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# THE RED OAK Express

**WEDNESDAY**

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Red Oak, IA

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## Shrapnel almost kills Red Oak man during Korean War

*Editor's Note: This is the second of a two part series on Montgomery County veteran Corporal Jim Anderson. Part one of this article is in the March 16 edition.*

**Tess Nelson**  
The Red Oak Express

"I got pounded by shrapnel. There wasn't any pain or anything. I don't know why. I had shrapnel in my neck, going down my throat," recalled Jim Anderson of rural Red Oak about severe injuries he received on the front during the Korean Conflict. "I remember riding in the Jeep, and the ambulance. The next thing I know they are trying to wake me up at the MASH hospital."

Anderson said he can still remember what he was dreaming about when the medical staff attempted to wake him; he was on a dairy farm getting ready to milk the cows.

"The surgeon came in and said I was lucky to be alive. I had a piece of shrapnel go through my neck and miss everything vital. They took 16 pieces out of me; from my left knee, all the way my shoulder to my neck."

His spleen also had to be removed. Anderson remained in the MASH hospital for a couple of days, and then transferred to an old schoolhouse that had been turned into a hospital. Eventually he was transferred to the Tokyo Army Hospital.

"I had a big bandage on my stomach; they split me from breastbone to pelvis where shrapnel has went in. The incision was sutured with thread and then to help hold it together, they put six pieces of stainless steel wire through and over the top, twisting it together."

As for the wounds on his neck, Anderson said he could only open his mouth wide enough to get a slice of bread in because his neck was so swollen. Recovery, he said, was an overly painful process, as the wounds would fester and had to be rubbed until they'd bleed, every day.

Anderson continued saying that the upper wires across his stomach rubbed on his ribs, causing additional pain and infection.

After weeks of intense pain, the stomach wound healed enough to where the other five wire fittings could be removed. When it came time for its removal, Anderson was surprised to see the doctor holding a pair of pliers and a pair of side cutters for the removal.

"No fancy surgical gear," he said. "I really wasn't looking forward to it being removed."

Fortunately, the nurse on hand for the removal was a French nurse.

"She spoke English but had the accent and she was beautiful. She told me to hold her hand, so I did. She was wearing perfume, and she smelled so good. I squeezed her hand pretty hard when they were pulling those wires out; what a relief it was."

Three of four days before being transferred to the United States, Anderson was finally allowed out of bed. It was during a stop in Hawaii when he was finally allowed to take a shower.

"It was the first real shower I'd had for months. They'd been giving me sponge baths in the hospital. Before that, I'd only had one good shower before we got to the front," Anderson said.

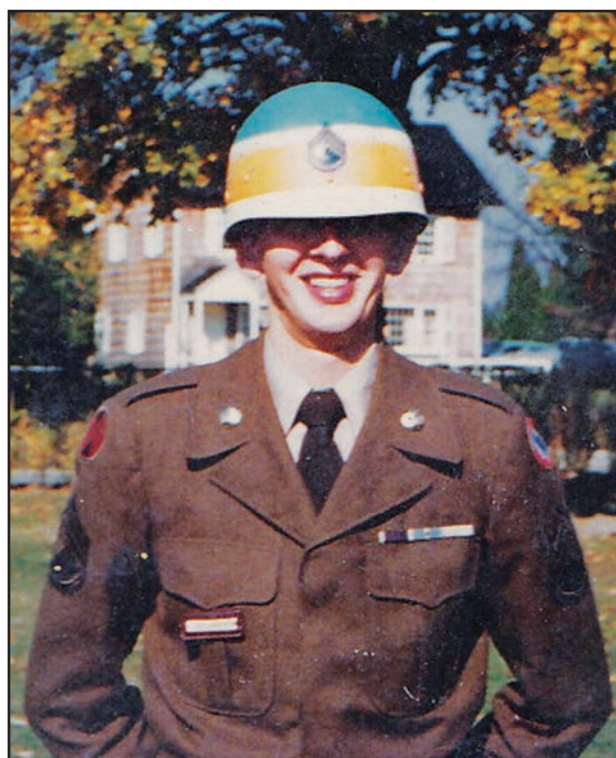


Jim Anderson

The plane landed at Travis Air Force Base. Anderson said he got on the phone and called his parents immediately. His parents knew he had been injured from a telegram and as soon as he could, he wrote them a letter filling them in.

"My parents and my brother came and met me at the hospital. That was the only time I'd ever seen my dad come close to tears."

After a three day leave, Anderson was shipped to Walter Reed Medical



Jim Anderson of rural Red Oak served as a drill instructor while in the Army. He would later serve in Korea during the Korean Conflict. He would receive life-threatening shrapnel injuries and receive a Purple Heart. (Photo provided)

Hospital in Washington, D.C because he had to have another operation on his neck. Once surgery was over, Anderson said he took leave and flew home to California with his family. To fly back to Washington D.C., he recalled, would cost about \$300. If he hitched a ride with a Naval officer flying from San Jose, Calif., to D.C., it'd be free; however, he'd be counted as Absent Without Leave (AWOL).

"Well, I'm at the hospital and I'm going to be there a while longer anyhow; what the heck. I was confined to quarters for two weeks because I was AWOL. I had to stay in the service an extra day to make up for it."

In June 1953, he was sent back to San Luis Obispo as an instructor following his release from Walter Reed. In September, he learned the camp was shutting down. He was transferred to Camp Wood (Fort Monmouth) New Jersey, in charge of a non-commissioned officer company.

On March 26, 1954, he was honorably discharged from the Army. He bought a car from a fellow soldier and drove to Minnesota to visit family. He then drove to Colorado, where additional family members lived. While there, he was offered a job at a tire shop. He then ran a commercial tire route in Colorado, worked in a service station for 55 cents per hour, a cabinet shop, commercial fixture shop and so forth.

In 1958, he married his wife, Eileen. The couple raised seven children together. Eileen passed away several years ago.

In October 1968 when returning from a hunting trip, Anderson was in a freak automobile accident in the Colorado mountains.

"I was driving a Jeep towing a Jeep with an elk and a deer on it. Went down and up another hill and the nut came off the ball - there's just the safety chain in between. I slowed down and it bumped us into the ditch. The Jeep I was towing stayed up right, it caused the accident but it also saved the accident from being worse because the safety chain had gone over the back tire of the Jeep, so we only rolled over on the top."

Anderson wasn't feeling well and was in a lot of pain following the accident. His wife finally talked him into going to the clinic, where it was determined he had broken his C1 vertebra.

Traction and surgery followed for Anderson, followed by a body cast.

It was in April 1997 Jim and Eileen purchased a home in Coburg, which flooded in 1998.

"We had 27 inches of mud in our house. We couldn't fix it up; we were moving."

The couple then moved to rural Red Oak, where Jim, 89, still resides. In his spare time, he enjoys woodworking and traveling.

"I've had some misadventures, that's for sure," he chuckled.

## 'Expand the Grand' project completed

**Nick Johansen**  
The Red Oak Express

More than a decade after reopening its doors in 2010, and numerous renovations and face-lifting projects to the building, all of the Grand Theatre's outstanding project debt is completely paid off.

The theater, located at 410 E. Coolbaugh St, was purchased many years ago by the Red Oak Downtown LLC, and Grand Theatre Board Member Jeanice Lester said a plan for its operation was already pre-determined before its sale was complete.

"They didn't want the building to deteriorate with nothing going on in it. Even back then, the LLC members pushed for the theater to be operated by volunteers, patterned after a similar style to a movie theater operated in Lake City," Lester said.

The cost of the building's purchase was paid back to the Red Oak Downtown LLC by Red Oak Grand Theatre Inc. by November 2010. Volunteers also assisted in setting up the theater's 501c3 status.

Since then, there have been a number of fundraisers held in the community to improve the theater, the first being to raise \$80,000 for a digital projector, screens, and a sound system in 2012.

Lester was pleased to say that the theater's numerous projects had come full circle. The Red Oak Downtown LLC was the initial investor in the building and was one of the final donors/investors who contributed to paying off the theater's outstanding loan.



"They stepped up to the plate in the beginning to get the theater open, and they stepped up to the plate again to help us finish the project off. And it's not just their contribution, we have so many people/businesses to be grateful for, and many huge grants contributed to the project," explained Lester.

Lester said it was a big relief to finally have no outstanding debt on the theater's books.

"We do not owe the bank anymore, and we have enough left to purchase our final donor wall sign and some loose ends. We are thrilled to come full circle, in part thanks to the Red Oak downtown LLC who saw that we had a balance and said they thought they could help," Lester said. "One of the things the LLC said was that they loved what we do, and they felt it was time for people to step up, finish off the debt, and let us go back to just running the theater."



The Red Oak Grand Theatre has paid off its debt for expansion and renovation. (Photo provided)

The loans were part of a project totaling \$965,000. One of the reasons for the outstanding debt for the project, despite more than half being paid for through multiple grants in amounts of \$50,000-\$150,000, was because the majority of the grants were not paid until the project's completion, requiring the Grand Theatre Board to seek a building loan to pay for the immediate expenses.

It was an immense undertaking, Lester said, largely because the Grand's neighboring building was purchased simply to do some minor repairs to prevent collapse.

"We purchased the building next door in 2013 because we were afraid if the building collapsed, it would also demolish our existing theatre building, and it wasn't until several years later that we decided to add the second screen and a full remodel," Lester commented.

Grand Theatre Board Member Shelley Bergren described the efforts to take on such a large remodeling project was a leap of faith.

"When we started out, we'd get a little grant, and we'd do something, and then we'd get another little grant and do something else. Once we started looking at the big grants available to us for the project, they had to put together the details for an entire remodel and new screen in order to qualify, and so we decided in 2017 to take the plunge," Bergren advised.

In between the large-scale remodeling project, the theater's marquee was also replaced, at a cost of \$150,000, largely thanks to grants from Red Oak and Montgomery County.

While the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 and continuing into 2021 certainly hindered the theatre, Lester felt that in a small way, it also helped them.

"Because theaters across the nation were closed due to COVID, we feel that the price we got for the seats, the projector, and the sound equipment was a lot less than we anticipated, because nothing was going on. And yes, our crowds were slow for a great many months, but they have come back,"

**THEATRE, Page 7A**



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Montgomery County Supervisors Charla Schmid, Mark Peterson and Mike Olson listen to county auditor Stephanie Burke explain the 2022-23 fiscal year budget at the March 15 board meeting. (Nick Johansen/Red Oak Express)

## Supervisors approve 2022-23 fiscal year budget

**Nick Johansen**  
The Red Oak Express

The Montgomery County Board of Supervisors has approved the county's final 2022-23 fiscal year budget.

After a public hearing, in which no oral or written comments were received, County Auditor Stephanie Burke outlined some of the budget details and said valuations had increased.

"This year, rural valuations went up about \$18 million, and the urban valuations went up about \$5 million, so that does help our budgeting process when we have a big increase like that in valuations," said Burke.

Burke also outlined the levy rates when the budget went into effect on July 1 of this year.

"The general fund limit is \$3.50 per \$1,000 valuation, which we are maxed at. The general supplemental levy is limited to certain mandated services county-wide, including FICA and IPERS insurance, emer-

gency management, district court, and election costs. That levy is \$2.56," Burke commented. "The county services mental health levy is established by the state, and effective in 2022-23, there is no levy; mental health is shifting from county to state funding, so that helps local taxing. The debt service levy, with the refinancing, is at \$1.65 per \$1,000 valuation."

Burke added the rural services basic levy is maxed at \$3.95 per \$1,000 valuation, and the rural supplemental levy was lowered to 50 cents, and that covers secondary roads and the sheriff's office FICA and IPERS. Still, the levies are lower moving into the new budget year.

"From last year, the urban levy went down 47 cents, and the total rural levy went down about 72 cents. A lot of that is due to the absence of the mental health levy," advised Burke. "Property taxes remain the highest revenue the county gets, followed by the intergovernmental, which includes tax credits and state and federal revenue."

The budget factors in a 10% overall increase in the county's health insurance coverage, and a \$30,000 contribution to economic development.

The supervisors approved the adoption of the 2022-23 FY budget. Details of the proposed budget can be found online at [montgomerycountia.gov/auditors-office/county-budget/](http://montgomerycountia.gov/auditors-office/county-budget/).

The supervisors also discussed proposed compensation for elected officials. The County Compensation Board recommended a 12% increase for the county auditor, a 10% increase for the county attorney, recorder, supervisors chair, and treasurer, and a 15% increase for the county sheriff.

The supervisors instead approved a compensation increase at half of what was proposed, increasing the salary of the auditor from \$60,056 to \$63,659, county attorney treasurer, and recorder from \$60,056 to \$63,059, the sheriff from \$80,853 to \$86,917, supervisors from \$25,660 to \$26,943, and the supervisors chair from \$26,160 to \$27,443.

## 2022 farmers market schedule approved by park board

**Nick Johansen**  
The Red Oak Express

The Red Oak Park and Tree Board held its regular monthly meeting on March 10.

Park Board Chairman Bill Drey said the first major item on the agenda was approval of the dates and location of the annual farmers market.

"The Red Oak Farmers Market has made a request for a weekly farmers market, from May 26 through Oct. 13, from 4 to 7 p.m. on Thursdays, and Saturdays, June 4 through Sept. 17 from 9 a.m. to noon in Fountain Square Park," Drey said.

The board approved the request from the Red Oak Farmers Market as presented.

A separate request was issues by the farmers market to continue the "Lettuce Entertain U" event.

"Their request is to hold the "Lettuce Entertain U" family fun night on Thursday, June 23, from 4 to 7 p.m. in Fountain Square Park, in collaboration with the kick-off for Red Oak Junction Days opening ceremony," stated Drey.

The park board approved the second request from the farmers market as presented.

Drey said the board was also prepared to make final recommendations for incoming lifeguards during pool season.

"The lifeguard manual has been approved, and we have finalized and approved a recommendation to forward the job descriptions for lifeguards, pool attendants, and slide monitors to the Red Oak City Council," commented Drey.

Drey also updated the board on the YMCA's usage of Kelly Park, which is currently underway.

"The YMCA will be using Kelly Park for soccer. Practices will be every Monday and Thursday from 5:30 to 7 p.m. through the end of May," advised Drey.

In other business, the board:

- Approved a request from the Red Oak Police Department for



The annual Red Oak Farmers Market will be held at Fountain Square Park again this year. (Tess Nelson/Red Oak Express)

usage of Fountain Square Park on Aug. 2, for National Night Out.

- Drey advised there are free tree seedlings available from the Iowa Department of Natural Resources for cities that have been affected by the Emerald Ash Borer beetle.

- Approved a recommendation to purchase a replacement Dultmeier 300 gallon tank and pump.

- Approved a recommendation to replace the garage door on the west side of the park maintenance building with a Manaras commercial operator.

Drey also advised that park superintendent Adam VanDerVliet has built wood benches for use in some of the city's parks, replaced two nets at the tennis courts, with plans to put up further nets as the weather cooperates, and that he recently attended a continuing education class for his pesticide license renewal.

## Virtual boating safety classes available free from IDNR

It may not feel like boating season yet, but the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR), along with boating safety advocates nationwide, are urging boaters to enroll in a boating education course this spring.

"Education is the key to having a safe and enjoyable day on the water, and spring is the perfect time to take a course before the summer boating season begins," said Susan Stocker, boating law administrator and education coordinator for the Iowa DNR.

Traditional and online courses

are available. Courses are made to fit every schedule and lifestyle. The Iowa DNR has boater education information online at [iowadnr.gov/things-to-do/boating/boater-education](http://iowadnr.gov/things-to-do/boating/boater-education).

"A boating safety course provides critical boating knowledge and better prepares you for the risks you may face while boating," Stocker said.

Benefits to taking a boater education course

- Boost your confidence by brushing up on essential boating skills.
- Even if you have already

taken a course or are an experienced boater, taking a new course can sharpen your skills.

- A boating safety course can save boaters money. Many boat insurance providers offer discounts to people who have successfully completed a boating safety course.

In 2019, there were 22 reported boating incidents on Iowa waters: 14 of those were personal injury; six involved property damage and six resulted in fatalities. Of the six fatalities, two involved alcohol as a contributing factor.

In 2020, there were 39 reported boating incidents on Iowa waters: 16 of those were personal injury; 17 involved property damage, and nine resulted in fatalities. Of the nine fatalities, six involved alcohol as a contributing factor.

In 2021, there were 33 reported boating incidents on Iowa waters: 26 of those were personal injury; 17 involved property damage, and three resulted in fatalities. None of the fatalities involved alcohol.



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OBITUARIES

JAMES MILLER, 94

James Miller, 94, Red Oak, passed away Tuesday, March 15, 2022, at Accura Healthcare Stanton.

James Donald Clarence Miller, the son of Clarence and Edith (Brodd) was born Dec. 25, 1927, in Montgomery County north of Stanton. James was raised in the Stanton area. On Nov. 20, 1950, James entered the U.S. Army and served during the Korean War. He was honorably discharged on Aug. 27, 1952.



James returned to Stanton and on Dec. 6, 1958, he was united in marriage to Marjorie Martens at Lyman. He farmed for many years in the Stanton area. In 1982, James and Marjorie moved into Red Oak. He then worked at the Montgomery County Courthouse as a custodian, retiring in 1994.

James enjoyed woodworking, yard care, traveling, and craft shows where he sold his wood products. James was a member of the Bethlehem Lutheran Church and American Legion Lorraine Post #67, both of Red Oak, Iowa.

James was preceded in death by his parents; wife, Marjorie on June 1, 2017; brother, Kenneth Miller; and sisters, Maxine England and Violet Anderson.

James is survived by his four children, Michelle (Charles) Morton of Des Moines; Michael (Stephanie) Miller of Council Bluffs; Marten (Delia) Miller of Chino Hills, Calif.; and Rebecca (Stephen) Peterson of Stanton; eight grandchildren; 11 great-grandchildren; nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

May God bless his memory and give strength to those who mourn.

Funeral Service was held on Monday, March 21, 2022, at Sellergren-Lindell-DeMarce Funeral Home, Red Oak. Burial with Military Rites was at Evergreen Cemetery, Red Oak. Rev. Jennifer Yeske-Drown officiated.

Memorials may be directed to St. Croix Hospice or a charity of your choice.

Remembrances and condolences may be shared with the family at sld-funeralhome.com

Sellergren-Lindell-DeMarce Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

KAREN SAKAI, 81

Karen Lisa “Bok Ja” Sakai, 81, Pearl City, Hawaii, passed away on March 11, 2022, peacefully at her daughter’s home in Red Oak.



Karen was born in Seoul, Korea on Sept. 25, 1940. She was the daughter of Yoon Jung Mok and Lee Il Bun. She attended school in South Korea until immigrating to the United States in 1961.

Karen was united in marriage to Richard Meggison on Jan. 16, 1961, in Seoul, Korea, where Richard was serving in the U.S. Army. Four children were born to this union, Kevin Lee, William Joseph, Lisa Suzanne and Robert Jon. They lived in many places as an Army family, including France, Hawaii, California, Iowa, and Kansas. Karen was later married to Harold Sakai in 1974 in Honolulu, Hawaii, until his passing.

Karen was a very active senior. She owned a local grocery store in Hawaii for many years prior to her cancer diagnosis in June 2021. She had also owned a vegetable market, bar and restaurant throughout her life. She loved attending the flea markets and interacting with people. She continued to make Korean food products and sold goods until she no longer could. In her final months, she moved to Red Oak, Iowa to be with daughter Lisa and her family to help care for her.

Preceding her in death were her parents, Yoon Jung Mok and Lee Il Bun; husband, Harold Sakai; son, Robert Jon Meggison; and brothers, Yoon Jae Won (Kim Aae Ja), and Yoon Jae Heung (Han Aae Ja).

Survivors include her companion of 23 years, Randall Cudal of Pearl City, Hawaii; brother Yoon Jae Han (Lee Pil Kyu) of San Jose, Calif.; sister-in-law, Yoon Hae Ja of Korea; children, Kevin Lee Meggison (Lisa Xa) of Newark, Calif.; William Joseph Meggison; Lisa Rice (William Curtis) of Red Oak; stepson, Dean Sakai (Chris) of Bruchsal, Germany; grandchildren, Matthew (Megan), Lani-Lee, Janelle, Candice, Kelly, Diana, Christina, Alec Wane (Christina), Ian Richard (Sarah Chun), Alissa Kalena-Lois, Trulia Leilani, Ciera, Jenny, and Merriam; nieces and nephews, Young Mi Park (Daniel), Jessica Lim (Jac), Jane Lee (Ill Song); Jennifer Kang (Sean), Amy Cho (Ed), Janice Chun (Dave), Peter Yoon (Tina), Hyoyoung Choi (Dong Sun) all of California; Young Kook (Ki Young Hee), Michelle Choi (John) and Joyce Ra of Virginia; and Yoon Young Shim and Yoon Young Suk of Seoul, Korea.

Memorial services will be held at a later date.

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

FRED HOSSLE, 64

Fred Allen Hossle, 64, Red Oak, passed away Sunday, March 13, 2022, at the University of Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha.



Fred was born Sept. 30, 1957, in Red Oak, the son of Max and Gwen (Ross) Hossle. He was raised in Red Oak, graduating from Red Oak High School in 1975. While in high school, Fred worked for Mace and Hahn Implement, farmed, and later drove truck for Dwaine Long.

He was united in marriage to Teresa Wagaman on June 12, 1976, in Red Oak. They lived and farmed their whole married life south of Red Oak. Fred and his grandson Clay also owned a calf/cow herd together. Fred was very proud of Hossle Farms and the family even had their own logo.

Fred was a member of First Christian Church, the Montgomery County Fair Board, REC Board, Soil and Water Conservation Board, and Farmers Coop Board. He was always very active in the Fair and 4-H. He was the leader for the shooting sports for 4-H at one time. Fred enjoyed restoring old tractors, sport shooting, collecting tools and antique clay pigeon throwers, and most recently lawn mower pulling. Most of all he enjoyed spending time with his family.

Preceding him in death were Dale Elwood; and his sister-in-law, Sue Wagaman.

Survivors include his wife and best friend, Teresa Hossle; daughters, Heather Laire and husband Corey of Red Oak; Heidi Hossle of Essex; and Becca Ridnour and husband Harry of Clarinda; grandchildren, Clay Jordon of Red Oak; Ella and Renly Sandahl of Essex; and Emersyn and Maxwell Ridnour of Clarinda; parents, Max and Gwen Hossle of Red Oak; sisters, Julie Van Houten of Emerson and Donise Senekar of Jefferson City, Mo.; mother-in-law, Janie Elwood of Red Oak; brothers-in-law, Jim Wagaman and wife Patty of Red Oak and Jerry Wagaman and wife Cindy of Red Oak; and many nieces, nephews, and other relatives and friends.

Funeral services were held Friday, March 18, 2022, at the First Christian Church. Burial was in the Evergreen Cemetery. Memorials are suggested to the Montgomery County Ag Society or the First Christian Church.

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

KARLETTE HULTMAN, 86

Karlette LaRue Hultman, 86, Red Oak, passed away Tuesday, March 15, 2022, at the Jennie Edmundson Hospital in Council Bluffs.



Karlette was born Feb. 5, 1936, on the McClintock family farm near Essex, in a blizzard, the daughter of Alden and Helen (McClintock) Nelson. She was raised in Shambaugh and Coin, graduating from Coin High School. Karlette attended Augustana College in Rockford, Ill., until she was united in marriage to Donovan Hultman on Feb. 18, 1956, in Shenandoah.

They lived all of their married life on farms in Montgomery and Page counties and moved to the Hultman Heritage Family Farm in 2000. Karlette was an Avon Representative for over 35 years, helped Donovan in the Hultman seed business, was a licensed real estate agent, was a hostess at the Red Coach Inn, and worked for Hope Sallach at Inch Away Fitness.

Karlette was a longtime member of First Covenant Church, Covenant Women, and also taught Sunday School. She was active in Farm Bureau where she was Chairman of the Women’s Club and sang in the Women’s Chorus. She and Donovan were very active 4-H leaders and encouraged their kids to show livestock. They were named WOWT Farm Family of the Week in the 1970s. Karlette was also a member of the Women’s Extension Council. Karlette loved horses and in her younger years was a member of the Rough Riders Saddle Club. Karlette enjoyed singing while Donovan played the piano, and they spent many hours square dancing. They both enjoyed attending all the grandkids’ sporting events throughout the years.

Preceding her in death were her parents; and husband, Donovan, on Feb. 27, 2019.

Survivors include her children, Bret Hultman and wife Danis of Red Oak; and Kenda Caskey and husband Troy of Lee’s Summit, Mo.; grandchildren, Connor Hultman of Red Oak; Kelen Caskey of Kansas City, Mo.; Easton Hultman of Ames; and Tristen Caskey of Norman, Okla.; and other relatives and many friends.

Funeral services were held Monday, March 21, 2022, at First Covenant Church. Burial was in the Mt. Hope Cemetery at Nyman.

Memorials are suggested to the First Covenant Church or the Mt. Hope Cemetery Association.

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

MARILYN FLEMING, 91

Marilyn Jean Fleming, 91, Red Oak, passed away Friday, March 18, 2022, at the Montgomery County Memorial Hospital.



Marilyn was born Feb. 5, 1931, on her grandparents’ farm near Yorktown, the daughter of Mandel and Bernese (Masker) Chaffin. She weighed in at five pounds. Marilyn started school in Yorktown, and in 1940 the family moved to Coin. In 1942, they moved to Glenwood, where she graduated with the class of 1949. At five years old, Marilyn started piano lessons, which were given to her by her aunt, Ethelyn, who found out she had perfect pitch and could play by ear. One summer, she rode the train from Coin to Clarinda for lessons. In high school, she studied with Cecil Berryman in Omaha. She gave piano lesson in high school and was paid 50 cents per lesson. After high school, Marilyn went to work for NW Bell Telephone and took night classes at University of Omaha.

In December 1950, Marilyn was united in marriage to Lynn Fleming in Glenwood. They lived on a farm near Henderson. She gave piano lessons to children in the neighborhood and played organ and led Junior Choir at Wales Presbyterian Church. In 1996, Lynn and Marilyn moved to Red Oak, where she belonged to several bridge clubs, canasta clubs, Lunch Bunch (Glenwood 1949 graduates), and Korner Keynotes Music Club. She was a member of the Red Oak Presbyterian Church, where she served as Elder. As a musician, she played for many weddings, funerals, and church services. Marilyn loved getting her piano students ready for contest. She also loved flowers, music, crossword puzzles, good food, laughing, dogs, and trips to Branson. Most of all she loved the Lord.

Marilyn was preceded in death by her husband, Lynn on Jan. 23, 2009, and grandson, Jacob Fleming.

Survivors include her children, Diane Goranson (Kirk) of Lincoln, Neb.; and Morris Fleming (Marsha) of Emerson; sister, Cathy McGill (Scott) of East Lansing, Mich.; sister-in-law, Carolyn Mill of Casa Grande, Ariz.; special friend, Scoop Houser of Red Oak; grandchildren, Hilary Croney (James); Justin Goranson (Cindy); Daniel Fleming (Amanda Focht); and Wes Goranson (Abbie); great-grandchildren, Haleigh Croney, Carson Croney, Rhett Fleming, Mila Goranson, Scarlett Goranson, Baylor Goranson, and Claire Goranson; and many nieces, nephews, and other relatives and many friends.

Marilyn’s positive spirit, amazing musical ability, wonderful cooking, love of family, and her enduring faith in Christ will be remembered by all who knew and loved her.

A celebration of life service was held Tuesday, March 22, 2022, at the Red Oak Presbyterian Church. A private family interment service was held prior to the service at the Macedonia Cemetery in Macedonia. Memorials are suggested to the Red Oak Presbyterian Church or the Red Oak Music Boosters.

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

MICHAEL “MIKE” ASKEY, 55

Michael James “Mike” Askey, 55, Red Oak, passed away Monday, March 14, 2022, at University of Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha.



Mike was born July 28, 1966, in Red Oak, the son of James and Donna (Foes) Askey. He was raised on a farm south of Stanton and graduated from Stanton High School in 1984. The family moved to Red Oak shortly after Mike’s graduation.

Over the years, Mike worked for ROMech, Lloyd, Inc., and was currently employed at his dream job at Southwest Regional Water District in Clarinda. He was recently promoted to operations manager.

Mike was an avid Iowa Hawkeyes fan and Chicago Bears fan. He enjoyed hunting deer, fishing, telling jokes, and spending time with his family, especially watching Disney movies with his granddaughters.

Mike married the love of his life, Linda Anderson, on Feb. 2, 2001, and together they raised two amazing children, Krystin Anne and Dylan Harry. Their beautiful family has grown to include Krystin’s husband, Jon Skobis; two granddaughters, Abigail Louise and Alexis Marie Skobis; and Dylan’s girlfriend, Lexie Wingfield. Also surviving are his siblings, Pam Miller and Charles Shrum; and many other relatives and friends including a cousin, Randy Askey, whom he considered a brother.

Funeral services were held Saturday, March 19, 2022, at the Nelson-Boylan-LeRette Funeral Chapel. Burial was in the Mt. Hope Cemetery at Nyman. Memorials are suggested to the family.

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

HELEN LONG, 91

Helen Long, 91, Omaha, Neb., formerly of Red Oak, went home to be with Jesus on Tuesday, March 15, 2022, at the Josie Harper Hospice House in Omaha, Neb.



Helen Dean Long, the daughter of Carl and Evelyn (Norling) Lake, was born on the family farm in Garfield Township west of Red Oak on Feb. 25, 1931. Helen attended Garfield #6 grade school and then attended high school in Emerson, graduating as Valedictorian of her class of 1948.

On July 10, 1950, Helen was united in marriage to Dwaine C. Long at Hawthorne. They were married 53 years. To this union two children were born, Dale and Susan. Helen worked alongside of Dwaine on the Long Family Farm, which was homesteaded in 1871. Working as a partner in their business, Helen helped with the farm work, bookkeeping, and purchasing grain commodities. Helen could run most machinery, including the combines and tractors. She helped with their grain business, Long Grain Co., and enjoyed dealing with the customers and grain buyers. Plus, she fed scores of their employees, along with several others who seemed to stop by near the noon hour. Any and all were offered a place at the table, and nobody ever went away hungry.

Dwaine and Helen worked hard and played hard too. They enjoyed roller-skating for many years, plus they square danced with the Buckles and Bows in Red Oak. The family’s favorite activity was boating and water skiing at Black Hawk Lake in Iowa, Lake of the Ozarks in Missouri, and at Beaver Lake in Nebraska.

Helen was a lifelong member of the Hawthorne United Methodist and UMW. She served as the clerk of Garfield Township. Helen was one of the original founders of the Red Oak Tigerettes, Tag-A-Longs booster club. She was a Montgomery County Homemaker of the Year in 1971. She was a 4-H leader and helped with the Montgomery County Fair for many years. She received the Montgomery County Fair Hall of Fame award. Helen and Dwaine (posthumously) received the Iowa 4-H Hall of Fame award at the State Fair in August of 2009.

Helen’s family was so important to her, and she found boundless joy in attending all of her children’s and grandchildren’s activities throughout the years. She was their biggest fan in everything they did. They were all very special to her. In 2010, she moved to Omaha to Sunridge Village Retirement Community, where she lived until February 2022.

Helen was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Dwaine Long on Dec. 13, 2003, her daughter, Susan Wagaman; brothers, Bill Lake and James Lake; and sister-in-law, Elsie Lake.

Helen is survived by her son, Dale (Kim) Long of Plattsmouth, Neb.; four grandchildren, Kyle (Audrey) Long of Scottsbluff, Neb.; Jamison “JD” (Katelyn) Long of Papillion, Neb.; Danielle Wagaman of Council Bluffs; and Lindsey (James) O’Doherty of Gretna, Neb.; plus eight great-grandchildren; son-in-law, Jerry (Cindi) Wagaman of Emerson; sister, Bunny Lake of Huntington Beach, Calif.; brother-in-law, Ronald (Suzie) Long of Cameron, Mo.; along with many nieces, nephews, and friends.

May God bless her memory and give strength to those who mourn.

Funeral Service was held Saturday, March 19, 2022, at Sellergren-Lindell-DeMarce Funeral Home, Red Oak/

Burial was in Evergreen Cemetery, Red Oak. Rev. Billy Marks officiated.

Memorials are suggested to the Josie Harper Hospice House in Omaha, Neb. or First Baptist Church of Plattsmouth, Neb.

Remembrances and condolences may be shared with the family at www.sldfuneralhome.com.

Sellergren-Lindell-DeMarce Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

GORDON BILLS, 87

“There was one cow that was so tame that I would ride her into the barn to be milked.” The boy’s everyday farm skills would blossom into a love of cars, hunting, fishing, and family. We will miss the daily “good morning” and “good night” texts, fist bumps, and stories.



Gordon Aubrey “G.B.” Bills, 87, Creston, passed away March 15, 2022, surrounded by his family at his happy place, “his farm.” He was born May 4, 1934, in Stennett, the fourth of five children born to the union of Dallas Leo Bills and Golda Alvetta Core. After graduating from Stennett High School, Gordon married Barbara Lee Shuey in Red Oak and worked as an auto body repairman.

Gordon moved his family from Red Oak to Creston in 1966 to start the Auto Body Program at Southwestern Community College. He took great pride in the program, retiring from the college in 1995, and remained a supporter of Southwestern the rest of his life. Gordon loved to work with his hands and was proud of the house that he built on his farm using the shell of Lincoln No. 7 “Fighting Seven” one-room schoolhouse. He loved all outdoor activities; his favorite dog, Duke; the Iowa State Cyclones, and the Kansas City Chiefs. Another passion was his GB Christmas tree farm. He enjoyed all the families that came out year after year to cut down their trees.

Gordon was preceded in death by his parents; brother Bernard; sister, Lois; brothers-in-law, Virgil and Bob; sons-in-law, Chester Gatliff and Michael Quinn.

He is survived by his wife of 69 years, Barbara Lee (Shuey); daughters, Shelley (Jeff) Longstaff, Cynthia Quinn, and Kim Gatliff; son, Kevin (Holly) Bills; seven grandchildren, Heather (Scott) Colvin, Adam (Liz) Quinn, Ryan Quinn, Brooke Pruitt, Amy Longstaff, Megan Gatliff, and Madison Gatliff; great-great grandchildren, Jenna Pruitt, Aidain Quinn, and Harper Gatliff; brother, Marlin (Dorothy) Bills and sister, Doris Johnson.

A private Celebration of Life will be held at a later date. Memorial contributions may be directed to the family to establish a scholarship at SWCC for the Auto Body Program. Condolences and memories may be shared online at www.pearsonfuneralhomes.com.

DENNIS TILLMAN, 65

Dennis Tillman, 65, Red Oak, passed away Sunday, March 20, 2022, at University of Nebraska Medicine in Omaha.

Funeral services are pending at the Nelson-Boylan-LeRette Funeral Chapel.

BEVERLY SMITH, 77

Beverly Smith, 77, Beaver Lake, Neb., passed away Monday, March 21, 2022, in Omaha, Neb.

Services are pending with Sellergren-Lindell-DeMarce Funeral Home.

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

• Cathryn Fisher to Carrie Syb-

ert, Red Oak Frederickson 1st Addition Lt 10.

• Gary and Zoe Ruhl to Alan Walter, Milford Donoho’s Addition to Milford Blk 3 Lts 1-2.

• Two Chicks and a Hammer LLC, Martha Henriquez, Member, and Francisca Menjivar, Member, to Rina Menjivar, Red Oak Alix Addition Blk 9 Lt 3.

• Rick and Janet Osborne to 5 Star Properties LLC, Red Oak Lanes Addition Lts 34-35.

• Henry Elliott, President, and HAE Holdings LLC to First United Methodist Church Outreach

#700 MO Trust, Red Oak Original Plat Blk 18 Lts 7-8.

• Richard Ritnour to Sarah Ritnour, Red Oak Thompsons Addition Lt 41.

• Charles and Mary Fast to Jon and Julie Schaben, 25-73-37.

• Sharon King to Alexander and Lori Burton, 34-72-36.

• Sherrie and Roland Chapin to 5 Star Properties LLC, Red Oak Original Plat Blk 59, Lt 11, Blk 8, Lt 3.

QUIT CLAIM DEED

• Jennifer Ingersoll and Jen-

nifer Veon to Benjamin Ingersoll, 26-72-36 Parcel A.

Shane Myers to Kadee Myers, 27-72-36 Lts 11-12, Villisca South Villisca Lts 11-12.

• Richard McAlpin to Brian and Dawn LeRette, Red Oak Original Plat Blk 46 Lts 1-2.

• Jeanne and Virgil Van Fossion, and Jerry Abbott to Christian VanScyoc, Stennett Original Plat Lts 28-33.

SHERIFF’S DEED

• Rodney and Donna DeVries, and Montgomery County Sheriff

to Audie Rainey, Red Oak Eastern Slopes V Lts 37-38.

MORTGAGE

• Carrie Sybert to JP Morgan Chase Bank, Red Oak Frederickson 1st Addition Lt 10.

• Paul Vanderholm to Farm Credit Services of America FCLA, 35-71-37.

• 5 Star Properties LLC and Cody Chapin, Member, to Availa Bank, Red Oak Lanes Addition Lts 34-35.

• Travis and Katrina Johnson to Arbor Bank, Elliott 1st Addi-

tion Blk 5 Lts 5-8.

• Shirley Vannausdle to United Community Bank, 36-73-36, 3-72-36.

• Michelle Graham and Michelle Graham Kite to U.S. Bank National Association, Stanton Original Plat Lt 191.

• Nathan and Jessica Johnson to Farm Credit Services of America FCLA, 36-72-39, 17-71-38.

• Tony and Alix Carlson to Bank Iowa, 24-71-39 Lt 1 Parcel A.



*Stronger the Press, Stronger the People*

THE TIME CAPSULE | ROY MARSHALL

## Chips, onions, and chicken feet

I am not Dear Abby. Readers understand this. When one calls with a question the purpose is not to obtain my answer; it is to tell me theirs.

This was the case with a great call from Madge, who asked if I knew what Saratoga chips were. I said I thought so. (Saratoga chips were mentioned in last week's column.)

She said her grandmother made bushels of them. I said I believed they were thinly sliced potatoes deep-fried in lard.

Not exactly. Her grandfather often said they "had fried taters for supper every day, except when the preacher came. Then we had Saratoga chips."

Saratogas, Madge said, were not sliced; they were shaved on a "Saratoga Chipper." She had me there. I'd never heard of a "Saratoga Chipper." She still has her grandmother's, which was patented 1894. The potato was "chipped" into ice water, then deep fried.

I said potato chips didn't seem to match a 1910 Johnson Hotel dinner that included lobster salad, spring peas, beef filet, champagne-sorbet cocktails and exotic fruit and nuts. She disagreed; and said there is no comparing Saratoga chips with a bag of Lay's, and I shouldn't judge without trying them.

She's a wonderfully witty lady and great fun to talk to. If I had a chipper I'd try the Saratogas.

Last week also brought a card from Ken, a subscriber from Red Oak. He wrote a few lines in response to a column on onions, saying he can't grow them either. He remembered being raised on a farm where his dad dug huge onions, but Ken lives in town and his garden produces bulbs "about the size of a grape."

I hope Ken is reading this, as the answer to our onion problem was provided by Joy, who called about the same issue. Joy said the secret to onions is chicken manure. She has a friend with a com-



and harvests whoppers.

It occurred to me that Ken's father had success while on the farm, so perhaps he was using chicken manure. Regardless, wife and I have a few baby chicks and all summer to collect, so if I can train the little rascals to potty in a feed sack we'll give Joy's method a try.

Speaking of chickens, last year we raised six to butcher. Wife wanted 10-15 pounders to roast, so when judgment day arrived they had huge feet. On my bookshelf is a notebook with grandma's recipe for chicken-feet stock, which I've wanted to try.

Hers, though, calls for five pounds of feet and we've never had that many at one time. I decided that with 12 beauties I could cut back on other ingredients and make a small batch, so I froze them for that purpose.

Wife likes to serve a capon-sized chicken raised and fed the way she wants, but she's squeamish and will have no part of dispatching birds or removing their innards. She won't touch unattached feet.

Earlier this month she said she was tired of seeing the gross, creepy things and I should get them out of her freezer. I said I'd make some stock. She said not in her kitchen, I wouldn't, so I took a

mercial egg operation. Each autumn he supplies her with a feed sack full of chicken poo.

She squares off a plot in the garden for the following year's onions, puts down a one to two inch layer, tills it in and covers it with grass clippings to age through the winter. In the spring she tills again, plants onions



crockpot to the basement.

Grandma's first step was to thoroughly clean the feet. For those who haven't done so, scrubbing between the toes of a chicken foot is less fun, for example, than changing a flat tire on a mud road in a cold rain.

I was still on the first one when wife called down to say she was going to the store. I told her I'd need celery, onion, carrots and a bay leaf if we didn't already have them. After she left I took the feet upstairs and ran them thorough a cycle in the dishwasher. Upon returning to the basement there were only 11.

This could have ended badly, but I retrieved the 12th foot from behind a spinner arm of the dishwasher just as the garage door was opening. The

recipe wants feet covered with water and brought to a boil, then the water is dumped, feet cooled, yellow skin peeled, fresh water, vegetables and salt added and simmered on low for "a few hours".

I did six hours in a crockpot, skimmed the scum, strained, then presented the wife with two quarts of golden deluxe chicken-feet stock. She put it in small plastic containers to freeze, saying she'd try some in the right recipe. Whether she will or not I don't know, but the creepy feet are out of her freezer.

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

## Law and Order (continued from page 3A)

• VB BTS LLC, Marilyn Nippert Revocable Living Trust, Duane Nippert Revocable Living Trust, and Adam Ginder, Associate General Counsel, to Barclays Bank PLC, 27-73-36.

• VB BTS LLC, Richard Kennon, Trustee, Richard Kennon Revocable Trust, and Adam Ginder, Associate General Counsel, to Barclays Bank PLC, 5-71-37 Lt 2.

• Justin Miner and Lexis Houghton to Houghton State Bank, 21-72-39.

• Alexander and Lori Burton to Bank Iowa, 34-72-36.

• VB BTS LLC, Adam Ginder, Associate General Counsel, and William and Rachel Jacobs to Barclays Bank, 15-71-36.

## SMALL CLAIMS

• LVNV Funding LLC vs. Karla Parker, Villisca, judgment default in favor of the plaintiff, \$1,265.18 with 3.13% interest from March 15, plus costs.

• General Collection Co. vs. Dustin Edie, Red Oak, judgment default in favor of the plaintiff, \$589.80 with 3.13% interest from March 15, plus costs.

## ARRESTS

• Filed March 14, Matthew Thomason, 20, domestic abuse first offense.

• Filed March 17, Christopher Birdtail, 24, Red Oak, failure to appear on charge of possession of controlled substance first offense, \$2,000 cash bond.

• Filed March 20, Richard Straw, 45, Red Oak driving while suspended, \$491.25 bond.

## DISMISSED

• State of Iowa vs. Christine Agostinelli, 52, Council Bluffs, forgery, theft second degree, ongoing criminal conduct - influence enterprise, dismissed.

• State of Iowa vs. Joshua Mohn, 43, Red Oak, driving while barred, dismissed.

• State of Iowa vs. Jared Nyquist, 40, Red Oak, probation violation, dismissed.

## CRIMINAL

• Felony, State of Iowa vs. Christine Agostinelli, 52, Council Bluffs, identity theft over \$1,500 under \$10,000, five years prison, time served, \$1,025 fine, suspended, DNA requirement.

• Felony, State of Iowa vs. Joshua Mohn, 43, Red Oak, eluding - speed over 25 MPH over limit, \$855 fine, suspended, time served, DNA requirement.

• Felony, State of Iowa vs. Garret Horgdal, 38, Henderson, theft first degree, dominion/control of firearm/offensive weapon by felon, two counts.

• Felony, State of Iowa vs. Jan-nelle Davis, 38, Henderson, theft first degree.

• Simple misdemeanor, State of Iowa vs. Dyllan Hansen, 20, Red Oak, domestic abuse assault-first offense.

• Simple misdemeanor, State of Iowa vs. Kristen Hughes, 52, Red Oak, disorderly conduct - loud or raucous noise.

• Simple misdemeanor, State of Iowa vs. Roger Cook, 54, Red Oak, possession of drug paraphernalia, pled guilty, \$125 fine.

• Simple misdemeanor, State

of Iowa vs. Keith Hansen, 63, Stanton, public intoxication, pled guilty, \$150 fine.

• Simple misdemeanor, State of Iowa vs. Matthew Kepler Thomason, 20, Villisca, domestic abuse assault, first offense.

• Serious misdemeanor, State of Iowa vs. Dillon Lucas, 28, Council Bluffs, possession of a controlled substance - marijuana first offense, \$430 fine.

• Serious misdemeanor, State of Iowa vs. Alan Walter, 45, Grant, operation of motor vehicle with expired license, \$60 fine.

• Serious misdemeanor, State of Iowa vs. Christopher Birdtail, 24, Red Oak, possession of a controlled substance - marijuana first offense.

## TRAFFIC

• Christopher Yeager, Emerson, operating non-registered vehicle, speeding.

• Mallacki Dross, Council Bluffs, speeding, no valid driver's license.

• Tonia Larsen, Marne, speeding.

• Kaleb Wagaman, Bedford, registration violation.

• Justin Swartz, Grant, failure to maintain control.

• Jeffery Pezzetti, Urbandale, speeding.

• Brooke Scott, Red Oak, operation without registration card or plate.

• Jennifer Nevins, Elliott, operation without registration card or plate.

• Stewart Longworth, Omaha, speeding.

• Drake Brown, Red Oak, open

container - passengers 21 years old or older.

• Taylor Turek, Emerson, registration violation.

• Daniel Anderson, Papillion, Neb., speeding.

• Cheyenne Hilgerson, Red Oak, failure to obey stop sign and yield right of way.

• Taylor Scott, Red Oak, person under 21 using tobacco/vapor product first offense.

• Hannah Dahlberg, Red Oak, person under 21 using tobacco/vapor product-first offense.

• Joshua Osheim, Red Oak, speeding.

• Gina Barrett, Omaha, Neb., speeding.

• Drake Brown, Red Oak, speeding.

• Courtney McCoy, Villisca, operation without registration card or plate.

• Andrea Swank, Shenandoah, following too closely.

• Bernard Svoboda, Elliott, registration violation.

• Riley Story, Henderson, unlawful passing of school bus first offense.

• Luke Rinehart Red Oak, driving while license denied, suspended, cancelled, or revoked.

## LETTER TO | THE EDITOR

## Rossander urging changes to solar ordinance

## To the Editor:

The Montgomery County Planning and Zoning Commission will be meeting at 5:30 p.m. on March 30 at the the Montgomery County Engineer's Office on 406 W 4th Street.

This meeting is being held to try and address the errors and omissions that are currently present in the recently passed solar ordinance for our county.

The Board of Supervisors tried to fix the problems with this ordinance, before its passage back in January when they sent the ordinance back to the Montgomery County Planning and Zoning Commission and asked them to revisit it. The commission refused to act at that time, so the ordinance stood as written.

This ordinance could potentially impact the lives and wellbeing of countless citizens of Montgomery County. From citizens simply wanting to put solar panels on their homes, to the citizens of our county whose quality of life would be impacted by the installation of a utility scale solar farm next door to their farm or acreage. It is vitally important that we get this ordinance correct.

Some members of the Planning and Zoning Commission have said that the ordinance as written is "good enough." I am not in agreement

with that belief. Some members of the Planning and Zoning Commission have repeatedly stated that the Board of Adjustment can simply fix and address the problems with the ordinance sometime in the future when permits are issued. Again, I am not in agreement with that stance. Just look at what is currently happening in Page County. I believe that both positions leave our county open to unnecessary and unwanted lawsuits.

I believe that the more prudent thing to do is to fix the known problems now and add in the missing language that will strengthen our ordinance, and not wait for problems to occur and then try and fix them in the future.

If you agree with me I encourage you to attend the upcoming Planning and Zoning meeting in person. If you cannot attend in person, please consider contacting a Planning and Zoning Commissioner and tell them you want them to fix the solar ordinance now and not in the future.

I would be happy to discuss with anyone my specific concerns regarding this ordinance as it is currently written. My number is in the phonebook.

Vicky Rossander  
Stanton

## 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.  
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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.

## 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; Shellie Welbon, Mail.

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





Community Calendar

24 March

8 a.m. to noon: Leadership Red Oak, Red Oak Chamber and Industry Association  
Noon: SCORE webinar, "Packaging Tendering - How Pickup and Drop-Off Make a Difference to Your Bottom Line." Go to [omaha.score.org/content/take-workshop-242](https://omaha.score.org/content/take-workshop-242) for more information and registration.  
12:30 p.m. Bingo, Red Oak Senior Center, 2700 N. 4th St. Call 712-623-3497 or Carolyn 402-926-8683 for more information.

25 March

Spring open houses at participating businesses during regular business hours, see story on page for participating businesses.  
10:15 a.m., Storytime, Red Oak Public Library, "Rain/Clouds," 400 N. 2nd St.  
5 p.m., White Sparrow ribbon cutting hosted by ROCIA and RO Ambassadors, 510 N. 4th St.  
5:30 p.m., Alcoholics Anonymous, Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 1101 Summit St.  
7 p.m., "Moonfall," theatre #1; "Blacklight," theatre #2; Red Oak Grand Theatre.  
7 to 8 p.m., Montgomery County Family YMCA lifeguard training prerequisites

26 March

Spring open houses at participating businesses during regular business hours, see story on page for participating businesses.  
8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Montgomery County YMCA lifeguard class one.

5:30 p.m. Mills-Montgomery County Cattleman's annual banquet, White Fair building.  
7 p.m., "Moonfall," theatre #1; "Blacklight," theatre #2; Red Oak Grand Theatre.

27 March

8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Montgomery County YMCA lifeguard class two  
2 and 7 p.m., "Moonfall," theatre #1; "Blacklight," theatre #2; Red Oak Grand Theatre.  
5:30 p.m., Alcoholics Anonymous, Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 1101 Summit St.

28 March

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, junior/senior high school, or via Zoom.  
7 p.m., Alcoholics Anonymous, Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 1101 Summit St.

29 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.

30 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.

Hope For Life, Nishna Church of Christ announce merger

Two area churches have chosen to merge into one local entity.

Hope for Life Christian Church and the Nishna Church of Christ officials, after discussion, both realized they had similar beliefs, a similar mission, and similar programming, but also had separate facilities and duplicate costs.

With that in mind, officials decided the wise choice was to join together and become one church, "River of Life Church." Plans have proceeded under the guidance and support from the Calvary Christian Church in Bellevue, Neb.

and one of the church's pastors, Jim Hardy. The decision was made early on to renovate the facilities of the former Nishna Church of Christ (pictured at right,) and sell the building to the former Hope for Life Christian Church. Both entities are well on the way to completing these goals.

Pastor David Haynes is currently ministering with the River of Life Church on a part-time basis. Haynes and wife Virginia share three children, nine grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.

Haynes has served as a minister in Missouri, Wisconsin, Texas, and



Nebraska, and has lead the establishment of three new congregations.

Haynes served as a pastor of Kingsway Christian Church in Omaha for 20 years, and after retiring from the role of senior minister, Haynes taught at Nebraska Christian College for 15 years. Haynes said he looked

forward to leading the newly-combined River of Life Church as they transitioned and grew. As more people attend and call River of Life their "home," a full-time pastor will be secured.

The church, located at 1880 Highway 48, on the north edge of Red Oak, will host its first event in the newly-renovated

worship center on April 9 from 8 to 10 a.m. The pre-Easter event will feature a breakfast, games, prizes, an adult Easter egg hunt, and a chance to meet Pastor Haynes.

The official grand opening is Easter Sunday, April 17 with doughnuts and coffee at 9 a.m. followed by worship at 10 a.m.

SWITA celebrates its drivers

The Southwest Iowa Transit Agency recently celebrated Transit Driver Appreciation Day on March 18.

The unofficial holiday, observed each year on March 18, recognizes the men and women who ensure safe travel for millions of Americans. This year's celebration comes on the heels of the two-year anniversary of the COVID-19 pandemic, which has been especially stressful for essential workers due to the increased risk they encounter on the job and their roles enforcing state, federal, and local safety measures to keep their passengers safe.

"SWITA is showing appreciation for our drivers this week with goodie bags put together by the staff in the transit office," said transit coordinator Kristen Templeton. "Our drivers go above and beyond daily on their routes getting people to their

destinations. Please pause to express your appreciation when you board or exit a bus or other mode of public transit, today and every day."

During the pandemic, southwest Iowa's transit drivers assumed risks others were able to avoid, even transporting patients who had tested positive for COVID-19, because despite the pandemic, people still needed to go to important medical appointments or other essential services. Between spring 2020 and summer 2021, SWITA drivers delivered more than 1,900 meals through a volunteer-run program for homebound or at-risk residents. In the coming week, transit office staff will visit drivers in all corners of the SWITA service area to deliver the gift bags and show gratitude to the more than 70 drivers who operate SWITA's fleet of vehicles.

Area businesses hosting spring open houses

Numerous businesses in Red Oak are celebrating with spring open houses March 25-26.

Locations will be offering free snacks, and sales and discounts will also be offered on select merchandise.

Participating businesses include: Five One 8, Mark Jack-

son's Red Oak Hardware Hank and Hallmark Gold Crown Store, Jeremy's This N. That Bin Store & Vendors, J Mercantile, Pudgy Pumpkin Patch Gift Shop, White Sparrow, the Gold Smith Gallery, and Buck Snort. Residents are encouraged to visit and get in on the fun.

White Sparrow ribbon cutting March 25

The Red Oak Chamber and Industry Association, as well as the Red Oak Ambassadors, are inviting area residents to join in a special ribbon cutting ceremony.

At 5 p.m. on March 25, a ribbon cutting welcoming new ownership at the White Sparrow at 510 N. 4th Street will be held.

Everyone is invited to attend the event.

Happy Birthday!

Celebrating birthdays this week are:

Taylor Straw – March 24  
Robert Betts – March 24  
Mansor Kia – March 24  
Fern Platt – March 25  
Darrel Cary – March 26  
Jim Jones – March 27  
Carrie Owen – March 28  
Clete Johnson – March 29  
Nancy Murphy – March 29

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

Area churches, submit your Easter service times for the Community page.

Email [news@redoakexpress.com](mailto:news@redoakexpress.com).

Senior Menu

Thursday, March 24: Meatballs with mushroom gravy, whipped potatoes, sliced carrots, dinner roll, pineapple tidbits, milk/coffee.

Friday, March 25: Cheese omelette, hash brown casserole, hot cinnamon applesauce, muffin,

orange juice, milk/coffee.

Monday, March 28: Spaghetti casserole, seasoned green beans, tossed salad with dressing, white bread, hot sliced peaches, milk/coffee.

Tuesday, March 29: Baked

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

Wednesday, March 30: BBQ pulled pork sandwich on a bun, au gratin potatoes, baked beans, fresh

fruit, 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](https://crossroadsredoak.com). **Online:** 9:45 a.m. approx. live on Facebook.

Catholic

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

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

Christian

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

Christian & Missionary Alliance

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

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

Church Of Christ

Church Of Christ, Elliott, Sunday

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

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

Church Of the Nazarene

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

Covenant

Evangelical, Rev. Matt King, 308 Eastern, Stanton, Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Worship, 10:45 a.m. **Online:** 10:45 a.m. live on Facebook and later on Youtube.  
Faith Covenant Church, 212 Alice St., Essex, Pastor Gordon Scott, Pastor Staci Shearer, Worship, 8:30 a.m.  
First Covenant, Rev. Alan Dean, pastor, 3rd & Hammond, Red Oak, Worship, 9:30 a.m.

Jehovah's Witness

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

Lutheran

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

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

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

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

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

Mt. Calvary, 107 S. 5th, Villisca, Jerome Wagoner, Worship, 9:00 a.m.  
Tabor Lutheran, 1711 Q Ave., Stanton, Worship, 8:15 a.m., Sunday School, 9:15 a.m.  
Peace Lutheran, (A WELS Congregation), 411 Church St., Shenandoah, Saturday Worship, 5:30 p.m.; Bible and Sunday School, 6:30 p.m.

Non-Denominational

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

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

Presbyterian

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

First Presbyterian, 109 S. 3rd Ave., Villisca, Rev. Sandra Wainwright, Sunday School, 9:30 a.m., Worship, 10:30 a.m.  
Red Oak Presbyterian, 511 E. Coolbaugh, PO Box 402, Red Oak, Carolyn Pedersen, [redoakpresbyterianchurch.com](https://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](https://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](https://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

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Funeral Home - 623-2796





New features at Inman Playground

Crews were at Inman Elementary this past week doing contruction at the school's playground. Plans called for the addition of a few additional playground items to provide more options during recess for the kids. (Photo submitted)

Enarson students travel to Capitol



Fifth graders from Enarson Elementary in Villisca took part in a field trip to the Iowa State Capitol on March 15. Students spent the day touring the buildings and also got to meet Rep. Cecil Dolecheck. (Photo submitted)

Good Shepherd now taking registrations

Registration materials for enrolling preschoolers in Good Shepherd Christian Preschool (GSCP) for the 2022-23 school year are now available.

Children from any school district who will be four years old on or before Sept. 15, 2022, are eligible to attend this free preschool program.

Registration materials may be picked up at the preschool during class hours or from the Viking Center office, the Stanton

Child Resource Center, Stanton Elementary School, or the Stanton Public Library.

The preschool is located on the upper level of the Viking Center in Stanton which is next door to Stanton Schools.

Feel free to contact Janell Frey, preschool director and lead teacher, at GSCPstanton@gmail.com or 712-829-2421 with questions.

Registration materials should be turned in ASAP to secure the

child’s place.

The Good Shepherd Christian Preschool will be holding a preschool exploration hour for incoming preschoolers and their parents on Monday, April 4, from 6 to 7 p.m., or Tuesday, April 5, from 6 to 7 p.m..

Teachers will be available to answer questions and children will be free to explore the classroom. Registration materials may be picked up or dropped off at that time.

STEM Fair in Ames March 24-25

Junior and senior high-school students from across the state are gearing up to compete for prizes, awards and scholarships during the upcoming State Science and Technology Fair of Iowa on March 24-25. The event is the largest STEM competition for youth in grades 6-12 and will be hosted in person at Hilton Coliseum on the Iowa State University campus in Ames.

Through participation in the event, students learn about science and engineering processes, problem solving, and the importance of being able to communicate and defend those findings to others. To compete, participants are asked to prepare a research poster detailing their findings and the data collected.

Students, teachers, families and members of the public are invited to view the exhibits and ask youth researchers questions about their projects on

Thursday or Friday, from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.

In addition to the exhibits, this year’s competition will see the return of youth-led educational seminars. Students will submit a paper on a STEM topic of their choice and the top eight in each category will get a chance to present to compete for cash prizes sponsored by Meta.

The 15 award categories include animal science, biochemistry, behavioral and social sciences, biomedical and health sciences, cellular and molecular biology, chemistry, computer science, earth and environmental sciences, engineering, mathematics, energy and transportation, microbiology, physics and astronomy, plant sciences, and robotics and intelligent machines.

Four VIP tickets to see astrophysicist Neil deGrasse Tyson will be given as a special award to a top student researcher.

School Lunch Menus

East Mills

Thursday, March 24: Mr. Rib sandwich on a bun, baked beans, green beans, diced peaches.

Friday, March 25: Macaroni and cheese, steamed broccoli florets, savory carrot slices, mixed fruit.

Monday, March 28: Crispy chicken strips, green beans, steamed broccoli florets, tropical fruit, chocolate chip cookie.

Tuesday, March 29: Beef taco meat, flour tortilla, Spanish rice, salsa cup, refried beans, peas, pineapple tidbits.

Wednesday, March 30: Turkey and cheese sandwich on a bun, cucumber slices, cherry tomatoes, fresh grapes, Doritos.

Essex

Thursday, March 24: Rock and roll beef wraps, corn, mandarin oranges.

Friday, March 25: Uncrustable peanut butter and jelly sandwich, mixed vegetables, potato chips, mandarin oranges.

Monday, March 28: Spaghetti with meat sauce, bread stick, garden salad with choice of dressing, mandarin oranges.

Tuesday, March 29: Corn dog, baby carrots, peas, pears.

Wednesday, March 30: Crispy chicken tenders, baked beans, cottage cheese, applesauce cup.

Griswold

Thursday, March 24: Mini corn dogs, potato chips, baked beans, coleslaw, sliced peaches.

Friday, March 25: Pizza slices, bread stick, garden spinach salad with dressing, vegetable cup, apple slices.

Monday, March 28: Hot ham and cheese sandwich on a bun, potato wedges, garden spinach salad with dressing, green beans, fruit cup.

Tuesday, March 29: Beef hot dog on a bun, chili, cheese, potato chips, broccoli florets with ranch dip, applesauce.

Wednesday, March 30: French toast with maple syrup, sausage patty, egg patty, hash browns, mandarin oranges.

Red Oak Elementary/ Preschool Center

Thursday, March 24: Beef hot dog on a bun, jalapenos, banana peppers; or chicken Caesar salad, Italian bread; or roasted chicken sandwich, pickles, lettuce, jalapenos, onions; or pizza munchables; fresh garden salad with choice of dressing, Mexican corn salad, fresh fruit, sliced pears.

Friday, March 25: Breaded fish sandwich on a bun; or BLTE salad, pineapple muffin; or pizza slices; or Thai chili noodle salad; fresh garden salad with choice of dressing, baby carrots and ranch, fresh fruit, tropical fruit.

Monday, March 28: Crispy chicken nuggets, Italian bread; or strawberry chicken salad, Italian bread; or bacon pickle grilled cheese sandwich; or ham and cheese sandwich on a bun; fresh garden salad with choice of dressing, cucumber slices, corn, fresh fruit, applesauce.

Tuesday, March 29: Chicken enchilada with white queso cheese, shredded lettuce, jalapenos, diced tomatoes, diced onions; or popcorn chicken salad, focaccia bread, or pizza slices; or club stacker; fresh garden salad with choice of dressing, BBQ bacon beans, black bean dip, fresh fruit, mandarin oranges.

Wednesday, March 30: Breaded chicken patty on

a bun, hot roll; or chef salad, hot roll; or three cheese grilled cheese sandwich; or Thai grain bowl; mashed potatoes and gravy, glazed carrots, fresh garden salad with choice of dressing, fresh fruit, sliced peaches.

Red Oak Jr./Sr. High School  
Chicken patty, cheeseburger, and pizza are offered daily

Thursday, March 24: Beef hot dog on a bun, jalapenos, banana peppers; or chicken Caesar salad, Italian bread; or roasted chicken sandwich, pickles, lettuce, jalapenos, onions; or pizza munchables; fresh garden salad with choice of dressing, Mexican corn salad, fresh fruit, sliced pears.

Friday, March 25: Breaded fish sandwich on a bun; or BLTE salad, pineapple muffin; or pizza slices; or Thai chili noodle salad; fresh garden salad with choice of dressing, baby carrots and ranch, fresh fruit, tropical fruit.

Monday, March 28: Crispy chicken nuggets, Italian bread; or strawberry chicken salad, Italian bread; or bacon pickle grilled cheese sandwich; or ham and cheese sandwich on a bun; fresh garden salad with choice of dressing, cucumber slices, corn, fresh fruit, applesauce.

Tuesday, March 29: Chicken enchilada with white queso cheese, shredded lettuce, jalapenos, diced tomatoes, diced onions; or popcorn chicken salad, focaccia bread, or pizza slices; or club stacker; fresh garden salad with choice of dressing, BBQ bacon beans, black bean dip, fresh fruit, mandarin oranges.

Wednesday, March 30: Breaded chicken patty on a bun, hot roll; or chef salad, hot roll; or three cheese grilled cheese sandwich; or Thai grain bowl; mashed potatoes and gravy, glazed carrots, fresh garden salad with choice of dressing, fresh fruit, sliced peaches.

Southwest Valley

Thursday, March 24: Beef hot dog on a bun, chili, cheese, cheesy french fries, corn, mixed fruit, dinner roll.

Friday, March 25: Cheese pizza slices, lettuce salad with choice of dressing, green beans, mixed fruit.

Monday, March 28: Crispy chicken nuggets, Jo Jo potatoes, winter mixed vegetables with cheese, mixed fruit.

Tuesday, March 29: Tomato soup, grilled cheese sandwich, cascade blend mixed vegetables, tropical fruit.

Wednesday, March 30: Macaroni and cheese with diced ham, corn, green beans, mixed fruit, bread and butter.

Stanton

Thursday, March 24: Beef quesadilla, corn, lettuce salad with choice of dressing, sliced peaches, mixed fruit.

Friday, March 25: Breaded fish fillet on a bun, baked beans, waffle fries, pineapple tidbits, orange slices.

Monday, March 28: BBQ rib sandwich on a bun, or beef hot dog on a bun, baked beans, tri-tater, mandarin oranges, pineapple tidbits.

Tuesday, March 29: Ham and potato casserole, peas, green beans, sliced peaches, mixed fruit, dinner roll.

Wednesday, March 30: Stadium hot dog on a bun, chili, cheese, potato wedges, baked beans, strawberries, bananas, sliced pears.

School Activities

Thursday, March 24

- Essex: Art field trip
- Griswold: Conference art fair, high school gym
- 6 a.m.-7 a.m., Griswold: Softball practice, middle school gym
- 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 practice, new high school gym
- 3:25-5:55 p.m., Griswold: High school track practice, middle school gym
- 5:30 p.m., Red Oak: SWCC night, junior/senior high school auditorium
- 6-7 p.m., Griswold: HS softball pitcher/catcher workouts, middle school gym
- 6 p.m., Red Oak: Boys basketball banquet, Red Oak Country Club
- 6 p.m., Griswold: Middle school AAU volleyball, middle school gym
- 6 p.m., Griwold: High school AAU volleyball, high school gym

Friday, March 25

- Griswold: Conference art fair, high school gym
- 1:30 p.m., Essex: Early dismissal
- 3:25-5:55 p.m., Griswold: High school track practice, middle school gym
- 7 p.m., Red Oak: Junior high play, junior/senior high school auditorium

Saturday, March 26

- Griswold: Conference art fair, high school gym
- 9:30 a.m., Red Oak:Tiger baseball camp
- 7 p.m., Red Oak: Junior high play, junior/senior high school auditorium

Sunday, March 27

- 1-4 p.m., East Mills: Corner Conference art festival, Griswold
- 2-4 p.m., Griswold: High school baseball practice, middle school gym
- 5-6 p.m., Griswold: High school girls pitching practice, middle school gym
- 5:30-7:30 p.m., Southwest Valley: High school softball practice, activity center

Monday, March 28

- East Mills: All State Individual Speech

Festival, UNI

- Griswold: Conference art fair, high school gym
- 9 a.m.-1 p.m., East Mills: Corner Conference art festival, Griswold
- 11:15 a.m., Red Oak: College rep visit, junior/senior high school
- 3:25-5:55 p.m., Griswold: High school track practice, middle school gym
- 6 p.m., Griswold: High school softball girls hitting practice, middle school gym
- 6:30 p.m., Red Oak: Wrestling team banquet, Red Oak Country Club

Tuesday, March 29

- 6 a.m.-7 a.m., Griswold: Softball practice, middle school gym
- 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 practice, new high school gym
- 8:30 a.m., Griswold: Hearing checks
- 9 a.m., Griswold: Art show open to public
- 3:25-5:55 p.m., Griswold: High school track practice, middle school gym
- 5-6 p.m., Griswold: High school softball pitcher/catcher workouts, middle school gym
- 6-8 p.m., Griswold: High school softball hitting practice, middle school gym
- 6 p.m., Red Oak: Jazz concert, junior/senior high school auditorium

Wednesday, March 30

- Griswold: One hour early release, work time
- 6:15-7:15 a.m., Southwest Valley: High school softball pitching, new high school gym
- 7:30 a.m., Red Oak: Josten’s visit, junior/senior high school
- 1:05/1:15 p.m., Stanton: Early dismissal
- 5-6:15 p.m., Southwest Valley: High school AAU volleyball, new high school gym
- 6:15-9 p.m., Southwest Valley: Women’s volleyball league, activity center
- 3:25-5:55 p.m., Griswold: High school track practice, middle school gym
- 5 p.m., Griswold: High school softball pitching practice, middle school gym
- 6-7:30 p.m., Griswold: Weichman practice, middle school gym

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



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Brian Johnson  
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In Memory of Curtis Swanson  
In Memory of Carolyn Allen  
In Memory of Edmund Larson  
In Memory of Karlette Hultman

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



## Policy for development, dissemination and use of agendas vetoed by Silvius

Nick Johansen

The Red Oak Express

Council action regarding policy on the Red Oak City Council agendas was vetoed by Red Oak Mayor Shawna Silvius.

The policy approved by the council at the meeting March 7 and stated the city clerk, with input and direction from the city administrator, would prepare and make the final decision on all agenda content and order of agenda items. Silvius, and Red Oak City Council Members Brian Bills and Tim Fridolph, raised concerns that the policy declared the clerk and the administrator had final say about what went on the agenda and that it didn't include Silvius, but city administrator Brad Wright said it changed nothing from the way things had been done since he and city clerk Mary Bolton had started working with the city.

The council approved the policy as presented by a 3-2 vote at the March 7 meeting.

While offering praise for all the work done by the council, at the meeting March 21, Silvius announced that she was vetoing the action.

"I appreciate all the work the council does, and the public service role we are all in is certainly a thankless position, and I truly respect you for all stepping up to represent our community. I also appreciate all the work that they do behind the scenes to keep the city running," Silvius stated.



Red Oak Mayor Shawna Silvius, left, and members of the Red Oak City Council recognized Red Oak basketball coach Spencer Plank, (second from left) assistant coach Brian Mensen, and members of the basketball team for their accomplishments this season, including their first trip to the state basketball tournament since 1993. (Nick Johansen/The Red Oak Express)

"Obviously we will not always agree on every issue. Regardless of that, I do respect your opinions, and I would never ask you or want you to vote against anything that you believe to be the right thing to do. With that, I want to make it public that on March 11, I did veto the resolution, 2022-11, adopting the policies for the development, dissemination, and use of agendas for the meetings of the Red Oak City Council."

Despite the veto, Silvius said an agreement had been reached.

"On March 21, we did reach a compromise that will not require any changes or formal action to any existing city policy. We do feel that we need to update some of the documents, but those will come before the council at a later time," said Silvius.

Additionally, Silvius announced she will have office

hours on Mondays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., and Fridays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., unless she had a conflict with her job.

"I will try to work around those conflicts, and I get to work from home more. I definitely want to be in the office, available to the public, on those days and during those hours," commented Silvius.

Silvius and Council Member Jeanice Lester also announced they will be at Ryan Falk's Ice Cream Soda Fountain from 9 to 10 a.m. on March 26 to hear from constituents.

The council also discussed a proposed citizen's request form to be on the council agenda. Lester proposed a couple of changes to the form before it was approved.

"One of the things I would like to see us drop is copying the request to all the city

departments, I think that needs to come later. The other thing I would suggest be changed is in the first sentence, and have it simply state that your request will be reviewed and possibly scheduled for a future meeting, forwarded to the mayor and the city administrator, and with appropriate action to be taken," Lester advised.

She felt those two minor changes would make it a lot easier.

"Overall, I like it, and I hope that the people like it," Lester said.

Silvius said the form would be used in lieu of the two minute comment period.

"If the public has something to bring before the council, it gives the public a chance to fill the form out in advance, and it's due by 4:30 p.m. the Tuesday before a council meeting. It will be emailed to myself and to Brad Wright, or it can be delivered to Red Oak City Hall," explained Silvius. "It gives the public a chance to put a title to it, explain their request, and any action they are requesting of the council, and then myself and the city administrator will discuss the request and see if we need to have a meeting with them instead, so that we understand the request, and otherwise, the person will be notified as to when the item will be on a future agenda."

Bills confirmed that the form meant that the opportunity for people to speak would be eliminated without filling the form out. Silvius confirmed that was the case.

"This will allow us to be aware of what someone will be bringing before us," Silvius commented.

Lester said that other cities

use a similar format that it works very well.

Bills said he liked the idea of it, but hoped that it would not make the meetings and comments from the public more restricted.

Silvius said it would also allow for groups that wanted to do a special event or promotion to do so more easily, and also make it easier for members of the public to make proposals to the council.

Lester added it would not pertain to city departments, such as if the Red Oak Police Department wanted to issue a street closure.

"I'm excited to give it a go and see how it works," Lester said.

Silvius also requested that a podium be put in place for people could stand up and address the council.

"It will give them a little barrier and perhaps make them feel more comfortable, while also allowing them to talk to us, and give us the chance to talk to them and also allow for the crowd to be able to hear what's being discussed," advised Silvius.

The forms will be online on the city's website, [city.redoakio-wa.com/government/city\\_council/index.php](http://city.redoakio-wa.com/government/city_council/index.php), and will also be available at City Hall.

The council approved the citizen's request form, with the changes proposed by Lester.

The council also held a public

hearing for the approval of the proposed 2022-23 FY budget. No oral or written comments were received. The council then approved a resolution adopting the FY 2022-23 budget as presented.

In other business, the council:

- Approved an agreement amendment and restatement between the City of Red Oak, and Montgomery County, to form joint precincts for election purposes.

- Approved two requests from the Red Oak Police Department for street closures, the first from 7:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. April 16 between Coolbaugh Street and Reed Street for a pancake breakfast with the Easter Bunny.

The second request was for street closures around the square, and usage of the empty lot at 3rd Street and Reed Street from 4:30 to 9 p.m. on Aug. 2 for the National Night Out event.

- Silvius signed a proclamation recognizing April as Child Abuse Prevention Month.

- Approved hangar lease agreements for Bryce Leighton, Robin Mith Aero Inc., Chad Hill, and Nishna Valley Flying Club, per the airport commission's recommendation.

- Approved the renewal of a Class C liquor with Sundays sales and outdoor service license for Casa De Oro.

- Approved a five day Class C liquor license for the Red Oak Elks Lodge, beginning March 26.



Red Oak Mayor Shawna Silvius, right, signed a proclamation recognizing April as Child Abuse Prevention Month. Also pictured are Family Success Network representatives Phyllis Heim, left, and Nancy Godfrey, center. (Nick Johansen/The Red Oak Express)

## Farmers seeing higher rates of inflation than others

Bruce Shultz

Vice President National Farmers Organization

Inflation has been a hot topic in the U.S. for the past few months. While it affects everyone, farmers and ranchers are seeing higher rates of inflation than most industries. Some of this is because of America's great resignation. Many people knew that as baby boomers started to retire, right now an average of 10,000 boomers reach 65 every day, we were going to have a labor shortage.

While many businesses and the government were planning for this, the COVID-19 pandemic has sped up retirement rates. This is one factor helping to create rising wages across all sectors of the economy. As the labor market tightens, farmers and ranchers, like other businesses, are forced to raise their wages to attract and keep good employees.

The price of oil is another inflation contributor. Oil prices have risen by more than 40 percent in the past year. The sharp increase in barrel oil rates is attributable to the pandemic winding down, and the resulting spike in demand as people work and travel more. In 2020, the lack of commuter travel cut world consumption of gasoline and diesel, thus the price plummeted because of subsequent falling demand. On April 20,

2020, oil prices were actually negative for the first time; meaning it cost more to store the oil than what it was worth. Now, the economic rebound, along with the war in the Ukraine, has created oil prices of more than \$100 a barrel. How long these conditions will last is unknowable.

Agricultural producers are seeing their input costs skyrocket, fertilizer has jumped significantly. The results of a 2021 study focusing on farm fertilizer from the University of Illinois may alarm you. Here are a few prices per ton comparisons for 2020 to 2021: Anhydrous ammonia increased 53 percent from \$487 to \$746 per ton; Diammonium Phosphate increased 83 percent from \$390 to \$717 per ton; and potash increased 71 percent from \$350 to \$600 per ton. I spoke with a friend who farms about 25 miles north of Topeka, Kansas, and he gave me some real-life numbers from his farm.

His anhydrous increased 250 percent in one year and phosphate went up 95 percent. His costs for Roundup went from \$19.70 per gallon to \$57 per gallon, year over year. His costs to plant soybeans, including seed and chemicals, increased about 33 percent. Even at the higher prices predicted for this crop year, farmers are still watching their profits go to big ag companies. The chemical and seed industry is now dominated by only four

entities, which is down from six years ago. These mergers, including Dow and DuPont, reduce producer choice and lowers pricing competition in the marketplace. We, as producers, are held captive by these global behemoths.

Remember, capitalism without competition is exploitation. Big agriculture has been moving production off shore, mainly to China. These cost and supply chain issues occur when corporations worry too much about cheap production costs of necessary goods which then have to be shipped across the ocean. The farther away goods are made from the end consumer, the more time it takes to bring the level of supply up to match demand, especially after a three-year trade war with China and a slowdown in demand from COVID-19.

As agricultural producers, we need to explain to consumers that increasing food prices are not creating a financial bonanza for family farmers. In fact, it is quite the opposite. It is frustrating for consumers to hear about higher commodity prices but not realizing our input cost inflation is hitting family farms harder than most other Americans. Consumers should understand that without higher food prices, there may be a lot fewer family farmers to feed them.

## THEATRE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A

stated Lester.

The theatre will still have a few fundraisers throughout the year, one in part to help pay for the new insurance premium, which is now covering over \$1.2 million in the building and its contents.

Lester and Bergren were both proud to have been a part of the completion of a near \$1 million project.

"Red Oak has been very supportive and gracious to us. And of course we're proud of the fact that we saved two buildings. We considered for many years what we were

going to do with it after we purchased that neighboring building, and it had a lot of problems. We consider it a huge accomplishment, and it all basically started with a leap of faith," Lester commented.

Only one major undertaking remains on the radar, replacing the seats in theatre one, though that's going to remain on the back burner for awhile.

"We had a lot of people ask about making the seats in theatre one the same as those in theatre two, and we've told them we had to pay for this big project first. Now that the

project is done, we do need to think about that, but we need a break, and we feel the community needs a little break from us. Also, it's not in terrible condition so the project can wait for a little while," Lester said.

Lastly, Lester said they were very lucky to hire Building Crafts for the renovation project, as they were able to obtain the participation of many Red Oak vendors to complete the project. She also said they could not have met the deadlines without Building Crafts, as they poured their heart and soul into this project.

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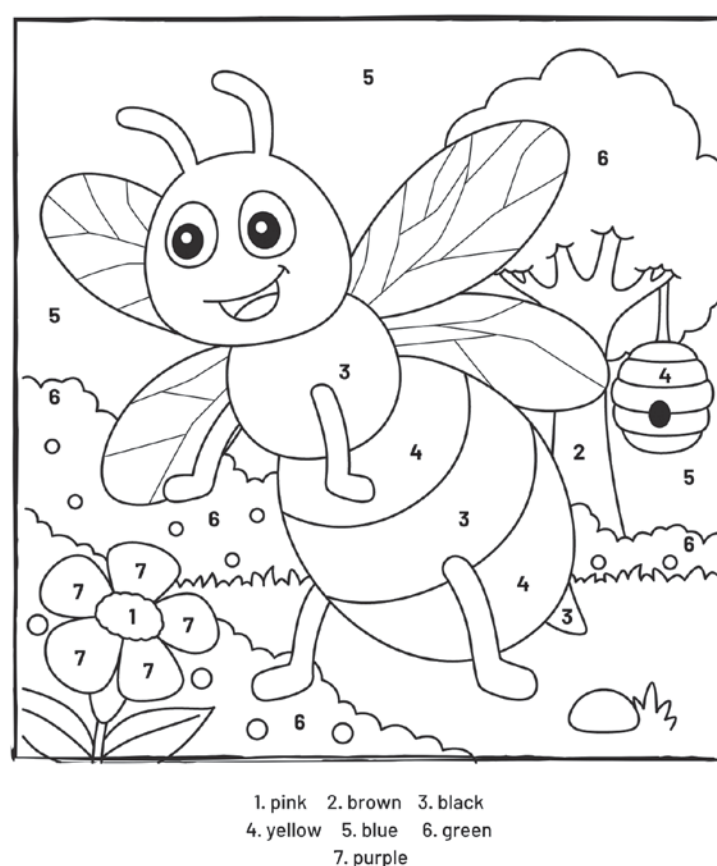
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