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March 2, 2022

Red Oak, IA

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Rossander resigns as VA commissioner

Nick Johansen
The Red Oak Express

The Montgomery County Veterans Affairs office will soon have another new face as its leader.

Harry Rossander, who has served in the position since Jan. 2, 2020, has announced his resignation, effective May 1. Rossander said that some recent health issues sparked the decision for him to leave the post after two years.

"During the long recovery from a recent medical procedure, I felt a keen sense that my wife and I should try to do as much as we can, while we are young enough and physically able to do so. Even though I have been across our country and have spent time on five continents, we have many projects here at home as well as many places that we would like to visit and experience," Rossander said.

Still, Rossander said the decision was not an easy one to make, as he loves what he's been able to do for the county's veterans.

"It is a privilege to work for those who wore the uniform of our country. Too many of the veterans in our county have shown little interest in receiving benefits that they earned from their time in service," commented Rossander. "Even though I won't be in the office as an employee after May 1, I hope to continue as a volunteer until a replacement can be found or other arrangements made to provide for service to our veterans. It is important to note that Mills County, Page County, and Cass County all have Veterans Service Officers available to assist veterans in need."

Rossander said he is pleased with some of the things he's been able to accomplish during his time serving as the county's VA head.

"My predecessors spent a long time developing and organizing a comprehensive file system and grave registration program in accordance with Iowa Code. Through comprehensive training to be a veterans service officer and the use of new technology and research software, I have been able to take the organization of those files to the next level," explained Rossander. "For example, the Commission on Veterans Affairs currently manages files for 611 veterans and/or spouses. We also currently manage 2,771 grave registrations for the county. This includes maintaining a database of where veterans are buried in Montgomery County's 26 cemeteries. Finally, I have been able to enhance the office and application processes so that veterans spend less time in the office applying for benefits."

Rossander said after his resignation is final, that he's going to miss the interactions he's had with veterans and families the most. Having that interaction and being able to help veterans and families in need has been a very rewarding experience for him.

"I don't think that I can understate how fantastic it is to be able to assist a veteran or surviving spouse in receiving benefits that can make a substantive difference in their lives. Many of our veterans in Montgomery County have worked hard all of their lives in any number of professions. Sadly, not all of those professions provide consistent benefits in the later part of life. In many cases, VA benefits can provide a significant supplement."

Rossander said he will also help out in the coming months in finding another qualified candidate to follow in his footsteps, as there are a number of required elements for the next applicant to be a good fit.

"I will be assisting the Commission on finding a replacement for my position. The position is considered 'part time' and is currently set for 20 to 28 hours per week at a beginning wage of \$17 per hour. The person selected must have good organizational skills, a working knowledge of the military, as well as advanced experience using the database and other software. Once selected, the Director must receive training at the State and National levels. This includes passing an extensive test and subsequent certification by the VA to be a certified Veterans Service Officer within a year of appointment," stated Rossander.

If no one is in place by his May 1 registration date, Rossander said he'll fill in as needed until they find someone to take his place.

"I do plan on being around to assist veterans in any way that I can. As I

ROSSANDER, Page 8A



Vern Olson, in grey, performs the national anthem at a Red Oak basketball game a few weeks go. Olson has been singing since the age of 3, including home basketball games for the past 20 years. (Renander Photos/Jan Castle Renander)

Olson's been singing anthem at home games for 2 decades

Tess Nelson
The Red Oak Express

For nearly 20 years Vern Olson of Red Oak has been performing the national anthem at Red Oak basketball games.

It all began after he retired from The Red Oak Express, where he was a sports writer, and began volunteering at the school. Volunteering here and there led into public address announcing and from there, singing the national anthem before games.

"When students couldn't, I volunteered my services and that evolved more and more into doing it," said Olson. "At one point, quite some years ago, players asked I perform the anthem, which was very rewarding."

Olson first made his musical debut at the age of 3 during a Sunday school performance.

"I was offered a solo to sing at a program and walked down the church aisle singing and thinking to myself, 'this is a cathedral.' I went back years later and it's a small country church," he recalled.

In high school, Olson continued to perform solos and with choral groups as well as when he was a student at the University of Iowa, where he graduated.

"I've done choral and solo work as avocation for just about all my life," he said.

Some might say he captured his bride of more than 60 years, Sandy, with his crooning; singing "Love is a Many-Splendored Thing" to her during a school musical production when they were teenagers. He even sang "The Wedding Prayer" to her at the altar on their wedding day in June 1960.

"It was pretty thrilling," Olson said. Olson's golden voice, which he says is a "God given talent" has taken him a lot of places, he said.

He's performed the national anthem at Rosenblatt Stadium before an Omaha Royals (now Stormchasers) baseball game, he's provided musical entertainment on bus tours, recorded CDs, and has been asked to sing as

various functions and events all across the United States and even performed in Germany on tour. His favorite songs to sing are ballads and love songs.

"It's been quite fulfilling as an avocation," he said.

A native of central Iowa, the Olsons came to Red Oak roughly 49 years ago for employment. Vern managed the cable television system, Heritage Cable, for numerous years, worked at KCSI and at the newspaper while Sandy was employed for nearly 40 years at the Red Oak school district. They raised their two daughters here and decided to retire here, as well. Vern and Sandy attend as many Red Oak school activities as they can to show their support to the community and students athletes.

"Sometimes they let me know a couple weeks in advance I'm needed to sing and sometimes it's 15 minutes before. I'm so glad they continue to ask," Olson said.

"Vern is a true professional in every sense of the word. In the past, he has volunteered his time and talents to the school district as an announcer and by performing the national anthem," said Mark Erickson, Red Oak Community School District's activities director. "Our school district is proud to have received numerous positive comments regarding Vern's renditions of the national anthem"

As for performing the national anthem in particular, Olson said it's more difficult than most people realize; mainly because of the pitch changes.

"You have to be cognizant of where it's going to go and when; and then it's always done a cappella," he said.

Olson said he will continue to sing the national anthem as long as he can, and as long as people are asking him to.

"I don't like to see the anthem losing its importance," he said "I'm going to continue to sing it as long as I'm able."

"Vern, and his wife, Sandy, are outstanding supporters. They do not miss many events and are a shining example of the wonderful support system we have in Red Oak," added Erickson.

Board approves usage of ESSER III funds for further district technology improvements

Nick Johansen
The Red Oak Express

The Red Oak School Board has approved funding usage for IT upgrades.

At the regular school board meeting Feb. 28, the board discussed a request to use ESSER III funds for the purchase or replacement of wireless access points and switches.

Superintendent Ron Lorenz said it was a significant expenditure, but it was ESSER covered.

The item was intended for the next regular school board meeting, but was moved due to news the conflict in the Ukraine was going to impact prices.

"We're looking at replacing the access points and switches this summer, and purchasing a licensing agreement that would allow us to do that," commented Lorenz.

Two bids were received for the project. Lorenz said the bid from the district's usual IT service provider, Riverside

Technologies Inc. of Des Moines was much more reasonable than the second quote.

"RTI provided us with a quote for \$173,458, and that includes installation and configuration. The other quote we got was not only higher, it did not include installation and configuration, so we are recommending the RTI

bid," stated Lorenz.

Board Member Kathy Walker asked how often the wireless access points needed to be changed. Technology director Kevin Herrick said this project was unique.

"This project will provide access points district wide. I

think we did the high school in 2017, so they've had five years of life, and they have stopped making this model. The new access points can last up to six or seven years," explained Herrick. "As for the switches, we're adding to the infrastructure, so we're not replacing all the switches.

BOARD, Page 8A



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Updated logo, slogan for Red Oak approved

Nick Johansen

The Red Oak Express

Final discussions have taken place regarding a roadwork project on Highway 34.

City administrator Brad Wright said the meeting included DOT representatives, Dave Sturm with Snyder & Associates Engineering, and Dan Fricke from JEO consulting, which is coordinating the city's levee recertification project.

Wright said the main focus of the meeting was to finalize what the project entailed, and determine if there was any impact to the levee. Wright said the impact was determined to be minimal.

"The project is set to go out for bid in December of 2023, with construction to begin in 2024," Wright explained.

Wright said once the project was completed, it was going to be a big improvement for the city.

"The road will be four lanes primarily from Oak Street on Highway 48, east past Eastern Avenue. With a turn lane on each side, and traffic signals at the intersection. The traffic signals will become local ownership, and half of those lights will not be in the city limits, so that's going to be a discussion that we'll have to have with the Montgomery County Board of Supervisors as well. The DOT is also expecting to reach out to the county," said Wright.

The council also approved a funding agreement for the Eastern Avenue reconstruction, with 80 percent of the project's



Red Oak Mayor Shawna Silvius and Councilman Pete Wemhoff listen to comments from Brad Wright during the Feb. 22 regular council meeting. (Nick Johansen/Red Oak Express)

cost being paid through DOT funding.

The council then approved a resolution for the rebranding of the city of Red Oak, following a presentation on the subject by the Red Oak Chamber and Industry Association. The rebranding was approved in part due to the fact that the visuals had been reviewed, and received positively by many residents and business entities in the City of Red Oak.

Under the terms of the resolution, the city would adopt the slogan and marketing tools presented in any and all applications applicable, thereby joining the ROCIA and its business members in adopting a unified community marketing image.

ROCIA director of membership and

finance offered her praise to city administrator Brad Wright for his drafting of the resolution.

"I felt that the ordinance as written was very eloquent, and I express my appreciation," Carlson said.

In other business, the council:

- Approved a resolution of support for the city's participation in the Community Heart & Soul program. The council members were very positive in the city's potential participation in the program.

- Approved a resolution setting the salary of cemetery superintendent Brad Baker.

Red Oak, Griswold awarded water fluoridation award

The Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) recently announced that 94 community water systems in Iowa have been awarded Water Fluoridation Quality Awards from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The award recognizes water systems that achieved excellence in community water fluoridation by maintaining a consistent level of fluoride in drinking water throughout 2020. A total of 1,292 public water systems in 29 states received the award.

Fluoridation is the adjustment of fluoride in drinking water to a level that is effective for preventing cavities. Community water fluoridation is recognized by the CDC as one of the great 20th century public health achievements. "It is exciting to have 94 Iowa water systems recognized on a national level for their commitment to oral health," stated Dr. Bob Russell, dental director for the Iowa Department of Public Health. "I congratulate

all of the community water systems for their efforts to provide safe, dependable drinking water to our communities—including helping to prevent cavities using water fluoridation."

2020 Iowa Awardees

Red Oak Water Supply
Glenwood Municipal Utilities
Griswold Water Supply
Malvern Water Supply

"Water fluoridation is one of the best investments that a community can make in maintaining the oral health of its citizens. It is equally as effective in preventing cavities in children and adults," stated Casey Hannan, MPH, director for the CDC Division of Oral Health. "Fluoridation is also highly cost effective. Studies continue to show that for every \$1 a community invests in water fluoridation, \$20 are saved in dental treatment costs."

The CDC recommends water fluorida-



tion as one of the most practical, cost-effective, equitable, and safe measures a community can take to prevent cavities and improve oral health. Community Water Fluoridation is supported by the American Cancer Society, American Dental Association, American Medical Association, American Academy of Pediatrics, American Water Works Association, and over 100 national and international organizations as a safe, effective, and inexpensive method of preventing cavities in children and adults. Both Healthy People 2030 and Healthy Iowans 2021 have set goals to increase the number of people receiving optimally fluoridated water.

Spunaugle updates board on inmate tracking system

Nick Johansen

The Red Oak Express

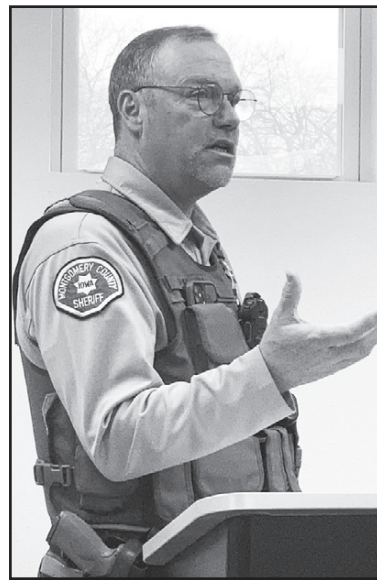
The Montgomery County Board of Supervisors has approved additional funding requests for American Rescue Plan funding.

County Auditor Stephanie Burke updated the supervisors on the requests. She started off by stating that the ARP committee had not recently met to discuss the requests, and that the rules had changed even further on the allowable uses for the funding.

Burke added that due to the timing of one of the requests, it was decided to skip the step of having the requests discussed by the county's ARP committee, and instead to bring the request directly before the supervisors.

"With the new changes, the supervisors can designate the funding to anything they want, except under certain categories, such as debt. The county has been allocated \$1,926,261. Up to this point, we've spent \$688,664, and our remaining balance is \$1,237,597," Burke said.

The supervisors then heard comments from Montgomery County Sheriff Jon Spunaugle, who shared that two of the proposed projects for funding were already in place at the sheriff's office. The first request was for a Guardian RFID inmate tracking and documentation system.



Sheriff Spunaugle

"We're on our third year of the contract, which is up, and I got a hold of Guardian and worked out a plan for handheld devices that track anything an inmate can do. We're still using our first devices; we were kind of a test location for these devices, and we're on generation one, and they're now on generation three, so it's time for us to buy new ones. It takes care of a lot of things, including inmate medications," Spunaugle said.

Cost of the upgrades were \$19,879, for a five-year contract, which would save the county \$1,000. Spunaugle said

they would not be locked into the new generation three devices if there was another upgrade prior to the five-year contract's expiration.

The next funding request was \$16,250 for door access control upgrades from Midwest Alarm services. Spunaugle said there were five doors on the law enforcement center building, and would provide access in a similar way as the courthouse.

"One of the advantages is, if we have a new car come in, they have to take a machine and program every single door for access for that car. Also, we can't use the back door of the sheriff's office, because the card access lock went out, and the part for that door is over \$2,000. This was something that IT director Jim Scott brought to my attention," Spunaugle explained.

Scott said the upgrades provided for ease of administration, and it would also allow for reporting, so if a question was raised over who accessed what door, they could run a report and identify who accessed the door.

The last request for funding was a larger one, \$183,836 for a camera and cell door control system from Accurate Controls, Inc. Spunaugle said the existing system is 10 years old in July and way past its life expectancy.

"We're already seeing glitches, and we're having cameras go out. This will also provide for some additional cameras, as we don't have enough coverage. We knew this was going to be a high-cost project, and we're trying to get this finalized now because all of the equipment goes up 7% in cost on March 1. That was the biggest reason for us pushing to get this before the supervisors before the first day in March," stated Spunaugle.

The first two projects would be upgraded immediately, while the third project was more extensive and would take some time to finish, but approval would get the ball rolling. Supervisor Mike Olson was in agreement that there were failures already being noted in the LEC's camera system.

"When you're talking about a 7% increase, especially in this amount of dollars, what's already expensive now is going to get a lot worse. This is something we're going to have to do eventually, and it comes back to the safety of the employees and the safety of the public," Olson said.

The final request was from the Montgomery County Attorney's Office of \$3,101 for the purchase of a new MacBook Pro for use during Zoom court hearings, and remote work, as well as in office work.

The supervisors approved the ARP funding requests for all four projects, in the amount of \$223,067.

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NORMA JEAN MULLENIX, 82

Norma Jean Mullenix, 82, Stanton, passed away Sunday, Feb. 20, 2022, at her home.

Norma Jean was born June 17, 1939, in St. Louis, Mo., the daughter of Marshall "Buck" and Mildred Mae (Cumings) Breeden. The family moved to Waterloo when Norma Jean was a young girl. She graduated high school and attended college where she studied business.

Norma Jean worked in the grocery industry while in the Waterloo area. She moved to the Montgomery County area in 1968 and most currently resided northwest of Stanton. Over the years, Norma Jean worked for Nachurs Plant Food Company, did some custom home painting, worked for CDS where she retired, worked as a Pinkerton security guard for Parker Hannifin, and worked at West Central Development Corporation helping out many community members.

Her hobbies included playing pool, playing cards; listening to music; going to concerts, especially Neil Diamond; and spending time with her family. She also enjoyed her horses and ice skating.

Preceding her in death were her parents; daughters, infant, Jackie and Jeanne Johnson; and brothers, Junior Starkey and William Starkey.

Survivors include her children, John Johnson and wife Karol of Savannah, Mo.; Jacqueline "Jackie" Johnson and Pat Jones of Red Oak; Dawn Nelson of Red Oak; and Jerome Prokes of Red Oak; 10 grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren; special friend Carl Pearce of Stanton; and many other relatives and friends.

Funeral services were held Friday, Feb. 25, 2022, at the Nelson-Boylan-LeRette Funeral Chapel. Burial was in the Villisca Cemetery.

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



MARY ANNA MINER, 77

Mary Anna Miner, 77, Emerson, passed away Saturday, Feb. 26, 2022, at the Red Oak Rehab and Care Center.

Mary Anna was born Dec. 30, 1944 in Omaha, Neb., the daughter of Raymond and Dorothy (Segrave) McMichael.

Preceding her in death were her parents; husband, John Miner, Sr.; and two sons, Mike and John, Jr.

Survivors include her children, Kelly Schram of Omaha, Neb.; Denny Miner of Emerson; and Jason Miner of Red Oak; 11 grandchildren; and 10 great-grandchildren.

Funeral services will be held at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, March 2, 2022, at the Nelson-Boylan-LeRette Funeral Chapel. Burial will be in the Evergreen Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorials are suggested to the family.

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

PAMELA BOLAND, 72

Pamela June Boland, 72, Red Oak, passed away Saturday, Feb. 19, 2022, at the Good Samaritan Society.

Pam was born July 17, 1949, in Sacramento, Calif., the daughter of Thomas Bryan and Nadyne Margaret (Yore) Ford. She was raised in Roseville, Calif., and graduated from Roseville High School.

She later moved to Texas and eventually moved to Iowa in 1980. While in Red Oak, Pam worked for This-n-That, the Red Oak Eagles Lodge, and did some babysitting. She was a member of the Red Oak Eagles Lodge, served as Past President of the Auxiliary, and was inducted into the Eagles Auxiliary Hall of Fame.

Preceding her in death were her parents; daughter, Ranae Boland; and special friend, John McDowall.

Survivors include her son, Roy Boland of Whitesboro, Texas; sister, Patricia Scanlan of Red Oak; nieces, Lisa Lheureaux and Steve of Red Oak; and Lori Bare of Omaha, Neb.; and many other relatives and friends.

A memorial luncheon and visitation will be held starting at 2 p.m. Saturday, March 5, 2022, at the Red Oak Eagles Lodge.

Nelson-Boylan-LeRette Funeral Chapel is assisting the family with cremation services.



DONNA BISSELL, 71

Donna Maylene Bissell, 71, Red Oak, passed away Wednesday, Feb. 23, 2022, at the Montgomery County Memorial Hospital.

Donna was born June 23, 1950, in Creston, the daughter of Lloyd and Mona (Miller) Haley. She graduated from the Corning High School in 1969 and was united in marriage to Marty Bissell on June 8, 1969, in Corning.

Donna worked in the family business, the Corner Café, before staying at home to raise her children. Over the years, Donna worked for Douglas and Lomason Company, the Red Oak Greenhouse, and cleaned houses for many area families. In her younger years, she was active in all 4-H activities with her kids and was a 4-H leader. Her hobbies included knitting, making fleece tie blankets, and collecting many different things. She also loved animals.

Preceding her in death were her father, Lloyd Haley; her mother, Mona Morelock; husband, Marty Bissell; and brother, Denny Haley.

Survivors include her daughters, Traci Bissell, and Jennifer Ellis and husband Macey of Stanton; grandchildren, Brooklyn Neligh of Villisca; Jade Schultz of Villisca; and Adalyn Ellis of Stanton; sisters, Pat Trusty and husband Tom of Omaha, Neb.; Vicki Hensley and partner Mark Jewell of Sidney; Annette Cunningham and husband Bryan of Shenandoah; and brother, Terry Haley and wife Terri of Omaha, Neb.; sisters-in-law, Donna Haley of Corning; and Jaris Carspecken and husband Denny of Las Vegas, Nev.; brothers-in-law, Byron Bissell and wife Margie of Green Valley, Ariz. and Rick Bissell and wife Jolene of Corning; special friend, Jesse Dunn of Red Oak; and many other relatives and friends.

Graveside memorial services will be held at 2 p.m. Thursday, March 10, 2022, at the Prairie Rose Cemetery in Adams County. A time of lunch and fellowship will follow at Lewellen Photography in Stanton. In lieu of flowers, memorials are suggested to the Donna Bissell Memorial Fund.

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



COLLEEN JOHNSON, 73

Colleen M. Johnson, 73, Larned, Kan., formerly of Red Oak, passed away Wednesday, Feb. 23, 2022, at the Diversicare Nursing Home in Larned.

Colleen was born April 19, 1948, the daughter of A. Delbert and Lila (Copelin) Johnson. She grew up on a small farm outside of Guss. Growing up, Colleen was involved in 4-H and her mother, Lila, was the leader. She graduated from New Market High School in 1966. The family lived near Guss for many years and later moved to Red Oak. While in Red Oak, Colleen worked for Spurgeon's and Red Coach Inn. In 2015, Colleen moved to Larned, Kan., to be near her family.

When she was young, she enjoyed "Ditch Diving" with her cousins. Her hobbies also included doing puzzles, crafts, china and saw blade painting, and attending and working craft fairs with family. She loved everything "Elvis" and "Coca-Cola."

Colleen was preceded in death by her parents; grandparents; and a child of the heart, Dennis Smith.

Survivors include her other children of the heart, Cody, Daniel, Amanda, and Jesilea Smith; many cousins and other relatives and friends.

A celebration of life service will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, March 12, 2022, at the Nelson-Boylan-LeRette Funeral Chapel in Red Oak. Burial of the cremated remains will take place in Arlington Cemetery near Villisca.

In lieu of flowers memorials may be suggested to the Diversicare Nursing Home of Larned, Kan.

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



JANE COOPER, 79

Jane Cooper, 79, Nodaway, passed away Saturday, Feb. 26, 2022, at CHI Mercy Hospital in Corning.

Jane Marie Cooper, the daughter of Russell and Eva Louise (Walford) Booth, was born on Feb. 11, 1943, in Creston.

Survivors include her children, Scott Cooper of Villisca; Terri Applebach of Wheatridge, Colo.; Chris Cooper of Nodaway; and David Cooper of Greenfield; nine grandchildren; and 14 great-grandchildren.

Preceding Jane in death was her husband, Hartford; and parents, Russell and Eva.

Funeral Services were at 2 p.m. on Tuesday, March 1, 2022, at Pearson Family Funeral Service & Cremation Center in Corning. Pastor Jennifer Van Nostrand officiated. Burial followed in the Nodaway Cemetery in rural Nodaway.

Memorial contributions may be directed to the Villisca Volunteer Fire Department or CHI Mercy Hospital in Corning. Memories and condolences can be left at www.pearsonfuneralhomes.com.



PHYLLIS PETERSON, 70

Phyllis J. Peterson, 70, Casper, Wyo., passed away Friday, Feb. 18, 2022, at her home in Casper from injuries sustained during an accidental house fire.

Phyllis Jean Peterson was born Oct. 18, 1951, to Norman and Margaret (McKenzie) Peterson at Red Oak. Phyllis was an only child who spent her early years in Stanton before the family moved to Casper, Wyo. She was the granddaughter of Rudolph and Hazel Peterson of Stanton and spent most of her summers as a youth at Rudy and Hazel's farm east of Stanton where she befriended numerous cousins and other Stanton locals. She graduated from Natrona County High School in Casper, in 1969.

Phyllis was a member of First Presbyterian Church of Casper. She worked briefly for a uranium mine near Casper after high school, and worked as a manager at Insta Care urgent care clinic in Casper until her retirement.

Phyllis was preceded in death by her parents, and is survived by her uncle Daryl Peterson of Stanton; her uncle Larry Peterson of Laguna Hills, Calif.; and numerous cousins.

May God bless her memory and give strength to those who mourn. No services will be held at this time.

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.

road Addition Blk 6 Lt 10.

QUIT CLAIM DEED

- Sharon and John Allison, Scott Ross, Sheila and Richard Vander-Tuig, and Shelley and Michael Lovick to Sharlene Magill, Red Oak Railroad Addition Blk 29 Lt 1.
- Shawn and Margie Crawford to Shawn K. and Margie M. Crawford, 35-73-36 Parcel A.

COURT OFFICER'S DEED

- Joanne Strait Estate, and John Strait, Executor, to John Strait, 14-72-39 Lt 1, 13-72-39 Lt 1.

MORTGAGE

- Jacob Lindgren to Farm Credit Mid America FCLA, 2-71-38 Parcel A.
- Mark and Virginia Kells to Lakeview Loan Servicing, LLC, Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., and MERS, Red Oak Northeastern Addition Blk 92 Lts 9-10.
- Braidon and Shana Barkman to American National Bank, Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., and MERS, Stanton Halland's Addition Lts 3-6, 11.
- Roberta Henry to Jonathan and Allison Cerven, 23-72-37 Parcel A.
- Roger and Rebecca Cerven to Jonathan and Allison Cerven, 23-72-37 Parcel A.
- Charles and Roxanna Fink to GSE LLC, Red Oak Western Addition Blk 9, Lts 2-3, Blk 1, Lt 15.
- James and Melanie Sifford to GSE LLC, Red Oak Northeastern Addition Blk 86 Lt 3.
- Oak Tree Properties, LLC, and Michael Klemme, Manager, to The 1st 3 LLC, and 1st 3 LLC, Red Oak Original Plat Blk 58 Lt 12.
- Tiger 100 Partnership, and Dennis D. Bloom, Partner, to Jose Moya-Ramirez, Red Oak Northeastern Addition Blk 86 Lt 4.
- Jose Moya-Ramirez and Jessica Moya to Jeramie and Christina Costan, Red Oak Northeastern Addition Blk 86 Lt 4.
- Big Sky Enterprises and Darren Koehn, Sole Member, to KBH Investments, LLC, Red Oak Railroad Addition Blk 6 Lt 10.
- Jeramie and Christina Costan to Moira Development, Inc., Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., MERS, and People's Mortgage, Red Oak Northeastern Addition Blk 86 Lt 4.
- KMH Investments LLC, Joshua Cox, Manager Member, and Audra Ryan, Manager, to Washington County Bank, Red Oak Railroad Addition Blk 6 Lt 10.

SMALL CLAIMS

- Montgomery County Sheriff vs. Dylan Griffith, Red Oak, judgment default in favor of the plaintiff, \$725 with 2.13% interest from Feb. 22, plus costs.
- Calvary SPV I LLC. vs. David Clark, Red Oak, judgment default in favor of the plaintiff, \$2,842.36 with 2.13% interest from Feb. 22, plus costs.
- LVNV Funding LLC vs. Todd Strange, Stanton, judgment default in favor of the plaintiff, \$804.10 with 2.13% interest from Feb. 22, plus costs.
- Clear Recovery, Inc. vs. Jule McCuen, Villisca, judgment default in favor of the plaintiff, \$2,885.77 with 2.13% interest from Feb. 22, plus costs.
- Portfolio Recovery Associates, LLC vs. Claudia Parris, Red Oak, judgment default in favor of the plaintiff, \$1,115.95 with 2.13% interest from Feb. 22, plus costs.

CRIMINAL

- Felony, State of Iowa vs. Angela Kruse, 33, Red Oak, sexual abuse third degree.
- Simple Misdemeanor, State of Iowa vs. Christian Meek, 27, Red Oak, domestic abuse assault first offense, pled guilty, \$105 fine, 14 days jail, 12 days suspended, time served.
- Simple misdemeanor, State of Iowa vs. Daniel Platt, 26, Elliott, consumption of alcohol in a public place first offense.
- Serious misdemeanor, State of Iowa vs. Billy Morton, 51, Villisca, driving while license denied or revoked.

TRAFFIC

- Aaron Lundy, Des Moines, new title/registration transfer violation.
- Bradley Telschow, Red Oak, failure to maintain or use safety belts.
- Jillian Burgert, Plattsmouth, Neb., no valid driver's license.
- Aaron Stinehart, Council Bluffs, speeding, fraudulent use of registration.
- Steven Harkleroad, Treynor, speeding.
- Jordan Hollingshead, Colbert, Wash, speeding.
- Tiffany Falknor, Red Oak, fail to yield upon entering through highway.
- Randall Comstock, Oakland, speeding.
- Robert Fisher, Corvallis, Ore., speeding.
- Duane Jeppesen, Harrisonville, Mo., speeding.
- Christopher Nanke, Plattsmouth, Neb., speeding.
- Justin Schomburg, Malvern, no valid driver's license.
- John Silence, Atlantic, speeding.
- Troy Darden, Glenwood, speeding.
- Landon Pulliam, Villisca, failure to maintain registration plate.
- Michael Perdew, Bedford, registration violation.
- Maurice Gadbois, Council Bluffs, speeding.

speeding.

- Robert Fisher, Corvallis, Ore., speeding.
- Duane Jeppesen, Harrisonville, Mo., speeding.
- Christopher Nanke, Plattsmouth, Neb., speeding.
- Justin Schomburg, Malvern, no valid driver's license.
- John Silence, Atlantic, speeding.
- Troy Darden, Glenwood, speeding.
- Landon Pulliam, Villisca, failure to maintain registration plate.
- Michael Perdew, Bedford, registration violation.
- Maurice Gadbois, Council Bluffs, speeding.

- Darrell McCormick, Bellevue, Neb., speeding.
- Michael Baumfalk, Henderson, speeding.
- Sadie Weaver, Papillion, Neb., fail to obey stop sign and yield right of way.
- Dean Chappell, Lyman, Utah, speeding.
- Russ Kromberg, Lincoln, Neb., speeding.
- Blair Rush, Elliott, operation without registration card or plate.
- Kiel Franzen, Stanton, operation without registration.
- Arthur Peterson, Elliott, driving while license denied, suspended, cancelled, or revoked.

ROCHS qualifies 13 for state speech



Front, from left: Tessa Rolenc, Gannon Sallach, Stef Medina, and Grace Goldapp. Back: (L-R) Griffin Eubank, Grayson Hewett, Aedynn Graham, Ella Johnson, Michelle Grass, and Josie Rengstorf. (Submitted photo)

Laura Horn
Red Oak High School
speech coach

On Feb. 26, the Red Oak speech team competed in Shenandoah at the Individual District Speech meet.

We brought 10 students in 16 events. Of those 16 events, 13 received a I rating and are headed to state.

Those performing well were:

- Grace Goldapp - Solo Mu-

sical Theatre

- Aedynn Graham - Prose
- Ella Johnson - Radio News
- Those headed to state on March 12 are:
- Aedynn Graham - Storytelling
- Stef Medina - Poetry
- Tessa Rolenc - Prose and Expository
- Gannon Sallach - Expository
- Michelle Grass - Literary Program and Prose
- Griffin Eubank - Improv
- Josie Rengstorf - Solo

Musical Theatre and Acting

- Grayson Hewett - Storytelling and Improv
- Grace Goldapp - After Dinner Speaking
- The state qualifiers will be performing for the public at Evening with the Stars on Thursday, March 3, at the high school, beginning at 5 p.m.
- Ms. Mangold and I are so very proud of these kids. Not only did they excel at speech, but they also put on a fabulous opening night of the musical Guys and Dolls last weekend.

News Tip?
Call 712-623-2566 or email
news@redoakexpress.com.



Stronger the Press, Stronger the People

THE TIME CAPSULE | ROY MARSHALL

Bergaminni, onions, leeks and martins

Our first green growth of the year was leeks, which emerged on a day in mid-January when the temperature barely reached zero.

Shallots started sprouting four days later. I planted peppers and eggplant seeds in early February, tomatoes and watermelons go in next week and on April 1, 25-30 kernels of sweet corn will get an early indoor start.

Leeks and shallots are an onion substitute, planted because my onions have failed six years in a row.

I've tried onions from seed, purchased plants and sets, tested long-day and day-neutral, all with the same results.

They do great until the mid-summer heat wave. Three weeks of 95-plus with a couple of 100 degree days, and the onions stop.

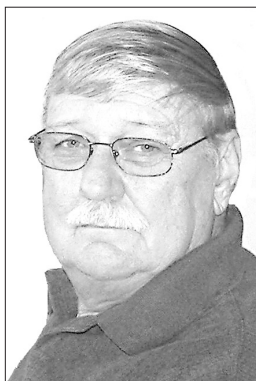
Extra water and fertilizer do no good. They don't die; just cease growing.

Wife strolls through the garden as first frost approaches, pulls a couple of scrawny plants with bulbs the size of acorns and sighs; remembering the year she raised, cured and stored 112 pounds for winter.

If she'd refer to her 112 pounds once a year I'd be fine, but I'll hear about it until Thanksgiving. There are times when she doesn't actually mention the 112 pounds, but thinks it in an obvious way.

Last year was worse because in November onion prices soared.

She came home with a frozen turkey, bag of



Bergamini.

She was reared in the northeast part of Council Bluffs. Nearby lived the Bergaminis, of a Bergaminni family that raised fruit and vegetables for Council Bluffs and Omaha markets.

The story is that she and Richie were riding the same school bus going to their eighth-grade picnic when he worked up the courage to ask if he could sit with her.

She said yes and he flopped into the seat beside her, crushing a paper bag containing her potato chips and egg salad sandwich. This exciting moment sparked her first romance.

It lasted several weeks, which wasn't nearly long enough for her mother. Years later the old girl spoke with wistful reverence of the fine boy little Richie Bergaminni had been, and what a success he became.

cranberries and said she paid \$1.48 a pound for onions.

Did I realize how much 112 times \$1.48 was and I said no and I didn't care. I was done with onions.

If her loftiest goal was to live her life in a kitchen piled with bushels of free onions she should have married Richie

This usually prompted my father-in-law to remember that Sylvia Bergaminni had the finest Walla Walla in Council Bluffs.

And so last Thanksgiving I told her she'd need to learn to substitute leeks for onions, because leeks were what I was going to grow. She said she was sure I'd enjoy deep-fried leek rings and a nice slab of leeks on my grilled burger so I told her I was raising a few shallots as well.

I planted leeks three years ago and they were easy. All I know of shallots is that they look and taste like small onions, cost four times as much and a friend in Texas grows them.

If they'll survive the brutal summers of Texas they should do well here. I called the Texan and he said he plants in February (outdoors), they stall in summer heat but resume quickly with fall and he harvests all winter.

So in early January I planted a packet of 250 leek seeds, along with one containing 150 shallots, and we'll see.

I've got more grow-lights in the basement than a pot dealer, and I expect the ladies in at REC are watching my meter spin and wondering what a decent bag of weed is going for these days.

Good news is that March is here and before the month is over we'll probably see a few of our Purple Martins.

They're obviously not "ours," but experts say they return to the same nest year after year. The gourds they trashed and left an awful mess last

year have been cleaned and sanitized, plus I'll put up eight new ones.

We hung 20 cavities last year. Two were unoccupied so we didn't notice overcrowding until youngsters started pipping out. Yearlings will likely be back this spring.

They don't normally produce fertile eggs the first year, but they like to pair off, shack up, and practice for the real deal. Wife thinks the new nests should include a Gideon Bible, and manual on the virtues of chastity, but I say let 'em have at it.

Martins are now working their way north from Brazil, and a few have already been spotted in Florida and Texas. They can make up to 300 miles a day, more with a favorable wind, but tend to take their time so as not to overfly good weather and abundant insects.

Twenty-eight nests will be raised as soon as we see a scout bird, and for wife and I the sight of those gleaming white gourds with a few purple birds checking them out is a pleasure to behold and a hopeful sign that winter has passed.

Martins are dwindling in numbers and rely on people to provide them with a place to nest. For readers that might be interested, there's plenty of time to put up housing.

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

DOLECHECK'S DETAILS | IOWA REP. CECIL DOLECHECK

Recent events in the Iowa House

Iowa Congressman Cecil Dolecheck shared the latest happenings last week in the Iowa House.

This week, the House passed a bill to protect girls' sports in Iowa.

This is an issue that members in every district are hearing from Iowans about. Iowans have been asking for action to protect girls' athletics, and sports organizations and school districts have been asking for guidance on the issue of transgender girls playing girls' sports.

Under this bill, only athletes assigned as female on their birth certificate are allowed to participate in school-sponsored girls athletics.

Every athlete has an equal opportunity to play sports. It does not tell any child that they can't participate in sports. It simply says they must participate in the sport under the gender on their birth certificate.

Women fought hard to secure their own level playing field because males quite simply have a biological advantage.

Girls deserve equal opportunity in athletics and the chance to gain all of the important life skills that come with playing sports.

House advances bills to aid teacher shortage

The House has heard from all parts of the state that schools are experiencing staffing issues. It doesn't matter if it's a rural area or an urban area, teachers are in high demand.

We have multiple bills that survived the first funnel week and advanced out of education committee.

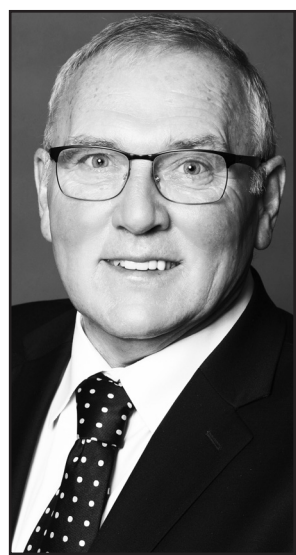
These range from removing assessments students who are graduating from a teacher prep program are required to take prior to being able to apply for licensure, opening up eligibility for the Teach Iowa Scholar program, two alternative teacher licensure programs to get teachers into the workforce quicker, and a permanent teacher license for those with Master's degrees or higher.

These bills remove barriers for teachers and potential teachers, save teachers and potential teachers money, get teachers into the workforce quicker, and demonstrate a commitment to helping parents and students.

Tax Plan

This week, Legislators in the Capitol delivered a historic tax plan that lowers taxes for every Iowan and is sustainable into the foreseeable future.

Thanks to the Governor's leadership and our



for our state.

Under this tax plan, the corporate tax credit will be reduced if the state hits a revenue trigger. In a year where, corporate tax revenue exceeds \$700 million, the corporate rate will be reduced the following year.

This rate will continue to reduce each year revenue is over \$700 million until it reaches 5.5%.

This will allow us to lower our corporate tax rate, which is one of the highest in the nation, while ensuring budget sustainability.

Additionally, this bill reforms Iowa's Refundable Corporate Tax Credits by cutting refundability by 5% per year for five years on all refundable corporate tax credits that don't currently have a sunset, ultimately lowering refundability to 75%.

The Research Activities Credit, the State's most expensive corporate tax credit, lowers to 50% refundability over 5 years.

The agreement passed by both the Iowa House and Senate and headed to the Governor's desk looks very similar to the tax plan the Iowa House proposed and passed just last week.

Also, it was my pleasure to introduce Ringgold Counties' Caroline McAlexander, Miss Iowa Agriculture for 2022, to the Iowa House.

Cecil Dolecheck is currently serving as District 24 representative in the Iowa House of Representatives. Contact Dolecheck at cecil.dolecheck@legis.iowa.gov.

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

Axne supports funding for small businesses

Iowa business owners have proven to be creative and resilient despite the number of challenges that have been thrown their way over the last few years.

MoMere in West Des Moines is a great example of how businesses have managed to stay afloat in Iowa. Owned by mother-daughter duo Kay Schiller and Meredith Wells, MoMere has persevered by expanding its online shop and brick-and-mortar store while taking advantage of the federal resources that have been made available throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

I was proud to show Administrator of the U.S. Small Business Administration Isabella Casillas Guzman around MoMere and several other businesses in central Iowa this week to hear how programs such as the Paycheck Protection Program – which I voted for and the Administrator has helped operate – have helped Iowa's small businesses.

We heard from a variety of business owners who had to continue with renovations that were already under way in early 2020 even as they had to close their doors, and owners who had to adapt their well thought out plans just to keep their employees paid.

The Paycheck Protection Program helped these businesses keep their staff and stay in operation by delivering \$8 billion to more than 111,000 Iowa small businesses.

While many Iowa businesses are now operating the same way as they were before the pandemic, there are still some that are feeling aftershocks.

I took Administrator Guzman to xBk, a live entertainment venue near the Drake University campus, where business hasn't quite returned to normal. A lot of folks are comfortable going back into shops and stores, but they aren't so eager to join the big crowds that xBk usually hosts just yet.

I previously voted twice with a majority of my colleagues to fund the Shuttered Venue Operators Grant that was created to help theaters, museums, and small independent venues like xBk, which has already received more than \$141,000 from the program.

Across Iowa, 136 event operators have received nearly \$96 million from the shuttered venues program.

Tobi Parks, the owner of xBk, highlighted how important live entertainment venues can be. They provide cultural enrichment opportunities, local jobs, and opportunities for anyone who wants to

enter the music industry to learn and grow.

That's why I'd like to see more funding set aside for venues and businesses like xBk that are vital to Iowa's economy and are still struggling.

Administrator Guzman and I also met with a variety of businesses at the Greater Des Moines Partnership where we discussed challenges such as supply chain disruptions, equitable access to capital, employee retention and more.

In Congress, I have been working hard to address these issues and recently voted for the America COMPETES Act, which tackles many of the driving factors that are disrupting our supply chains and causing increased prices for both businesses and consumers.

And, on the Financial Services Committee I'm constantly looking for ways to advance minority businesses and making sure we take biases out of the system that have left some people behind and not able to access capital.

We can't just be looking at getting folks the money right now because that's a short-term fix. We need to ensure our entrepreneurs have the money they need to start and grow their businesses in the future.

As I go around and visit business owners, the issue I've heard repeated most often is that folks are having a hard time finding employees.

It is hard to get people to join the workforce in communities like Stanton where the local daycare has a waiting list 100 children long. I've heard about so many similar lists from daycare facilities across Iowa's Third District in both our largest and smallest communities.

I will not stop working until the types of investments to create and support quality, affordable childcare facilities that are included in the Build Back Better Act get done.

Small businesses are the backbone of our state, and as a small business owner myself I know how hard it is to keep bills paid and the lights on.

I'll keep fighting to ensure Iowa's business owners and entrepreneurs have equal opportunity to earn their fair share and to grow and succeed well into the future.

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

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.

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

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

WHO WE ARE

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

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



Community Calendar

3 March

Noon: SCORE webinar, "How to Take Advantage of Speaking Opportunities to Help Drive Business Success." Go to omaha.score.org/content/take-workshop-242 for more information and registration.

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

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

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

4 March

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

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

6 to 9 p.m., Tica Felise, Five One 8, 518 N. 4th St.

7 p.m., "Hotel Transylvania: Transformania," theatre #1; "Scream 5," theatre #2; Red Oak Grand Theatre.

5 March

8 a.m., Legislative coffee, Montgomery County YMCA.

11 a.m. to 5 p.m., The Lakin 2022 Wedding Showcase, The Lakin Center, 61321 315th St, Malvern.

7 p.m., "Hotel Transylvania: Transformania," theatre #1; "Scream 5," theatre #2; Red Oak Grand Theatre.

6 March

11 a.m. to 4 p.m., The Lakin 2022 Wedding Showcase, The Lakin Center, 61321 315th St, Malvern.

2 and 7 p.m., "Hotel Transylvania: Transformania," theatre #1; "Scream 5," theatre #2; Red Oak Grand Theatre.

5:30 p.m., Alcoholics Anonymous, Bethlehem Lutheran

Church, 1101 Summit St.

7 March

Noon: Rural Commerce Committee meeting, Stadium 34.

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

5:30 p.m., Red Oak City Council meeting, Red Oak Fire Station, or via Zoom.

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

8 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>.

Noon: SCORE webinar, "Growing Your Business Globally - Three Bold Women Business Owners Unearth the Hidden Gems to Taking a Business Global." Go to omaha.score.org/content/take-workshop-242 for more information and registration.

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.

5:30 p.m., Marketing & Tourism committee meeting, ROCIA office.

9 March

Noon: SCORE webinar, "Drive Traffic to Your Website with SEO." Go to omaha.score.org/content/take-workshop-242 for more information and registration.

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.

Essex School celebrates sweethearts with coronation ceremony



Essex High School celebrated its annual Sweetheart Week February 14-18. The final event of the week was the Sweetheart Coronation and dance. Those elected to the court were, from left: Freshmen attendants Gabe Richardson and Kirsten Kalkas, sophomore attendants Payton Ashlock and Kyndra Gray, King Skylar Hall and Queen Riley Jensen, senior candidates Dylan Barrett and Ashley Brooks, and junior attendants Preston Driskell and Chloe Edie.(Photo provided)

EPA listening session this week

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 7 has announced an upcoming virtual public listening session on the Draft Strategy to Reduce Lead Exposures and Disparities in U.S. Communities (Lead Strategy), so communities and stakeholders can provide their comments on the Agency's plan.

Ongoing exposures to lead in the environment present a health risk to too many people nationwide. Very low levels of lead in children's blood have been linked to adverse effects on intellect, concentration, and academic achievement. The draft Lead Strategy lays out approaches to strengthen public health protections, address legacy lead contamination for communities with the greatest exposures, and promote environmental justice.

EPA Region 7 will hold a virtual listening session from 6 to 9 p.m. March 3. Registration is required to attend the event. Registration links to each regional listening session can be found on EPA's website at epa.gov/lead/draft-strategy-reduce-lead-exposures-and-disparities-us-communities#opportunities. Interpretation and disability access support will be provided. Virtual public listening sessions will be held in all 10 of EPA's Regional offices.

Members of the public who are unable to attend the March 3 event are encouraged to attend any of the 10 listening sessions or to submit comments via the docket at [regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov) (Docket ID: EPA-HQ-OLEM-2021-0762) until March 16.

First Congregational UCC prays for peace in Ukraine

The First Congregational United Church of Christ held a nonOdenominational peace/prayer vigil for citizens of Ukraine on Feb. 27, led by pastor Jenny Folmar.

As a Just Peace Church, the United Church of Christ calls for the de-escalation of violence and a return to diplomatic negotiations,

the only true way conflict ever ceases.

Church officials also urge their members to pray throughout these days for peace and protection against the evils of war for the people whose lives and well being are in danger.

Happy Birthday!

Celebrating birthdays this week are:

Ailene Coates – March 3
Ellie Whigham – March 3
Denise Goddard – March 4
Kevin Britten – March 6
Leroy Helm – March 6
Ryan Johnson – March 7
Marjorie Ayres – March 8
Jozlyn Franzen – March 8

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

March Storytime themes announced

The Red Oak Public Library has announced the latest themes for their upcoming Storytime events in March.

The event is held every Friday at 10:15 a.m. in the children's department of the library, 400 N. 2nd St. Snacks are provided, and there is no cost to participate. Themes are:

- March 4: Boxes.
- March 11: Green.
- March 18: Spring.
- March 25: Rain/Clouds.

SCORE March webinars announced

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

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

March. 3, noon: "How to Take Advantage of Speaking Opportunities to Help Drive Business Success."

March. 8, noon: "Growing Your Business Globally - Three Bold Women Business Owners Unearth the Hidden Gems to Taking a Business Global."

March 9, noon: "Drive Traffic to Your Website with SEO."

March 10, noon: "Comparing E-Commerce Platforms - The Criteria that Matters to Your Online Store."

March 17, noon: "Three Tax Saving Secrets Every Company

Needs to Know Today!"

March. 24, noon: "Packaging Tendering - How Pickup and Drop-Off Make a Difference to Your Bottom Line."

March 31, noon: "How to Engage your Customers and Maximize Sales Success."

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

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

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

Card Shower

HALL 90th BIRTHDAY

Maxine Hall will celebrate her 90th birthday on Saturday, March 12.

In honor of the occasion, a card shower has been requested by her friends.

Send cards to her at 455 SW Ankeny Rd., Apt. 408, Ankeny, IA, 50023.



CHURCH DIRECTORY

Advent Christian

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

Assembly Of God

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

Baptist

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

Grace Baptist, 1510 N. 6th St., Red Oak, Gary D. Walters, Bible class, 10 a.m., Worship, 11 a.m., Worship, 6 p.m.; Wednesday, Prayer, 7 p.m. Grace Baptist, 525 Main St., Griswold, Victor Maxson, Bible study, 10 a.m., Worship, 11 a.m. **Online:** 11 a.m. livestream.

Southern Baptist

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

Catholic

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

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

Christian

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

Christian & Missionary Alliance

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

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

Church Of Christ

Church Of Christ, Elliott, Sunday

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

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

Church Of the Nazarene

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

Covenant

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

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

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

Jehovah's Witness

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

Lutheran

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Non-Denominational

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

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EM FFA celebrates FFA week



Among the area districts that celebrated FFA Week is the East Mills School District. Pictured are, front row, from left: Collin Rogers, Megan Wells, Caleb Urban, Tylere Anderson, Natalie Goodman, Ryan Stortenbecker, Davis McGrew, Matthew Haley, and Kayla Streight. Second row, from left: Levi McDonald, Steven Barrett, Madi Marburger, Lilley Crowder, Ailey Marburger, Audrey Boban, Dayann McGrew, Aspen Crouse, Miah Urban, Emily Williams, and Sylas Allen. Back row, from left: Klara Seipold, Caleb Anderson, Tyler Prokop, Andrew Jackson, Dylan Spencer, Wyatt Franks, Ann Barrett, Wyatt Schmit, Devin Horgdal. (Photo submitted)

Stanton, East Mills, Griswold compete in CC speech



Students from Stanton, Griswold, and East Mills participated in Corner Conference individual speech on Wednesday, Feb. 23, in College Springs. Pictured left, Stanton's participants included front row, from left: Dacey Henneman and AJ Baker. Back row: Axel King, Makenzie Rocha, and Preston Carpenter. Pictured below, from Griswold, front row, from left: front row sitting: Zander Luft. Back row from left: Jayson Davis, Grant Adams, Michael Kunze, Paige Baier, Grant Rogers, Alynah Hern Alvarado, Paris Sorensen, and Brie Ross. (Charm Carpenter/The Red Oak Express)



Students participating in the Corner Conference individual speech contest from East Mills included: front row, from left: Shelby Hindman and Camryn Johnson. Middle row, from left: Lilly Proctor, Madilynn Marburger, Megan Wells, and Ailey Marburger. Back row, from left: Grace Escritt, Shade Pickard, Jack Sayers, and Cameron Wells. (Charm Carpenter/The Red Oak Express)

School Activities

<p>Thursday, March 3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Essex: No school, conferences6:30-7:45 a.m., Griswold: High school boys throwers, middle school gym6:45-7:45 a.m., Southwest Valley: High school baseball open gym, high school gym3:30-5 p.m., Red Oak: Sixth grade boys basketball practice, Inman Elementary gym5-6 p.m., Southwest Valley: Corning youth basketball practice, third grade boys, Corning Elementary gym6-7:15 p.m., Southwest Valley: Corning youth basketball practice, Corning Elementary gym6:15 p.m., Southwest Valley: Corning youth baseball practice, new high school gym7 p.m., East Mills: Band/choir spring concert, 7-12 grades. <p>Friday, March 4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Southwest Valley: No school1:30 p.m., Essex: No school.3:45-5 p.m., Southwest Valley: Corning youth basketball practice, fifth grade girls, Corning Elementary gym5:30-6:15 p.m., Griswold: Kindergarten-second grade wrestling, elementary gym6:30-7:30 p.m., Griswold: Third-eighth grade wrestling club, elementary gym <p>Monday, March 7</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">East Mills: Late start, 90 minutes3:45-5 p.m., Southwest Valley: Corning youth basketball practice, fifth grade girls, Corning Elementary gym4-6 p.m., Southwest Valley: Dance team practice, Vilisca Wellness Center5:30-6:15 p.m., Griswold: Kindergarten-	<ul style="list-style-type: none">second grade wrestling practice, elementary gym6 p.m., Griswold: Middle school AAU volleyball practice6:30-7:30 p.m., Griswold: Third-eighth grade wrestling club practice, elementary gym <p>Tuesday, March 8</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">6:15-7:10 a.m., Southwest Valley: Dance team practice, activity center6:30-7:45 a.m., Griswold: High school boys throwers, middle school gym6:45-7:45 a.m., Southwest Valley: High school baseball open gym, new high school gym5-6:30 p.m., East Mills: Special education/Title reading night, elementary gym6-7:15 p.m., Southwest Valley: Corning youth basketball practice, fourth/fifth grade boys, Corning Elementary gym, sixth grade boys, activity center6-7:30 p.m., Southwest Valley: Corning youth basketball practice, sixth grade girls, new high school gym7 p.m., East Mills: Speech showcase, high school lobby. <p>Wednesday, March 9</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Griswold: One hour early release6:15-7:10 a.m., Southwest Valley: Dance team practice, activity center6:15-7:15 a.m., Southwest Valley: High school softball pitching, new high school gym1:05/1:15 p.m., Stanton: Early dismissal5 p.m., Griswold: High school girls pitching practice, middle school gym
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EM student in All-Iowa Honor Dance

Forty teams qualified for the State Basketball Tournament after days, weeks and months of practice.

Another championship caliber team that showed its talent last Friday and Saturday has practiced just a few hours. That team is the All-Iowa Honor Dance Team, which has become a tradition at the Girls' State Basketball Tournament.

This year, for the first time, an East Mills student has been accepted. Kaylee Vandenberg, who is a senior at East Mills and a four-year member and senior captain of East Mills Dance Team

All dance teams represented are members of the Iowa State Dance Team Association, and the dancers were chosen based on ability, attitude, dedication and leadership qualities. Auditions were held last fall at Newton Community Schools. After just hours of practice together, the students annually put on a show that is nationally recognized as one of the finest of its kind. Grand View University serves as the host for the Thursday and Friday rehearsals.

The pregame performance included 50 dancers performing a patriotic salute. Rachael Wurr of Pella was the choreographer. The national anthem was sung by Jackie Schmillen who is the morning anchor for the "We Are Iowa" team on Channel 5.

The halftime show took place during the 4A championship game Saturday. The halftime group included 238 dancers representing 92 Iowa high schools.



The IGHSAU salutes, for the 41st consecutive year, Kathy Enyart and the All-Iowa Honor Dance Team.

School Lunch Menus

<p>East Mills</p> <p>Thursday, March 3: Chicken fajitas, refried beans, corn, strawberries, bananas.</p> <p>Friday, March 4: Cheese French bread pizza, green beans, mini sweet potato puffs, tropical fruit.</p> <p>Monday, March 7: Bean and cheddar cheese burrito, mixed vegetables, green beans, applesauce, tomato salsa.</p> <p>Tuesday, March 8: Beef chili with beans, California blend vegetables, baby carrots, apricot halves, cinnamon roll.</p> <p>Wednesday, March 9: Crispy chicken sandwich on a bun, sliced red and green peppers, fresh grapes, Doritos.</p>	<p>salad with choice of dressing, corn, corn salsa, fresh fruit, applesauce.</p> <p>Tuesday, March 8: Ham and cheese French toast sandwich with syrup; or cobb salad, blueberry muffin; or spicy chicken sandwich on a bun; or seven layer dip; fresh garden salad with choice of dressing, tater tots, fresh fruit, mandarin oranges, cucumber slices with ranch.</p> <p>Wednesday, March 9: Chicken patty on a bun, hot roll; or greens, eggs, and ham salad' hot roll; or taco calzone; or club stacker; mashed potatoes and gravy, baby carrots with ranch, glazed carrots, fresh fruit, sliced peaches.</p>
<p>Essex</p> <p>Thursday, March 3: No school, parent/teacher conferences.</p> <p>Friday, March 4: No school, parent/teacher conferences..</p> <p>Monday, March 7: Beef tacos, shredded lettuce, diced tomatoes, diced onions, shredded cheese, romaine lettuce with choice of dressing, tomato salsa, bananas.</p> <p>Tuesday, March 8: Pizza slices, corn, spinach and lettuce salad mix with choice of dressing, sliced peaches.</p> <p>Wednesday, March 9: Chicken and waffles with syrup, hash browns, mandarin oranges.</p>	<p>Red Oak Jr./Sr. High School <i>Chicken patty, cheeseburger, and pizza are offered daily</i></p> <p>Thursday, March 3: Philly cheesesteak sub sandwich; or sweet and sour chicken salad, blueberry muffin; or General Tso chicken with rice; or popcorn chicken wrap; french fries, fresh garden salad with choice of dressing, fresh fruit, sliced pears, baby carrots and ranch.</p> <p>Friday, March 4: Italian pizza slices; or BLTE salad, focaccia bread; or chedda-toni; or turkey and cheese sandwich; fresh garden salad with choice of dressing, roasted vegetables, fresh fruit, tropical fruit, potato salad.</p> <p>Monday, March 7: Chicken and waffles with syrup; or big mack salad, Italian bread; or pizza slices; or Mediterranean grain bowl; fresh garden salad with choice of dressing, corn, corn salsa, fresh fruit, applesauce.</p> <p>Tuesday, March 8: Ham and cheese French toast sandwich with syrup; or cobb salad, blueberry muffin; or spicy chicken sandwich on a bun; or seven layer dip; fresh garden salad with choice of dressing, tater tots, fresh fruit, mandarin oranges, cucumber slices with ranch.</p> <p>Wednesday, March 9: Chicken patty on a bun, hot roll; or greens, eggs, and ham salad' hot roll; or taco calzone; or club stacker; mashed potatoes and gravy, baby carrots with ranch, glazed carrots, fresh fruit, sliced peaches.</p>
<p>Griswold</p> <p>Thursday, March 3: Crispy chicken strips, potato wedges, savory cooked carrots, mandarin oranges, roll.</p> <p>Friday, March 4: Hoagie sandwich on a bun, tortilla chips and nacho cheese sauce, green beans, mixed fruit.</p> <p>Monday, March 7: Beef hot dog on a bun, chili, cheese sauce, relish, tri-tater, corn, Sidekick.</p> <p>Tuesday, March 8: Crispy chicken nuggets, macaroni and cheese, baked beans, sliced pears</p> <p>Wednesday, March 9: Baked garlic cheese bread, marinara sauce, garden spinach salad, savory cooked carrots, sliced peaches.</p>	<p>Southwest Valley</p> <p>Thursday, March 3: Crispy chicken patty on a bun, french fries, country trio vegetables, fruit.</p> <p>Friday, March 4: Cheese quesadilla, tater tots, corn, fruit.</p> <p>Monday, March 7: Teacher inservice, no school.</p> <p>Tuesday, March 8: Corn dog, potato wedges, cheesy peas, fruit.</p> <p>Wednesday, March 9: Beef chili with saltine crackers, green beans, fruit, cinnamon roll.</p>
<p>Red Oak Elementary/ Preschool Center</p> <p>Thursday, March 3: Philly cheesesteak sub sandwich; or sweet and sour chicken salad, blueberry muffin; or General Tso chicken with rice; or popcorn chicken wrap; french fries, fresh garden salad with choice of dressing, fresh fruit, sliced pears, baby carrots and ranch.</p> <p>Friday, March 4: Italian pizza slices; or BLTE salad, focaccia bread; or chedda-toni; or turkey and cheese sandwich; fresh garden salad with choice of dressing, roasted vegetables, fresh fruit, tropical fruit, potato salad.</p> <p>Monday, March 7: Chicken and waffles with syrup; or big mack salad, Italian bread; or pizza slices; or Mediterranean grain bowl; fresh garden</p>	<p>Stanton</p> <p>Thursday, March 3-Wednesday, March 9: Not available.</p>

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

Support Newspaper in Education

Sellergren Lindell Demarce Funeral Home

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In Memory of Edmund Larson

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

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

Your donation of \$13.32 will buy newspapers for one student for the entire school year, because the Red Oak Express matches each and every donation!

If you would like to contribute to Newspapers in Education, or if you are a teacher who would like to use the Red Oak Express in your classroom,

contact Nanny at 712-623-2566

or circulation@redoakexpress.com.

2021 Iowa crop production figures released by USDA

In 2021, Kossuth County led all Iowa counties in total soybean production, with 13.4 million bushels according to the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. Pottawattamie (12.9 million), Sioux (10.9 million), Benton (10.6 million) and Tama (9.98 million) rounded out the top five counties with the highest production.

Fifty-two of Iowa's counties averaged at least 60.0 bushels per acre. Both Sioux County and Dubuque County had the highest yield with an average of 69.6 bushels per acre. Ida (229.1), Jasper (223.1), Sioux (221.7), and Greene (221.7) counties rounded out the top five highest yielding counties. Van Buren County recorded the lowest average yield at 51.9 bushels per acre.

Yields are derived from production divided by area harvested.

Kossuth County was the highest-ranking county for corn for grain production with 57.7 million bushels produced. Pottawattamie, Sioux, Crawford, and Plymouth rounded out the top five. Other counties with production of more than 40 million bushels were Webster and Woodbury.

Sac led all counties with an average yield of 231.5 bushels per acre. Ida (229.1), Jasper (223.1), Sioux (221.7), and Greene (221.7) counties rounded out the top five. Seventeen counties exceeded the 215 bushel mark in 2021.

Yields are derived from production divided by area harvested. Only published estimates were con-

sidered in rankings of counties.

In 2021, Sioux County led all Iowa counties in total corn silage production with 777,000 tons, according to the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. Winneshiek (505,000), Lyon (492,000), Marshall (315,000), and Fayette (278,000) rounded out the top five highest-producing counties.

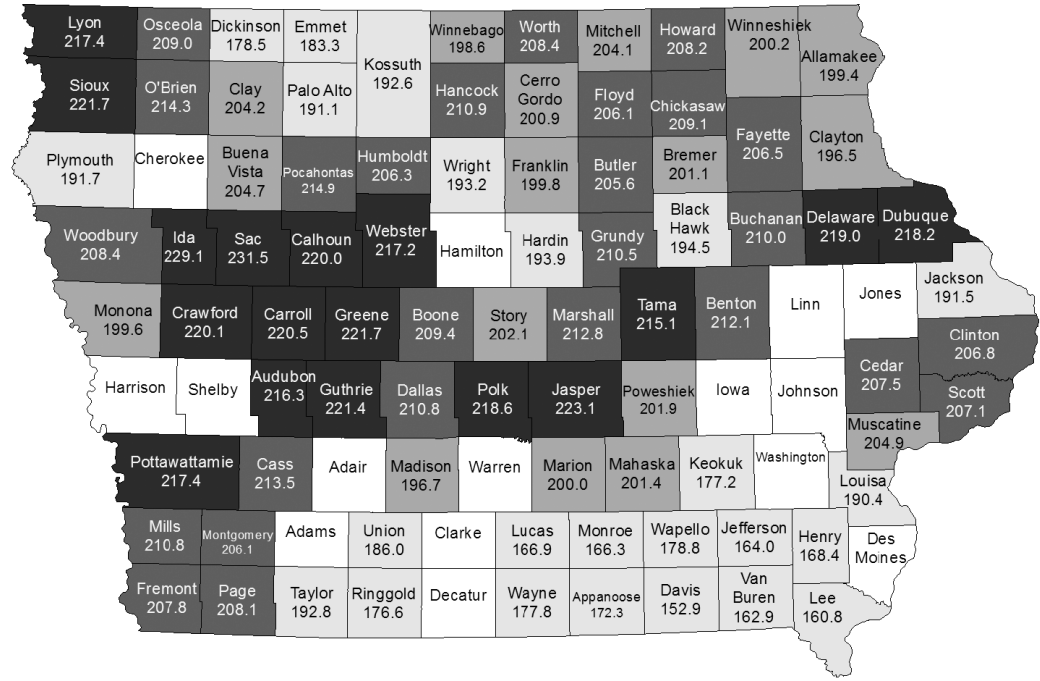
Marshall County had the highest yield with an average of 25 tons per acre harvested. Lyon County had the second-highest yield at 24.5 tons per acre. Tied for third, at 23 tons per acre, were Fayette, Bremer, and Winnebago. There were eight counties with a yield of at least 20 tons per acre.

Yields are derived from production divided by area harvested. Only published estimates were considered in rankings of counties.

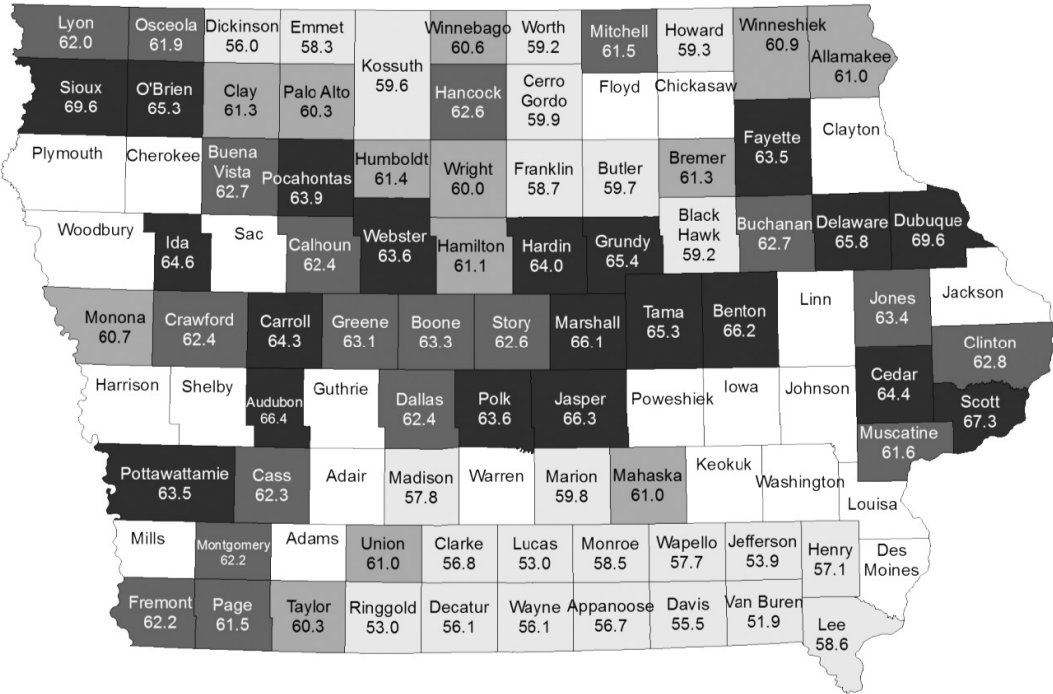
The production of Iowa's field and miscellaneous crops was valued at \$22.7 billion in 2021, according to the USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service - Crop Values 2021 Summary. This was up 36 percent from 2020.

The value of corn for grain production totaled \$13.9 billion, up 31 percent from the previous year. Iowa's corn price averaged \$5.45 per bushel, 81 cents above the last marketing year.

The value of soybean production was \$8.08 billion, up 44 percent from 2020. The average price increased \$1.90 from the previous year to \$13 per bushel.



Above: 2021 Iowa corn county estimates. Below: 2021 Iowa soybean county estimates.



A skift of snow

A couple inches of snow fell across southwest Iowa Thursday, Feb. 24. It was the first snow accumulation the area had in several weeks. (Tess Nelson/Red Oak Express)

Mills County Master Gardeners hosting spring into garden conference

The Mills County Master Gardeners will be hosting the "Spring into Spring" Garden Conference, Saturday, March 26, at The Lakin, located on the Mills County Fairgrounds in Malvern.

This will be a full day of horticultural education for all gardeners. It is open to gardeners of all ages and abilities and will feature five speakers.

- Speakers include:
- Tim Inman, who will be giving a presentation on grafting. After his presentation, Tim will be available all day doing "hands on grafting" with participants in attendance.
 - Dr. Carol Fassbinder-Orth, Professor at Creighton University, where she studies bees

and their diseases. Dr Fassbinder-Orth and her husband are the owners and operators of the Bountiful Blossoms Bee Company, of Glenwood. She will be talking about the health of bees.

- Lance Brisbois, from Golden Hills RC&D, of Oakland, will be doing a presentation on native plants and their importance in our gardens and landscapes.
- Dr. Donald Lewis, Professor and ISU Extension and Outreach Entomologist for the Department of Entomology at Iowa State University, will be talking about common garden insect pests and what we can do about them.
- Todd Peverill, from the Hillsdale Lily

Garden of Glenwood, will be sharing how easy it is to grow and divide daylilies.

Various vendors will be present throughout the day. The conference begins with check-in at 8:15 a.m. The first speaker begins at 9 am, and the conference will conclude at 3 p.m. Refreshments and lunch are included.

Registration fee: \$25 on or before March 18. Walk-in on the day of the conference \$35.

To register on-line go to: go.iastate.edu/GEXPWE, contact Shirley D. Miller at shirleym@iastate.edu, or call the Mills County Extension Office at 712-624-8616.



SWIPCO seeks applications for TAP funding

Regional Planning Authority 13, the transportation planning region for Cass, Fremont, Montgomery, and Page counties designated by the Iowa Department of Transportation, seeks applications for projects that support trails and other off-road, non-driver infrastructure through its Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP). Eligible entities within the four RPA-13 counties are encouraged to apply.

"From establishing bike paths, to preservation of historic transportation facilities, or a safe route to school sidewalks, there are multiple possible uses for the TAP program funding," said SWIPCO Grants Specialist Tammy DeBord, an RPA-13 administrator. "If your city or county is planning one of these projects, now is the time to apply."

The TAP funds are available to local governments, transit agencies, school districts and local education agencies, as well as tribal governments and natural resource or public land agencies. Non-

profits responsible for administering local transportation safety programs are also eligible to apply.

Past projects boosted by RPA-13 TAP grants have included the Troublesome Creek Connector from Atlantic's baseball facilities to the Schilberg Recreation Area, trail construction in and around the city of Red Oak, and the Wabash Depot Trail Head in Shenandoah.

Officials with RPA-13 have set a deadline of March 25. Projects must meet certain requirements, including a demonstrated relationship to transportation, a 20-year maintenance commitment, and a commitment of at least 20 percent of eligible costs. Potential applicants should contact Tammy DeBord at SWIPCO with questions and to obtain the application, which is also available on the SWIPCO website, swipco.org. DeBord can be reached at tammy.debord@swipco.org or by calling toll-free 866-279-4720.

Glenwood attorney to serve as district associate judge

A Glenwood attorney is set to join the Fourth Judicial District as a judge.

On Feb. 17, the district judges of the Iowa Fourth Judicial District selected Justin Rusk Wyatt with Woods, Wyatt & Tucker PLLC of Glenwood to serve as district associate judge.

Wyatt will replace judge Jennifer B. Bahr who was appointed to serve as district judge by Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds on Jan. 14.

The Fourth Judicial District Magistrate Nominating Commissions met on Feb. 10 to interview applicants for this position. The commissions also nominated Sara Benson,

Council Bluffs, and Donna Bothwell, Logan, for consideration by the District Judges of the Fourth District.

Wyatt graduated from Villisca High School in May, 1994, received his undergraduate degree from Creighton University in May, 1998, and his Juris Doctorate from Creighton University School of Law in May, 2003.

Wyatt has been in private practice in southwest Iowa since September, 2003. From 2003 to 2011, Wyatt was an associate attorney at Peters Law Firm, P.C. Since 2011, he has been a founding partner at

Woods, Wyatt, & Tucker, PLLC.

Wyatt will be assigned to work primarily in Montgomery, Page, Cass, and Audubon counties in the Fourth District, but can be assigned to hear cases throughout the district as needed.

The Fourth Judicial District consists of nine southwest Iowa counties: Audubon, Cass, Fremont, Harrison, Mills, Montgomery, Page, Pottawattamie and Shelby.

Wyatt will assume his duties as District Associate Judge in March.



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Contact the History Center:
712-623-2289
2700 North 4th St, Red Oak
11a.m. - 4p.m.

Montgomery County man given consent order by IDNR

Montgomery County's Mark Snyder was given a Department of Natural Resources consent order, which indicates the DNR has voluntarily entered into a legally enforceable agreement with the other party.

Snyder was informed to, "immediately dispose of all solid waste at a permitted landfill; submit landfill disposal receipts; comply with solid waste laws; and pay a \$4,000 administrative penalty."

DNR staff work with individuals, businesses and communities to help them protect our natural resources by complying with state and federal laws. This approach is very effective. In the few cases where compliance cannot be achieved, the DNR issues enforcement actions.

SPRING 2022

Clarinda, IA **GUN SHOW**

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Final reading of county solar ordinance passes

Nick Johansen
The Red Oak Express

The third and final reading of the new Montgomery County solar ordinance is complete.

Audience comment on the ordinance was plentiful before the final vote took place to put the ordinance in the books. One of the citizens in attendance who spoke was Stanton's Vicky Rossander, who called into question the comments that her proposed changes to the ordinance would negatively impact the county's ability to attract utility-sized solar farms to the area.

"All the changes which I had proposed came directly from either the Iowa model solar ordinance, which encourages the development of all sizes of solar power systems, and from the Mills County solar ordinance, where they are currently in the process of building a utility-sized solar farm," Rossander said.

Rossander added none of the changes she proposed would have impeded the development of large-scale solar farms in the county.

"What it would have done is insure that when those utility-sized solar farms had been constructed in the county, it would have been done in a reasonable and responsible way that protected everyone involved: the landowners where the solar farm was to be built, the neighbors surrounding the solar farm, and the county and its assets, such as roads and bridges. None of these recommendations will now happen, as the planning and zoning board refused to consider them," Rossander stated.

Rossander closed her comments saying that she felt the county was stuck for now with a poorly crafted and written ordinance, and hoped it was "good enough," as others had indicated.



Barry Byers, Montgomery County Zoning Commissioner, speaks to members of the board at the meeting. (Nick Johansen/Red Oak Express)



Supervisors Randy Cooper and Charla Schmid listen to public comment prior to the vote on the third and final reading of the proposed solar ordinance (Nick Johansen/The Red Oak Express)

Barb Nelson of Stanton was next to speak, and said she was supportive of establishing solar power in the county and was extremely in favor of the county having an ordinance that protected the county and the businesses that wanted to build solar farms, but she was concerned that she heard that if something didn't work, it could be fixed later.

"I urge you not to wait until there's a problem with a solar installation being built, and urge you to have the zoning board meet again to fix whatever concerns there might be to protect not just the landowners and the county, but the businesses that want to build here so they have a clear understanding of what is expected and required," commented Nelson.

Maggie McQuown of Red Oak also spoke against the adoption of the ordinance, despite being in favor of solar farms and offering protections for landowners, the county, and potential businesses.

"It appears apparent that this ordinance is going to pass as submitted. But I know several people have submitted comments to the planning and zoning commission over desired revisions, and I feel that warrants calling a planning and zoning commission meeting to review and improve the ordinance. Also, the ordinance was drafted when there were still two vacancies on the planning and zoning commission," McQuown said.

Montgomery County zoning commissioner Barry Byers was in attendance at the meeting, and said he understood that some of the ordinance seemed vague, but that was partially intentional, so it could be adapted to different circumstances.

"It puts more responsibility on the board of adjustment during the review process, and I understand that, but that also allows us to dictate how the process moves, instead of having it all written in stone and having to do everything exact-

ly how the ordinance states," Byers said. "We revise and amend ordinances quite often, so while this is an ordinance, all ordinances are subject to change when we find something we need to address."

Byers added that there have been a lot of recent comments regarding the ordinance, and he wished they would have been shared when they were having the meetings to draft the ordinance, as that was when the changes were supposed to take place, not after they had been voted on and approved by the planning and zoning commission and brought to the supervisors for approval.

Supervisor's Chair Mark Peterson asked what the format was for making punctuation changes or fixing misspelled words. Byers said he can fix the spelling errors, but he hadn't moved on making any of the changes so the supervisors could vote on the as-approved version submitted by the commission.

Harry Rossander advised the supervisors that procedurally, the commission was required to modify the documents, and procedurally, they would have to make changes and the revised version would again need to be approved by the supervisors.

Nelson, who didn't use her entire two minutes to address the supervisors, was given another minute to add to her initial comments. Nelson took exception to Byers' comment about the lack of public input at the drafting meetings, as there were no minutes of the meetings published, and the public wouldn't have known what was going on. Also, she questioned whether the ordinance presented to the supervisors was the one initially approved.

"I believe the ordinance was changed. I believe it was adjusted and was never brought again before the planning and zoning board to reapprove. That was one of the reasons, I thought, that you sent it back to the planning and zoning board,

and no one would second so it was never talked about.

Supervisor Mike Olson said he wasn't aware of any changes made to the ordinance from that initial approval to the one being currently submitted for approval to the supervisors.

When asked for clarification, Byers said he wasn't present at the planning and zoning meeting where the ordinance was approved, as he was home sick with COVID-19, and county engineer Karen Albert was the one who coordinated the final meeting.

Albert addressed the supervisors, and said there was discussion, and a request was made for some revisions to be made, and then, based on those revisions, the ordinance was approved. According to Albert, the revisions were discussed and approved.

"So the revisions were made based on the discussion that day, and it was approved that day, and this document, plus those revisions, were approved at that meeting in October," Albert explained.

Supervisor Mike Olson said he had a real issue on the amount of push-back being received on the ordinance. According to Olson, currently at the Iowa Statehouse, there is a statewide ordinance being considered to ban all solar energy from the state of Iowa.

"I believe that the planning and zoning board and Barry Byers have done the best job they possibly could with the materials available at that time, to form and bring forward a comprehensive solar ordinance," Olson commented. "We've talked about this now for two months, and I believe we've gone through the motions. Sure, there are comments and different ideas that will come up over the next few months and years, and to stop this, and argue, I feel is ridiculous. Let's go ahead and get it approved. Not all solar farms will be the same."

BOARD

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A

we're just going to be adding six switches that go hand in hand with the access points."

Herrick added the new access points and switches would add to the district's internet and bandwidth speeds.

"As for the 10 year licensing on the access points, if we buy 10 years now, and replace our access points six years from now, we won't have to buy licensing for another four years; it can be transferred to new models," Herrick said.

The board approved the use of ESSER III funds for technology improvements in the amount of \$173,458.

ROSSANDER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A

stated earlier, I hope to be able "volunteer" as needed going forward. In addition, I have been asked to continue working with the radio station on providing information to our veterans on benefits that were earned from their time in service," said Rossander.

Rossander's resignation was on the agenda at the regular meeting of the Montgomery County Board of Supervisors on Feb. 22. As Rossander was hired through the Montgomery County Veterans Affairs Commission, the supervisors acknowledged his resignation at that meeting.

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