

MEDICALLY REFERRED EXERCISE TRAINING

- ✓ Individualized Program
- ✓ One-on-One Training
- ✓ Improve Overall Health

FOR MORE INFORMATION,
CALL JACOB AT (712) 623-6462.

Montgomery County Memorial Hospital + Clinics

**VALUABLE
COUPONS AND
OFFERS INSIDE**

THE RED OAK Express

WEDNESDAY

February 23, 2022

Red Oak, IA

Volume 155, No. 8

redoakexpress.com

DEDICATED TO FREEDOM SINCE 1868

\$1.00

Moving Day for Cozad Cabin



It's hard to believe a family of seven once lived in the Cozad Cabin, built in the late 1800s. (Tess Nelson/Red Oak Express)

Tess Nelson
The Red Oak Express

"One would think after 156 years things would have settled in place. Not so in history; the dust never quite completely settles," joked Montgomery County History Center Museum Director Dave McFarland, about the Cozad Cabin, which was moved from the fairgrounds to the history center Wednesday, Feb. 16.

McFarland said the day was made even more special by being able to call family members connected to the Cozad Cabin and tell them the restoration project is beginning.

The cabin was built in 1865, when Hezekiah Cozad moved from Ohio to western Iowa.

"He and his family built a log cabin and settled in northern Page County in a settlement known as Binns Grove (Nyman) about nine miles south of Red Oak," McFarland said. "Hezekiah would go off to serve in the Civil War as a member of the Union Army. He would return home in 1866 to find his home had been burned down by marauders from Missouri. While he was away, a group of 'bushwhackers' descended on the cabin occupied by his wife and children. She managed to drive off the raiders with the help of a kettle of boiling water, only to have them return later and set fire to the cabin."

Coming home to a shell of a home, Hezekiah sold his land and bought 40 acres of land north of the Grove with hopes of finding a better water source and better land. He built a new cabin about 12 feet wide and just over 16 feet long. The cabin was just

one room, but it had a loft for his five children to sleep in. It was divided in half, boys on one side, girls on the other, and the roof was low enough you had to crawl to bed.

McFarland said it is claimed this cabin is an exact replica of the first cabin built in Montgomery County by early settler John Ross at the Forks (Villisca) in the 1850s.

"In 1871, Hezekiah sold the land and cabin to Frank Liljedahl and moved to Dodge City, Kansas for a while, finally moving back to Essex to retire. In the 1960s, Hezekiah's grandson, Clint Cozad, became interested in family history and began looking for the site and any remains of the cabin. He had no luck in locating it though, until he happened to speak to Oscar Wenstrand, Secretary of the local Historical Society and a relative of the Liljedahls. Oscar knew exactly where the cabin was. Years ago it had been moved to the Liljedahl farm, just over the line into Montgomery County, and had been used for years as a chicken coop," McFarland said.

The cabin was donated by the Kampe Family to the Montgomery County Historical Society, who at the time did not have a permanent place for it, so it was taken to the fairgrounds temporarily. Once at the fairgrounds, McFarland said Bill Drey and members of the local FFA Chapter, along with several members of the historical society started to work on its renovation.

"The cabin has not seen a lot of use or love in the past few years and was in need of help," McFarland said. "The first step is often the hardest, but things are now moving. Once a proper site is finished, the cabin will be set in place and restoration will begin."

A neighbor to the Cozad Cabin at the center is the Sciola Church, which is the oldest church in Montgomery County. Also nearby is the Wilson General Store, post office from 1859, and the Nims Barn from 1884.

"The Stipe log cabin and now the Cozad Cabin, they are two of only about a half a dozen original log cabin in Iowa," McFarland said.

Dave's wife, Roxanne, also integral at the museum, slept in the Cozad Cabin in the 1980s when it was moved to the fairgrounds. She plans to sleep in it again when the



The Cozad Cabin, built in 1865, is moved from the fairgrounds to the historical center by Billy Bell House Moving Wednesday, Feb. 16. Eventually, the cabin will be restored. (Tess Nelson/Red Oak Express)



Vicki Hume and the fifth grade class at Essex Elementary (Photo provided)

Essex fifth grade wins national eSpark game creation contest

Tess Nelson
The Red Oak Express

Essex fifth graders in Vicki Hume's class recently won a national online game creation contest through eSpark.

eSpark is a math and reading computer learning platform that serves 1.5 million students around the country. This is the second annual game competition sponsored by eSpark.

"In teams, the students discussed some game ideas and submitted them to me. Then I had them vote on the one idea they felt was the best. The Cupcake Bakery/Cupcake Shop was chosen unanimously," explained Hume. "From there, as a whole class we discussed more specific details about the game ideas and submitted the idea via Google forms to the eSpark company. We all loved the idea, and we hoped we had a chance to win." Hume said just making the game together was a wonderful experience.

"We all felt good when we sent it off. We sent it off with a little cheer, and we hoped that we would get chosen," she said

After a couple of weeks, Hume said she was notified by the eSpark company that The Cupcake Bakery was one of three games chosen out of hundreds of entries around the country. The Cupcake Bakery utilizes addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. It's designed for students in first through fifth grade.

"The day I told the students they won was a magical day. It was hard for me to keep it quiet. I printed off the winning acknowledgement email and handed them all a copy. I told them that when they opened the letter

their lives would be changed forever. At first, I think they were stunned and did not know what to say or do. I told them that it was okay to go a little crazy and be excited," Hume said.

Hume and her class met with eSpark's marketing director and two game developers on Wednesday, Feb. 16, via zoom.

"The students were excited to hear that they just loved their game idea, and that they were not going to change too many features from the original form. They even asked the class for some input on a few things as well," Hume said. "This was an amazing chance for students to learn about how something that they do daily works behind the scenes. In addition, the kids were excited to learn about how they will take their idea and in a couple of months the game will be available for students around the country to play. The company is going to send us a link of the game when it becomes available."

The game will be launched in the spring. Hume's students received a certificate for being an eSpark game developer, an eSpark pencil, and one of the eSpark character pins to put on a backpack or jacket.

"The prizes were not extravagant; however, the kids were rewarded in the honor of knowing that their cooperation and talents created something that many other students will enjoy. The students can definitely be proud of this great accomplishment," said Hume. "As a school, we follow the 7 Habits of Highly Effective People. This month's focus is on Habit 6, Synergize, which is the habit of creativity, cooperation or teamwork. The fifth grade class is a symbol of this habit. By using their creativity and working together, they did something that is a great accomplishment."

McCunn's murder conviction affirmed

Tess Nelson
The Red Oak Express

The Iowa Court of Appeals upheld the 2019 conviction of Toby McCunn, of Red Oak, for first-degree murder of Josh Jordan of Shenandoah. The conviction was released Wednesday, Feb. 16, roughly five weeks after Mary Conroy, McCunn's attorney, argued for a new trial.

In the Court of Appeals Opinion, "McCunn contends (1) the court did not properly instruct the jury on justification; (2) the court should have moved the trial from Page County; (3) the jury was biased because the court failed to strike a juror for cause; and (4) the court should have excluded prior bad acts evidence."

Presiding Judge Mary Tabor wrote in the opinion, "No question. Toby McCunn killed Josh Jordan. The prosecution painted this picture: McCunn – fixated on retrieving stolen property from Jordan – tracked him over several days, lured him into a friend's home in



McCunn

Shenandoah, and shot him. But McCunn argued that in the final moment it was Jordan who drew his gun first. And McCunn acted in self-defense. The jury rejected that defense, finding McCunn guilty of first-degree murder."

The court found "no basis for reversal in the jury's instructions, the court's decision, not to change the venue, its refusal to strike juror R.Y. for cause, or the admission of prior bad acts

evidence."

McCunn is currently serving a life sentence without parole at the Iowa State Penitentiary in Fort Madison.

The opinion can be read at iowacourts.gov/court



HEALTH FAIR & BLOOD DRAW March 2022

CALL (712)623-6489 FOR YOUR APPOINTMENT TODAY!

Montgomery County Memorial Hospital + Clinics www.mcmh.org

STAY HEALTHY...
...KNOW YOUR NUMBERS!



Greenfield announces funding for MCMH, Villisca

Nick Johansen
The Red Oak Express

Montgomery County Memorial Hospital and the City of Villisca are both sharing in infrastructure funding from the United States Department of Agriculture.

The announcement of the funding was made during a recent visit to Villisca by Theresa Greenfield, the USDA's state director for rural development. Greenfield paid a visit to the Villisca Community Building Feb. 10, and told the assembled community members and leaders that more may be in store.

"This means that you have another friend with the USDA, and we have around 50 programs that we can offer communities, so if they have a vision, or an idea for your community or county, reach out to us, and we will see if we have something that we can lend a hand with," Greenfield said.

The City of Villisca was the recipient of a \$494,100 Community Facilities Disaster Grant to be used for street improvements, including concrete in areas with deteriorating streets, asphalt resurfacing for roadways, and curb ramps to support pedestrians with disabilities.

Montgomery County Memorial Hospital was awarded a \$189,300 Community Facilities Disaster Grant for the purchase of medical equipment for new surgical procedures being offered through the hospital.

Rick Leinen, Montgomery County Memorial Hospital CFO remarked that in his role, he frequently wonders where they will get funding, and it was a relief to be



USDA Rural Development Director Theresa Greenfield speaks at an announcement in Villisca recently. (Nick Johansen/Red Oak Express)

contacted by USDA representatives about this funding opportunity.

"We got the call and they asked what the USDA could do to help us, and I so much appreciated that, and it really started the ball rolling in our USDA request for the new equipment," Leinen explained.

Greenfield stressed the importance of rural hospitals such as MCMH and their support of the local communities.

"When you live in a rural area, you find out how important hospitals are, and we want to make sure they stay open and operating. My own parents live 30 miles from the nearest hospital, and I worry, because if that hospital closes, the nearest then is 60 miles to get the care they need, and I don't know if everyone can travel 60 miles for that care. So we want to make sure they stay modern, and that they stay open," Greenfield commented.

Greenfield said the new funding was part of a \$1 billion investment to build and improve community facilities in 48 states.

"A total of \$47 million came right here to Iowa, and we're here because a pretty significant amount came right here to Villisca, and to other projects in Clarinda, Shenandoah, and Fremont County. This money is largely being delivered as grants. We don't want you to have to pay this back, we want you to make things happen," commented Greenfield.

Montgomery County Supervisor Donna Robinson said she would welcome the assistance of the USDA in finding funding for a bridge project.

"We have a bridge in the western part of the county, on a major thoroughfare, and we were counting on FEMA funds that did not come through. It's a project of over \$2 million, and that's a bit hard to tap into, of the county funds, to one project, so we're hopeful for any advice or direction we can be given," Robinson advised.

Greenfield urged Robinson to get in contact with USDA representatives and said they would do what they could to get Robinson in contact with the right people.

Greenfield closed out the meeting by stressing that USDA wanted to be a partner, and not tell cities and communities what to do.

"We're here to say, if you have a need, to get in touch with us. If we can't help you, or if your project isn't eligible, we'll do everything we can to send you on to someone that can help you, and make that connection," stated Greenfield.

Montgomery, Page County receive Growing Together Mini-Grants

In the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic and increased need, a record number of communities across Iowa are slated to receive Growing Together Mini-Grants through Iowa State University Extension and Outreach's SNAP-Education program.

A total of 36 projects are being funded, with the goal of increasing food security and promoting healthy food access.

Growing Together mini grants have been funded by the United States Department of Agriculture's SNAP-Education since 2016. Iowa was the first state to create this model, which has been replicated in Nebraska, Illinois, Wisconsin, Indiana, Michigan, Wyoming and Montana. Over the past six years, the mini-grants have resulted in food donations of over 532,000 pounds.

Master Gardener volunteers plant donation gardens with partners, support their community with plant-a-row programs to

get more produce into food pantries, and glean fresh produce from farmers markets and home gardeners. All produce is donated to local food pantries, food banks and other food distribution sites.

"We are excited to expand the project to new counties while supporting established community donation gardens throughout Iowa," said Katie Sorrell, extension education specialist with ISU Extension and Outreach. "This project provides fresh fruits and vegetables, often harvested that day, to food pantry clients throughout rural and urban Iowa counties."

The projects took on renewed importance in 2021, with increased food insecurity and economic challenges across Iowa.

"Master Gardeners take great pride in their Growing Together projects," said Alicia Herzog, Master Gardener program coordinator with ISU Extension and

Outreach. "It's encouraging to see growth, both in the garden and in the number of counties participating, because we know how impactful these contributions will be to local communities in need."

This year, the Growing Together Iowa team received a record number of applications, including five new counties that have never received the mini-grant before.

For more information, Katie Sorrell can be reached at ksorrell@iastate.edu

- Montgomery – Increase production at three current garden sites by planting perennial fruits and vegetables and utilizing garden bed shading. The project will also coordinate gleaning from local farmers and farmers market groups for food pantry donation.
- Page – Increase production at Azria Health long-term care facility garden for donation to food pantries in Clarinda and



Shenandoah. Nutrition education taught by a food and health specialist will be offered to food pantry clients. The project will coordinate gleaning efforts from local farmers and farmers markets to increase donations to county food pantries.

Pool employee wages discussed by park and tree board members

Nick Johansen
The Red Oak Express

The Red Oak Park and Tree Board met for its regular meeting Feb. 10.

Among the items under discussion was new seating at the pavilion on the square, specifically new tables, with seats, to replace the existing tables. Park superintendent Adam VanDerVliet showed several options, but had a suggestion for the board.

"My recommendation would be for a six or eight foot rectangular table. If you chose four six foot tables, there's still enough room to walk, and that's a cost of \$4,600, a little more if you want one table to be ADA-compliant. If you chose three eight foot tables, it would total \$4,311," VanDerVliet said.

Park Board President Bill Drey remarked that there was not much of a difference in price, and VanDerVliet said since there was no difference in seating between four six foot tables and three eight foot tables, his preference was the four tables, six feet long.

"Part of the reason for that is that we have an eight foot table at the pool, and it is heavy. They're the same style that we have at the pool, and is a galvanized metal with a rubber coating, so you can't write on them, and the wind isn't going to move them," VanDerVliet commented.

The park board was in agreement with VanDerVliet's suggestion, and approved the pur-



Wages for Red Oak Municipal pool employees was discussed at the Feb. 10 meeting. (Tess Nelson/Red Oak Express)

chase of four six foot tables, with one ADA complaint. The board chose to use green tables at the pavilion.

Also under discussion were setting the wages of seasonal and pool employees. Drey said for the seasonal employees, for 2022, wages were set at \$10.50 for new employees and \$10.75 for returning. Drey proposed an increase.

"We're recommending that a new hire will remain at a starting wage of \$10.50, but if they've been here for two to four years, we'll pay them \$11, and if they've been here five years or more, we'll increase the wage to \$11.50," said Drey.

Park board member Cliff Owen asked what the seasonal employees had said about the wages, and whether they would be enticed to return. VanDerVliet said while wages would likely never be exactly what they wanted, they would approve.

guards were \$8.50 for new hires, and \$9 for returning lifeguards. Drey said they were also looking at an increase in those salaries.

"The assistant pool manager would have a salary of \$9.25, and returning lifeguards would be \$9.50. We won't have a concession stand, but we'll have pool attendants. The salary for new attendants is \$8.50, and returning would be \$9, which is comparable to the salaries of other part-time jobs such as those at Fareway and Hy-Vee," Drey explained.

VanDerVliet also said they are working hard to iron out any staffing issues that were faced when the pool was reopened last year, and the hope for the increase in wages would help not only entice people to return, but bring new employees in.

The park board again approved the hourly rates for the pool employees as presented. Also under discussion, VanDerVliet said, was determining who would provide concessions for the pool during its operation in the summer of 2022.

Next on the agenda was to finalize the salaries for the pool employees for 2022. Drey said last year, the assistant pool manager's salary was \$11.50, life-

MILLIONS OF AMERICANS HAVE HEPATITIS C. MANY DON'T KNOW IT.



Hepatitis C is a serious disease that can lead to liver cancer, but there is a cure. All adults should get tested for hepatitis C. Talk to your doctor – it could save your life.

KNOW MORE HEPATITIS cdc.gov/knowmorehepatitis IDPH IOWA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

WE'RE LOOKING FOR 50 HOMEOWNERS WHO WILL RECEIVE A NEW BATH OR SHOWER!

FREE INSTALLATION ON A NEW BATH OR SHOWER!

18 MONTHS, NO INTEREST, NO PAYMENTS! SENIOR & MILITARY DISCOUNTS!

\$50 AMAZON GIFT CARD WITH IN-HOME ESTIMATE!

MAD CITY BATHS ACCREDITED BUSINESS

CALL TODAY! 877-990-0707 www.madcitybaths.com

We ALL have a role to play in stopping HIV in Iowa.

STOP HIV IOWA

Get tested, know your status, and use the prevention or treatment strategies that make sense for you!

Visit StopHIVIowa.org to learn more!

WE'RE LOOKING FOR 50 HOMEOWNERS WHO WILL RECEIVE A NEW BATH OR SHOWER!

FREE INSTALLATION ON A NEW BATH OR SHOWER!

18 MONTHS, NO INTEREST, NO PAYMENTS! SENIOR & MILITARY DISCOUNTS!

\$50 AMAZON GIFT CARD WITH IN-HOME ESTIMATE!

MAD CITY BATHS ACCREDITED BUSINESS

CALL TODAY! 877-990-0707 www.madcitybaths.com

HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS: REGISTER TO EARN A \$2,000 SCHOLARSHIP

Iowa high school seniors may register for a chance to receive one of 25 scholarships worth \$2,000 each. To be considered, students should:

- Register between Nov. 1, 2021, and March 11, 2022, at www.IowaStudentLoan.org/Know-How
- Follow the emailed instructions to complete two online tutorials and a related assessment before 4 p.m. on March 11.

ISL EDUCATION LENDING Programs from Iowa Student Loan Liquidity Corporation

www.IowaStudentLoan.org/Know-How

A Fantastic shopping event.

IOWA'S LARGEST ARTS & Crafts SHOW

Over 250 Exhibitors

March 4-6 VARIOUS INDUSTRIES BLDG. IOWA STATE FAIRGROUNDS DES MOINES, IOWA Fri. 5-9; Sat. 9-5; Sun. 10-4

ADM. Just \$7.00 (10 & under free) 3-day re-entry stamp

FREE PARKING Free Shuttle Bus Service from North Parking Lot on both Fri. & Sat.

Where You Can Buy That Quality, Handmade Product To Purchase Discounted Advance Admission Tickets and For A Chance To Win \$50 Gift Certificates Visit Our Facebook Page At Callahan Promotions, Inc.

Bring This Ad to Show For \$1 Off Adm.

GERALYN "GERI" KESTER, 59

Geralyn Annette "Geri" Kester, 59, Red Oak, passed away Sunday, Feb. 13, 2022, at the Nebraska Methodist Hospital in Omaha.

Geri was born Sept. 21, 1962, in Shenandoah, the daughter of John and Phyllis (Maca) Hughes. She graduated from Red Oak Community High School in 1981. Over the years, Geri worked at Good Samaritan Society as an aide, Glenwood State School, Rainbow Café as a cook, and most recently Red Oak Greenhouse, where she worked for 10 years.

Geri was raised in the Catholic Church and attended many years at St. Mary's Church in Red Oak. She was a Cub Scout leader and was very active with the Boy Scouts organization for many years. Her hobbies included playing cards, playing dice games, puzzles, fishing, doing crafts, and in her younger years played on a softball league.

Preceding her in death were her parents; daughter, Malyssa Kester; husband, Kenneth Kester; and siblings, Debbie Edwards, Paula Sanders, and Matt Hughes.

Survivors include her sons, Scott Kester and wife Leigh Anne of Red Oak, and Travis Kester and wife Sarah of Red Oak; grandchildren, Xhander Lundquist, Jaileigh Lundquist, and Haydn Kester; siblings, Lee Hughes and wife Debbie; Linda Reed and husband Wayne; Nancy Ehlers and husband Jim; Chris Hughes and wife Cindy; Bruce Hughes and wife Peggy; Monica Steffen and husband Garry; and Bart Hughes; and many other relatives and friends.

A celebration of life service was held Saturday, Feb. 19, 2022, at St. Mary's Catholic Church. Nelson-Boylan-LeRette Funeral Chapel is in charge of arrangements.



PAM BOLAND, 72

Pam Boland, 72, Red Oak, passed away Saturday, Feb. 19, 2022, at the Good Samaritan Society. Funeral services are pending at Nelson-Boylan-LeRette Funeral Chapel.

NORMA JEAN MULLENIX, 82

Norma Jean Mullenix, 82, Red Oak, passed away Sunday, Feb. 20, 2022, at her home. Funeral services are pending at Nelson-Boylan-LeRette Funeral Chapel.



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.

REAL ESTATE

WARRANTY DEED

• Donald Younts and Rita Hayward to Michael Swinford and Emily Mauch-Swinford, 30-73-38 Parcels A-B.

• Steven Wood, Co-Trustee, Michael Wood, Co-Trustee, Joseph Wood, Co-Trustee, James Wood, Co-Trustee, and William J. Wood Revocable Trust to Michael L. and GERALYN A. Wood, 16-72-39 Parcel A.

• Theodore and Brenda Black

to Miley and Lucas Budrow, Red Oak Original Plat Blk 31 Lts 11-12.

TRUSTEE'S DEED

• Steven Wood, Co-Trustee, Michael Wood, Co-Trustee, Joseph Wood, Co-Trustee, James Wood, Co-Trustee, and Mary L. Wood Revocable Trust to Michael L. and GERALYN A. Wood, 16-72-39 Parcel A.

COURT OFFICER'S DEED

• Lillian P. Freuck Estate and Jayson Brown, Administrator to Jayson B. Brown, Red Oak Clements Addition Lt 22.

MORTGAGE

• Michael Swinford and Emily Mauch-Swinford to Ark La Tex Financial Services, LLC, Benchmark Mortgage, Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., and MERS, 30-73-38 Parcels A-B.

• Dylan and Kathryn Dolch to United States Department of Agriculture, and Farm Service Agency, 1-73-38 SLT 1 Lt 1, Elliott Braden's Addition Parcels A-B.

• Joan and Sammy Curtis to U.S. Bank National Association, Red Oak Willard's Addition Lt

13. • Lucas and Miley Budrow to Shelby County State Bank, Red Oak Original Plat Blk 31 Lts 11-12.

• Justin and Tonya Wedel to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., MERS, and Iowa Bankers Mortgage Corporation, 12-72-38 Parcel B.

SMALL CLAIMS

• Credit Acceptance Corporation vs. Haylie Johnson and Jesse Nelson, Red Oak, dismissed without prejudice.

• Credit Management Services, Inc. vs. Brett Light, Red Oak, judgment default in favor of the plaintiff, \$2,631.06 with 2.46% interest from Feb. 15, plus costs.

• LVNV Funding, LLC vs. Patti Wiggins, Villisca, judgment default in favor of the plaintiff, \$4,133.20 with 2.46% interest from Feb. 15, plus costs.

• April and Emerson Hill vs. Ethan Schmitt, Grant, judgment default in favor of the plaintiff, costs.

• Oak Valley Animal Health vs. Megan Needs, Red Oak, judgment default in favor of the plaintiff, \$325.08 with 2.46% interest from Feb. 9, plus costs.

ARRESTS

• Filed Feb. 15, Charles Learned, 54, Fort Dodge, driving while barred, warrant for failure to register as a sex offender.

• Filed Feb. 16, Eric Vannausdile, 31, Red Oak, failure to appear on a charge of domestic abuse assault, \$1,000 bond.

CRIMINAL

• Aggravated, State of Iowa vs. Amanda Williams, 29, Red Oak, harassment - first degree.

• Aggravated, State of Iowa vs. Charles Learned, 54, Fort Dodge, driving while barred.

• Felony, State of Iowa vs. Bill Gillespie, 39, Red Oak, operate vehicle without owner's consent, pled guilty, 42 days jail, time served, \$855 fine, suspended, DNA requirement.

• Felony, State of Iowa vs. Colby Rasmussen, 23, Elliott, controlled substance violation, two counts, failure to affix drug tax stamp, unlawful possession of prescription drugs.

• Simple Misdemeanor, State of Iowa vs. Megan Needs, Red Oak, judgment default in favor of the plaintiff, \$325.08 with 2.46% interest from Feb. 9, plus costs.

• Serious misdemeanor, State of Iowa vs. Christina Dalrymple,

42, Red Oak, criminal mischief fourth degree, \$430 fine, suspended, time served.

• Serious misdemeanor, State of Iowa vs. Erik Jacobs, Council Bluffs, possession of a controlled substance - marijuana, first offense, \$100 fine, time served, driving while license denied or revoked, \$430 fine, time served.

• Serious misdemeanor, State of Iowa vs. Jeffrey Whitt, 26, Villisca, gathering where marijuana is used.

OWI

• State of Iowa vs. Tempest Jackson, 36, Council Bluffs, first offense.

TRAFFIC

• Randall Tripp, Schaller, speeding.

• Rlena Crouse, Red Oak, no valid driver's license.

• Clinton Gann, La Vista, Neb., speeding.

• Mason Franzen, Red Oak, registration violation, no valid driver's license.

• Sean Marcelino, Elkhorn, Neb., speeding.

• Aaron Tucker, Urbandale, operation without registration card or plate.

• Kooper Stohlmann, Red Oak, no valid driver's license.

• Mark Smith, Craig, Neb., failure to maintain or use safety belts.

• Chad Phillips, Omaha, Neb., speeding.

• April Nehls, West Des Moines, speeding.

• Derek Gaston, Red Oak, speeding.

• Jason Nail, Blockton, speeding.

• Jeremy Adams, Red Oak, operation without registration card or plate.

• Sara Johnson, Red Oak, speeding.

• Adam Fogarty, Omaha, Neb., improper rear lamps.

• Tammy Zimmerline, Adair, speeding.

• Jonathan Vasquez, Creston, speeding.

• Adam Ienn, Elliott, speeding.

• Mitchell Johnson, Red Oak, operating non-registered vehicle.

• Patricia Nelson, Red Oak, driving while license denied, suspended, cancelled, or revoked.

• Justin Swisher, Red Oak, driving while license denied, suspended, cancelled, or revoked.

Sexual abuse charges for former RO paraeducator



Staff report

A former Red Oak school district employee faces felony charges.

Angela Marie Kruse, 33, of Red Oak was arrested late Monday afternoon for 3rd degree sexual abuse - a class C felony. On Feb. 15, officers took a report from the Department of Human Services of a female employee of the Red Oak School who had sexual relations with a juvenile.

After the investigation was complete on Feb. 21, Kruse, a former paraeducator in the district, was arrested. She was released from the Montgomery County Jail after posting \$10,000 bond.

Yard and Garden: Tips for selecting successful houseplants

From ISU Extension

Iowa winters can certainly be dreary. As temperatures dip below zero, gardeners often find themselves longing for a break from the cold, brown outdoors. A simple solution to this issue is to incorporate a houseplant into your home. Luckily, becoming a successful plant parent can be very attainable so long as you listen to your plant's needs and follow some general tips for success.

According to Aaron Steil, consumer horticulture specialist with Iowa State University Extension and Outreach, the first thing to consider when selecting a houseplant is the light available in your home. Luckily, many common houseplants available in Iowa have been popularized specifically because of their lower light needs. A good rule of thumb is that most houseplants will thrive in bright, indirect light. The best way to provide this is to place a plant next to a window, but not in a direct ray of sun.

Certain plants, including snake plants, ZZ plants and cast-iron plants, require almost no direct sunlight. On the opposite end of the spectrum, many succulents and cacti require a lot of sunlight and will thrive in direct rays of light. Falling somewhere in the middle, plants like philodendron,

pothos and pilea appreciate the bright indirect light discussed previously.

One thing to be mindful of when determining the best spot for your new plant is that catch-all rules about the light available from windows facing a particular direction may not apply in your case. "A south-facing window is often considered to have bright light, but the amount of light coming through a window can be impacted by several factors. Obstructions like trees or other buildings, coatings on the window or even the width of the overhang on your roof can all change the amount of light coming through a window," explained Steil.

Overwatering is another common issue many new plant owners face "One of the most common problems many indoor gardeners face is overwatering. It's so easy to do accidentally and when it happens the symptoms look much like underwatering," said Steil. Overwatering is indeed a common issue, but if you are aware of your plant's needs, it can be conquered. A mistake that many new plant parents tend to make is to water their plants on a schedule, or according to a chart or app.

This is not recommended, since a plant's watering needs can be influenced by a wide variety of factors that apps may not be considering,



such as plant size, soil type, container type and even the time of year. The most foolproof method is to check plants on a set schedule, and only water when the top inch or so of soil is dry to the touch. If you notice your houseplant wilting, do not immediately assume that this is due to a lack of water, as wilting can be a sign of dry conditions or over-wet conditions. Rather, check your plant for signs of root rot or overwatering first.

Finally, don't be afraid to ask questions. There is a wide variety of extension resources available to houseplant enthusiasts, including ISU Extension and Outreach Horticulture and Home Pest News.

Guides for houseplant success can

also be found at the Extension and Outreach at the following URLs:

• Indoor Plants, by Cynthia Haynes - <https://store.extension.iastate.edu/product/12054>

• Lighting & Houseplants -- Reiman Gardens - <https://store.extension.iastate.edu/product/5732>

• Home Propagation Techniques - <https://store.extension.iastate.edu/product/3051>

Becoming a successful plant parent is attainable, so long as you observe your plant's needs and keep your home environment in mind when selecting a plant. Do your research, but don't be afraid to try something new.

Water Rocks! to host Earth Day Poetry Slam

From ISU Extension

Applications to compete in the Earth Day Poetry Slam are open through March 4, according to Water Rocks! Water Rocks! is Iowa State University Extension and Outreach's conservation and water quality youth education program.

Applicants will submit a short performance video of an original poem. A panel of expert judges will select up to 10 finalists to take the stage of Alluvial Brewing Company in Ames on April 22, Earth Day, to vie for a top prize of \$400. The slam is one part of the celebration of Water Rocks! 10th anniversary.

"There are a lot of talented, spoken word artists and poets in the Midwest, and we've learned that

many of these creative individuals are intensely interested in clean water, nature and climate change," said Jacqueline Comito, Water Rocks! executive director at Iowa State. "In recognition of Earth Day and our shared home, we are looking forward to seeing and hearing some unique poems on these topics, and celebrating the good work being done — and the challenges we face — to ensure we are doing our utmost to preserve and protect the environment."

In addition to three rounds of elimination-style competitive poetry performances culminating in the crowning of the contest winner, the event will feature a Conservation Station trailer from Water Rocks! and Iowa Learning Farms, food trucks, drinks, music and fun.

Contest entry and rules

• Entrants must be 18 years of age or older.

• All poems must be original.

• Poems may not include sexist, racist, homophobic or transphobic comments.

• If selected as a finalist, the poet commits to attending the Earth Day Poetry Slam in person Friday, April 22.

• Entrants will upload a one-minute video recording of an original poem on the theme "My relationship to a body of water."

• Entries must be submitted before 5 p.m. CST Friday March 4.

• Selected finalists will be notified by March 11.

"We encourage all poets with a passion for the

Earth, whether they are seasoned professionals or just finding their voice, to submit their original work for this contest," continued Comito. "We are also eager to see entries from a diversity of artists that can bring unique perspectives and life experiences to the creation of Earth-centered art."

Learn more about the Earth Day Poetry Slam evaluation criteria and entry process online at <https://www.waterrocks.org/poetry>.

Water Rocks! is Iowa's unique, award-winning statewide youth water education program. Through a combination of STEM and the arts, especially music, Water Rocks! educates, challenges and inspires young people toward a greater appreciation of the state's water, soil and other natural resources.

Stronger the Press, Stronger the People

THE TIME CAPSULE | ROY MARSHALL

A venison feast and a new brand

Say the Highland Park area of Des Moines and I think of Helen and Pat's cavatelli. South Omaha brings to mind Johnny's at the stockyards and prime steaks when the offering included T-bones from old-style Hereford and Angus; cattle built like butcher blocks except wider and not quite as tall.

Nodaway had the Town Pump and fried chicken, Atlantic was Coney Islands and root beer brought to dad's car by saucy teen-agers on roller skates. Red Oak had breakfast at The Rainbow and Elliott was known for Max Marsh's Burgundy braised venison. The Rainbow and Elliott's once-a-year specialty were the last of those remaining, and the Elliott Fire Department has, at least temporarily, hung up their apron and turned out the lights on Marsh's venison.

The 66th annual banquet was in 2020. COVID was primarily responsible for ending the run and canceling the 2021 event. Fire Chief Brandon Adams said this was a factor in deciding not to resume in 2022, but there are other problems as well. Adams said many younger volunteers have not shown a commitment to continue. In recent years a dwindling handful have helped with the preparation, cooking, setup, serving and cleanup required for the fire department to host a fundraiser that dates to long before their time.

During the 1970s and early '80s, Marsh was serving over 200 pounds of venison per banquet. I was told by the late Steve Howell, longtime firefighter and former chief, that Max perfected



his recipe while preparing more than 3 tons of venison over a 30-year period. Adams uses the recipe exactly as Marsh handed it down, including a generous amount of a specific type of Burgundy, but there are a growing number of people who refuse to eat wild game. (I have young relatives, in fact, who do not trust any food that didn't come from a grocery store, restaurant or school lunch program.)

Council Bluffs Fire Chief Norm Elgan was among those who declared Marsh's venison to be of a quality matched only by the finest restaurants. I knew Elgan, and he knew his way around fine restaurants. People today, though, are reluctant. Adams said it was necessary a few years ago to offer roast pork as an alternative, and perhaps even that hasn't saved the event.

Roots of the game feed go back a century or more. In a previous column we told of the Elliott Hunt Club and their annual parties of the 1920s and '30s, and there's no need to repeat. The Elliott tradition, though, covers a century and tracing that history through the Great Depression and World War II, understanding the evolution of a hard-drinking stag into a family-oriented fund-raiser

that drew diners from miles away because of a superb dish developed by Max Marsh (1918-1984) and maintained by firefighters who followed is an interesting study. Some will miss it. Adams said a resumption is possible, but there are problems to be resolved and a two-year absence is only one of them.

On an unrelated matter, last week's front page tells us Red Oak's City Council planned to vote February 21 on "rebranding" the city. The issue, specifically, is the "Shade Better" logo. According to a quoted Council member, some who responded to a survey felt this was "prideful" or "boastful."

I'm just a bystander, and by the time this is printed the issue has been decided anyway, but I'm struck by the fact that "prideful" is viewed as a negative. If "boastful" is egregious, then are we offended by all those signs in all those towns boasting of a state basketball championship? And what of Lake Wobegone claiming their women are all strong and their men all good-looking?

Wife tossed the paper aside and said "About Average" would be a safe slogan, although she prefers "Another Town Without a Wal-Mart."

Actually, I never cared much for "Shade Better," but the reason was not that it struck me as either prideful or boastful. I wasn't enthused because I suspected a label was an exercise in wordsmithing that made little difference, but should at least present a complete thought. A "Shade Better" than what?

Letters to the Editor

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

But before we topple statues and rename buildings we should put ourselves in the shoes of those who built them, and "Shade Better" deserves the same. We find some insight on our editorial page of February 21, 1980; which coincidentally was 32 years to the day before the Council vote on "rebranding."

On that day things were eerily similar to today. Our lead editorial had to do with bad moves being made by the administration of President Jimmy Carter, both domestically and in foreign affairs. Five area residents "Expressed" themselves by describing the toll inflation was taking, registering complaints about skyrocketing grocery prices, the rising cost of fuel, building materials and most everything else. (They didn't know it, but inflation was going to get worse and hurt for a long time.)

The page also included an editorial from Chamber President Ed Weeks. He described the contest that resulted in the choice of slogan, saying the intent was to inspire residents to make Red Oak a "Shade Better" than it already was. While I would suggest that a bit of pride and boasting about one's town is hardly a bad thing, this seems to do neither.

Regardless, I'm writing this before the Council votes. They've considered this matter carefully and no doubt the right decision was made.

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

GRASSLEY Q/A | U.S. SEN. CHARLES GRASSLEY

Crack pipes

Q: How should America address its opioid crisis?

A: The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) reports America is experiencing an "unprecedented overdose epidemic." Overdose deaths are claiming an average 275 lives every day. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), deaths by overdose killed more than 100,000 Americans over a 12-month period, nearly a 30 percent increase from the previous year. So how has this taken a turn for the worse?

The Biden administration's open border policies are emboldening drug cartels. These criminal organizations know they can smuggle in deadly and illicit drugs with little to no consequences. Last year I visited the Rio Grande Valley where U.S. Border Patrol agents described the surge in drug trafficking. The U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) released statistics reflecting record numbers of fentanyl and other illicit narcotics seized in 2021, more than double what was seized in 2020. More drugs than ever are coming in through our porous borders and overdose deaths continue to spike.

Plus, a new threat to public health is emerging. Cartels are now making counterfeit pills containing fentanyl. These pills are manufactured in Mexico using precursor chemicals produced in China, and are often sold on social media and e-commerce platforms. Fentanyl overdose is the number one cause of death for Americans age 18-45. This is a tragic wake-up call. Americans in the prime of their lives are leaving their families, communities and workplaces behind. Pulling the plug on the Biden administration's open border policies would be a step in the right direction. In a similar vein, we must curb the supply of fentanyl by permanently scheduling all versions of this deadly drug. I led the bipartisan effort to provide a lengthy extension of this scheduling authority and I've long supported making permanent the Schedule I classification of fentanyl-related substances under the federal Controlled Substances Act.

This would put them under the umbrella of illicit drugs with high potential for abuse and no reasonable medical purpose. This would send a no nonsense signal to sellers to stop peddling this poison. Allowing fentanyl-related substances to fall off the scheduling system would effectively legalize them for sale on America's streets and online. Getting this policy across the finish line this year is the least Congress can do to save more moms



and dads in America from burying a child who died by overdose on drugs like fentanyl.

Q: What's up with the Biden administration's alleged proposal to hand out crack pipes?

A: This half-baked plan met with swift backlash on Capitol Hill when Congress got wind of it. Under

the umbrella of the Department of Health and Human Services, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) is managing a \$30 million harm reduction grant program designed to minimize risks associated with drug use, including overdoses and disease transmission. In its notice of funding opportunity, the agency listed "smoking kits" and supplies, which could include crack pipes and similar paraphernalia. The White House denies crack pipes would be paid for with taxpayer dollars. And yet, groups like the Drug Policy Alliance let the cat out of the bag, saying it would be "pointless" to distribute kits without glass pipes because the kits would not help prevent disease transmission. In all my years representing Iowans, I never thought I would need to co-sponsor a bill to prohibit tax dollars from paying for crack pipes. This week I also blasted the Department of Justice for its reported plan to deploy "safe injection sites" in local communities. There's nothing "safe" about illicit fentanyl, meth or heroin. Having the federal government set up injection sites would send the wrong signal about drug use. Consider how injection sites are linked to increased crime and environmental hazards with discarded needles in America's neighborhoods where they are open. The idea that our nation's top law enforcement agency would manage "public facilities for drug users to consume illicit drugs like fentanyl, methamphetamine and heroin" exposes how out of touch the Biden administration is with the law, not to mention the court of public opinion.

Charles Grassley has served as one of Iowa's U.S. Senators since 1981. Contact Sen. Chuck Grassley at grassley.senate.gov/contact.

COSTELLO'S CORNER | IOWA SEN. MARK COSTELLO

Recent weekly events in the Iowa Senate

Week six is the first legislative deadline of the session. Policy bills need to be out of committees in order to be considered the rest of the legislative session. This week, Senate bills need to be out of committees in order for them to be debated by the full Senate and considered in the House of Representatives, with the exception of bills in the Appropriations, Ways and Means, and Government Oversight committees. This self-imposed deadline narrows the focus to the most important legislation of the year.

The governor's workforce bill, Senate File 2275, passed through the Commerce Committee this week. The goal of the bill is to help address the workforce shortage impacting nearly every part of the Iowa economy. Some highlighted provisions include implementing a one-week waiting period for benefits and moving the duration from 6 months to 4 months. Long-term government payments replacing work has negative implications not only for the economy in general, but for individuals and their families. This bill will help combat fraud and provide an incentive to get back to work.

Senate Study Bill 3146 is a bill aimed at fairness in school sports and requires only female students, based on their sex, may participate in any team, sport, or athletic event designated as being for females, women or girls. This bill is not attacking anyone or their identity. It simply observes the biological differences between males and females and ensures all athletes have an equal opportunity to accomplish their athletic goals.

One of the first things the Iowa Senate does each session is decide on the amount of additional funds for K-12 education in Iowa. We do this early on in the session so schools can set their budgets for the next year. What is also important is ensuring we designate a sustainable, responsible amount we know we can deliver. The dollars allocated in this bill, House File 2316, are additional funds to the billions we already spend in K-12 education every year. All education funding in Iowa takes over half of the state budget at \$3.5 billion. House File 2316 dedicates nearly \$160 million in additional spending for K-12 schools for the next fiscal year.

This bill also provides additional funds to continue our goal of leveling the playing field for students across the state. School districts in Iowa spend varying levels on each student in

Iowa depending on the district and transportation costs. The additional funds designated in this bill continue addressing these costs to make sure the money we allocated for K-12 funding can be spent in the classroom.

Since Republicans have been in control, K-12 schools in Iowa have received an additional \$400 million. With the passage of this legislation, Iowa will be spending \$7,413 per student, not even including the local and federal dollars that are also allocated to K-12 education. Senate Republicans have a long record of responsible budgeting and delivering on the promises we have made. This bill continues that promise.

Senate Republicans released budget targets for the fiscal year starting July 1, 2022. These targets outline the plan for the Senate to spend taxpayer money on all the functions of state government, but three areas dominate those expenditures: public safety, education, and health care.

Education receives the majority of the increase in funding this year and a majority of the state budget. K-12 education will receive nearly \$160 million more in funding, ensuring reliable, sustainable increases for public schools. This budget outline also includes \$71 million for mental health funding and the complete elimination of the property tax levy for mental health.

The total budget plan for next year is slightly more than \$8.2 billion. This amount funds reasonable increases to state government, and plans for sustainable funding increases in future years. It keeps billions in reserves and only spends 90 percent of available revenue.

The Senate tax cut plan implements a flat 3.6 percent tax rate and will save Iowa taxpayers an average of nearly \$1,600 when fully implemented. It eliminates taxes on pensions, reforms the corporate tax rate to make it flatter and fairer, and provides retirement relief for Iowa farmers.

These tax cuts improve Iowa's income tax rate from the eighth highest rate to the fourth lowest. It puts the state on the path to eliminate the income tax and eases the burden of government on hard-working Iowans. A lower tax rate will make Iowa more competitive in the global economy as states compete for jobs and people.

Mark Costello has served as Iowa's District 12 State Senator since 2014. Contact Sen. Mark Costello at tmark.costello@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

Office: 2012 Commerce Dr., 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday-Friday.
Mail: Box 377, Red Oak, IA 51566.
Phone: 712-623-2566. Fax: 712-623-2568.
Website: redoakexpress.com.
Advertising Email: advertising@redoakexpress.com.
Classified Ads Email: circulation@redoakexpress.com.
Subscription Email: circulation@redoakexpress.com.
News Email: news@redoakexpress.com.
Sports Email: sports@redoakexpress.com.

SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION

The rates are \$44.99 per year for those in Montgomery County, \$59.99 for out-of-county and in Iowa addresses, and \$72.99 for out-of-Iowa residents. Digital-only subscriptions are \$44.99. Other rates and terms apply. Print subscribers receive online access at no extra charge.

THE RED OAK
Express

Dedicated to Freedom Since 1868

ISSN 0747-3281

Phone 712-623-2566 • Fax 712-623-2568

Email: news@redoakexpress.com

2012 Commerce Dr., Box 377, Red Oak, IA 51566

Official Newspaper for City of Red Oak, Montgomery County, and Red Oak Community School District - Published Weekly.

Postmaster: ISSN 0747-3281. Periodicals class postage is paid at Red Oak, IA, 51566, and additional mailing offices.
Address changes: The Red Oak Express, Box 377, Red Oak, IA 51566.

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.



How to get The Express: SUBSCRIBE by calling 712-623-2566 / BUY SINGLE COPIES at locations listed below

BUY A SINGLE COPY

Single copies are \$1.00 each and available at (in Red Oak unless specified): Red Oak Express; Casey's (Red Oak, Stanton,

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.

Community Calendar

24 February

Noon: SCORE webinar, "E-Commerce Technology - Level Up or Level Off?" Go to [omaha.score.org/content/take-workshop-242](https://www.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.
7 p.m. Red Oak Rural Fire Protection Association annual meeting, White Fair Building, 1809 N. 4th St.

25 February

10:15 a.m., Storytime, Red Oak Public Library, "Picnic," 400 N. 2nd St.
5:30 p.m., Alcoholics Anonymous, Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 1101 Summit St.
6 p.m., Trivia Night, Five One 8, LLC, eight teams with four players per team, 518 N. 4th St.
7 p.m., "Spider-Man: No Way Home," theatre #1; "The Croods: A New Age," theatre #2; Red Oak Grand Theatre.
7 p.m., Music Boosters fundraiser, Red Oak Jr./Sr. High School Auditorium

26 February

7 p.m., Music Boosters fundraiser, Red Oak Jr./Sr. High School Auditorium.
7 p.m., "Spider-Man: No Way Home," theatre #1; "The Croods: A New Age," theatre #2; Red Oak Grand Theatre.

27 February

10 a.m. to 1 p.m., The Pancake Man breakfast at the Elliott Community Building, 403 Main St., Elliott.
2 p.m., Music Boosters fundraiser, Red Oak Jr./Sr. High School Auditorium
2 and 7 p.m., "Spider-Man: No Way Home," theatre #1; "The Croods: A New Age," theatre #2; Red Oak Grand Theatre.
5:30 p.m., Alcoholics Anonymous, Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 1101 Summit St.

28 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 School Board meeting, Red Oak High School, or via Zoom.
7 p.m., Alcoholics Anonymous, Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 1101 Summit St.

1 March

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

2 March

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.



Graduates from the 2019 Leadership Red Oak class pose with their certificates at a special ceremony honoring the event. (Photo provided)

Registration underway for 2022 course of Leadership Red Oak

The Red Oak Chamber and Industry Association has announced it is seeking registrants for its upcoming 2022 Leadership Red Oak course. Leadership Red Oak is a 10-week program that immerses community members in a hands-on experience of Red Oak industries, businesses, municipal departments, history, and programs. It is the only program in the community that gives participants the opportunity to tour assembly floors at Red Oak's many manufacturers, and to learn about the businesses in the community they may have wondered about. The course is geared for newcomers to Red Oak or employees in leadership roles. They are encouraged to participate to better understand all aspects of the community. Classes are scheduled from 8 a.m. to noon every Thursday from March 3 to May 12. Cost is \$50 for association members or their employees, and \$75 for non members. Contact the ROCIA office at 623-4821 for registration information, or register online at redoak-owa.com.

Sidney Iowa Rodeo to hold auditions for National Anthem singers

The Sidney Rodeo is looking for singers. National Anthem Auditions for the rodeo will be held at The Gathering Place 609 Cass St., Sidney, beginning at 10 am April 30. Entrants may audition by singing either acappella or with an acoustic guitar. Any age from any town may audition. The window for singers to schedule an audition closes on April 27. Interested parties can schedule an audition by calling Jann Tackett at 402-660-3291 or Susan Hilton at 402-690-0744. They are looking forward to hearing the singers.



Pancake Man in Elliott on Feb 27

The Pancake Man, sponsored by the Elliott Community Club, will provide a pancake breakfast from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Elliott Community Building, 403 Main St. Cost for adults is \$7, children 10 and under are \$5, and children three and under eat free. It is an all you can eat buffet.

Card Shower

MCHENRY 100th BIRTHDAY

Esther McHenry will celebrate her 100th birthday on Saturday, March 5. In honor of the occasion, a card shower has been requested by her friends. Send cards to her at 800 E. Ratliff Rd., Apt. 120, Red Oak, IA, 51566.



Happy Birthday!

Celebrating birthdays this week are:

- Marsha Bartles – Feb. 24
- Randy Goddard – Feb. 24
- Kate Ebert – Feb. 25
- Carla Mueller – Feb. 26
- Joyce Isaacson – Feb. 26
- Dorothy Betsinger – Feb. 27
- Darlene Williams – Feb. 27
- Liz Berendzen – Feb. 28
- Matt Moore – March 1
- Kent Swanson – March 2

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:

Dennis and Susan Carlson – Feb. 29

Congratulations and happy anniversary to you!

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

Please join the family of Joyce Carlson in celebrating her 95th Birthday on Saturday, February. 26th with a Card Shower



Cards may be sent to Joyce at Glen Haven Village 252 Indian Hills Dr., Apt. #138 Glenwood, IA 51534

Senior Menu

- Thursday, Feb. 24: Baked Chicken breast, tomato basil sauce, baked potato, mixed vegetables, wheat bread, cinnamon sugar cookie, milk/coffee.
- Friday, Feb. 25: Turkey breast with turkey gravy, whipped sweet potatoes, green beans, wheat roll, mandarin oranges, milk/coffee.
- Monday, Feb. 28: BBQ pulled pork, hamburger bun, au gratin potatoes, baked beans, fresh fruit, milk/coffee.
- Tuesday, March 1: Beef goulash, egg noodles, savory glazed carrots, seasoned green beans, garlic bread stick, brownie, milk/coffee.
- Wednesday, March 2: Beef meatballs with mushroom gravy, whipped potatoes, corn, wheat dinner roll, pineapple tidbits, 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 Kutzli, Sunday School and Confirmation, 9:15 a.m., Worship, 10:30 a.m. Online: 9:30 a.m. FMTC Cable Channel 1, also live on Facebook.

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

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

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

Non-Denominational

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

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

Presbyterian

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

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

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

Reformed Evangelical

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

United Methodist

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

Wesley Chapel UMC, Rev. Carl Phillips, Worship, 8:45 a.m., Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.

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

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

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

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

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

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

United Church Of Christ

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

Sponsored by:

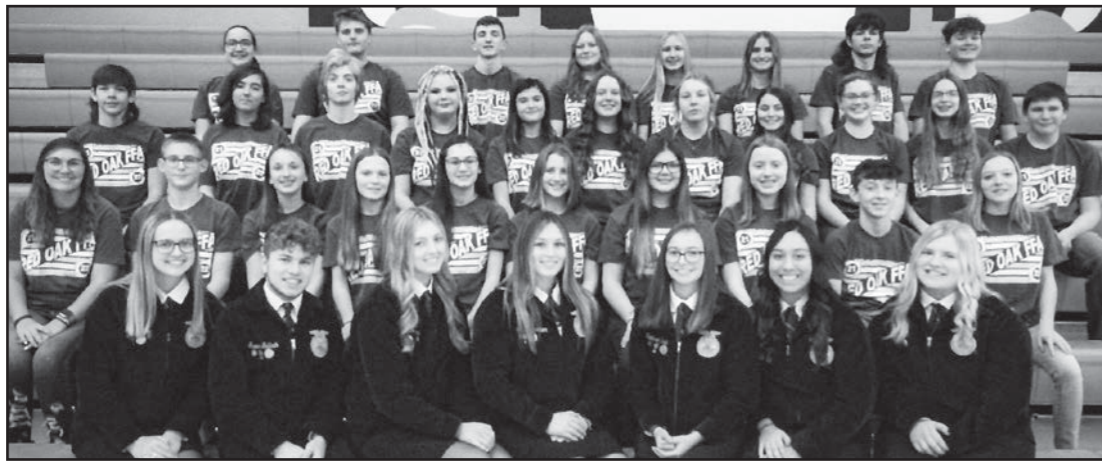
Belt Auto Center & Trailer Sales 623-2538

Nelson-Boylan-LeRette Funeral Chapel - 623-2525

Houghton State Bank 623-4823

Sellergren•Lindell•DeMarce Funeral Home - 623-2796

FFA students and area districts celebrating FFA week through Feb. 26



Red Oak

Among the area districts celebrating FFA Week is the Red Oak Community School District. Pictured are, front row, from left: chapter president Delaina Olson, chapter vice president Gannon Sallach, chapter secretary Lainey DeVries, chapter treasurer Jordan Carlson, chapter reporter Madison Doyle, chapter reporter Estefany Medina, and chapter sentinel Cloie Bruce. Second row, from left: Shelby Heitman, Dillan Rydberg, Grace Goldapp, Audrina Johnson, Natalie Johnson, Gillian Heim, Catlin Bruce, Josie Goldapp, Ty Jenkins, and Ali Hogberg. Third row, from left: Conor Britten, Cadence Turnbull, Raeyvn Lucas, Spirit Leman, Lena Torbett, Adia Lydon, Kennedy DeVries, Brinkly Sallach, Ella Johnson, Lauren Dean, and Weston Gettler. Back row, from left: Zoie Rohig, Joseph Danials, Tyler Beeson, Abigail Johnson, Hailey Rydberg, Bella Glassel, Kyle Berkey, and Landon Gigstad. (Photo submitted)



Southwest Valley

SWV FFA chapter students, pictured above, front row, from left: Advisor Steve Sonntag, Joey Oathoudt, Ethan James, Colin Jacobs, Cade Myers, Maggie Haer, Norah Lund, Sarah Shipley, Kayla Mitchell, Lexi Weston, Danna Shires, and Advisor Blake Anderson. Second row, from left: Briar Fisher, Jake Oathoudt, Ian Forsythe, Ryanne Mullen, Delaney Yates, Lindsay Maurer, Karsyn Poston, Bryllee Means, Kailee DeWall, Jazmine Weston, and Kaleb Dodge. Third row, from left: Paul Douglas, Emma Cooper, Morgan Shuler, Shay Wolf, Charlee Larsen, Paighton Buffington, Rebecca Inman, Abbi Petersen, Lauren Inman, Even Timmerman, Ally Birt, Maddie McCoy, and Logan Westlake. Back row, from left: Dustin Shuler, Vicente Butcher, Dylan Stormer, Tyler True, Cord Nippert, Averyle Butcher, Delaney True, Natalie True, Reagan Sonntag, and Tegan Hoyt. Not pictured: Ivy Lenz, Hayden Johnston, and Cody Fast. Officers, pictured below, from left: Steve Sonntag, advisor, president Ally Birt, secretary Norah Lund, vice president Kayla Mitchell, and Blake Anderson, advisor. Back row, from left: treasurer Ethan James, reporter Maggie Haer, sentinel Sarah Shipley, and student council representative Kailee DeWall. (Photos submitted)



Stanton

Stanton's FFA includes, front row, from left: advisor Andrea Spencer, president Ashley Henneman vice president Allie Sandin, sentinel Carston Johnson, reporter John Peterson, treasurer Slade Graham, secretary Leah Sandin, and secretary Dacey Henneman. Middle row, from left: Zoey Allen, Andrew Johnson, Ella Peterson, Caden Sallach, Adam Benson, Marissa Strough, and MacKensie Zeibig. Back row, from left: Logan McQueen, Hunter Bishop, Clark Spencer, April Vanderholm, Kyle Pastore, Alice Duckett and James McDonald. Members not pictured: Jayden Schwery, and Stephanie Bair. (Photo courtesy of Julie Strickland, Strickland Photography)



School Lunch Menus

East Mills
Thursday, Feb. 24: Chicken and cheese taquito or pepperoni pizza, carrot slices, romaine lettuce and dressing, sliced pears, garlic knot.
Friday, Feb. 25: Maidrite sandwich or pepperoni pizza, french fries, celery, fruit, chocolate cake.
Monday, Feb. 28: Country fried steak or pepperoni pizza, mashed potatoes, applesauce, dinner roll.
Tuesday, March 1: Hamburger on a bun, potato smiles, mixed vegetables, mixed fruit.
Wednesday, March 2: Mini Eggo waffles, hash brown patty, apple slices, sausage patty, string cheese.

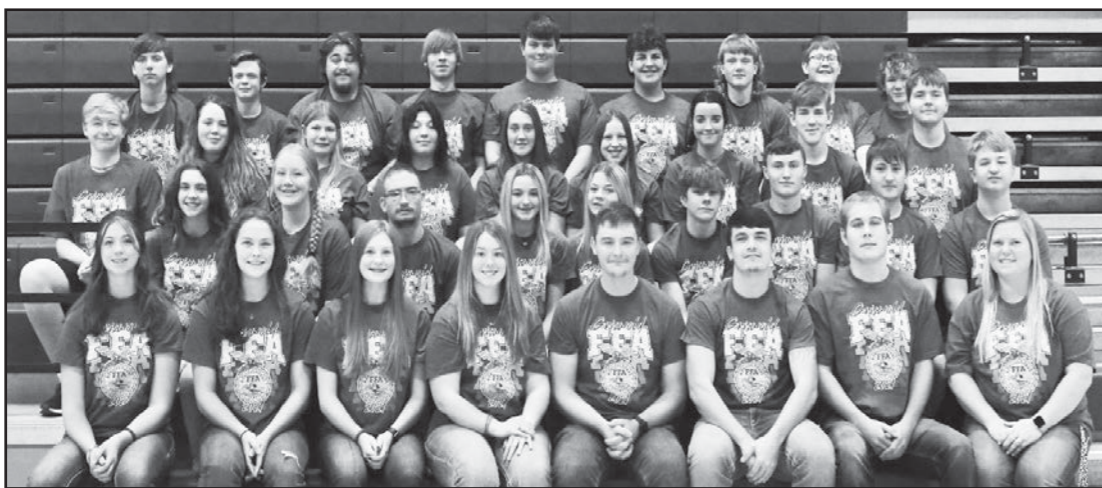
Essex
Thursday, Feb. 24: Taco soup, tortilla chips, tomato salsa, refried beans, pears.
Friday, Feb. 25: Turkey and cheese sandwich, corn chips, mixed vegetables, mandarin oranges.
Monday, Feb. 28: Hot dog on a bun, roasted red potatoes, broccoli florets, sliced peaches.
Tuesday, March 1: Not available.
Wednesday, March 2: Not available.

Griswold
Thursday, Feb. 24: Deli sub sandwich, potato chips, carrot sticks and ranch dip, apple slices, cookie.
Friday, Feb. 25: No school.
Monday, Feb. 28: Popcorn chicken, mashed potatoes and gravy, corn, biscuit, applesauce.
Tuesday, March 1: Pizza slices, bread stick, garden spinach salad, celery sticks and peanut butter, apple slices.
Wednesday, March 2: Hamburger on a bun, cheese slice, chips, baked beans, fruit cup.

Red Oak Elementary/ Preschool Center
Thursday, Feb. 24: Chili, cinnamon roll; or taco salad, corn bread; or french dip sandwich; or club stacker; french fries, fresh garden salad with dressing, fresh fruit, pineapple/orange mix, potato salad.
Friday, Feb. 25: Philly cheesesteak pizza; or BLTE salad, pineapple muffin; or cheeseburger on a bun; or seven layer dip; fresh garden salad with dressing, fresh fruit, strawberry/banana mix.
Monday, Feb. 28: Roasted chicken sandwich on a bun; or Italian pizza slices; or chicken Caesar salad, Italian bread; or southwest chicken avocado; fresh garden salad with dressing, broccoli cheese soup, baby carrots and ranch, fresh fruit, cinnamon apples.
Tuesday, March 1: Not available.
Wednesday, March 2: Not available.

Southwest Valley
Thursday, Feb. 24: Chicken strips, potato stars, corn, fruit.
Friday, Feb. 25: No school.
Monday, Feb. 28: Chicken noodle soup, grilled cheese sandwich, celery with ranch, crackers, fruit.
Tuesday, March 1: Walking taco, lettuce, cheese, refried beans with cheese, corn casserole, fruit.
Wednesday, March 2: Turkey with gravy, mashed potatoes and gravy, cascade blend vegetables, fruit.

Stanton
Thursday, Feb. 24: Mini corn dogs, macaroni and cheese, potato wedges, green beans, mixed fruit.
Friday, Feb. 25: Beef stew, cooked carrots, peaches, apple slices, biscuit, churro.
Monday, Feb. 28: Cheesy pull aparts, lettuce with dressing, celery, pears, applesauce.
Tuesday, March 1: Chicken nuggets, baked beans, coleslaw, pineapple, oranges, banana muffin.
Wednesday, March 2: Tuna noodle casserole, peas, green beans, mixed fruit, pineapple, dinner roll.



Griswold

The Griswold FFA is made up of, front row, from left: Bailey Baucom, Emma Mundorf, Eryn Peterson, Trista Swain, Logan Evans, Caleb Oakleaf, Alex Hartman, and advisor Jackie Brokaw. Second row, from left: Ella McGaffey, Kailey Swain, Collin Evans, Kyleigh Hering, BrookLynne Peterson, Riley Hartman, Tate Steinhoff, Ryan Wetterlind, and Shane Taylor. Third row, from left: Hogan Hook, Tessa Walkinshaw, Paige Baier, Skyla Kite, Ryleigh Harrison, Madison Rush, Shyanne Brown, Landon Pelzer, and Brayden Stirek. Back row, from left: Ashton Hansen, Ethan Baxter, Zander Luft, Trevor Burnison, Grant Adams, Camden Rossell, Wyatt Peterson, Grant Rogers, and Micheal Kunze. (Photo submitted)

School Activities

Thursday, Feb. 24

- East Mills: No school
- 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, high school gym
- 3:30-5 p.m., Red Oak: Sixth grade boys basketball practice, Inman Elementary gym
- 5-6 p.m., Southwest Valley: Coming youth basketball practice, third grade boys, Corning Elementary gym
- 6-7:15 p.m., Southwest Valley: Coming youth basketball practice, fourth/fifth grade boys, Corning Elementary gym
- 6:15-7:30 p.m., Southwest Valley: Coming youth baseball practice, sixth grade girls, new high school gym
- 6:15-7:30 p.m., Southwest Valley: Coming youth baseball practice, sixth grade boys, activity center

Friday, Feb. 25

- Southwest Valley: No school
- 1:30 p.m., Essex: Early dismissal
- 3:45-5 p.m., Southwest Valley: Coming youth basketball practice, fifth grade girls, Corning Elementary gym
- 5:30-6:15 p.m., Griswold: Kindergarten-second grade wrestling, elementary gym
- 6:30-7:30 p.m., Griswold: Third-eighth grade wrestling club, elementary gym

Monday, Feb. 28

- East Mills: Late start, 90 minutes
- 3:30-5:30 p.m., Red Oak: Sixth grade boys basketball practice, Inman Elementary gym
- 3:45-5 p.m., Southwest Valley: Coming 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 p.m., Griswold: Middle school AAU volleyball practice
- 6:30-7:30 p.m., Griswold: Third-eighth grade wrestling club practice, elementary gym

Tuesday, March 1

- 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: Coming 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: Coming youth basketball practice, sixth grade girls, new high school gym

Wednesday, March 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
- 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

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

Support Newspaper in Education

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

In Memory of Curtis Swanson
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

Concerns continue over county solar ordinance

Nick Johansen
The Red Oak Express

The Montgomery County Board of Supervisors has further advanced an ordinance making amendments to the Montgomery County Zoning ordinance in regards to solar power farms.

Despite that, the supervisors continued to hear comments from area residents opposed to the ordinance as drafted. At the regular meeting on Feb. 15, Supervisor Mike Olson read from a letter from Marcus Taylor in Villisca.

Taylor, through the letter, said he felt it would be vital for the county to have a solar ordinance, but in his opinion, the current version needed to be revised before its final passing.

"There are ambiguous portions, unnecessary definitions, and portions that would be best served by having additional guidance and clarification to protect the county, I submitted a more complete list of my suggestions for the supervisors to review, but I think most of what I have noticed has already been brought up in public comment," Taylor's letter said.

Taylor cited that on Dec. 7, 2021, there was public comment requesting revisions, and it was sent back by the supervisors for revisions, and he was surprised to hear it returned with no changes made.

"I am grateful the second reading was not waived. I hope the third reading will not be waived either, to allow time to make revisions prior to the finalizing of the ordinance. I want to make it clear that I am not opposed to the ordinance, but I believe there is room for improvement to protect the interests of the county prior to finalizing this version," Taylor's letter stated.

No other public comments were received. Supervisor Charla Schmid asked to speak directly to the board, and clarified the point that the ordinance had been put together by the Montgomery County Planning and Zoning Commission, not the supervisors.

"That's the entity where all the corrections and changes people are wishing to submit need to send those changes to. By the time it comes to the county supervisors, there's no changes that we're going to make. We're going to vote yes or no. I agree there could be some better clarifications, and the ordinance could be cleaned up, but in order to do that, all those suggestions need to be made to the planning and zoning commission," Schmid said.

Olson also commented, and stressed that more than once, it had been brought up that the ordinance should not be too cumbersome.

"It's been stated that we should not make this ordinance so hard for people to qualify for, that no one looks at us as they look for areas to build a solar farm. I also want to reiterate what the chair-



Montgomery County Supervisors, Mark Peterson and Mike Olson, listen during the Feb. 15 meeting. (Nick Johansen/Red Oak Express)

man of the planning and zoning board brought up. This will be up for changes. Once it's approved, it will move forward, and at that point, maybe some of these changes can be made," Olson explained.

Olson added he felt each individual solar farm will be different. They'll be in different locations, and have different infrastructure needs.

"I just feel that we're in good shape, and the sooner we get this ordinance on the books, the better," Olson said.

The supervisors approved the second reading of the solar ordinance amendment. The third reading was not waived.



New DUR Board members Shirley Billings, left, and Anna Boeye hear the history of the DUR board's efforts from Chairman Roger Vial. (Nick Johansen/The Red Oak Express)

Billings, Boeye begin role on DUR board

Nick Johansen
The Red Oak Express

The Red Oak Downtown Urban Renewal Board advanced funding for another building project, as well as welcoming two new faces to the board.

At the Feb. 16 meeting, the members were joined by Shirley Billings, a representative of the Red Oak Historical Commission, and Anna Boeye, representing the Red Oak Park and Tree Board. DUR Chairman said the addition of Billings and Boeye was good news, as it meant that the DUR Board was full for the first time in around two years.

Vial started the meeting bringing Billings and Boeye up to date on what the DUR Board does to benefit the Red Oak downtown. All told, Vial said a lot of great work has been done on Red Oak's square.

"Since 1997, with this grant, we've spent about \$6 million on our downtown area. That's not just DUR money, but included with the money spent by the individual business owners themselves. Also, the City of Red Oak paid \$250,000 on facades that ended up on the flood plain that couldn't be funded through Community Development Block Grant funding. This has probably touched our square more than anything, in my opinion, because it just feeds itself and keeps going," Vial said.

The discussion moved to a grant request from 410 E. Coolbaugh St., the Red Oak Grand Theatre. A grant request of \$7,186 had been submitted by the theater for a tuck pointing project with an estimated total cost of \$28,744.

"They are wanting to tuck point the original building, the north elevation, and the parapet wall. We have a well-documented bid from Andrew Tuckpointing, LLC, which I like, and to me, tuck pointing is eligible, so I would look for a motion to approve and let them know to proceed with their project," Vial said.

DUR Board Member Marty Barnett asked if the motion needed to reflect that grant money would not be available until July 1, when the DUR gets its next round of funding. Vial said since this was to determine eligibility only, it was not necessary, and if the project were completed before that date, the motion would have to be made in that way.

DUR Board Member Audie Rainey said he had experience with Andrew Tuckpointing within the city, and they did excellent work.

"They are the contract that did the east side of 222 E. Coolbaugh, and they did that entire wall from top to bottom. They did a really nice job," commented Rainey.

The DUR Board gave first round approval of eligibility for the project. Two projects were pending final approval, 317 E. Reet Street, submitted by Mark Jackson's Red Oak Hardware and Hallmark Gold Crown. Vial said no new information had been received, so no action could be taken.

The second item was from Coolbaugh Street Holdings, at 214 E. Coolbaugh St., for the repair and replacement of the facade and windows, at an estimated cost of \$15,720, and a grant amount of \$3,930.

"That work is completed, I have all the documentation needed, and a cancelled check. So we need to approve the work that is done. The estimate was accurate, and there was no change to the amount of the grant, which remains at \$3,930."

The DUR Board granted final approval, and then proceeded to the request for funding. Vial said proof of payment was a key, and they usually received cancelled checks, credit card, receipts, or bank statements. Vial explained the step was important for a reason.

"About 10 years ago, I had a contractor approach me and ask why a building owner wanted me to bill them double for what I was doing. He said they wanted him to send them a \$20,000 bill

for the work rather than \$10,000, because the grant amount is based off of a percentage of the total cost of the work. So since then, we get the invoice and the cancelled check to make sure everything is accurate," explained Vial.

The DUR Board then took action on the final approval and request for funding on 214 E. Coolbaugh St. The motion was approved.

Vial also asked the board for input on a potential grant request from a business owner who made improvements to the building, but did not own it.

"I'm not sure exactly what work has been done on the building, but if she has improved the building at her own expense, would she then be eligible to apply for a grant, even though she is not the direct owner of the building? That's a question to be answered," said Vial.

Rainey said his personal opinion was that it would be

eligible, and overall, they sought proof that buildings had been improved, and that it didn't really matter who owned it.

"All we need is some sort of agreement that the grant money is going to the person who actually expended the money. If they spent the money, and we see proof that it was spent on the normal fixtures or improvement of the building itself, something that can't be taken somewhere else, like a window air conditioner, why wouldn't we want to pay it," Rainey stated.

Rainey added he would also seek to have some sort of a release from the building's owner in order to pay the tenant directly.

Vial said surprisingly, this was the first time this type of scenario had ever come up, and virtually all the other requests came from the building owners. Vial said the board could take further action if he received an application.

Sharing agreement approved between county and Villisca

Nick Johansen
The Red Oak Express

The Montgomery County Board of Supervisors approved a 28E agreement between the City of Villisca and Montgomery County.

Bid letting for the bridge project took place Feb. 15. County engineer Karen Albert said the county is providing construction management and inspection services on the project. The agreement authorized the release of documentation to the City of Villisca through the Iowa Department of Transportation's software related to construction management and inspection by the county.

Albert said the bridge is located on 3rd Street, over the Middle Nodaway River. Robinson said it was the bridge located past the swimming pool and the football field in the Villisca City Limits.

Supervisor Mike Olson outlined the terms of the agreement.

"Montgomery County shall provide, upon request, docu-

ments to the City of Villisca under this agreement through its engineering department, in regard to construction management and inspection by the county for the reconstruction of the bridge. This shall include, but is not limited to, daily field logs and material certifications," Olson said.

All services under the agreement would be performed in accordance with standards of the Iowa DOT for the design and construction of public improvements and would comply with all statutes, codes, ordinances, rules, and regulations.

Additionally, all services would be administered by Montgomery County Secondary Roads, which would be responsible for all procedural and substantive matters, and were to be provided by Albert or her authorized representative.

"This agreement shall remain in effect until all terms are fully satisfied, or it is terminated as provided. The agreement shall not relieve

VILLISCA, Page 8A

CORNING OPERA HOUSE

JASON WALSMITH

Lead Singer of Nada's | Solo acoustic | Storyteller

FRIDAY, MARCH 4, 2022 @ 7 PM

Day of show \$25 | Adult \$15 | K-12 youth \$8

Sponsors: Grundman Insurance & Primrose Restaurant

Corning Opera House Cultural Center
800 Davis Ave., Corning IA
www.CorningOperaHouse.com

Arts MIDWEST

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS
IOWA ARTS COUNCIL IOWA PRODUCE STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF IOWA

ARE YOU FEELING THE NORTH WINDS BLOWING THROUGH YOUR HOUSE?

Did you know...?

The biggest area for heat loss in most homes are drafts within in the walls, windows and doors.

- Siding
- Doors
- Windows
- Roofing

Let us help make your house warm and cozy! Call today to schedule your free quote!

HOSKINS 712-542-2309
SIDING & WINDOWS WWW.HOSKINSSIDING.BIZ

DISCOVER EveryStep Ask about our \$10,000 HIRING BONUS for nurses!

Seeking Nurses to Join our Hospice Team!

Discover why EveryStep has been named a **Top Workplace** for 9 years! Our staff enjoy flexibility, autonomy and personal fulfillment while providing mission-driven care to patients and their families in their homes. **Contact us to learn about the opportunities and great benefits at EveryStep!**

e-mail: HR@everystep.org
(515) 333-4255

Join one of Iowa's oldest and largest non-profits!

everystep.org/careers
Serving patients in southwest Iowa. Office located in Council Bluffs.

EOE

TOP WORK PLACES 2021
One Missouri Register

Essex board approves new website, sharing admin with Hamburg

Tess Nelson
The Red Oak Express

Members of the Essex School Board agreed to proceed with rolling out a new website at the Feb. 16 regular meeting. The current website, explained board secretary Melissa Chambers, is outdated and difficult to update and make changes to.

The new website will be in use by March, Chambers added. Board members also agreed to finally vote on the East Gymnasium project at the March meeting. Discussion on what should be done to the facility and how it should be paid for have been in discussions for several years.

To remodel the entire gymnasium and bring it up to code, the price tag is around \$1.4 million. Dr. Mike Wells, Essex superintendent said the board feels they could raise a large portion of that through fundraising and pay the remainder through Penny Sales Tax funds and Physical Plant and Equipment Levy (PPEL) funds.

"If they did the whole project of \$1.4 million we would need the community's support to do that. We would need a small revenue bond," said Wells.

Wells continued to say the board wants to make an "informed decision" and do what the community wants.

"It doesn't do us any good to put \$1.4 million into a building that people won't use," Wells said. "They've been very thoughtful in the process; they have surveyed, they've had committees and they are to the point where they need to make a decision."

Wells said as a small district, it can't be a rushed decision, as there are additional projects where Penny Sales Tax and PPEL funds could be used.

Board members also heard from Essex Mayor Calvin Kinney, who would like to look into sharing a marketing director with the school.

Kinney said there are numerous positives going on in the city and at the school that aren't being shared. A combined marketing director for the city and school would be greatly beneficial.



Members of the Essex Board of Education listen to Essex Mayor Calvin Kinney discuss the possibility of sharing a school and city marketing directory. (Tess Nelson/Red Oak Express)

"There are too many great things going on in this community that you may know about and everybody here may know about because we're on the appropriate boards to where we had better know about them, but there are a lot of people that don't realize how good we are," said Kinney. "There are a lot of communities that are marketing themselves better, and we need to find someone to help us do the same."

As it was only a discussion item and because 2022-23 city and school budgets have been finalized, if a marketing position were agreed upon, it wouldn't most likely begin until 2023. The budget hearing for the 22-23 school budget is set for 6 p.m. March 16.

In other business, the board:

- Hired Lawn World for lawn care for the 2022-23 year.
- Hired Blair DeBolt as speech coach, Ray Liles as head track coach, and Randy Thompson as co-head golf coach for the current year.
- Heard a presentation from Vicki Hume's fifth grade class, who were national winners in an eSpark online gaming contest.
- Agreed to share an elementary counselor, maintenance director, human resource director, superintendent, and business director with the Hamburg Community School District for the 2022-23 school year.

Ag producers have until March 15 to enroll in USDA's key commodity safety net programs

Agricultural producers who have not yet enrolled in the Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) or Price Loss Coverage (PLC) programs for the 2022 crop year have until March 15, to sign a contract. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) offers these two safety net programs to provide vital income support to farmers experiencing substantial declines in crop prices or revenues.

"The Agriculture Risk Coverage and Price Loss Coverage programs provide critical financial protections to many American farmers. As producers continue to weather a bruising pandemic and new, climate-induced disasters, these programs are all the more important," said Zach Ducheneaux, Administrator of USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA). "I am encouraging producers to reach out to their county offices to learn about program eligibility and election options today, so that they can begin the enrollment process as soon as possible."

Producers can elect coverage and enroll in ARC-County or PLC, which are both crop-by-crop, or ARC-Individual, which is for the entire farm. Although election changes for 2022 are optional, producers must enroll through a signed contract each year. Also, if a producer has a multi-year contract on the farm and makes an election change for 2022, it will be necessary to sign a new contract.

If an election is not submitted by the March 15, deadline, the election remains the same as the 2021 election for crops on the farm. Farm owners cannot enroll in either program unless they have a share interest in the crop.

Producers have completed 976,249 contracts to date, representing 54% of the more than 1.8 million expected contracts.

Producers who do not complete enrollment by the deadline will not be



enrolled in ARC or PLC for the 2022 crop year and will not receive a payment if triggered.

Producers are eligible to enroll farms with base acres for the following commodities: barley, canola, large and small chickpeas, corn, crambe, flaxseed, grain sorghum, lentils, mustard seed, oats, peanuts, dry peas, rapeseed, long grain rice, medium and short grain rice, safflower seed, seed cotton, sesame, soybeans, sunflower seed, and wheat.

Decision tools

In partnership with USDA, two web-based decision tools are available to assist producers in making informed, educated decisions using crop data specific to their respective farming operations:

- 1400 Independence Ave. SW Washington, DC 20250
- Contact: FPAC.BC.Press@usda.gov
- Farm Service Agency
- Gardner-farmdoc Payment

Calculator, a tool available through the University of Illinois allows producers to estimate payments for farms and counties for ARC-CO and PLC.

• ARC and PLC Decision Tool, a tool available through Texas A&M that allows producers to estimate payments and yield updates and expected payments for 2022.

Crop insurance considerations and decision deadline

ARC and PLC are part of a broader safety net provided by USDA, which also includes crop insurance and marketing assistance loans.

Producers are reminded that ARC and PLC elections and enrollments can impact eligibility for some crop insurance products.

Producers on farms with a PLC election have the option of purchasing Supplemental Coverage Option (SCO) through their Approved Insurance Provider; however, producers on farms where ARC is the election are ineligible

for SCO on their planted acres for that crop on that farm.

Unlike SCO, the Enhanced Coverage Option (ECO) is unaffected by an ARC election. Producers may add ECO regardless of the farm program election.

Upland cotton farmers who choose to enroll seed cotton base acres in ARC or PLC are ineligible for the stacked income protection plan (STAX) on their planted cotton acres for that farm.

Producers should contact their crop insurance agent to make certain that the election and enrollment made at FSA follows their intention to participate in STAX or SCO coverage. Producers have until March 15, to make the appropriate changes or cancel their ARC or PLC contract.

More information

In addition to the March 15 deadline for ARC and PLC, other important deadlines include:

- March 1, Livestock Indemnity Program

- March 11, Conservation Reserve Program General Signup
- March 15, Pandemic Cover Crop Program

• March 25, Dairy Margin Coverage
"When you're working with us on ARC and PLC, we also encourage you to consider our other programs, including the Pandemic Cover Crop Program, which calls for you to file an acreage report," Ducheneaux added.

For more information on ARC and PLC, producers can visit the ARC and PLC webpage or contact their local USDA Service Center. In those service centers where COVID cases exceed safety levels, staff continue to work with agricultural producers via phone, email and other digital tools. Producers with level 2 authentication access can electronically sign contracts or may make arrangements to drop off signed contracts at the FSA county office. Because of the pandemic, some USDA Service Centers are open to limited visitors.

USDA touches the lives of all Americans each day in so many positive ways. In the Biden-Harris Administration, USDA is transforming America's food system with a greater focus on more resilient local and regional food production, fairer markets for all producers, ensuring access to safe, healthy and nutritious food in all communities, building new markets and streams of income for farmers and producers using climate smart food and forestry practices, making historic investments in infrastructure and clean energy capabilities in rural America, and committing to equity across the Department by removing systemic barriers and building a workforce more representative of America. To learn more, visit usda.gov.

100 less Iowa farms in one year's time

The total number of farms in Iowa in 2021 was 84,900, down 100 farms from 2020, according to the USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service - Farms and Land in Farms 2021 Summary report.

Total land in farms for Iowa during 2021 was 30.5 million acres.

The average farm size in Iowa in 2021 was 359 acres, down 1 acre from 2020.

United States Farms and Land in Farms

The number of farms in the United States for 2021 is estimated at 2,012,050, down 6,950 farms from 2020. The number of farms increased in all sales classes except \$1,000-\$9,999, \$100,000-\$249,999, and \$1,000,000 or more. In 2021, 51.0 percent of all farms had less than \$10,000 in sales and 81.5 percent of all farms had less than

\$100,000 in sales. In 2021, 7.4 percent of all farms had sales of \$500,000 or more.

Total land in farms, at 895,300,000 acres, decreased 1,300,000 acres from 2020. The biggest change for 2021 is that producers in Sales Class \$1,000 - \$9,999 operated 640,000 fewer acres than in 2020. In 2021, 30.1 percent of all farmland was operated by farms with less than \$100,000 in sales, while 40.9 percent of all farmland was operated by farms with sales of \$500,000 or more.

The average farm size for 2021 is 445 acres, up from 444 acres the previous year. Average farm size increased in the \$1,000,000 or more sales class and decreased or remained unchanged in all other sales classes.

VILLISCA

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7A

either party of any obligation or liability imposed on it, by law, except to the extent that the actual and timely performance during the term of the contract may be offered in satisfaction of the obligation or responsibility," stated Olson.

Also, the agreement stated that all parties would cooperate with each other to the fullest extent possible in order to facilitate and carry out the provisions of the agreement.

The supervisors approved the 28-E agreement as presented.

RED OAK GRAND THEATRE

THIS WEEK'S MOVIES
FEBRUARY 25-27

THEATRE #1 capacity is 182

SPIDERMAN-NO WAY HOME
Spider Man's identity is known and he must learn how to separate his normal life with his superhero life. Rated-PG 13

THEATRE #2 capacity is 107

THE CROODS: A NEW AGE
The Croods need to learn to live with the Bettermans and all the tensions between them. Rated-PG

SHOWTIMES
FRI, SAT & SUN 7 PM
SUN MATINEE 2 PM

ALL TICKETS \$2.00
712-623-3169

Mark Jackson's Red Oak Hardware Hank & Hallmark Gold Crown Store
RedOakHardware.com
315 E. Reed St., Red Oak | 712-623-2290

Winter Savings

99¢ w/ well's lamont
Large Wearpower Jersey Gloves (H170548) / (T886010)

Stop in & check out our clearance prices on all TV's, Appliances & Ashley Fine Furniture

YOUR CHOICE 9.99
4 Pcs. Phillips Screwdriver Set (163611)

4 Pcs. Slotted Screwdriver Set (142515)

4 Pcs. Torx Screwdriver Set (121209)

4.49
12 Oz. Painter'S Touch Clear Ultra 2X Gloss Spray Paint (878140)

Mark Jackson's Red Oak HARDWARE HANK
Stop in for your free copy today