

Absentee ballot request period opens

Iowa Secretary of State Paul Pate announced the absentee ballot request period for the June 7 primary election is now open. Voters wishing to cast their ballot through the mail can submit their request for an absentee ballot. Iowa law allows a 70-day request period for absentee ballots.

County auditors can begin mailing absentee ballots 20 days ahead of Election Day, which will be Wednesday, May 18.

“I encourage Iowans to have a voting plan, and if you choose to vote absentee through the mail, you can submit your request for a ballot now,” Secretary Pate said. “If you prefer to vote in-person, county auditors’ offices will be open starting May 18, or you can go to the polls on Election Day. Whichever method you choose, we are taking the necessary steps to protect the integrity of your vote.”

Iowans can also download the request form directly from the Iowa Secretary of State website, VoterReady.Iowa.gov.

Requests to receive a ballot by mail must be received by the county auditor’s office by Monday, May 23. In-person absentee voting at the county auditor’s office is available through the day before the election, June 6.

Paint Iowa Beautiful program awards Essex free paint

Diamond Vogel and Keep Iowa Beautiful announced the grant awards for the 2022 Paint Iowa Beautiful program. The program provides free paint to a wide variety of public service projects throughout Iowa.

Locally, the City of Essex will receive a grant for painting the Historical Opera House in the community. Also, the City of Sidney will receive a grant to paint the side of the building next to the Sidney City Hall.

“The partnership with Keep Iowa Beautiful allows Diamond Vogel to assist and work with many local volunteers that help build communities, making Iowa one of the best states in the nation to live,” said Doug Vogel, Vice-President, Marketing, of the Iowa based company. “Governor Reynolds will be signing a proclamation designating April as Keep Iowa Beautiful month, and we are pleased to do our part by awarding paint to 154 community projects in Iowa.”

“Over the years, the Paint Iowa Beautiful

program has awarded paint grants to projects in every county in Iowa,” said Kevin Techau, Executive Director of Keep Iowa Beautiful. “The program provides the paint for beautification and clean-up projects that improve the economic vitality and cultural climate of Iowa communities in every corner of Iowa.”

In the 19-year partnership with Keep Iowa Beautiful, Diamond Vogel has awarded over 12,564 gallons of paint for 1,286 community projects in Iowa.

In addition to paint projects, join over 50 communities participating in Keep Iowa Beautiful’s Pick Up Iowa annual program by cleaning up litter and trash along Iowa’s roadsides, neighborhoods, streets, school grounds, parks and streams.

Residents are urged to encourage their community mayor, city council or county supervisors to announce several days or a week as “Pick Up Your Community.” Pick-Up Iowa is being held through June 30 on any dates that work for ythe community.



To participate, register the group/organization at keepiowabeautiful.org/get-involved/community-outreach-opportunities/pick-up-iowa/.

Registered participant groups are eligible for a limited supply of free cleanup supplies donated by Keep Iowa Beautiful.

Nominations needed for Conservation Farmer of the Year

Nominations are now being sought to recognize the 2022 Iowa Conservation Farmer of the Year. Now in its 70th year, this prestigious honor has been awarded to celebrate conservation progress and Iowa farmers who are committed to exceptional environmental stewardship and conservation efforts.

The statewide and regional awards, co-sponsored by the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (IDALS) and the Iowa Farm Bureau Federation (IFBF), honor Iowa farmers who have distinguished track records of commitment to soil conservation and water quality improvement efforts.

Last year’s Iowa Conservation Farmer of the Year award winner, Cedar County farmers Ken Fawcett and his nephew, Kent Stewart, were recognized for embracing innovative conservation practices to take on the challenge of improving Iowa’s soil health and water quality while sharing their experiences and insight with fellow farmers.

To nominate a farmer for the award, visit cdiowa.org/awards for a short form summarizing the nominee’s conservation efforts and commitment to improving soil. Nominations are due May 13 to your local Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) office. “Iowa’s farmers and landowners continue to go above and beyond to be good stewards of our land while feeding the nation,” said Iowa Secretary of Agriculture Mike Naig. “Future generations will benefit from the

concerted effort these farmers and landowners have made today to protect our soil and water quality and their families’ farming legacies. I encourage Iowans to nominate someone in their community who has embraced environmental stewardship and more sustainable farming practices.”

“Everyone has a role to play in protecting Iowa’s soil and water quality, and this award showcases the exemplary efforts of farmers who are leading by example and making big strides in conservation,” said IFBF President Brent Johnson. “Recognizing and celebrating farmers’ conservation achievements and sharing examples of successful innovative conservation practices can help encourage other to embrace proven practices to improve our water quality.”

One nominee will be selected by each of Iowa’s 99 county SWCD offices. These individuals will be considered for regional conservation awards. Nine regional award winners will compete for the title of “Iowa’s Conservation Farmer of the Year.”

The winner will be announced during the Iowa State Fair and will receive the keys to their tractor during the Conservation Districts of Iowa annual meeting, Sept. 23-24, in Ames. The 2022 Conservation Farmer of the Year winner will receive free use of a John Deere 6 Series utility tractor for up to 12 months or 200 hours of use. The prize, valued at more than \$12,000, has long been donated by the Farm Bureau partner Van Wall Equipment of Perry and John Deere.

Enrollment in USDA CRP begins next week

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) encourages producers and landowners to enroll in the Grassland Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) starting next week through May 13.

Grassland CRP provides a unique opportunity for farmers, ranchers, and agricultural landowners to keep land in agricultural production and supplement their income while improving their soils and permanent grass cover.

The program had its highest enrollment in history in 2021 and is part of the Biden-Harris Administration’s broader effort to equip producers with the tools they need to help address climate change and invest in the long-term health of our natural resources.

Grassland CRP is a federally funded voluntary working lands program. Through the

program, USDA’s Farm Service Agency (FSA) provides annual rental payments to landowners to maintain and conserve grasslands while allowing producers to graze, hay, and produce seed on that land.

Maintaining the existing permanent cover provides several benefits, including reducing erosion, providing wildlife habitat and migration corridors, and capturing and maintaining carbon in the soil and cover.

“Grassland CRP is an important working lands conservation tool that offers a win-win to both our country’s producers and the environment by supporting and enabling grazing activities, while at the same time promoting plant and animal biodiversity and stemming rangeland conversion,” Matt Russell, FSA State Executive Director in Iowa.

“We had a successful signup last year, and we look forward to

broadening our base and working with new producers, particularly our historically underserved producers, to ensure they can access the program and its many benefits.”

FSA provides participants with annual rental payments and cost-share assistance. The annual rental rate varies by county with a national minimum rental rate of \$13 per acre for this signup. Contract duration is 10 or 15 years.

As part of the Agency’s Justice40 efforts, producers and landowners who are historically underserved, including beginning farmers and military vet-

erans, will receive 10 additional ranking points to enhance their offers.

Additionally, USDA is working to broaden the scope and reach of Grassland CRP by leveraging the Conservation Reserve Enhancement

CRP is a partnership program that enables states, Tribal governments, non-profit, and private entities to partner with FSA to implement CRP practices and address high priority conservation and environmental objectives. Interested entities are encouraged to contact FSA.



MYSTERY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A

of the high school was presented to the superintendent and the school board in May of 1895 to retain him as an instructor. The board not only retained him, but gave him a raise from \$60 a month to \$75. It was not enough though, and in July, the school board elected to have Professor F. S. Williams succeed Clark.

Clark is perhaps most known for becoming the captain of Company M during the Spanish American War. I learned so much about JW Clark during the research and could not wait to tell Mary.

I excitedly told Mary, and she said there was no relationship. So I sent her a list of all the names I had found for each year, and none of them looked familiar as far as family or friends of family were concerned.

So I decided to research her family tree, going backwards, until I came across a name that was on one of the rosters.

Who was it? To find out the answer to the mystery, grab a copy of next week’s edition.

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Hepatitis C is a serious disease that can lead to liver cancer, but there is a cure.

All adults should get tested for hepatitis C.

Talk to your doctor – it could save your life.

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IDPH
IOWA Department of PUBLIC HEALTH

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THE TIME IS NOW

STOP HIV IOWA

We're making a plan to stop HIV in Iowa—and we need your help.

We can stop HIV in Iowa. We're developing a plan with input from partners across the state, and we want to hear from you! Send us your feedback, ideas, and questions. Your voice is an important part of this story.

To learn more & get involved, visit StopHIVIowaPlan.org

CONNIE KINSER, 84

Connie Kinser, 84, Winterset, passed away Tuesday, March 29, 2022, at Azria Health in Winterset.

Constance Joan Gustafson was born in College Springs on Jan. 1, 1938, the daughter of Raymond and Veva (McCorkle) Gustafson. She was raised in Red Oak and graduated from Red Oak High School in 1956. She married Neil Bentley in 1957 and was later married to Jimmy Kinser in 1974. She has resided in Winterset since 1988.

Connie was the first newspaper delivery girl in Red Oak. She was a member of the Jaycee Jaynes of Red Oak, Classy Chassis Car Club of Red Oak, Winterset Rotary, and the Winterset School Board, having served as president. Connie served as the County Extension Director for the USDA offices in Madison and Warren counties for 25 years.

She is survived by her husband, Jim Kinser of Winterset; son, Joel Kinser (Jen Hughes) of Des Moines and step-son, Tom Bentley of Red Oak; daughters, Darce (Jeff) Ovel of Decorah, Molly (Chris) Douglas of Urbandale, and step-daughter, Klissie Robbins of Denton, Texas; daughter-in-law, Julie (Chris) Hendrix of Oklahoma City, Okla.; sisters, Viki Heuton of Pleasant Hill and Bette (Axel) Larson of Red Oak; grandchildren, Natalie Albin (Brayden Clubb), Travis Ovel, Melanie Ovel (Nick Hatzung), Drew Carter (Wade), Gabe Kinser (Kelley Frary), Grace Kinser, Sophia Hughes, Pearl Kinser, Rowan Douglas, and step-grandson, Brandon Robbins; and great-grandchildren, Olivia, Mica, Meadow, Lane, Chloe, Madison, Zoey, Lear, Lennex, Laiven, Ronin, Freya, and step-great-grandchild, Mikala.

Connie was preceded in death by her parents, Raymond and Veva (McCorkle) Gustafson; son, Bill Kinser; and brother, Mike Gustafson.

A memorial service was held Saturday, April 2 at Caldwell Parrish Funeral Home Winterset Chapel. Memorials may be directed to the family for future designation. Online condolences may be expressed to the family at caldwellparrish.com.



KAREN CLARK, 78

Karen Clark, 78, Red Oak, passed away Sunday, April 3, 2022, at Red Oak Rehab and Care Center, Red Oak.

Karen Kay Clark, daughter of Leonard M. Adams and Adeline Mae (Livengood) Adams, was born Aug. 26, 1943, in Red Oak. She graduated from Red Oak High School in 1960. She was united in marriage to Cecil Clark on July 23, 1964, in Omaha. Cecil and Karen made their home in Hastings and raised their three children. They moved to Red Oak in 2005 and she retired from the Good Samaritan Center in 2006. She enjoyed bowling, watching the game show network, and seeing her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Karen was preceded in death by her husband, Cecil; her parents, Leonard and Adeline; and her "Pop," Charles Max Allen; three brothers, Donald, Lowell and Bill Adams; and two sisters, Mabel Adams and Charlotte Allen.

Karen is survived by her children, Raymond and Jan Harris of Kansas City, Mo.; Mary and Greg Wade of Red Oak; and Ken and Kristin Clark of St. Louis, Mo.; grandchildren, Matthew and Miranda Wade of Council Bluffs; Emily and Brandon Sward of Council Bluffs; Brian and Jessalyn Wade of Red Oak; Christine Harris; and Stephanie and Cody Whitfield of Kansas City, Mo; Mitchell Clark and Evan Clark of St. Louis, Mo.; great-grandsons, Preston Wade; Ryker Sward, and Collin and Ethan Whitfill; great-granddaughters, Brilyn Wade and Abigail Roberson; brothers, Richard (Jody) Adams of Red Oak; and Leonard, Jr.(Karen) Adams of Fort Myers, Fla.; and sister, Janice (Jerry) Jensen of Johnston; lifelong best friend Sandy Black, and many nieces, nephews, cousins, extended family and friends. May God bless her memory and give strength to those who mourn.

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

Funeral Service will be held Friday, April 8, 2022, at 10:30 a.m. at Selligren-Lindell-DeMarce Funeral Home, Red Oak. Burial will be at Evergreen Cemetery, Red Oak.

Visitation with the family will be held Thursday, April 7, 2022, at Selligren-Lindell-DeMarce Funeral Home from 5 to 7 p.m.

Remembrances and condolences may be shared with the family at sldfuneralhome.com. Selligren-Lindell-DeMarce Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.



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

- Christopher and Dawn Van-nausdle to Kimberly Nugent, Villisca Original Plat Lt 121-122.
- Marilyn Dibise to Jill and Romalts Ozuna, Red Oak North-eastern Addition Lt 1.
- Randall Elarton to Samuel and Gloria Caniglia, Red Oak Northeastern Addition Blk 77 Lts 11-12.
- Don Davis, Custodian, Equity Trust Company, and Don Davis to Audie Rainey and Jeffrey McCoy, Red Oak Northeastern Addition Blk 94 Lts 6-7.

- Daniel and Sally Stoakes to David and Kayla Newsome, Stan-ton Original Plat Lt 192.

QUIT CLAIM DEED

- James and Melanie Bourn to Damien, Jesse, and Calob Bond, 7-71-36 Lts 49, 57-58, 62.
- George and Diana Petty to Lisa Bailey, Red Oak Pritchards Addition Lts 7-8.

COURT OFFICER'S DEED

- Mary Jewell, Executor, Joyce Gourley Estate, and TS Bank to Denise Ruffing, Michael Gour-ley, Diane Gnaedinger, Timothy O'Grady, and Jess Bond, 16-72-36, 20-72-36, 21-72-36, 36-72-36.
- Bruno Beier Estate, Step-hanie Pombrio, Executor, and Olga Hernandez, Executor, to Scott Wilson, 21-71-38.
- Bruno Beier Estate, Step-hanie Pombrio, Executor, and Olga Hernandez, Executor, to Jeffrey and Amy Sallach, 20-71-38.

MORTGAGE

- Holly Beer, and Holly Dixon to First Interstate Bank and Great Western Bank, 22-72-37 Parcel A.
- Kimberly Nuget to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems Inc., MERS, and Geneva Finan-cial, Villisca Original Plat Lts 121-122.
- Gary and Angela Burnison to

Bank Iowa, Elliott Original Plat Blk 14 Lts 1-6.

- Diane Henderson to Hough-ton State Bank, 21-73-38.
- Jill and Romalts Ozuna to Castle & Cook Mortgage, LLC, Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems Inc., and MERS, Red Oak Northeastern Addition Lt 1.
- Shannon Lininger and Shan-non and Jason Taylor to Great Western Bank, Red Oak Lanes Addition Lt 95.
- Samuel and Gloria Caniglia to Bank Iowa, Red Oak North-eastern Addition Blk 77 Lts 11-12.
- David and Kayla Newsome to Iowa Bankers Mortgage Corpo-ration, Mortgage Electronic Reg-istration Systems Inc., and MERS, Stanton Original Plat Lt 192.
- David and Kayla Newsome to Iowa Finance Authority, Stan-ton Original Plat Lt 192.
- Jeffrey and Amy Sallach to Great Western Bank and First Interstate Bank, 20-71-38 Parcel C.
- Jeffrey and Amy Sallach to Farm Service Agency and U.S. Department of Agriculture, 20-71-38 Parcel C.
- Jeffrey and Amy Sallach to Farm Service Agency and U.S. Department of Agriculture, 22-71-38 Parcel A, 20-71-38 Parcel C.

MOD/AMENDMENT OF MORTGAGE

- Jeremy Clark to First Inter-

state Bank and Great Western Bank, 4-71-38 Clark SD.

- Christina Wessel to Bank Iowa, 27-72-38.

SMALL CLAIMS

- Kevin Newlon vs. Diana Hutchinson, Council Bluffs, judg-ment default in favor of the plain-tiff, \$1,980 with 3.13% interest from March 29, plus costs.
- Clear Recovery Inc. vs. Edward Jones, Red Oak, judg-ment default in favor of the plain-tiff, \$943.46 with 3.13% interest from March 31, plus costs.
- General Collection Co. vs. Dulce Guiza, Red Oak, judgment default in favor of the plaintiff, \$634.19 with 3.13% interest from March 31, plus costs.
- Scott Wilson. vs. Kim Trost, Red Oak, judgment default in favor of the plaintiff, costs.

ARRESTS

- Filed March 28, Garret Horg-dal, 38, Henderson, warrant for violation of probation, \$10,000 bond.

CRIMINAL

- Aggravated, State of Iowa vs. Vanessa Jensen, 21, Blanchard, unauthorized use of credit card under \$1,500; 30 days jail, sus-pended, \$855 fine, suspended,

one year informal probation, DNA requirement.

- Aggravated, State of Iowa vs. John Mullenix, 64, Red Oak, eluding - speed over 25 MPH over limit.
- Aggravated, State of Iowa vs. David Fussell, 47, Red Oak, harassment first degree, two counts.
- Felony, State of Iowa vs. Jacob Kimball, 39, Carson, theft first degree.
- Felony, State of Iowa vs. Jamie Neville, 30, Red Oak, domestic abuse assault, third or subsequent offense.
- Simple misdemeanor, State of Iowa vs. Terry Williams, 50, Red Oak, possession of drug para-phernalia, pled guilty, \$105 fine.
- Simple misdemeanor, State of Iowa vs. Robert Coddington, 51, Council Buuffs, possession of drug paraphernalia, pled guilty, \$105 fine, time served.
- Serious misdemeanor, State of Iowa vs. Benjamin Maxell, 46, Omaha, Neb., driving while license denied or revoked.

OWI

- State of Iowa vs. Dominique Yazzie, 26, Red Oak, first offense, deferred judgment, one year, one year informal probation.

TRAFFIC

- Dean Hogan, Lenox, speed-ing.
- Jacob Wunder, Carter Lake, operating non-registered vehicle.
- Nay Say, Storm Lake, speed-ing, no valid driver's license.
- Devyn Gay, Omaha, Neb., speeding.
- Shelby Boston, Glenwood, registration violation.
- Holly Newman, Glenwood, speeding.
- Makala Sandbothe, Walnut, registration violation
- Keaton Kephart, Red Oak, failure to maintain registration plate.
- Michelle Banks, Windsor Heights, speeding.
- Robert Huff, Jr., Leon, speed-ing.
- Brandon Buffington, Lewis, maximum group axle weight viola-tion.
- Jessi Thommandru, Clarinda, speeding.
- Nathan West, Red Oak, regis-tration violation.
- Tiffany Pruett, Red Oak, fail-ure to obey stop sign and yield right of way.
- Robert Irwin, Council Bluffs, speeding.
- Shawn Kammerer, Nodaway, vehicles entering stop or yield intersections.

Yard and Garden: Spring blooms for the landscape, Know which blooms to look for this spring

From ISU Extension

The colorful flowers of spring are a welcome sight after a long grey winter. The emergence of tulips and daffodils, the greening of lawns and the blooming of early spring-flowering perennials, shrubs and small trees are sure signs of spring.

In this article, horticulture specialists with Iowa State University Extension and Outreach answer questions on the many landscape plants with bright and cheery spring blooms that can be grown in Iowa.

What perennials bloom in early spring?

One of the first signs of spring is the emergence of crocuses, daffodils and other spring-flowering bulbs. Several other perennials also bloom in early spring and complement these familiar bulbs. Lenten Rose (*Helleborus orientalis*) is a semi-evergreen to evergreen perennial that is usually one of the first plants to bloom. The nodding, bell-like flowers appear in March and range in color from creamy white, to pink, to burgundy.

Pasque Flower (*Pulsatilla vulgaris*) is a compact perennial, reaching 4 to 6 inches tall, and grows well in full sun to part shade. The pasque flower produces purple, maroon or white flowers atop finely dissected foliage in the first few weeks of spring. Heartleaf Brunnera (*Brunnera macrophylla*) is a low growing, 12 to 18-inch-tall, mounding perennial with attractive heart-shaped leaves mottled with white or silver. In early spring, small, blue flowers appear that resemble the flowers of the classic annual, forget-me-not, giving the plant its other common name – perennial forget-me-not.

A few other early spring bloomers include bleeding heart (*Lamprocapnos spectabilis*), crested iris (*Iris cristata*), creeping phlox (*Phlox stolonifera*), pig squeak (*Bergenia cordifolia*), lungwort (*Pulmonaria saccharata*), moss phlox (*Phlox subulata*), candytuft (*Iberis sempervirens*), snowdrop anemone (*Anemone sylvestris*), basket-of-gold (*Aurinia saxatilis*) and violets (*Viola* spp.).

What shrubs bloom in early spring?

Several species of shrubs can help get your spring off to a colorful start. These multi-stemmed woody plants vary in size and often bloom before the leaves emerge in spring. Vernal witchhazel (*Hamamelis vernalis*) is a large shrub growing 8 to 10 feet tall and is usually the first shrub to bloom in Iowa. Its yellow to reddish-brown flowers have strap-like petals that appear in February and March in Iowa. Corneliancherry dogwood (*Cornus mas*) is a large shrub growing 20 to 25 feet tall and is another early bloomer with small, yellow flowers in round, 3/4-inch-wide clusters appearing in March that then develop into edible red fruit in summer. The star magnolia (*Magnolia stellata*) produces white, fragrant, 3 to 4-inch-diameter flowers in April, which are sometimes damaged by a late frost or freeze. Growing 10 to 12 feet tall, plant star magnolia in an area with eastern and northern exposures that will not warm

too quickly to encourage early blooms in spring.

Other early spring blooming shrubs include goat willow (*Salix caprea*), pussy willow (*Salix discolor*), forsythia (*Forsythia x intermedia*), ‘Northern Lights’ Azalea (*Rhododendron* hybrids), Nanking cherry (*Prunus tomentosa*), ‘PJM’ rhododendron (*Rhododendron* hybrids), flowering quince (*Chaenomeles speciosa*), fothergilla (*Fothergilla* spp.), white forsythia (*Abeliophyllum distichum*), spicebush (*Lindera benzoin*) and pearl-bush (*Exochorda* spp.).

What trees bloom in spring?

While most deciduous trees flower in springtime, there are several species of smaller, ornamental trees that have showy blooms in the spring. The eastern redbud (*Cercis canadensis*) is a small, attractive native tree with pinkish purple flowers that cover the branches before the leaves emerge in spring. Serviceberries (*Amelanchier* spp.) are multi-stemmed small trees native to Iowa woodlands with white flowers in early spring, small edible berries in early summer and nice yellow to orange to red fall color. Other common names for this tree include Juneberry, shadbush, sarvis-tree and saskatoon. Crabapples (*Malus* spp.) are an excellent tree for the home landscape because of their adaptability and diversity. A wide range of cultivars exist in different sizes and shapes with flowers in white, pink, red and almost purple. It’s important to select a cultivar resistant to apple scab to have attractive trees all season.

Other small trees with notable spring blooms include saucer magnolia (*Magnolia x soulangiana*), cherry plum (*Prunus cerasifera*), flowering cherry (*Prunus* spp.), kousa dogwood (*Cornus kousa*), red horsechestnut (*Aesculus x carnea*), Pagoda dogwood (*Cornus alternifolia*) and hawthorn (*Crataegus* spp.).

What native woodland perennials bloom in spring?

There are many native woodland wildflowers that are great additions to the shade garden. Most are ephemeral with a relatively short (but impactful) bloom time in early spring before the foliage dies back to the ground in early summer. These often small-statured perennials are easily tucked among other shade garden plants and add much needed interest and color in the early spring before dying back to make room for the other plants like hosta or coral bells. Many are available from local or mail-order nurseries. Never dig these plants from their native habitats.

Some great native ephemeral woodland wildflowers include spring beauty (*Claytonia virginica*), bloodroot (*Sanguinaria canadensis*), trout lily (*Erythronium americanum*), shooting star (*Dodecatheon meadia*), hepatica (*Hepatica nobilis* var. obtusa), trillium (*Trillium* spp.), Dutchman’s breeches (*Dicentra cucullaria*), Virginia bluebells (*Mertensia virginica*), Solomon’s seal (*Polygonatum biflorum*), false Solomon’s seal (*Smilacina racemosa*), merrybells (*Uvularia grandiflora*), May apple (*Podophyllum peltatum*), woodland phlox (*Phlox divaricata*), wild ginger (*Asarum canadense*), Jack-in-the-pulpit (*Arisaema triphyllum*) and wild columbine (*Aquilegia canadensis*).



SUDOKU

	9	5						
1			9					6
	8						3	
	6	4						2
			2		8		5	
8				4				
			6	7		3		5
	1						2	
		6	5	2				1

Level: Intermediate

Here's How It Works:
Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

1	8	7	6	2	9	9	7	8
7	2	9	7	8	8	1	9	
9	8	1	7	9	8	2		
8	9	6	7	7	1	2	9	8
4	5	7	8	9	2	1	8	6
2	1	8	9	5	8	7	9	7
6	8	1	9	5	7	7	8	2
9	7	5	2	8	6	8	7	1
8	7	2	8	1	7	1	9	6

ANSWER

Stronger the Press, Stronger the People

THE TIME CAPSULE | ROY MARSHALL

The 100th day and a waning moon

Most towns in our area have community gardens, and no doubt they'll get attention in a month or so.

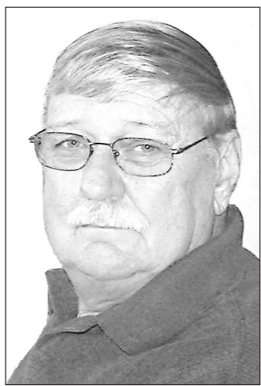
We will not, however, approach the levels of individual production seen with Victory Gardens of World War II. Military forces and refugees needed food. This nation provided by rationing at home and producing more.

A wartime article in The Express reported that 40% of our country's vegetables were produced in home gardens (the percentage is miniscule today).

During those years, both The Sun and Express printed regular articles suggesting what to plant and when, Iowa Power and Light ran regular ads advocating gardens, and pressure cooker sales skyrocketed. Our paper was owned by Thomas C. Murphy, a wealthy man. He wrote editorials encouraging gardens, and tended one himself.

Eleanor Roosevelt grew green beans and peas on the White House lawn to set an example but Murphy, a loyal Republican, was ahead of her on that. In October of 1945, with the war over, Murphy noted that what had been done was remarkable; 72 million Victory Gardens produced 24 million tons of food in four years.

Readers were urged to continue, to practice thrift and not spend money on food they could



provide for themselves. The war precedes my memory. We had, though, a neighbor named Opal Smalley who continued her Victory Garden for years, and with it her custom of growing potatoes in cardboard boxes.

Today, flowers and vegetables in grow-bags, mineral tubs and livestock tanks are common.

Then container gardens were unusual. Opal drew a good deal of attention, particularly as her boxes were of varying sizes and scattered about her lawn and front porch.

I don't know the details of her method, other than that she put in soil and added seed potatoes on the 100th day of the year in a waning moon.

This I remember because Opal and her ways were discussed in Louie Snyder's Barber Shop. Louie's shop was so old it had a bathtub and his only haircut was the "Stan Laurel white sidewall," but he stayed busy because the cost was 50 cents and the experience enlightening.

Louie said if Opal planted potatoes on the 100th

day in a waning moon she was a witch and we Cub Scouts should burn her. (The idea was kicked around, but didn't go anywhere.) I don't know what Opal did if the moon wasn't waning on the 100th day, or if that even happens, but I know this year the day is April 10 and the moon is on the wane. It won't cost much to try, so if you see a few boxes east of the house I'm growing potatoes.

Others may grow them as well. A recent report from the National Gardening Association states that use of community gardens has increased 200% since 2008, and over 18 million people gardened for the first time in 2021.

Axiom, a marketing firm from Minneapolis, released a survey projecting another increase this year, and 62% of existing gardeners expect to grow more. A more recent news report has President Biden among those warning of serious food shortages this summer.

I made reference to these announcements during a phone call to Sue, who works for a small garden seed company I've done business with for some time. Their sales were up sharply last year, before inflation and shortages made grocery store visits more painful, with even worse projected, so it seemed this year would further boost vegetable seed sales. Probably, she said, but maybe not much.

Most of the 18 million first-timers last year were millennials.

To her this meant those in older age groups are so accustomed to buying produce that extra time off and shutdowns due to COVID did not influence significant numbers of them to take up gardening. Whether higher prices and predicted food shortages will do so remains to be seen.

She also said these surveys count cannabis and pansies as well as peas and carrots. There was no breakdown on what age groups raised what, but Sue suspects a good share of millennials gardening for the first time are doing so for outdoor aesthetics or indoor pot rather than food.

Sue further dampened my illusion of modern-day Victory Gardens by telling me people are growing mostly for recreation, the fun of trying different things, or to experiment with old heirlooms rather than attempting to make large reductions in their grocery bill.

This tells me I'm not the only one growing purple tomatillos and four varieties of watermelon, even though the space could be used more wisely.

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

LETTER TO | THE EDITOR

Byers, Norris weigh in on eminent domain, Miner on private schools

To the Editor:

We have ignored this editorial space for far too long.

In a small community, it's often best not to use our editorial voice. We report on the news, both good and bad, both sides and in the middle. But there are some issues that are too large to ignore.

One of those is the strong opposition to the proposed carbon pipeline and the potential for a private company to use eminent domain to make the project work.

The proposed pipeline is simply a bad idea. Reducing carbon emissions is important, but doing it by tearing up land to put in a pipeline across multiple states and then burying the emissions just doesn't make sense. Reducing emissions where they're created makes much more sense.

Allowing a private company to use eminent domain to seize land or an easement is not simply a bad idea, it's wrong. Flat out wrong.

Eminent domain gives the government (or its agent) the right to take private property for public use. The Iowa Utilities Board would be wrong to consider its use in this instance.

The Montgomery County Board of Supervisors got it right when they filed a complaint with the IUB against the pipeline. So far 25 of the 28 counties the

pipeline would run through have done the same. Good for them.

This isn't a bully pulpit. We'll never tell you who to vote for or which grocery store to shop at. But from time to time, we will be speaking out on issues that cross into the lane of "for the betterment of the community or to the detriment of the community."

Opposing the proposed carbon pipeline certainly fits in that category..

Josh Byers

Publisher, Red Oak Newspapers

To the Editor:

On March 29, the Montgomery County Board of Supervisors unanimously approved a letter to be filed with the Iowa Utilities Board objecting to "the use of eminent domain for privately owned hazardous liquid pipelines to include the Summit Carbon Capture Pipeline." Currently, 25 counties, seven cities, one school, one Farm Bureau chapter, and one faith community have also officially objected, along with nearly 1,000 individual objections. Anyone can file an objection by calling the Iowa Utilities Board at 515-725-7300.

Currently, legislation to prevent the IUB from granting eminent domain until February of 2023 has been pro-

posed. This does nothing but kick the can down the road, provides no protection to landowners from harassment, but provides relief to candidates from addressing it during an election year. Remember, you can come ask questions of your legislators at the coffee on April 9 at the Red Oak high school at 10 a.m.

Summit Carbon Solutions is one of three proposed CO₂ projects in Iowa to lay thousands of miles of buried pipeline across half a dozen states promising to capture CO₂ produced in ethanol production, pressurize it into a liquid and transport it to be pumped a mile underground forever. Landowners are asked to trust them to restore their property to current productivity after digging up a hundred foot swath through their farm in return for a one time payment, three years of declining crop payments and a lifetime easement.

Along with 100 other affected landowners, local farmer Tom Honeyman, testified at a public hearing at the state Capitol Tuesday saying, "This pipeline will not solve any CO₂ problem. It will not raise the price of corn, or save the ethanol industry. This is theft."

Under current federal law, the pipeline companies could earn tax credits of \$50 per ton of sequestered carbon. Summit claims they will sequester up to 12 million tons annually (\$600 million)

for 12 years = \$7.2 billion - from our tax dollars alone!

Summit Agricultural Group's assets include 14,000 acres in Iowa, large cattle and hog operations and massive Brazilian ethanol and farming businesses. CEO, Bruce Rastetter, is one of Iowa's largest political donors, giving \$2.2 million to mostly Republican candidates over the last several years, including Summit Senior Advisor, former Gov. Terry Brandstad.

Thank you Montgomery County Supervisors for officially asking the Iowa Utilities Board not to grant the use of eminent domain for these boondoggles.

Jan Norris

Red Oak

To the Editor:

On Wednesday evening March 30, Republicans in the Iowa Senate passed a bill to use public tax dollars to fund private schools. That's money Iowans have repeatedly declared they want to fund local public schools.

Yet despite public opinion, our Republican state government ignores the voters and pushes to impoverish our schools.

As Sen Kevin Kinney, D-Oxford, noted in a Des Moines Register article,

the Senate's bill still won't benefit rural school districts or families, where private school options are scarce. "The bottom line is most of the rural districts in Iowa do not have a private K-12 school option anywhere close to them. Public schools are the best and only choice."

These Republican legislators are also considering additional unfunded mandates to hamstring public schools. Calling it "transparency" and "Parents' Rights," they would require teachers to post lesson plans for a whole semester. If teachers respond to students' teachable moments and deter from plans, they could be sanctioned.

This ridiculous policy denies the very nature of education, which is built on responsive relationships. It also hampers schools with more requirements without funds to implement them. And it's unnecessary because parents already have access to public schools.

Iowans value quality public schools. Yet our Republican-dominated state government whittles away at our once proud education system. Contact your state legislators and demand they stop the attacks on our schools now - before it's too late.

Cherie Miner

Elliott

DOLECHECK'S DETAILS | IOWA REP. CECIL DOLECHECK

Education transparency for parents and teachers

This past week, we passed HF 2577, a bill to increase parents' access to information of what's being taught to their kids.

School districts and teachers are required to post the syllabus, textbooks, related core materials and a list of instructional materials to an online portal.

Most teachers are already using an online platform and this requirement will be easy to meet. Schools that don't already have a classroom management software system will have until July 1, 2024 to get up to speed.

Teachers can update their postings throughout the year. They are required to have all material uploaded by the end of the week. This allows flexibility for teachers to provide their students with material on current events and find material that is the most engaging.

This bill also requires a catalogue of every book in the school library to be available online. A parent can then tell the school if there are any books their child is not allowed to check out.

The teacher has 14 days to

correct any violation. If they don't, a civil penalty will be assessed against the district. The teacher will also be referred to the Board of Educational for potential license sanctions.

Inappropriate materials that parents never knew about have been found in classrooms and school libraries in Iowa. This isn't just true in urban areas, but across Iowa. As one example, the book Tricks, which contains explicit passages, was recently found in 80 school districts across Iowa. Iowans widely

agree on this. Explicit material does NOT belong in our kids' schools. Elementary school students shouldn't be taught sexuality. A teacher shouldn't use their position to push their political ideology on their students.

We want to trust our public schools to educate not indoctrinate. There is power in information. With this bill, parents will know what their kids are being taught and what books their kids have access to. If they see things they don't like, they can opt their child out or hold their school dis-

trict accountable. But how can bad actors be held accountable when parents are left in the dark?

Earlier this session, Governor Reynolds announced she'd be using federal money to give teachers in Iowa a \$1,000 bonus.

The House expanded on those bonuses in an amendment to the Education budget. This change made those \$1,000 bonuses tax free, ensuring more of that money actually makes it into the pockets of hardworking teachers. This change also applies to bonuses to peace officers,

child care providers, and correctional officers. We also loosened restrictions on how school districts can use their surplus money to allow them to use that money to pay bonuses to the additional school employees, such as bus drivers, cafeteria workers, and classroom aids.

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

DEADLINES

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

CONTACT US

Office: 2012 Commerce Dr., 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday-Friday.
Mail: Box 377, Red Oak, IA 51566.
Phone: 712-623-2566. Fax: 712-623-2568.
Website: redoakexpress.com.
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Express

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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, 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

7 April

Lucky Duck Easter egg hunt, Fountain Square Park and Red Oak Library, all day.
8 a.m. to noon: Leadership Red Oak, Red Oak Chamber and Industry Association
Noon: SCORE webinar, “Connecting with Customers in the Digital World.” Go to omaha.score.org/content/take-workshop-242 for more information.
12:30 p.m. Bingo, Red Oak Senior Center, 2700 N. 4th St. Call 712-623-3497 or Carolyn 402-926-8683 for more information.
4 p.m., Community Prayer Time, Fountain Square Park. Call Bonnie at 623-4759.
7 p.m., Alcoholics Anonymous, Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 1101 Summit St.
7 to 8 p.m., Montgomery County Family YMCA lifeguard training prerequisites.

8 April

Lucky Duck Easter egg hunt, Fountain Square Park and Red Oak Library, all day.
10:15 a.m., Storytime, Red Oak Public Library, “Bunnies,” 400 N. 2nd St.
5:30 p.m., Alcoholics Anonymous, Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 1101 Summit St.
7 p.m., “Dog,” theatre #1; “Death on the Nile,” theatre #2; Red Oak Grand Theatre.
5 to 9 p.m., Montgomery County YMCA lifeguard class one.

9 April

8 a.m. to 12 p.m., Faith Community Church EXIT Youth flea market/bake sale, 2701 N. 8th St.
9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Southwest Iowa Buy Local Expo, Red Oak Jr./Sr. High School.
9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Montgomery County YMCA lifeguard class two
7 p.m., “Dog,” theatre #1;

“Death on the Nile,” theatre #2; Red Oak Grand Theatre.

10 April

2 and 7 p.m., “Dog,” theatre #1; “Death on the Nile,” theatre #2; Red Oak Grand Theatre.
2 p.m., “Beauty and the Beast” auditions, Wilson Performing Arts Center, 300 Commerce Dr.
5:30 p.m., Alcoholics Anonymous, Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 1101 Summit St.

11 April

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 p.m., “Beauty and the Beast” auditions, callback at 7:30 p.m., Wilson Performing Arts Center, 300 Commerce Dr.
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.

12 April

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

13 April

1:30-5 p.m., Christ’s Cupboard Food Pantry and Clothing Cupboard, 206 E. Coolbaugh St. Donations accepted 1-5 p.m. at back door.

Puff’s & More Vape Store now open for customers



The Puff’s & More Vape Store at 409 E. Reed St. is now open for business. Hours of operation are Tuesday through Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The business number is 623-0783. Pictured are, from left: Owners Jeff and Jamie Carruthers, and their son, manager Mason Carruthers. (Nick Johansen/The Red Oak Express)

SWIA Buy Local Expo is on April 9

The annual Southwest Iowa Buy Local Expo is slated to occur from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Red Oak Junior/Senior High School.

Numerous businesses are participating as vendors, including Agrivision Equipment, Allensworth Heating and Cooling, Chat Mobility, Dovel Refrigeration and Appliance, Heartland Foam InSEALators, Montgomery County Memorial Hospital, Pudgy Pumpkin Patch Gift Shop, Red Oak Express, and Rubey Realty.

Food will be available, and attendees can also take part in giveaways, hourly drawings, as well as shopping.

A 9 a.m. gardening class will be offered. At 10 a.m., attendees are invited to the final legislative briefing of 2022, and at 11 a.m., entertainment will be provided by Studio 147.

For kids, there will be a coloring contest, and photo availability with McGruff and Fire Pup. The Red Oak Police Department will also be fitting and giving away bicycle helmets as supplies

Auditions upcoming at the WPAC

The Wilson Performing Arts Center is holding auditions for the upcoming musical production of “Beauty and the Beast,” performing June 15-19.

Auditions will be held at 2 p.m. on Sunday, April 10, and at 5 p.m. on Monday, April 11. Call backs will take place at 7:30 p.m. on April 11.

Those auditioning are requested to bring an audition piece of music 16-32 measures, that is not from the show. They are also requested to wear clothes easy to move around in, and a short joke. They may also be requested to read from the script. For more information, contact the WPAC at 623-3135.

Faith Community flea market/bake sale April 9

The Montgomery County Family YMCA is offering life-guard training this week.

Participants will be eligible to receive a two-year lifeguard certification and be rescue ready to work at the YMCA or other pools.

Prerequisites will be from 7

to 8 p.m. April 7. The first training class is from 5 to 9 p.m. April 8, and the second training class is from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. April 9.

Cost of the class is \$200, and it will be held at the YMCA at 101 E. Cherry St. Call 623-2161 for more information.

Happy Anniversary!

Celebrating their anniversaries this week are:

Bruce and Tamra Ruff – April 8
Bill and Meshell Billings – April 8
Richard and Marlene Kennon – April 11

Congratulations and happy anniversary to you!

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

Are You a Lucky Duck easter egg contest

Children of all ages are encouraged to take part in the “Are You a Lucky Duck” Easter egg hunt.

Eggs will be hidden at Fountain Square Park and on the Red Oak Library grounds on April 7-8.

Eggs that say “You are a

lucky duck” can be redeemed for one of five lucky duck gift bags. Eggs with the message “The yolks on you” can be redeemed at the Red Oak Chamber and Industry office, or at the library for a treat.

The limit is one egg and prize per child.

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

Email news@redoakexpress.com by April 7 at 4 p.m.

Happy Birthday!

Celebrating birthdays this week are:

Kira Headley – April 7
Denise Mardesen – April 7
Darwin “Pete” Peterson – April 7
Isaac Birt – April 8
Mike Webb – April 9
Danny Olson – April 9
Ed Wilkins – April 10
Jaydan Gilliland – April 10
Maci Graber – April 11
Morgan Graber – April 11
Kim Fries-Douthit – April 11
Jack Davis – April 12
Jerry Shaver – April 12

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.

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.	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.	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.	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.	Oaks Community Church, 41310 Ellington Rd., Emerson, Rev. Ron Perry, 712-824-7218, Sunday School, 10 a.m., Worship, 11 a.m.	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.
Assembly Of God 1005 Senate, Red Oak, 623-2174, Services, 10:30 a.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.	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.	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.	Presbyterian Center Ridge, 1546 N. 110th St., Red Oak, Caryn Pedersen, Worship 1 p.m., two times a month. Call 623-9023 for more information. First Presbyterian, 109 S. 3rd Ave., Villisca, Rev. Sandra Wainwright, Sunday School, 9:30 a.m., Worship, 10:30 a.m. Red Oak Presbyterian, 511 E. Coolbaugh, PO Box 402, Red Oak, Caryn Pedersen, redoakpresbyterianchurch.com , Service, 10:30 a.m. Online: 10:30 a.m. live on Facebook/Red Oak Presbyterian Church	United Methodist First United Methodist, 600 E. Hammond, Red Oak, Rev. Dr. Eric Sayonkon, Worship, Sunday, 10:30 a.m.; Youth group Wednesday 6:30-8 p.m., grades 6-12, snack is served. Online: 10:30 a.m. fumcro.org ; click on the media tab to see previously recorded services. Wesley Chapel UMC, Rev. Carl Phillips, Worship, 8:45 a.m., Sunday
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.	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.	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.			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.
Catholic St. Joseph’s, 131 W. High, Villisca, Father Eze Venantius Umunnakwe,	Church Of Christ Church Of Christ, Elliott, Sunday	Jehovah’s Witness 210 Argus Road, Shenandoah, Thursday, 7:30 p.m.; Sunday, 10 a.m., public Bible discourse.			

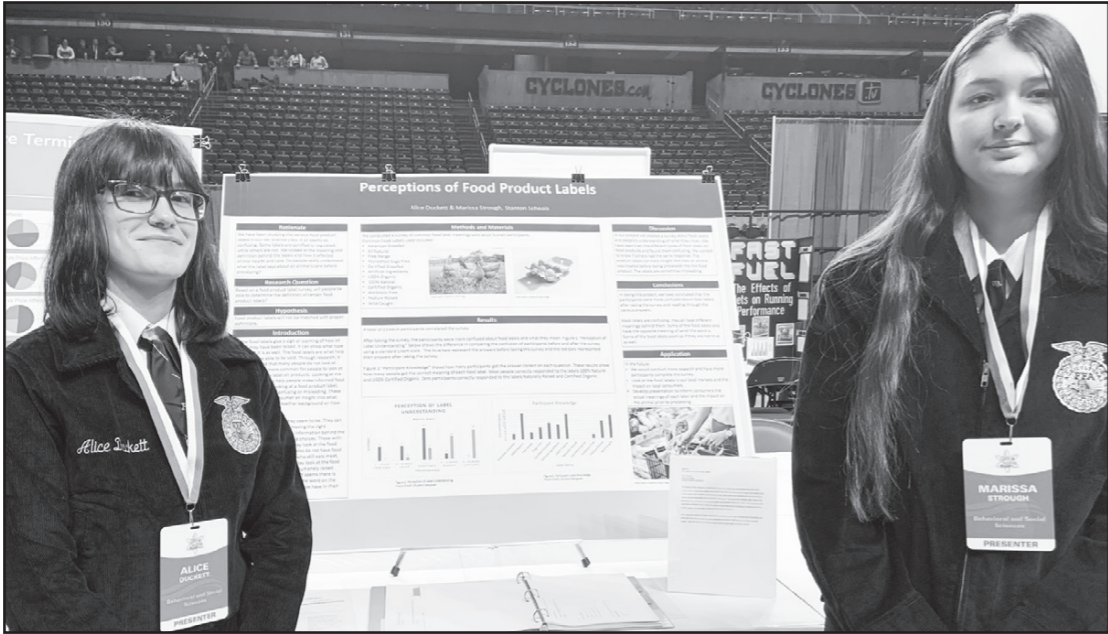
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Alice Duckett, pictured left, and Marissa Strough pose with their project at the FFA Agriscience Fair in Ames (Photo submitted)

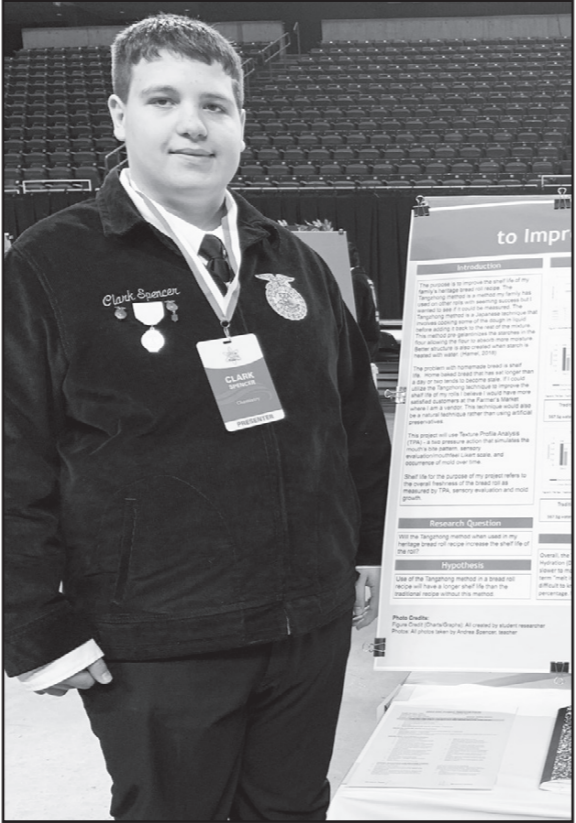
Stanton FFA participates in agriscience fair

Three Stanton FFA members participated in the Iowa FFA Agriscience Fair at Hilton Coliseum in Ames on Thursday, March 24th. Alice Duckett and Marissa Strough presented a team project titled “Perceptions of Food Product Labels.” Their research placed first in the category of Social Systems in Division 6 (11th and 12th grade teams). They will be able to submit their paperwork to be considered for the National FFA Agriscience Fair held in Indianapolis, Ind. this October.

Clark Spencer placed second in the category of Food Products and Processing Systems in Division 3 (9th and 10th grade individuals). He presented his project entitled, “Tangzhong Technique to Improve Heritage Bread Roll Shelf Life.”

These students also participated in the State Science + Technology Fair of Iowa (SSTFI) which is held together with the Iowa FFA Agriscience Fair. Clark earned third place in the Chemistry category at the SSTFI.

Along with presenting their research, students enjoyed watching chemistry demonstrations by ISU’s SCUM (Society of Chemistry Undergraduate Majors), participated in interactive college booths and displays and listened to prominent speakers on the subjects of science research and engineering.



Clark Spencer was the third FFA student from Stanton to compete in the event.

Stanton Honor Rolls

THIRD QUARTER A HONOR ROLL

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

7th grade: Lilly Ford, Nicholas Herrick, Corinne Hopf, Adrianna Valdez.

8th grade: Rylan Grebin, Eric Kutzli, Alizabeth Maranville, Jasmine Osher, Meredith Roberts, Britney Silva, Brodee Sowers.

9th grade: Riley Burke, Gavin Ford, Kiela Franzen, Evan Gettler, Kyla Hart, Lauren Johnson, Brianna Mitchell, Hannah Olson, Anna Peterson, Ella Peterson, Clark Spencer.

10th grade: Alli Baker, Preston Carpenter, Alexis Chambers, Evan Hopf, Axel King, Ellyanna McDonald.

11th grade: Abigail Burke, Damian Meek, Addison Olson, Brooklyn Silva, Jenna Stephens, Jonan Wokey.

12th grade: Ramona Allen-Bruno, Roary Blair, Tristan Frank, Ashley Henneman, Cameron Sallach, Allie Sandin, Quentin Thornburg.

THIRD QUARTER B HONOR ROLL

6th grade: Deacon Bruce, Hannah Gibbs, Victoria McFarland, Janae Schwery.

7th grade: Addelyn Gettler, Caedmon Olson.

8th grade: Clayton Culver, Kennedy King, William Roberts, Taylor Valdez.

9th grade: Adam Benson, Brody Gibbs, Jacob Martin, Jameson McDonald, Beau Sallach, Caden Sallach, Emma Sallach, Simon Showalter, Max Yeager.

10th grade: Stephanie Bair, Hunter Bishop, Alexis Frank, Nolan Grebin, Dacey Henneman, Carly Roberts, Leah Sandin.

11th grade: Alice Duckett, Brandon Huddle, Marleigh Johnson, Carli Smith, Marissa Strough, Kywin Tibben, April Vanderholm.

12th grade: Amanda Benson, Aidan Graham, Carston Johnson, Carter Johnson, Ty Meier, John Peterson, Logan Roberts, Madison Sickels.

School Activities

Thursday, April 7

- 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
- 6-7 p.m., Griswold: HS softball pitcher/catcher workouts, middle school gym
- 6 p.m., Griswold: Middle school AAU volleyball, middle school gym
- 6 p.m., Griswold: High school AAU volleyball, high school gym

Friday, April 8

- 1:30 p.m., Essex: Early dismissal
- 3:25-5:55 p.m., Griswold: High school track practice, middle school gym

Sunday, April 10

- 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, April 11

- 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

Tuesday, April 12

- 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
- 5-6 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

Wednesday, April 13

- Griswold: One hour early release, work time
- 6:15-7:15 a.m., Southwest Valley: High school softball pitching, new high school gym
- 1:05/1:15 p.m., Stanton: Early dismissal
- 5-6:15 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

Essex Elementary students perform concert



Essex K-5 grade held a Spring Concert March 31. (Tess Nelson/The Red Oak Express)

School Lunch Menus

East Mills

Thursday, April 7: Chicken fettuccine Alfredo or pepperoni pizza, lettuce and dressing, broccoli, applesauce, garlic knot.

Friday, April 8: Stuffed crust or french bread pizza, french fries, mixed vegetables, mixed fruit.

Monday, April 11: Mandarin orange chicken or pepperoni pizza, broccoli florets, carrot slices, mandarin oranges, steamed rice.

Tuesday, April 12: Mini corn dogs, cheesy broccoli florets, mixed vegetables, mixed fruit.

Wednesday, April 13: Italian grilled chicken sandwich on a bun, cherry tomatoes, cucumber slices, fresh grapes, animal crackers.

Essex

Thursday, April 7: Meatball sub sandwich on a bun, corn, sliced peaches, cookie.

Friday, April 8: Ham, cheese, and vegetable salad bowl, hard boiled egg, crackers, applesauce cup.

Monday, April 11: Pizza slices, peas, garden salad with dressing, pineapple tidbits.

Tuesday, April 12: Hamburger on a bun, sliced tomatoes, sliced onions, tater tots, mandarin oranges, graham crackers.

Wednesday, April 13: Sliced turkey, green bean casserole, mashed potatoes and gravy, sliced peaches.

Griswold

Thursday, April 7: Crispy popcorn chicken, mashed potatoes and gravy, corn, biscuit, Sidekick fruit slushie.

Friday, April 8: Hoagie sandwich on a bun, tortilla chips with nacho cheese sauce, carrot sticks and ranch dip, mixed fruit.

Monday, April 11: Hamburger on a bun, lettuce, sliced tomatoes, sliced onions, cheese, hamburger dill slices, chips, baked beans, rosy applesauce.

Tuesday, April 12: Mini corn dogs, tater tots, garden spinach salad, mandarin oranges.

Wednesday, April 13: Chicken fried steak, mashed potatoes and gravy, corn, dinner roll, fruit cup.

Red Oak Elementary/ Preschool Center

Thursday, April 7: Sloppy joe sandwich, pickles, red onions, janapenos; or taco salad, cornbread; or roasted chicken sandwich; or ham and cheese sandwich; fresh garden salad with choice of dressing, fresh fruit, black bean dip, banana/orange mix.

Friday, April 8: Mini comdogs; or chicken bacon ranch salad, pineapple muffin; or buffalo chicken pizza; or Mediterranean grain bowl; fresh garden salad with choice of dressing, broccoli florets and ranch, fresh fruit, pineapple tidbits.

Monday, April 11: Buffalo chicken grilled cheese; or cobb salad, garlic biscuit; or BBQ bacon wrapped hot dog on a bun; or BBQ grain bowl; french fries, fresh garden salad with choice of dressing, broccoli florets with ranch, fresh fruit, applesauce.

Tuesday, April 12: Nacho pie; or macaroni and cheese, cornbread; or BBQ pork salad; or grilled ham and cheese sandwich; fresh garden salad with choice of dressing, cowboy beans, Italian bean salad, fresh fruit, orange/pineapple mix.

Wednesday, April 13: Glazed ham with roasted pineapple, hot roll; or strawberry chicken salad, hot roll; or pig in a blanket; or pizza munchable; mashed

potatoes and gravy, fresh garden salad with choice of dressing, corn, fresh fruit, sliced pears, gingerbread cookie.

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

Thursday, April 7: Beef chili, cinnamon roll, or taco salad, diced onions, diced tomatoes, jalapenos, sour cream, salsa, cornbread; or spicy chicken sandwich on a bun; or Santa Fe grain bowl; fresh garden salad with choice of dressing, french fries, broccoli, fresh fruit, black bean dip, pineapple/orange mix.

Friday, April 8: Meat lovers pizza; or chicken quesadilla; or BLTE salad, pineapple muffin; or cheeseburger on a bun; or club sandwich; fresh garden salad with choice of dressing, baby carrots and ranch, fresh fruit, strawberry/banana mix.

Monday, April 11: Turkey and cheddar melt; or chicken patty sandwich on a bun; or chicken Caesar salad, Italian bread; or roasted chicken sandwich on a bun; or southwest chicken avocado wrap; fresh garden salad with choice of dressing, steamed broccoli florets, fresh fruit, cinnamon apples.

Tuesday, April 12: Super nachos or taco salad, diced onions, diced tomatoes, shredded lettuce, shredded cheese, jalapenos, salsa cornbread; or beef and broccoli with rice; or pizza slices; or pesto chicken pasta salad; fresh garden salad with choice of dressing, Italian bean salad, fresh fruit, mandarin oranges.

Wednesday, April 13: Chicken patty on a bun, hot roll; or chef salad, hot roll; or spicy chicken sandwich on a bun; or popcorn chicken bowl; or pizza munchables; mashed potatoes and gravy, green beans, fresh fruit, slfresh garden salad with choice of dressing, pineapple.

Southwest Valley

Thursday, April 7: IMeatball sub sandwich on a bun, lettuce salad with dressing, glazed carrots, fruit.

Friday, April 8: Baked mozzarella Italian dippers, marinara sauce, corn, fruit.

Monday, April 11: Corn dog, french fries, coleslaw, fruit.

Tuesday, April 12: Walking taco, shredded lettuce, shredded cheese, diced onions, refried beans, corn casserole, fruit.

Wednesday, April 13: Meatloaf, oved baked ranch potatoes, broccoli florets with cheese sauce, fruit, dinner roll.

Stanton

Thursday, April 7: Breaded beef fritter, mashed potatoes and gravy, green beans, applesauce cup, mixed berries.

Friday, April 8: Grilled cheese sandwich, tomato soup, tri tater, fresh sliced apples, mixed vegetables, mixed fruit.

Monday, April 11: Breaded pork chopette sandwich on a bun, baked beans, ranch potatoes, mixed fruit, pineapple tidbits.

Tuesday, April 12: Burrito with cheese sauce or hot dog on a bun, corn, tomato juice, mandarin oranges, strawberries.

Wednesday, April 13: Creamed turkey, mashed potatoes, green beans, sliced peaches, applesauce, dinner roll, strawberry shortcake.

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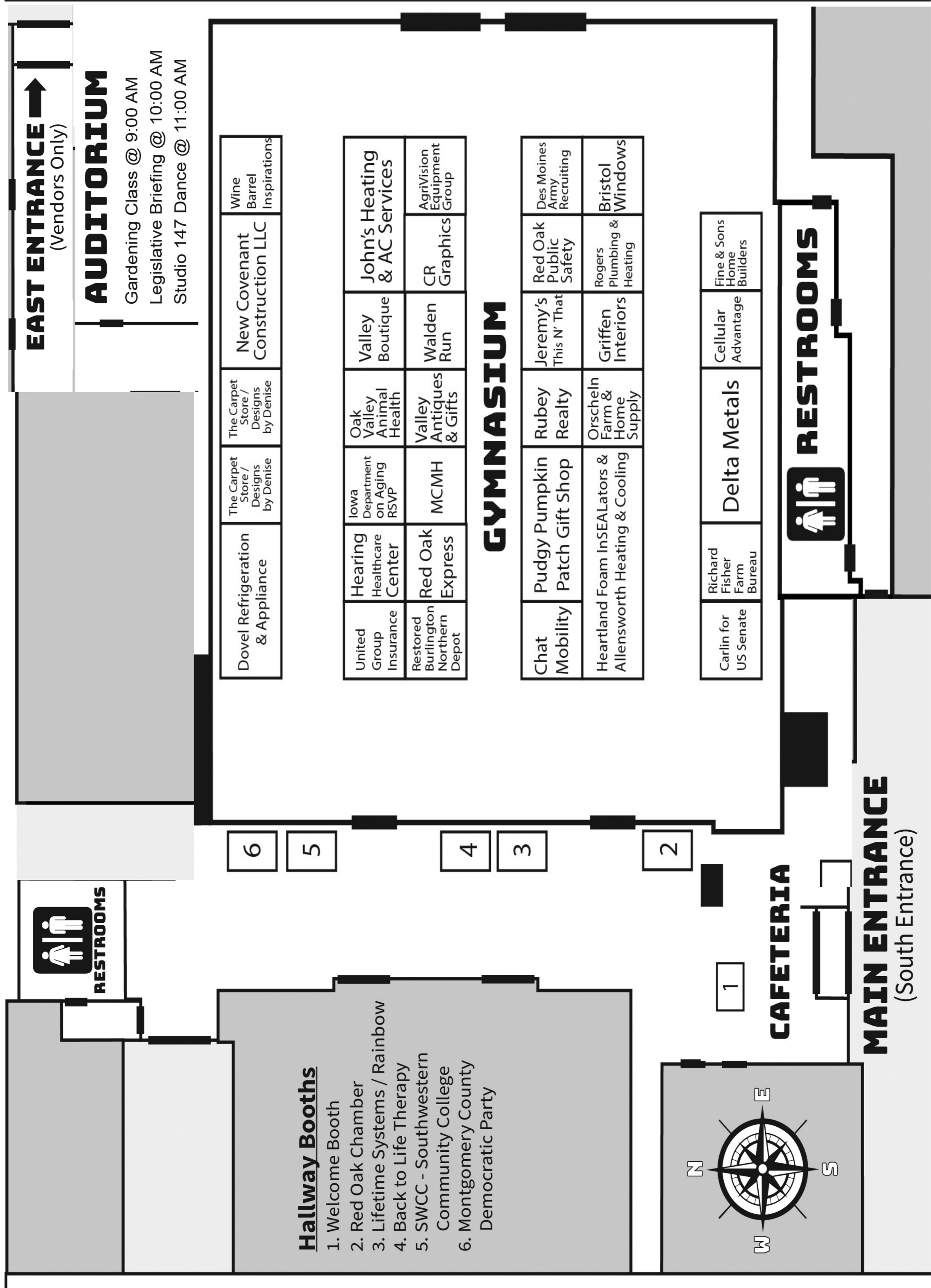
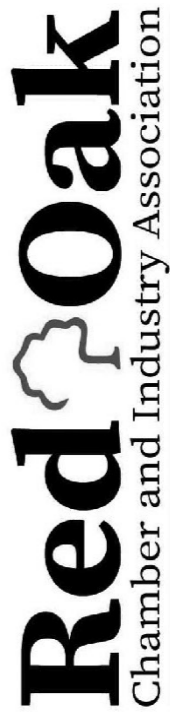
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Montgomery County Supervisors Mark Peterson and Mike Olson listen to Luis Leon, owner of L.T. Leon Associates Inc., at the March 29 meeting. (Nick Johansen/Red Oak Express)

Supervisors still looking into hiring carbon pipeline inspection firm

Nick Johansen
The Red Oak Express

The Montgomery County Board of Supervisors received its first bid for inspection services for the proposed Summit Carbon Pipeline project.

At the March 29 meeting, the supervisors heard a presentation from Luis Leon, the owner and principal engineer of L.T. Leon Associates Inc., out of Des Moines. Leon said the civil engineering firm was made up of around 15 full-time employees, who would be well-suited to the county's needs.

"We have employees that are doing pipeline inspection work like the type we're talking about for Montgomery County on a regular basis," Leon said via a Zoom call.

Leon said the company had a focus on water resources and ecosystems restoration, but another service provided was conservation services.

"We are a certified technical service provider through the NRCS, which is a certification that gives us some training to specifically provide NRCS-approved practices such as conservation planning, and have a pretty good history of providing conservation services to farmers, landowners, and tenants," commented Leon.

Leon added the company also had specific pipeline integrity services, and pipeline inspection experience that would benefit the county if the pipeline project proceeded.

"Over the last seven years, we've worked with a national company across 12 states, and have been involved with risk-management with the pipeline companies, working directly with them to be the interface between the landowners and the pipeline companies. We have full-time employees out every day trying to identify areas of concern to protect the pipeline, and protect the landowners," Leon explained. "We also help coordinate between contractors and the landowners to set up the sites where the contractor will complete mitigation projects, such as covering, or to fix exposures, gullies, and water beds. We're out there watching the construction and making sure it's done according to the land and the specs, and coordinating with the landowners to make sure when the project is done, the land is left as it was when they started."

Supervisor Mike Olson asked if, with such a limited amount of staff, whether or not they had the number needed to provide the level of oversight needed for this type of project. Leon said they would.

"Our intent would be to staff up as needed, and have our land conservation and pipeline integrity manager Rich Krumel be the point of contact, and have him there to make sure it gets delivered the way it needs to," advised Leon. "With our seven years of experience doing this, we feel confident

to bring folks on, if needed, to help cover that. Also, we're not doing this for any other counties in the state, and this would be our only project. Having to spread between other counties will not be an issue."

Leon added while they have experience providing inspection services for the pipeline companies themselves, this project would be different as they would be working directly with the county and the landowners.

"It's a different role, in that we're representing you, and we've done that with other county conservation projects, but not specifically for pipeline work," Leon stated.

Robinson asked for clarification, as Leon said they had worked for pipeline companies, and asked if they had any association with Summit Carbon Solutions. Leon said they did not.

"The company we work for has existing infrastructure, and the pipelines we worked on for them have been out there for decades. We have no affiliation with the company that will be constructing this project," Leon commented.

Supervisor Charla Schmid asked for a resume and additional information from the company to help in making

a decision. Supervisor Donna Robinson also suggested that the county determine if there were any entities more local that would provide a similar service for the county for comparison.

Supervisor Randy Cooper said he was under the impression the county was in no rush to hire an inspector.

Peterson said that with the pipeline company sending out certified letters expressing an intent to survey ground that it may be in the best interests of the county to have someone on hand to represent the county's interests.

Leon was in agreement that the earlier they could establish a relationship with the landowners they would be working with, and get an understanding of what the pipeline company was intending to do, the better.

"It would give us an opportunity to look at the route, and we might be able to assist the landowners in potentially shifting the pipeline plans one way or the other. I'm not exactly sure what's allowable on that, but it can be looked into," Leon stated.

The supervisors took no action on the hiring of the inspection firm at this time.



DeJear visits Red Oak

Deidre DeJear, the presumptive Democratic nominee for Iowa Governor, paid a visit to Red Oak on March 29 and met with potential voters at the Firehouse Restaurant. DeJear spoke about some of the issues she's campaigning on, and took questions from voters in attendance. Learn more about DeJear at DeJearForIowa.com. (Nick Johansen/The Red Oak Express)

COUNCIL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A

each for water and sewer.

"This is for the home they are finishing at 3003 N. 4th St. It's a total of \$3,500 to assist in the sale of that home," said Wright.

The council approved the resolution as presented.

In other business, the council:

- Approved hotel/motel tax applications as presented.
- Approved a request from Buck Snort for street closures on 4th Street from Coolbaugh Street to Washington Street from noon to 6 p.m. on May 21, June 18, July 30, Aug. 27, and Sept. 17 for Bike Night events.
- granted authorization for reserve officers Dustin Terry, Kyle Rhamy, and James Scott to carry weapons, including firearms, tasers, and ASP batons.

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Eminent domain objection letter approved by board of supervisors

Nick Johansen
The Red Oak Express

Only a week after hearing public comment from area landowners speaking out against the use of eminent domain to use county land for the construction of the proposed Summit Carbon Solutions pipeline, the Montgomery County Board of Supervisors took action opposing eminent domain use as well.

On the agenda of the March 29 meeting was action on a letter of objection to the use of eminent domain, addressed to the Iowa Utilities Board. Supervisor Donna Robinson asked if the letter was a collaboration of letters sent by other counties. Supervisors Chair Mark Peterson said they used only one letter for the Montgomery County draft.

“To be honest, our letter is pretty much a mirror copy of the letter that was sent to the Iowa Utilities Board by Shelby County,” Peterson said.

Additionally, Peterson said the letter had been

reviewed by county attorney Drew Swanson, who offered no objections.

“Bruce [Swanson] and I both looked at the letter. While there would be no issue, per se, with a letter of this nature, we doubt it would hold any water. Eminent domain is a beast which would undoubtedly supercede any such objection. It’s a similar theory to the Second Amendment sanctuary declaration. We can say anything we want, but it doesn’t mean that it carries any weight,” Swanson explained.

While in agreement, Peterson said he felt that the letter was necessary to come from the supervisors.

“While it may not carry any legal bearing, it has to have some substance coming from a board of supervisors, in my estimation. I may be the only one who feels that way, but that’s my opinion,” commented Peterson.

Robinson agreed she felt the letter of objection would have some bearing on the situation, in

conjunction with an amendment added to House File 2565, a proposal to freeze the use of eminent domain in conjunction with the installation of a carbon pipeline until February of 2023.

“The Iowa House passed the bill, and it is now under consideration in the Iowa Senate. That being said, if that passes, that should be added pressure to prevent eminent domain being used to take county land for the pipeline,” Robinson said.

Supervisor Mike Olson shared some of the details of the letter, which state that the county does not object to the installation of the pipeline, but says the supervisors believe the right of passage should lie in the hands of the local landowners.

“Concurrently, while this board does harbor responsibilities as to monitoring construction and other regulatory particulars, we believe the use of eminent domain is to be reserved for the use of publicly-owned or community service infrastructure, and using it to construct this type of project

would be an inappropriate use of this measure,” Olson stated.

Further, it was the opinion of the board of supervisors that privately-held land interactions and transactions were to be negotiated between the private entities involved.

Peterson said he felt the letter said exactly what needed to be said in regards to the eminent domain situation.

“It’s my opinion that we do everything we can to allow our landowners in the west part of the county to have a level playing field to work on, and this is a step in the right direction,” Peterson commented.

The supervisors unanimously approved the letter of objection to the use of eminent domain, addressed to the Iowa Utilities Board.

In other business, the supervisors:

- Approved applications as presented for Disabled Veteran Homestead tax credits.

Commission approves more than 10 amendments to county solar ordinance

Nick Johansen
The Red Oak Express

The Montgomery County Zoning Commission has taken the first steps towards modifying a hotly-contested ordinance for solar farms, which was approved by the Montgomery County Board of Supervisors at its Feb. 22 meeting.

The commission met in regular session March 30 to discuss the potential changes. Before proceeding with discussion, Commission Member Vicky Rossander asked for a point of personal privilege, as a member of good standing of the commission, to speak to a variety of issues before they started discussion.



Montgomery County Zoning Commission member Vicky Rossander looks over her notes at the March 30 meeting. (Nick Johansen/ Red Oak Express)

The request was approved by Commission Chairman Bryant Amos. Rossander said she did not understand why the commission, at a meeting in January, deemed the ordinance that had errors and omissions, as good enough.

“As a retired high school business teacher, I cannot understand why any of you would believe a standard of good enough, on any level, is acceptable. I have assigned many research papers to my students in the past, and if they had turned in that paper with spelling and formatting errors, and inconsistent word usage, I would have given it back to them, and they would have been expected to fix those errors,” Rossander said.

Rossander felt the process used for the adoption of the ordinance was flawed from the start, and that it was her understanding several meetings would be held to discuss the new ordinance, allowing her to have ample opportunity to ask questions, seek clarification, and give input. She felt nothing could have been further from the truth.

“This body met exactly twice and spent less than two hours in total working on this ordinance before it was voted to send it forward to the Board of Supervisors. According to the assistant county attorney, this is the first ordinance the county has written from scratch in more than 30 years, and we spent two hours working on it,” stated Rossander.

Rossander added she had done her due diligence and was comfortable in her recommendations to amend the ordinance.

The commission then voted to ratify the vote on the ordinance. Amos said questions had been raised whether the initial approval vote on Oct. 13, 2021, with only three members present, was enough.

“The legal advice is, rather than to fight this, and have all the work that has been done go for naught, was to ratify the vote that was taken then. With a rati-

fication, this issue is taken off the table,” Amos said.

The ratification was approved by a 5-1 vote, with Rossander voting no. Amos then opened the meeting to public comment, a final opportunity for the public to comment about the ordinance before discussions took place for amendments.

Barb Nelson of rural Stanton was first to speak. Nelson said she was a big proponent of solar energy, and wanted an ordinance that was clearly-delineated to protect the county, its residents, and the companies that wanted to build solar installations in the county.

“I am concerned that the current ordinance is not clear or specific enough to avoid the problems that Page County has had with its wind power ordinance. We have to be able to look at an ordinance as a document that leaves little question as to what it means, so there is a common understanding of the requirements, and so that our county attorney can defend it if it becomes necessary,” advised Nelson.

Next to speak was Tripp Narup of Villisca. Narup echoed sentiments that the solar ordinance was extremely important and needed to be correct.

“There is a possibility of contracts being written worth tens of millions of dollars, and it’s important that we get it right. I think what’s most important is having our county attorney sign off on whatever ordinance is presented,” Narup commented.

Jan Norris of rural Red Oak also spoke about the ordinance, and said she was looking to avoid any potential problems like those being faced in Page County in regards to their wind ordinance.

“As a county taxpayer, I would like to feel assured the members of the various county boards and commissions are doing all they could to protect the county from the extensive burden of litigation,” said Norris.

Maggie McQuown of rural Red Oak also spoke, and said she commended the Planning and Zoning Board for reconvening to review the ordinance.

“I encourage enhancements, revisions, and deletions to make the ordinance as concise, unambiguous, and enforceable as possible,” McQuown said.

Before the commission moved into discussion on amending the county’s ordinance, Rossander made a motion to amend Montgomery County’s ordinance by substitution.

“My suggestion is that we simply substitute the entire ordinance and use the Mills County ordinance. It’s cleaner, it’s faster, it’s well-written, and it will save us hours of trying to fix our own ordinance,” Rossander advised.

Rossander also had a copy of the Mills County ordinance that was given to other members of the commission for review. Rossander’s motion died for lack of a second. Commission Member Randy Pendleton clarified he wasn’t against the proposal, but since he was seeing the ordinance for the first time at the meeting, he declined to second.

“On such a short notice, and without having the opportunity to go through it and compare it with our existing ordinance, it’s a long process,” Pendleton said.

The commission then moved

into discussion on amendments to the ordinance. Rossander lamented about action being taken on the ordinance at that meeting, rather than prior.

“We have stacks of information here that have been given to this body by other people. When I tried to share with you my concerns months ago about this ordinance, before it went to the supervisors, you folks refused to even let me have a discussion about it,” Rossander said.

Commission Member Naomi McCunn said they did not get the fixes done then, but they could now proceed with getting fixes and amendments in now.

The commission agreed that punctuation and spelling, would simply be edited by zoning administrator Barry Byers. All told, more than 10 amendments to the ordinance were unanimously approved by the commission members.

Several items were also discussed, but no formal action was taken until they could be fur-



Montgomery County Zoning Commission Chair, Bryant Amos, listens to comments from fellow members at the March 30 meeting. (Nick Johansen/Red Oak Express)

ther researched by Byers, such as noise abatement for property owners adjacent to the potential solar farms.

Rossander asked how long it would take for the next steps to proceed with finalizing the proposed amendments.

“I’ll have to research, and talk to county attorney Drew Swanson. I’m guessing at the earliest it will be four weeks before we can proceed with the amendments at a future meeting,” Byers explained.

IDOT work planned for 34 near Villisca

Iowa Department of Transportation officials said a bridge deck and joint repair project on westbound U.S. Highway 34 between Highway 71 and Montgomery County Road M-65 near Villisca started Monday, April 4, and will end around Aug. 26.

Construction will limit traffic on 34 to one lane in each direction. A temporary barrier rail will be in place, with a 12-foot-7-inch lane-width limit restriction.

RED OAK GRAND THEATRE

THIS WEEK'S MOVIES

APRIL 8-10

THEATRE #1 capacity is 182

DOG

A dog named Lulu and Army Ranger Briggs drive each other crazy, narrowly evade death, learning what it takes to find happiness. PG 13

THEATRE #2 capacity is 107

DEATH ON THE NILE

A vacation aboard a glamorous river steamer turns into a terrifying search when a couple's perfect honeymoon is tragically cut short. PG 13

SHOWTIMES

FRI, SAT & SUN 7 PM

SUN MATINEE 2 PM

ALL TICKETS \$2.00

712-623-3169

Syphilis is on the rise in Iowa.

Syphilis is a sexually transmitted infection. Early numbers show a 75% increase in syphilis cases in Iowa from 2020 to 2021.

It's more common and easier to get than you might think.

Syphilis is curable but can cause serious health problems without treatment. Talk to your doctor about whether you are at risk.

Find a testing location near you: gettested.cdc.gov

Free & low cost options available

IDPH IOWA Department of PUBLIC HEALTH

Learn more about syphilis at ashsexualhealth.org/syphilis