeral Chapel, at Evergreen Cemetery, Red Oak. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made in Jim’s name to MercyOne Johnston Hospice Care.



LESTER BALLARD, 70

Lester Herbert “Old Man” Ballard, 70, Red Oak, passed away Thursday, Jan. 27, 2022, at the Montgomery County Memorial Hospital.

Les was born May 27, 1951, in Des Moines, the son of Louie and Ila Ballard. He was raised in Des Moines, graduating from North High School. He served in the U.S. Air Force during Vietnam and returned home to Des Moines after his military service. Les eventually moved to the Elliott area and later Red Oak. He was united in marriage to Renee Johnson Etter on Oct. 28, 1999. They made their home in rural Red Oak.

Over the years, Les worked for Douglas and Lomason Co., Interwest, Harrah’s Casino for 10 years, and Poet Biorefining, where he retired. He loved fast cars, restoring cars, fishing, and spending time with his family.

Preceding him in death were his parents; son, Ryan Ballard, grandson, Tyler Gobert, and brother, Lucky Ballard.

Survivors include his wife, Renee Ballard of Red Oak; children, Brandy Howard and husband Brian of Las Vegas, Nev.; Shawn Soar of Red Oak; Lester Ballard of Omaha, Neb.; Chad Etter and significant other Jen Appley of Griswold; and Jeff Etter of Atlantic; grandchildren, Brianna and Faith Stevens; Olivia, Nevaeh, and Ryan Soar; Jake, Dawson, Maddie, Gavin, and Ridge Ballard; Alexa Roberson and husband Nathan; and Karley and Faith Appley; great-grandchildren, Kayden and Mia Ballard; and Ava and Greyson Roberson; brother, Pete Ballard of Des Moines; and many other relatives and friends.

A celebration of life viewing and visitation will be held from 5 to 7 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 2, 2022, at the Nelson-Boylan-LeRette Funeral Chapel.

Nelson-Boylan-LeRette Funeral Chapel is in charge of arrangements.



RAYMOND “RAY” ROBERTS, 88

Raymond “Ray” Daly Roberts, 88, of Red Oak, passed away Friday, Jan. 28, 2022, at his home. Ray was born Nov. 14, 1933, in Lincoln, Neb., the son of Raymond and Mabel (Daly) Roberts.

Preceding him in death were his parents.

Survivors include his wife, Toni Roberts of Red Oak; children, Shirley Murphy of Hollister, Calif.; Alice Konecny of North Omaha, Neb.; and Dan Roberts of Stanton; and eight grandchildren.

Funeral services will be held at 1 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 5, 2022, at the Nelson-Boylan-LeRette Funeral Chapel. Burial with military honors will be held at the Mamre Cemetery at Stanton. Nelson-Boylan-LeRette Funeral Chapel is in charge of arrangements.

Law and Order



The following events were filed with the Red Oak, Montgomery County, State of Iowa, or other government offices. In regard to law enforcement and judicial activities, all parties are presumed innocent until proven guilty, and other details may be available at [iowacourts.state.ia.us](http://iowacourts.state.ia.us).

REAL ESTATE

WARRANTY DEED

- Willis Nelsen to Fred Muhr, 20-73-36 Parcel A Lts 1-5.
- Roy and Claudia Marshall to Roy L. and Claudia E. Marshall, 12-71-37.
- Lanny, Ramona, and David Sellers, Attorney In Fact, to Matthew and Tracy Hill, Red Oak

Original Plat Blk 62 Lts 7-8.

- Bill and Sherry Bournon to Calvin, Peggy, & Scott Brown Real Estate, LLC, Red Oak Original Plat Blk 65 Lt 3.
- Audie Rainey, Member, and Devo Properties, LLC, to Stephanie Belt, Red Oak Mahrenholtz Addition Lt 10.
- Danny and Joyce Abbott to Patricia Silva, Red Oak Original Plat Blk 5 Lts 1-2.
- Cheryl Miller, Sole Member, and Cherbet Properties, LLC, to Terry Stevenson, Red Oak Centennial Blk 1 Lts 2-3.

QUIT CLAIM DEED

- Judy Rebitzke to Judy K. Rebitzke Trust and Judy K. Rebitzke, Trustee, 28-72-38 Lt 6.
- Kathleen Miller-Richards to Henry Kasha, 11-71-36.

MORTGAGE

- Michael and Jennifer Graham to Rocket Mortgage, LLC, Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., MERS, and Quicken Loans, LLC, Villisca N. Villisca Lt 14.

- John and Teresa Wenstrand to Malvern Bank, 12-71-37 Lts 42-44, and Lt C.
- Bailey Foote to City of Stanton, Stanton Original Plat Lt 177.

- Oma Roten to City of Stanton, Stanton Cavern’s SD Lt 6.
- Terry Stevenson to U.S. Bank National Association, Red Oak Centennial Blk 1 Lts 2-3.

MOD/AMENDMENT OF MORTGAGE

- Scott and Robin Culbertson to Great Western Bank, 15-71-37 Parcel A.

SMALL CLAIMS

- LNVN Funding, LLC vs. Luke Ross, Red Oak, dismissed with prejudice.

ARRESTS

- Filed Jan. 18, Amanda Williams, 29, Red Oak, harassment third degree, \$300 cash bond.
- Filed Jan. 26, Benjamin Barnes, 31, Red Oak, warrant for sex offender registration violation second or subsequent

offense, \$5,000 cash bond

- Filed Jan. 29, Kenneth Huber, 64, Lenox, possession of a controlled substance, third offense, \$5,000 cash bond.

DISMISSED

- State of Iowa vs. Robert Bopp, 42, Shenandoah, probation violation, dismissed.

CRIMINAL

- Aggravated, State of Iowa vs. Obadiah Waddell, 20, Henderson, harassment third degree, pled guilty, \$105 fine, time served.
- Felony, State of Iowa vs. Benjamin Barnes, 31, Red Oak, sex offender registry violation, second or subsequent offense.
- Simple misdemeanor, State of Iowa vs. Adriana Monreal, 18, Red Oak, disorderly conduct - fighting or violent behavior, \$105 fine.
- Simple misdemeanor, State of Iowa vs. Dyllan Hansen, 20, Red Oak, assault, pled guilty, \$105 fine.

OWI

- State of Iowa vs. Nicholas Freund, 21, Maryville, Mo., probation violation, dismissed.

TRAFFIC

- Ronald Nixon, Jr, Ottumwa, speeding.
- Albert Yoder, Omaha, Neb., speeding.
- Kai Ballinger-Knoke, Corn- ing, speeding.
- Christina Davis, West Des Moines, speeding.
- Garrett Barnes, Mound City, Mo., speeding.
- Marian Hall, Des Moines, speeding.
- Andrew Lauber, Clarinda, speeding.
- Chad Hill, Red Oak, operation without registration card or plate.
- Jaden McCuen, Council Bluffs, failure to obey stop sign and yield right of way.
- Nathan Payne, Red Oak, failure to maintain registration plate.
- Brianna Venatta, Elliott, speeding.

- Travis Embree, Emerson, registration violation.
- Shelley Foster, Council Bluffs, speeding.
- Brendan Millsagle, Creston, speeding.
- Kenneth Dee, Mingo, speeding.
- Russell Brown, Elliott, person under 21 using tobacco/vapor product, second offense.
- Joshua Rother, Omaha, Neb., speeding.
- Wilfred Sermeno Pacheco, Omaha, Neb., no valid driver’s license.
- Sarah Roberts, Fort Cal- houn, Neb., speeding.
- Olivia Baucom, Red Oak, person under 21 using tobacco/vapor product, second offense.
- Jack O’Brien, Red Oak, operation by unqualified driver.
- Douglas Arnest, Urbandale, speeding.
- Taryn Kautz, Stanton, operation of motor vehicle with expired license.
- Justin Swiser, Red Oak, driving while license denied, sus- pended, cancelled, or revoked.

Grain handling safety: Don’t sidestep the principals

**Ellen G. Duysen**  
Central States Central for  
Agricultural Safety and Health  
University of Nebraska Medical  
Center

“There is a direct correlation between out-of-condition grain and an increased likelihood of worker exposure to entrapment situations,” according to Purdue University’s 2020 Summary of U.S. Agricultural Confined Space-Related Injuries and Fatalities.

“Whenever a farmer or elevator employee has to ‘fight’ to get the grain to flow out of (a bin), there is a strong temptation to by-pass safe work practices by entering the structure in order to keep the grain flowing.”

Identifying grain handling safety principles is one of the aims of Central States Center for Agricultural Safety and Health (CS-CASH).

This University of Nebraska Medical Center group ([unmc.edu/publichealth/feedyard/](http://unmc.edu/publichealth/feedyard/)) is conducting two research projects (funded by National Institutes of Occupational Safety and Health) that are designed to make a positive impact on the sustainability of cattle feedyards through increased safety and health efforts.

Sometimes, a crusted layer forms on the surface of grain inside a bin or within the grain mass. That leads to a void above the outlets as grain is removed from the bin. If the crusted grain breaks up during the removal process, it may block the bin outlets, reducing or stopping the flow. In other situations, vertically crusted grain can cling to the walls of the bin or form free-standing piles. The piles may contain tons of grain, which can collapse without warning.

“If the grain won’t flow, it’s already too late to debate what was or was not done to pre-



pare the grain for safe storage,” the summary reads. “The issue at hand is to remove the grain without putting anyone at risk of entrapment.”

The summary notes that, ‘although the following steps may not be the most profitable,’ they will help keep everyone safe when handling grain.

- Never enter a bin where there is evidence of crusting on the surface or within the grain mass. If grain has been removed from the structure and the surface has not flowed toward the outlet – stay out. This is a clear sign that a large void has formed over the outlet.

- If there is any sign that the grain is going out-of-condition, or has already done so, it needs to be moved immediately. The condition of the grain will not improve if left in storage,

and will only worsen as warm weather arrives, which causes biological and insect activity to increase.

- Perform all observations or unplugging efforts from outside the bin, at the top access hatch. Again, if there is evidence of crusting, spoilage, or excessive heating – stay out. The risk is too great. In some cases, long there is evidence of crusting pipes, rebar, or other probes can be inserted into the grain mass to break up crusted grain or trash that is plugging the outlet. Watch out for overhead power lines when handling these long probes.

- If the grain has become so crusted, or the floor outlets become plugged, preventing grain removal according to the bin manufacturer’s recommendations, contact a professional grain salvage service that has

the experience and equipment to break up and remove out-of-condition grain. These services are expensive but can save lives and salvage some of the grain. In some regions there is a market for damaged grain which helps make the salvage operation a little less costly.

At the end of 2020, the Purdue Agricultural Confined Space Incident Database (PACSID) contained information on 1,731 cases (1962-2020) involving confined spaces, grain storage and handling facilities at both commercial and on-farm locations. All the cases resulted in an injury, fatality, or required emergency extrication by first responders. Of these cases, 1,731 (72%) involved grain storage and handling facilities, and grain transport vehicles.

“There is no claim that the

data presented accounts for all incidents involving agricultural and confined spaces,” the summary states. This is due, among other things, to the fact that there is no accurate accumulative public record of these types of incidents, and no comprehensive or mandatory incident/injury reporting system for most of agriculture. “There has been reluctance on the part of some victims and employers to report ‘near misses’ or non-fatal confined space-related incidents, especially those occurring at farms, feedlots, and seed processing operations not covered by federal OSHA injury reporting requirements.”

In 2020, there were a total of 64 cases of agricultural-confined space-related cases, including:

- 35 grain entrapments.
- Seven falls into or from

grain storage structures.

- Four asphyxiations due to deficient oxygen levels or toxic environments
- 12 equipment entanglements (such as those involving in-floor and sweep augers) that occurred while working inside or around agricultural confined spaces

The total of 64 represented a 4.5% decrease from the number of cases documented in 2019, when 67 were recorded. However, the number of 2020 total confined space-related cases was well above the 5-year average (61.2 cases/year) and above the 10-year average (60.9 cases/year).

“Regardless, the frequency of documented cases remains a concern considering the substantial resources being invested in solving the problem,” the summary states.

In 2020, the state with the most documented grain entrapments (fatal and non-fatal), was Illinois, with 10 cases total. North Dakota reported 5, Minnesota reported 4, and Indiana and South Dakota each reported 3.

With the support from a Susan Harwood Grant from the U.S. Department of Labor, [agconfinedspaces.org](http://agconfinedspaces.org) was developed to provide resources for those conducting safety and health training in the area of agricultural confined spaces, with an emphasis on grain storage and handling hazards. Training material, frequently asked questions, past summaries of injuries and fatalities, and an extensive list of resources can be found at the site.

Additional information on grain handling safety can be found at [grainsafety.org](http://grainsafety.org), [apps.npr.org/buried-in-grain/](http://apps.npr.org/buried-in-grain/), or [agsafety4youth.info](http://agsafety4youth.info).



## Stronger the Press, Stronger the People

THE TIME CAPSULE | ROY MARSHALL

### Elliott's darkest day?

*I had a little bird / His name was Enza. I opened up a window / And in flew Enza*

Medical experts tell us more than five million people worldwide have died from COVID. Some claim underreporting and believe the toll may be a few hundred thousand more.

Other health care professionals, including a couple I know, say there are incentives for overreporting and the actual number is less. I don't know, so for the sake of this article assume the 5.4 million estimate is accurate.

Now consider that Spanish Influenza, during the epidemic of just over a century ago, took 10 times that many.

I find no allegations of overreporting; instead many historians believe underreporting was so high in some countries that the actual number may have been closer to 60 million.

COVID, called Chinese flu until Communist China and others objected, is deadliest when it infects the elderly and those having serious pre-existing conditions.

Spanish flu was inclined to spare that group; killing instead otherwise healthy children and young adults.

Spanish flu was at its worst in 1918, the last year of World War I. A total of 40 million were killed in



that war, meaning nearly 100 million dead from war and a single disease in a relatively short period of time.

Local newspapers of the summer and fall of that year had frequent front-page pictures of young men from here who had been killed in action in France.

Alongside them were photographs of young men and women who had died at home of influenza.

Iowa health officials joined those of other states in attempting to determine the death-per-thousand rate in cities.

Southwest Iowa was in line with the rest of the state, coming in with two, four, six, or eight deaths per thousand.

Few towns were hit as hard as Elliott. In early December, 31-year-old Ben Muntendam of that city was stricken.

Treatment options, lacking a vaccine and modern hospitals, usually meant quarantine at home.

This seriously overburdened doctors who made house calls.

They were high-risk and burned themselves out, making a bad situation worse. The day after Muntendam was confined to his bed at home his wife, Rose, became ill and was quarantined in a guest room.

He died on Monday afternoon a week later. Rose was treated the same day with a "lung machine" just acquired by the Red Oak Fire Department. She rallied and sat up to ask about her husband. She was not told of his passing. Her condition then deteriorated and she died the following evening.

Both were born and raised in this area. He was 25 when they married in 1912. Rose, the former Rose Helen Rudig of Griswold, was 24.

Ben had been a paper boy and loved the press. He worked for several area papers wanting to learn all he could.

He was with the Griswold American when, during the same year he was married, the Elliott Graphic was offered for sale.

He took the plunge, and Rose became his business partner. He was manager, editor, reporter and ran the press. She worked the front office, handled advertising, circulation and bookkeeping. They moved to Elliott, joined local clubs and the

Methodist Church.

A few days after the Muntendams died, F.M. Slauter, 37, who managed Elliott's Green Bay Lumber Company, fell ill. His wife, Lena, died as well. Within the week both had died.

A 12-year-girl had died in Elliott earlier in the year, as had other residents.

Green Bay found another manager. The Graphic closed for a few weeks.

Then a couple of young men, supported by area residents and local newspapers that remembered Ben Muntendam as being helpful and supportive of them, reopened.

The Muntendams, like most of their age, had no will and neither had they arranged for a burial plot. They were laid to rest in a plot owned by their parents in the Atlantic cemetery, and their stone can be viewed there today.

COVID persistently hangs around. The Spanish flu took a grim toll, then vanished as quickly as it appeared.

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

FROM THE CAPITOL | U.S. REP. CINDY AXNE

### Hitting the ground running in 2022

We're only a few weeks into the new year, but I've already hit the ground running in 2022 to continue fighting for Iowans like you.

In just the past 20 days, I've introduced two new bills, hosted a town hall in Red Oak, met with mayors and community leaders from across Iowa's Third District, and met with Iowans in Shenandoah and Glenwood.

Coming was among the first places I visited this year after residents told me about issues they were having with their local post office. The Coming Post Office temporarily closed last summer, much to residents' surprise. They weren't sure how long the post office was going to be closed, or where they should go to receive services.

So many people rely on their local post office to keep their small businesses running, receive life-saving medications, and to keep in contact with their family and friends. When a post office shuts down – even temporarily – it shouldn't be a surprise to the people who use it.

That's why I introduced the Postal Suspension Transparency Act, which would create a new website that lists which post offices are closed, why they are closed, how long they are estimated to be closed, and where customers can receive services.

This legislation would help ensure post office customers never be caught off guard again by a post office closure.

My recent travels also led me to the Shenandoah Medical Center to discuss the facility's most urgent needs as doctors, nurses and staff continue to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, and a surge in cases as the Omicron variant spreads.

I hosted my first 'Connect With Your Congresswoman' town hall of 2022 at the Montgomery County YMCA in Red Oak. It was the 73rd town hall I have hosted as the Representative of Iowa's Third District. The Town Hall Project named me the most accessible freshman member of the House of Representatives during my first term in Congress because I held more town hall events than any other freshman member in 2019.

I enjoy hosting town halls because they give me the opportunity to fill folks in on where Congress is at on some vital legislation.

In Red Oak, we spent time talking about the expanded Child Tax Credit – which last year brought nearly one billion dollars in tax breaks to Iowa's middle-class families. I also spent some time recently in Des Moines and Council Bluffs, where I met with mayors and city officials to talk about all the ways Iowa will benefit from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.

The legislation will provide more than \$5



billion to help Iowa rebuild its roads, expand connectivity with high-speed internet, remove lead pipes to create safer, cleaner drinking water and provide money to improve public transportation.

The bipartisan infrastructure law will also give Iowa more than \$432 million over the next five years to spend on

bridge repairs.

Iowa has 4,571 bridges that are classified as structurally deficient, the most of any state in the nation.

While I'm excited to see how much this new legislation helps Iowans in the future, I am also happy to see that a bipartisan bill I helped get signed into law back in 2020, is now helping Iowans receive the care they need following a medical emergency.

The No Surprises Act, which went into effect on the first of this year, prevents people from receiving surprise medical bills, including care provided in an emergency and transportation by air ambulances.

This legislation was inspired in part by a woman in Indianola, whose daughter was in a car accident and had to be transferred by air ambulance to a hospital in Des Moines.

Despite her daughter needing urgent and complex care, she was billed \$42,000 for a 20-minute ride because the air ambulance service was out-of-network. This new law also prevents patients from receiving surprise medical bills from out-of-network health providers at an in-network facility.

I'm proud to have voted for this legislation because during an emergency, no Iowan should have to have their care interrupted to worry about whether their insurance will later cover the care they receive.

This year is off to a good start, but I am excited to share what else I'm working on this year and to continue to seeing these big investments in Iowa pay off.

*Cindy Axne is currently serving in her second term representing Iowa's Third District in the U.S. House of Representatives. Contact Rep. Cindy Axne at <https://axne.house.gov/contact/email-me>.*

DOLECHECK'S DETAILS | IOWA REP. CECIL DOLECHECK

### Recent events in the Iowa House

Last week Governor Reynolds laid out her comprehensive tax relief plan for the 2022 legislative session. This week more details and fiscal information are available as House Study Bill 551. The following is a division by division explanation as well as the fiscal impacts of each division.

• Division I—Sale of Certain Qualified Stock—Net Capital Gain Exclusion: This division provides an employee-owner one lifetime election to exclude from income tax their net capital gains from the sale or exchange of capital stock (ESOPs). This exclusion is phased in over three years starting tax year 2023. Fiscal impact is: -\$4.1 million in FY24, -\$8.2 million in FY25.

• Division II—Retired Farmer Lease Income Exclusion: This division provides that a retired farmer's income from rental of their property is exempt from tax. The farmer must be 55/farmed for at least 10 years. If the farmer chooses this exemption, they are not eligible for the capital gains exclusion provided by Division III. This change begins tax year 2023. Fiscal impact is: -\$3.0 million in FY24, -\$3.0 million FY25.

• Division III—Retired Farmer Capital Gain Exclusion: This division provides a single lifetime exclusion of capital gain on the sale of a retired farmer's land or livestock. This change begins in tax year 2023. Fiscal impact is: -\$8.0 million in FY24, -\$8.0 million FY25.

• Division IV—Individual Income Tax Rates—Tax Years 2023-2025: This division strikes the tax brackets and rates that would go into effect in tax year 2023 and reduces them further in tax years 2023, 2024, and 2025. Fiscal impact is: -\$37.3 million in FY23, -\$135.8 million in FY24, -\$341.7 million in FY 25.

• Division V—Individual Income Tax—Flat Rate: This division picks up where Division IV left off. It provides for a flat tax of 4.0 percent on all taxable income. This begins in tax year 2026. Fiscal impact is: -\$852.0 million in FY26, -\$1.289 billion in FY27.

• Division VI—Corporate Income Tax Rates—Adjustments: This division provides for the corporate tax rates to be reduced based on a revenue trigger. It provides that in a year where corporate tax revenue exceeds \$700 million, the excess is used to reduce the corporate rates the following year. This change begins in tax year 2023. Fiscal impact is: -\$6.5 million in FY23, -\$38.2 million in FY24, -\$80.0 million in FY25.

• Division VII—Corporate Income Tax—Flat Rate: This division provides that when the corporate rates are reduced (by Division VI) to a point where all rates equal 5.5 percent, the corporate tax



rate is codified at a flat 5.5 percent.

• Division VIII—Retirement Income: Currently, Iowa Code provides for an income tax exclusion for the first \$6,000 of retirement income. This division provides that all retirement income would be excluded from tax. The change begins in tax year 2023. Fiscal impact is: -\$201.3 million in FY23, -\$405.3 million in FY24.

The total fiscal impact of the proposal is -\$245.13 million in FY23, -\$594.29 million in FY24, and -\$833.61 million in FY25. Years beyond that do go above one billion. A subcommittee has been assigned to the bill. State revenue available for increased government spending and for tax relief is \$1.2 billion. In addition to that the Taxpayer Relief Fund has a current balance of \$1.1 billion.

The Iowa House will closely evaluate each division. I anticipate that we will divide the bill into separate sections and work towards a structured sustainable approach to returning excess collections back to the taxpayers of Iowa, and relieving future tax burdens.

• Prioritizing Child Care for Working Families: Recently, the Governor's Child Care Task Force released its report of recommendations to improve access to child care in Iowa. Based on the report, the Governor announced the following actions in her condition of the state address:

• \$200 million for funding stabilization grants for day cares.  
• Implementation of a child care management system – this website will enable day cares to collectively share administrative functions, group purchasing, and professional development.  
• Create a "Best Place for Working Parents" designation – the state will recognize employers to go above and beyond to accommodate their employees with children.  
• \$100,000 for grants to integrate child care with preschool.

*Cecil Dolecheck is currently serving as District 24 representative in the Iowa House of Representatives. Contact Dolecheck at [cecil.dolecheck@legis.iowa.gov](mailto:cecil.dolecheck@legis.iowa.gov).*

#### DEADLINES

Newspaper Inserts: Noon Wednesdays.  
Submitted News Items and Letters: 4 p.m. Thursdays.  
Public Notices: 4 p.m. Thursdays.  
Display & Classified Display Advertising: 4 p.m. Thursdays.  
Classified Line Ads/Garage Sale Ads: 10 a.m. Fridays.  
Obituaries: 9 a.m. Mondays.

#### CONTACT US

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# THE RED OAK Express

Dedicated to Freedom Since 1868

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Villisca, Griswold); Cubby's; Dollar General; E-Stop (Emerson); Fareway; Hy-Vee; Hy-Vee Wine & Spirits; United Farmers Cooperative; Walmart (Shenandoah). Single copy sales are

also available from a coin rack in front of the Red Oak Express.

#### WHO WE ARE

Employees in order of continuous service: Doug Tye, Mail; Paul Dumler, Production Manager; Trish Deitchler, Graphic Design; 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.

The Red Oak Express is owned by Red Oak Publications in Red Oak, IA. It is a member of the Iowa Newspaper Association and the National Newspaper Association.





Community Calendar

2 February

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.

3 February

Noon: SCORE webinar, "Ask the CPA 2022 - Tax Advice for Your Small Business." 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.

4 February

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

11 a.m., Scooters ribbon cutting event, 1509 N. Broadway

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

6 to 9 p.m., Artists showing, live music by Devon and Lisa Fulton, Five One 8, 518 N. 4th St.

6:30 to 8:30 p.m., Rotary Club Daddy/Daughter Dance, White Fair building, 1809 N. 4th St.

7 p.m., "The King's Daughter," theatre #1; "The 355," theatre #2; Red Oak Grand Theatre. 9 p.m., The Beer Olympics, Stadium 34, 1200 Senate Ave.

5 February

8 a.m., Legislative briefing, Montgomery County Family YMCA, 101 E. Cherry St.

6:30-8:30 p.m., Daddy/Daughter Dance, White Fair building, 1809 N. 4th St.

7 p.m., "The King's Daughter," theatre #1; "The 355," theatre #2; Red Oak Grand Theatre. 9 p.m., The Beer Olympics, Stadium 34, 1200 Senate Ave.

6 February

2 and 7 p.m., "The King's Daughter," theatre #1; "Jockey," theatre #2; Red Oak Grand Theatre.

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

7 February

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.

5:30 p.m., Red Oak City Council meeting, Red Oak Fire Station, 1904 N. Broadway St.

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

8 February

8:30 a.m., Montgomery County Supervisors, North Meeting Room in Courthouse basement, open to public, but public encouraged to attend via Zoom, if possible.

Noon: SCORE webinar, "Small Business Resilience - How to Sharpen Your Focus and Decrease Stress." Go to omaha.score.org/content/take-workshop-242 for more information and registration.

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.

9 February

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.

Rotary Club celebrates successful "Dash for Cash," Daddy/Daughter Dance Feb. 5

The Red Oak Rotary Club once again teamed up this year with KCSI/KOAK Country Sunshine Radio for an amazing, fun-filled "Dash for Cash" event that everyone thoroughly enjoyed during the half times of the Red Oak Girls and Boys Double Header basketball games at the Red Oak Jr. & Sr. High School "Orange" Gymnasium Jan. 21, when the Red Oak Tiger basketball teams played the Glenwood High School Rams.

The Red Oak Rotary Club was present throughout the evening to share with the public the wonderful community and area events that club offers residents of all ages and the famous inflatable Rotary Spoke Wheel/Logo which was displayed in the school hallway before entering the gymnasium.

Once again, this year KCSI/

KOAK Radio sponsored the \$100 for each contest. KCSI/KOAK Radio and the Red Oak Rotary Club had contestant give-away bags full of KCSI/KOAK and Red Oak Rotary Club special gifts for the two lucky contestants who were drawn out of the entry box no matter if they found the \$100 on the court, but there were no worries this year, as both contestants successfully found the \$100 prize.

Michael Nordeen of Red Oak, who is the JAG instructor/head football coach/ and bowling Coach found the \$100 bill during the girl's halftime, while Taylor Wood of Red Oak, who is the Red Oak Jr. and Sr. High Band Instructor found the \$100 bill during the boy's halftime.

Red Oak Rotary Club President Tim Fridolph expressed the Red Oak Rotary



Rotarian Carrie Shalters, \$100 winner Taylor Wood, Rotarian Chris Amos and Rotarian Kara Sherman pose for a photo following Wood's victory.

Club's appreciation to partner with KCSI/KOAK Radio Station annually and the Red Oak Community School District for this fun filled event, which has become a fan favorite for all that attend Red Oak High School boys and girls basketball games annually.

The Red Oak Rotary Club will be hosting the 12th Annual "Daddy Daughter" Dance on Saturday, Feb. 5, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the White Fair Building. Tickets are available at the Wilson Performing Arts Center - 300 Commerce Dr. and/or contact Kara Sherman at 623-3135. Presale tickets will be entered into a special bonus drawing. If any businesses

would like to provide door prizes for the event, they can contact Kara Sherman as well.

To learn more about how one can become a Red Oak Rotarian, simply come to a Tuesday noon meeting at the Pizza Ranch Restaurant located at 1511 Broadway St.

Everyone is always welcome. One can also view the website at redoakrotary.org or contact Rotary Club President Tim Fridolph at Oak Valley Animal Health in Red Oak at 623-5511 to receive more information about all that the Red Oak Rotary Club is dedicated to doing for the Red Oak Community, area, region, United States, and world.



Michael Nordeen poses with his \$100 prize. (Photo provided)

SCORE Febuary webinars announced

The Greater Omaha SCORE chapter, which includes Montgomery, Page, Taylor, and Adams counties, has announced its February series of live webinars.

There is no cost to attend any of these upcoming webinars. Webinars that will be taking place this month include:

Feb. 3, noon: "Ask the CPA 2022 - Tax Advice for Your Small Business."

Feb. 8, noon: "Small Business Resilience - How to Sharpen Your Focus and Decrease Stress."

Feb. 10, noon: "The Seven Secrets to Mastering Your Sales Pitch."

Feb. 15, noon: "Grow Your Business Brand by Becoming a Self-Published Author."

Feb. 22, noon: "Keys to a Successful Black Owned

Business Startup."

Feb. 24, noon: "E-Commerce Technology - Level Up or Level Off?"

See omaha.score.org/content/take-workshop-242 for more information and registration. All webinars are recorded and available at score.org/recorded-webinars.

The local SCORE chapter is located at the Small Business Administration (SBA) office, 10675 Bedford Ave., Suite 100, Omaha, NE, 68134; 402- 221-3606, omaha.score.org.

Both the national, score.org, and each local chapter have useful information on their websites for people who are interested in starting a small business or building a better business.

Happy Birthday!

Celebrating birthdays this week are:

Alan Dean - Feb. 2  
Mary Jones - Feb. 2  
Tracy Schooling - Feb. 3  
Joan Perkins - Feb. 3  
Jeremy Liford - Feb. 3  
Steve Turman - Feb. 4  
Brad Mueller - Feb. 5  
Marcia Gillespie - Feb. 5  
Andy Crussell - Feb. 6  
Teresa Petersöh - Feb. 7  
Don Godfrey - Feb. 7  
Lois Jamison - Feb. 8  
Jean Webb - Feb. 8

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 anniversaries this week are:

Tyler and Mickaela Saner - Feb. 2  
Lloyd and Diane Danielson - Feb. 4

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.

Senior Menu

Wednesday, Feb 2: BBQ rib patty, hamburger dill slices, parslied potatoes, green bean salad, wheat hamburger bun, hot cinnamon applesauce, milk/coffee.

Thursday, Feb. 3: Taco meat, shredded lettuce, diced tomatoes,

corn, mixed beans, taco sauce, flour tortilla, cinnamon sugar cookie, milk/coffee.

Friday, Feb. 4: Chicken supreme, mashed sweet potatoes, Italian blend vegetables, multi-grain bread, sliced pears, milk/coffee.

Monday, Feb. 7 Breaded fish fillet, parslied potatoes, stewed tomatoes, wheat hamburger bun, mandarin oranges, milk/coffee.

Tuesday, Feb. 8: Ham with white beans, glazed baby carrots, cornbread muffin, iced brownie,

milk/coffee.

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., Wednesdays 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 Kutzi, 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.

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RO students attend Honor Band



A total of 15 students participated in the Iowa Western Honor Band Jan. 24. Students performing included Anna Butz, Josie Goldapp, Ryelan Kruse, Lily Marsden, Zoie Rohrig, Kendall Ruhl, Griffin Eubank, Sam Fields, Aedynn Graham, Grayson Hewett, Trinity LaMar, Abby Petersen, Kara Sego, Luke Sperling and Jonah Wernhoff. (Photo submitted)

Stanton sends five to honor band



Five Stanton band students participated in the Iowa Western Community College Honor Band Jan. 24. Pictured are, from left: Ella Peterson, James McDonald, Adrian Haynie, Corinne Hopf and Evan Hopf. (Photo submitted)

School Activities

Wednesday, Feb. 2

- Griswold: One hour early release
- 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
- 1:05/1:15 p.m., Stanton: Early dismissal
- 5 p.m., Griswold: High School girls pitching practice, middle school gym
- 5:45 p.m., Red Oak: YMCA basketball practice, fifth-sixth grade girls, Inman Elementary gym
- 6 p.m., Griswold: Sixth grade girls basketball practice
- 6:30-8:15 p.m., Griswold: High school AAU volleyball practice
- 6-8 p.m., Southwest Valley: AAU volleyball practice, new high school gym
- 6:30-9 p.m., Southwest Valley: Men’s volleyball league, activity center

Thursday, Feb. 3

- 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
- 3:30-5 p.m., Red Oak: Sixth grade boys basketball practice, Inman Elementary gym
- 5 p.m., Red Oak: An Evening with the Stars, junior/senior high school choir room
- 5-6 p.m., Southwest Valley: Corning youth basketball practice, third grade boys, Corning 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

Friday, Feb. 4

- 1:30 p.m., Essex: Early dismissal
- 3:45-5 p.m., Southwest Valley: Corning youth basketball practice, fifth grade girls, Corning Elementary gym
- 5:30-6:15 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, Feb. 5

- 9-10 a.m., Southwest Valley: Corning youth basketball practice, new high school gym
- 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Southwest Valley: Corning youth basketball practice, junior kindergarten-second grade, new high school gym
- 8 p.m., Red Oak: YMCA boys basketball, Inman Elementary gym

Sunday, Feb. 6

- 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
- 4-5:30 p.m., Griswold: Sixth grade 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
- 5:45-7:30 p.m., Southwest Valley: High school softball, new high school gym

Monday, Feb. 7

- East Mills: Late Start, 90 minutes
- Southwest Valley: No school.
- 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
- 4-6 p.m., Southwest Valley: Dance team practice, Villisca Wellness Center
- 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
- 7:30 p.m., Griswold: High school AAU volleyball practice

Tuesday, Feb. 8

- 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
- 6-7:15 p.m., Southwest Valley: Corning youth basketball practice, fourth/fifth grade boys, Corning Elementary gym, sixth grade boys, activity center
- 6 p.m., Griswold: Middle school AAU volleyball
- 6-7:30 p.m., Southwest Valley: Corning youth basketball practice, sixth grade girls, new high school gym

Wednesday, Feb. 2

- Griswold: One hour early release
- 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
- 1:05/1:15 p.m., Stanton: Early dismissal
- 3 p.m., Griswold: Sub District CDE, Denison
- 5 p.m., Griswold: High School girls pitching practice, middle school gym
- 6 p.m., Essex: Financial aid virtual presentation for parents of 10th -12 grade students, Trojan Hall
- 6:15-8:15 p.m., Southwest Valley: AAU volleyball practice, new high school gym
- 6:30-9 p.m., Southwest Valley: Men’s volleyball league, activity center

School Lunch Menus

East Mills

Wednesday, Feb. 2: Turkey and cheese sandwich, baby carrots, celery sticks, watermelon chunks, Teddy Grahams.

Thursday, Feb. 3: Nacho grande bar, diced tomatoes, diced onions, shredded lettuce, ground beef, fiesta black beans, corn, mixed fruit.

Friday, Feb. 4 Corn dog, California blend vegetables, glazed carrots, applesauce.

Monday, Feb. 7: Walking taco or pepperoni pizza slices, green beans, California blend vegetables, pineapple tidbits, Rice Krispie treat.

Tuesday, Feb. 8: Cheesy potatoes with ham or pepperoni pizza slices, baked beans, glazed carrots, applesauce, dinner roll, chocolate chip cookie.

Wednesday, Feb. 9: Italian grilled chicken sandwich or pepperoni pizza slices, cheesy broccoli, corn, fruit variety bowl, marinara cup.

Essex

Feb. 2-Feb. 9, Not available.

Griswold

Wednesday, Feb. 2: Hot dog on a bun, chili, cheese, french fries, peas, fruit cup.

Thursday, Feb. 3: Garlic cheese bread, marinara sauce, garden spinach salad with choice of dressing, green beans, strawberries, bananas.

Friday, Feb. 4 Hamburger on a bun, lettuce, sliced tomatoes, sliced onions, cheese, hamburger dill slices, french fries, mixed vegetables, broccoli florets and ranch dip, mandarin oranges.

Monday, Feb. 7: Pizza, bread stick, garden spinach salad, celery and peanut butter, Side kick.

Tuesday, Feb. 8: Hot ham and cheese sandwich, chips, corn, carrots and ranch, pineapple tidbits.

Wednesday, Feb. 9: Mini corn dogs, french fries, green beans, sliced peaches, cookie.

Red Oak Elementary/ Preschool Center

Wednesday, Feb. 2: Chicken patty on a bun, hot roll; or sweet and sour salad, hot roll; or roasted chicken sandwich; or pizza munchables; french fries, corn, fresh fruit, sliced pears.

Thursday, Feb. 3: Macaroni and cheese, Italian bread; or bacon cheeseburger, Italian bread; or chef salad, Italian bread; or cheesy chicken Caesar sandwich; fresh garden salad with choice of dressing, cheesy cauliflower popcorn, fresh fruit, sliced peaches.

Friday, Feb. 4: Pepperoni pizza; or chicken bacon ranch salad, pineapple muffin; or ham and cheese sandwich; or chili dog, fresh garden salad with choice of dressing, baby carrots with ranch, fresh fruit, strawberry/banana mix.

Monday, Feb. 7: Nashville hot chicken; or BBQ pork salad, cornbread or jalapeno jack cheeseburger; or popcorn chicken wrap; fresh garden salad with choice of dressing, steamed broccoli, fresh fruit, cinnamon apples.

Southwest Valley

Wednesday, Feb. 2: Creamed turkey over biscuits, cascade vegetables, green beans, fruit.

Thursday, Feb. 3: Italian dippers with marinara sauce, lettuce salad with choice of dressing, carrot sticks with ranch dip, fruit.

Friday, Feb. 4 Sloppy joe sandwich on a bun, potato wedges, corn, fruit.

Monday, Feb. 7: No school.

Tuesday, Feb. 8: Tenderloin sandwich on a bun, ranch potatoes, winter mix vegetables with cheese sauce, fruit.

Wednesday, Feb. 9: Popcorn chicken mashed potato bowl, corn, gravy, fruit.

Stanton

Feb. 2-Feb. 9, Not available.

Tuesday, Feb. 8: BBQ beef on a bun; or cobb salad, Italian bread; or pizza; or turkey and cheese sandwich; fresh garden salad with choice of dressing, oven fries, fresh fruit, mandarin oranges.

Wednesday, Feb. 9: Cheeseburger on a bun, hot roll; or chicken patty on a bun, hot roll; or chicken bacon ranch salad, hot roll; or chicken and avocado club wrap; potato wedges, green beans, fresh fruit, pineapple tidbits.

Stanton Honor Rolls

SECOND QUARTER A HONOR ROLL

6th grade: Nolan Case, Cooper Dreyer, Gabrielle Grebin, Brett Hart, Addison Jones, Hayden Jones, Gabriel Kingery, Addie Peterson, Lauren Roberts, Jayden Snow.

7th grade: Addelyn Gettler, Nicholas Herrick, Corinne Hopf, Adrianna Valdez.

8th grade: Jailyn Beacham, Rylan Grebin, Jasmine Osher, Alizabeth Maranville, Meredith Roberts.

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, Evan Hopf, Axel King.

11th grade: Abigail Burke, Addison Olson, Brooklyn Silva, Jenna Stephens.

12th grade: Roary Blair, Tristan Frank, Aidan Graham, Ashley Henneman, Carston Johnson, Allie Sandin.

FIRST SEMESTER B HONOR ROLL

6th grade: Deacon Bruce, Cash Culver, Hannah Gibbs, Brett Hart, Owen Marsh, Victoria McFarland, Nicholas Roberts, Janae Schwery.

7th grade: Oliver Dykes, Lilly Ford, Zachary Haley, Caedmon Olson.

8th grade: Kennedy King, Eric Kutzli, Jasmine Osher, Britney Silva, Brodee Sowers.

9th grade: Zoocy Allen, Gavin Ford, Brody Gibbs, Andrew Johnson, Jameson McDonald, Beau Sallach, Caden Sallach, Evelyn Stoakes, Max Yeager.

10th grade: Alexis Frank, Nolan Grebin, Dacey Henneman, Jackson Krueger, Ellyanna McDonald, Carly Roberts, Leah Sandin.

11th grade: Emily Adams, Samantha Helberg, Marleigh Johnson, Damian Meek, Dartangnan Most, Marissa Strough, Kywin Tibben, April Vanderholm, Rayah Veik, Jonan Wookey.

12th grade: Slade Graham, Carter Johnson, Ty Meier, John Peterson, Jackson Roberts, Logan Roberts, Cameron Sallach, Madison Sickels.

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

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In Memory of Carolyn Allen

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

Red Oak Jr./Sr. High School

Red Oak Inman Primary School

Essex School

Stanton School

Southwest Valley High 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 Nanny at 712-623-2566 or circulation@redoakexpress.com.

THE RED OAK Express



School, Optimists to partner on LED signage at high school

Nick Johansen  
The Red Oak Express

The Red Oak Optimist’s Club is looking to partner with the Red Oak School District on a new sign.

At the regular meeting of the Red Oak School Board on Jan. 24, Optimists Club Vice President Dan Crouse said the Optimists had plans for the installation of a double-sided sign that was similar to the one adjacent to the Montgomery County Law Enforcement Center.

“The purpose of the sign would be to promote all the activities of the school district, not just the sporting events but everything from kindergarten through eighth grade. We feel it would best serve the community to put all the information up there, as well as important announcements,” Crouse explained.

Another reason for the installation, Crouse said, is to provide a physical recognition for student accomplishments.

“We’re all very impressed by the student achievements Ron Lorenz lists under good news, but it would probably mean even more to them to see their name up there when they come to school,” said Crouse.

Crouse said they were currently looking to purchase the sign, and then provide it to the school.

“The Optimist’s Club does not turn down any type of financial gift from anyone, so if the district should happen to find money they can put towards it, so be it, but we’re not particularly begging for money at this meeting,” commented Crouse.

The information for the sign, Crouse advised, would be provided by the school. Crouse said he had spoken with the activities director, who said that a student had assisted him on past projects as a work study, and thus a student could assist in filling out information for

the sign.

With the sign being located outdoors, Crouse said they would have to follow city ordinances and other guidelines, so it wouldn’t be used for business advertisements. Also, Crouse said the maintenance would be a school expense.

“Anything outside of warranty and insurance would be provided by the district. We will have a five-year parts warranty on the sign, and a one year labor warranty on the sign,” Crouse said.

Crouse said he was mainly seeking approval from the board for the placement of the new sign.

“We’re looking at a site that is north of the south parking lot, towards the east end. Part of the reason for this is because it is believed electrical is already running to that location, and if there is not, there’s a light pole only 20 feet away that the sign can draw power from if we need to,” advised Crouse.

Crouse felt the project was viable, and it was something that was both useful and needed.

Board member Roger Carlson asked if there had been much maintenance on the sign located adjacent to the law enforcement center, and Crouse said there had been little to none required thus far.

“The beauty of this sign is it’s not one display panel, it’s made up of one foot by one foot squares, so if there’s any problems, you’re only replacing one square, and that would fall under the five-year warranty,” explained Crouse.

Superintendent Ron Lorenz said that since the discussion of the sign was not on the agenda, they couldn’t give formal approval of the location to Crouse until it was on the agenda.

“In the interim, you and I can visit and narrow things down, and I would say thank you. Thank you for your generosity and partnership,” Lorenz said.



Red Oak Board of Education President Bret Blackman speaks during the Red Oak School Board meeting Jan. 24. (Nick Johansen/The Red Oak Express)

Crouse agreed to meet with Lorenz, and said he was a point of contact. He also advised the board that the sign company could ship a display model to be placed near the proposed site so members of the board could see it.

The next step of the Optimists was to pursue grant funding for the construction of the sign, and the next step for the board would be to finalize and approve the new sign’s location.

The board agreed to include a resolution of support on the agenda for the next regular school board meeting.



Montgomery County Auditor Stephanie Burke hears comments from Villisca Library director Martha Herzberg. (Nick Johansen/The Red Oak Express)

Villisca library asks for 6% funding increase from county

Nick Johansen  
The Red Oak Express

The Montgomery County Board of Supervisors is continuing to hear funding requests from county entities ahead of the approval of the 2022-23 FY budget.

The supervisors met with Villisca library director Martha Herzberg at its regular meeting on Jan. 25. Herzberg said she has served as director since 2015, and the library is accredited at tier three, which is the highest standard.

“We serve a total of 1,857 patrons at this moment, and we provide a number of services to residents in part with the money the county provides us,” Herzberg said.

Among the features were audio recordings, videos, e-books, internet, a scanner, multiple computers and programs for all ages.

“We serve the Villisca community, and the 581 rural residents of Douglas, East, and Washington Townships, and through the Enrich Iowa program, all Iowa residents can use and have a Villisca Public Library card, but some of our services are limited to the Villisca area,” stated Herzberg.

In addition to the county’s funding, and other entities, Herzberg said the library also receives funding from memorials and grants, though those monies are for specific purposes, and they are never guaranteed.

Funding increased to the library in 2017, and in 2018, but has remained at a fixed amount ever since. Additionally, the library shares in funding with Red Oak, Elliott, and Stanton.

Herzberg said in the wake of

COVID-19, the library did close temporarily, and then had to iron out a way to get materials to their patrons.

“I took an idea from another library, and offered curbside service. We didn’t have the funds to put up lockboxes and everything, ours was more of a small-town, pull up to the curb and honk and we’ll bring them out. We also did some deliveries in town. We do what we have to do to serve our patrons,” explained Herzberg.

Still, due to COVID, the library experienced additional expenses in order to re-open, and some of the funds were trickled down from the state, but she said it failed to reach the library.

“I don’t know who received it, if anyone was, but I can’t tell in my budget that we were reimbursed anything. We just continue to incur expenses, and we took a severe hit with our property insurance rates. We hadn’t budgeted for the increase it reached, and so we have \$7,000 less of money budgeted for other things that instead went to pay the insurance bill,” Herzberg said.

The reductions were felt in the programming, the book budget, and the building fund. Herzberg said she was requesting an increase in the allocated funding for the library.

“We respectfully ask for an increase of \$8,134, which is roughly a 5.5 to 6% increase, if it is possible,” said Herzberg.

Supervisors Chairman Mark Peterson said they would be looking at the funding allotments closely as the budgeting process went on, and Herzberg said she understood that the process remained ongoing.

Drey selected as park and tree board chair, Owen vice

Nick Johansen  
The Red Oak Express

The Red Oak Park and Tree Board recently met for its regular monthly meeting.

The first order of business was the election of officers. Bill Drey was re-elected as chairman, with Cliff Owen nominated as vice-chairman and Amy Strebe as secretary.

The board then met with Beau Boeye, representing the Friends of the Red Oak Trails. Boeye shared some quotes he had received for walking trails.

“For the Chautauqua Park trial, which would run on the north side of Chautauqua Park from 8th Street to the park itself, we’re looking at \$35,650, which includes the earth work and the seeding,” said Boeye.

The remaining quotes were for the section at the Evergreen Cemetery, a shortcut next to the pavilion, a section at Inman Elementary, taking it from the existing sidewalk on the west side of the playground, all the way to the street to connect with the southeast corner of the cemetery, and the east side of College Park.

“With the cemetery, you’re looking at a cost of \$8,100. For the Inman trail, it’s \$32,000. At College Park, it’s 17,856. Now granted, these are all quoted for an eight foot wide segment. I don’t think that may be necessary for College Park. The Evergreen Cemetery shortcut was quoted as a 12 foot section,” explained Boeye.

The total amount of the quotes were

\$93,506, which Boeye admitted he was surprised to see. A standard residential sidewalk varies from four to five feet wide, and the Wilson walking trail is five feet wide.

Drey asked when Boeye was expecting to make a presentation to the Red Oak City Council. Boeye said they were going to hash out more details beforehand and see if they could work with Live Well Montgomery County for the proposed trail section at Inman.

“With their gardening program, and with how they take kids from the garden to Inman, it would be a beneficial trail for them. Also, now that we have a price, we can further the conversation with the Red Oak School District to see if there is any sort of financial contribution they are willing to help with,” said Boeye.

Additionally, Boeye said he was asked by other members of Friends of the Red Oak Trails what contribution may be available from the park board. Drey said any contribution would have to come from local option sales tax dollars, as the regular budget only covers their normal expenses.

“We’d probably have to see what the city and the school decided, and we’d probably have to get together and write some grants. That’s the route we’re going to have to go, and there are some grants out there,” commented Drey.

Boeye understood the necessity for grants, and said the members of Friends of the Red Oak Trails all knew the project wouldn’t be possible without the involvement of grants.

Drey asked Boeye which segments of trail were being prioritized. Boeye said

the two with the most priority were the College Park trail and the section at Inman Elementary.

Drey, Strebe, and board member Anna Boeye were in agreement with those two being the priority trails for construction, for a total cost of close to \$50,000.

No further action was taken, pending Boeye’s meeting with the Red Oak City Council to discuss the potential projects.

Drey advised the board that a tree needed to be cut down at Wilson Park, and one had been removed at College Park that had been brought down by a windstorm. Also, Drey said they were seeking more grant funding.

“I wrote up a grant request and submitted it to City Clerk Mary Bolton, and she submitted it to MidAmerican Energy, a Trees Please grant. I have also been in contact with the Arbor Day Foundation as to whether we wanted to do tree planting at Arbor Day, and I’m still looking into that,” advised Drey.

In other business, the board:

- Approved the Red Oak Park & Tree Board 2022 plan.
- Approved a performed services agreement between the Red Oak Park & Tree Board, the City of Red Oak, and the Montgomery County Family YMCA
- Agreed to advertise with the Red Oak Express and KCSI Radio for pool positions for the summer 2022 season..
- Approved the replacement of two non-functional speakers at the Red Oak Municipal Pool, at a cost of roughly \$300 each.

Is there unclaimed money waiting for you from the state?

In celebration of National Unclaimed Property Day, held annually on Feb. 1, State Treasurer Michael L. Fitzgerald is sharing the newest report of Montgomery County residents who are in the Great Iowa Treasure Hunt.

“This past year, there was a total of \$49 million reported to the Great Iowa Treasure Hunt,” said Fitzgerald. “In Montgomery County alone, \$90,000 was remitted, meaning you, a neighbor or a favorite local business could be in the database.”

Under unclaimed property law, when companies and other entities are unable to locate the rightful owner of money and valuables in their possession,

they are required to report it to the State by Nov. 1 each year.

Assets reported to the State include uncashed payroll checks, abandoned savings accounts, lost stocks and more.

“Each year after reporting season, the Great Iowa Treasure Hunt is filled with new assets waiting to be claimed,” commented Fitzgerald. “In an effort to alert those in Montgomery County of their funds, my office has created a list of people and businesses with the top amounts of unclaimed property.”

Among those from the county with unclaimed funds are:

- Jacob Eitzen, \$437,142.
- Rogene A. Gustafson, \$26,033.
- George H. Swenson,

- \$20,641.
- Velma M. Wheeler, \$18,883.
- Donna Shores, \$11,166.
- Nancy D. Evans, \$9,911.
- Catherine Selser, \$8,471.
- Thomas Y. Minniece, \$6,674.
- Kermit Bailey, \$6,639.
- Wilma L. Harper, \$6,281.
- Jerry J. Gould, \$6,060.
- Peggy L. Boeye, \$5,485.
- Marilyn Elston, \$5,363.
- Thomas Z. Schmadeke,

- \$5,287.
- Mary P. Collins, \$4,893.
- Karen K. Gusman, \$4,719.
- Edna L. Smith, \$4,697.
- Hazel M. Jones, \$4,603.
- Gerald L. Smith, \$4,384.
- Clementine Jones, \$4,302.
- Elmer L. Palmquist, \$3,835.
- Jack Smaha Estate, \$3,190.
- Oprah Magazine, \$3,022.
- Mark Morris, \$3,015.
- Edelmiro Ortegon, \$3,000.

DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS 2022!

The Montgomery County Democrats will hold their 2022 Caucus on

MONDAY, FEB 7<sup>TH</sup> AT 7 PM

at the 1st Congregational UCC Church  
in Red Oak, 608 Reed Street

Due to COVID concerns you are encouraged to attend online.

To participate online, please email  
IOWAMOCODEMOCRATS@gmail.com,  
or call 515-454-0205 to register.

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FOR RESERVATIONS CALL BEFORE FRI. FEB 8, 2022 @ 5p.m.

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200 E Washington Avenue  
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## DUR approves funding requests, Rainey reappointed to board

Nick Johansen  
The Red Oak Express

The Red Oak Downtown Urban Renewal Board met for its regular meeting on Jan. 19.

Beginning July 1, the DUR Board will be working with a \$70,000 funding stream, up from its prior funding amount of \$50,000. The question was raised as to whether there was any cap on carry-over. DUR Board Member Pete Crawford said they had never been told there was a cap, but that wasn't their goal.

"Our philosophy is that if we carry over a bunch of funding every year, then we will see our funding stream reduced," Crawford said.

DUR Board Member Mark Jackson confirmed that the DUR Board had been receiving \$80,000 per year, but they carried over so much funding during that time that the funding was reduced to \$50,000. Outreach efforts, and recent projects that have used up the entirety of the DUR's annual budget early led to the City of Red Oak to agree to boost the annual funding amount by \$20,000 beginning this year.

"Because of the things that Roger Vial has been putting in place, and this board, the way we view things, we're getting a lot more applications. The business owners in this area are beginning to realize it's user friendly, and in the past it wasn't. It takes a long time to get over those feelings," said



DUR Chairman Roger Vial, left, and DUR Board Member Pete Crawford discuss one of the potential grant projects at the recent DUR meeting. Nick Johansen/The Red Oak Express

Jackson.

One of the biggest changes, Jackson said, was the decision to carry over funding requests to the next budget year if funding was used up in the current year.

"We were one of the businesses in the past that, back in the day, applied for grant money, and were going to do some stuff to our buildings, and then when they ran out of money, we were told it was gone. When we asked if we could re-apply, we were told we couldn't. I could never understand that mindset," commented Jackson.

The first item on the agenda was first round approval for a grant request from Andus Properties, LLC, for work at 400 E. Coolbaugh St.

"The grant request is for \$7,500 for tuckpointing and brickwork on the south side of the building. The project was estimated at \$30,200, which puts the grant maxed out at \$7,500," Vial said.

The application was determined as eligible to receive the grant, and was granted first round approval by the DUR Board.

The board then moved to projects in the final approval stage. The first was for the rehab of

the second story of the Red Oak Chamber and Industry building at 301 E. Reed Street. Phase one of the project was updating the electrical, new HVAC units, and water heaters.

"That project is done, at a cost of \$28,252 with a potential grant amount of \$7,063. The Chamber paid Allensworth Heating and Cooling for two HVAC units, ductwork and gas lines, and O'Neal electric for electrical upgrades. The total cost of the project came out to \$30,257, so the grant request amount was updated to \$7,500 due to the increased project cost," explained Vial.

The DUR Board granted the request for final approval for the ROCIA project, as well as the final approval for the Andus Properties, LLC, project at 400 E. Coolbaugh St.

The last action items on the agenda were to grant final approval and request for funding for the ROCIA's 307 E. Reed St. property, and the Andus Properties, LLC project at 400 E. Coolbaugh. Both were approved by the DUR Board.

Vial also advised the DUR Board that after conversations with Red Oak Mayor Shawnna Silvius, they had ironed out the current term expirations of the current DUR Board. Audie Rainey was reappointed to the Board, and Red Oak Park and Tree Board member Anna Boeye was appointed to the DUR Board. The final open appointment was yet to be determined.

## SWIPCO launches HUD Lead Hazard Reduction Program contractor scholarships

The Southwest Iowa Planning Council (SWIPCO) is pleased to announce a residential lead paint abatement program. The three-year endeavor will allow for lead-based paint removal in homes across the seven-county area served by the Southwest Iowa Housing Trust Fund, which SWIPCO administers.

Lead Hazard Reduction Program Coordinator, Nicole Rhodes, says the newly created program will allow for lead hazard reduction in approximately 35 housing units and build a more skilled workforce in the region. "This is really a great

opportunity for us to get some of those lead hazards out of the way and make southwest Iowa a safer and healthier place to live for everyone, especially kids who are particularly vulnerable," said Rhodes. "The other side of it is that we're helping to get contractors certified to do the work, so that outlasts this program and will continue to benefit the community in the years to come." Rhodes says that to qualify, homes must be built before 1978 and homeowners must meet certain income guidelines specific to the county where they live.

Scholarships are available for Iowa contractors to take a 40-hour lead hazard reduction certification training and offer an accompanying 24-hour lead hazard reduction training for an employee of their firm. Training offered will take place in Des Moines Feb. 14-18.

The scholarships, which cover the cost of certification, will include a per diem for hotel, meals, and lost work time for contractors who complete the training.

To apply, contractors must be licensed in Iowa and willing to submit bids for lead abatement in the counties covered by the program.

Interested contractors can request and complete an application by emailing [matthew.lee@swipco.org](mailto:matthew.lee@swipco.org), visiting [swipco.org](http://swipco.org), or calling SWIPCO at 712-243-4196.



## Franken stumps in RO

Retired Admiral Mike Franken paid a visit to Red Oak on Jan. 27. Franken is a candidate for the United States Senate, and is currently running for the Democratic nomination against incumbent Republican Sen. Charles Grassley. Franken made a stop at the Firehouse Restaurant in Red Oak to speak with potential voters ahead of the election, and share his reasons for running and his goals should he earn the Democratic nomination and win the election. (Nick Johansen/The Red Oak Express)

## Specialty crop block grants available

Iowa Secretary of Agriculture Mike Naig announced recently that the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship is now accepting applications for the 2022 Specialty Crop Block Grant Program. To qualify, the grants must be used to support projects that raise awareness about or drive demand for specialty crops grown in Iowa.

"Specialty crop block grants are a win-win for producers, distributors and consumers," said Secretary Naig. "The programs they support will help strengthen local distribution channels and grow markets for Iowa producers, while also making it easier for consumers to buy products grown right here in Iowa."

Eligible specialty crops include both fresh and processed fruits and vegetables, tree nuts, dried fruits, and horticulture and nursery crops, including floriculture.

Successful grant applications should explain how projects will improve specialty crop production through marketing and promotions, research and development, expanding availability and access to specialty crops, and addressing local, regional and national challenges confronting specialty crop producers.

All projects must have an educational component. Preference will be given to projects that have the potential to significantly expand, enhance and improve production and demand.

Iowa agencies, universities, institutions, producers, industry associations and community-based organizations are eligible

to apply. Single organizations, institutions and individuals are encouraged to participate as project partners. Grant applications for projects that directly benefit a particular product or generate a profit for a single organization, institution or individual will not be awarded.

Awardees may receive up to \$24,000, and projects can have a duration of up to 30 months.

Proposals must be received by the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship on or before 4 p.m. CT on March 11.

For more information, visit the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program website.

The Department is establishing a review committee to help evaluate and make recommendations on the submitted grant proposals.

Those interested in participating in the review committee should be knowledgeable about specialty crops and/or have grant writing or grant management experience, as well as be able to devote time to complete the review process.

Additional information about reviewer responsibilities, meeting dates and an application form can be found at: [bit.ly/](http://bit.ly/)



## JB-I attends Iowa Pork Congress

JB-I Distributors & Services, LLC., located in Red Oak, attended the Iowa Pork Congress in Des Moines last week. The event is the largest pork expo for the live production industry. Pictured is Jeff Bradley, Regional Sales Manager from Red Oak; Wayne Braun, Regional Sales Manager, Eastern Iowa; and Craig Steen – CEO Red Oak.

**RED OAK GRAND THEATRE**

**THIS WEEK'S MOVIES**

**FEBRUARY 4-6**

**THEATRE #1** capacity is 182

**THE KING'S DAUGHTER**  
King Lolius XIV captures a mermaid and steals her life force but his plan is threatened when his daughter arrives.  
Rated-PG

**THEATRE #2** capacity is 107

**THE 355**  
4 women must embark on a mission to save the world while staying one step ahead of a figure tracking their every move.  
Rated-PG 13

**FEB. 10 7PM FREE**

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**Hallmark GOLD CROWN**

Special Delivery Roller-Skating Pup

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**Mark Jackson's Red Oak Hardware Hank**

**Thursday, February 10, 2022**

**FREE at 7:00 PM**

**at the Red Oak Grand Theatre**

**The Locket**

After caring for his terminally ill mother, an aspiring medical student named Michael (Chad Willett) works at a nursing home, where an elderly resident (Vanessa Redgrave) teaches him valuable lessons using her own past—and a long-lost love—to illustrate the importance of second chances. Their friendship, and an unexpected court trial, encourages Michael to reconcile with his estranged father (Terry O'Quinn), with the support of his loving fiancée (Margarite Moreau).

**Mark Jackson's Red Oak Hardware Hank and Hallmark Gold Crown Sponsors**

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