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# THE RED OAK Express

WEDNESDAY

June 15, 2022

Red Oak, IA

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## Getting up close and personal

A few animals from the Blank Park Zoo visited the Red Oak Library Wednesday, June 8 as part of a free summer program. Pictured is Melanie Keller, an educator with the Blank Park Zoo, pictured, from left, with 'Shelby' the turtle, Neveah Smith, Corbin Blay, Adalynn Smith, Berkley Blay, and Kaydynce Smith. (Nick Johansen/The Red Oak Express)

## Board hears proposals for long-range plans

Nick Johansen  
 The Red Oak Express

The Red Oak School Board took a step towards selecting a firm for a new facilities assessment, as well as long-range planning proposals.

Superintendent Ron Lorez said the district reached out to 12 architectural firms in the area, with requests for a proposal, and received nine. From there, the board facilities committee narrowed the nine finalists to three, and those three firms each met with the Red Oak School Board in half-hour increments, with time for questions. The three finalists were Incite Design Studio, LLC of Kansas City, Mo., and Denovo Construction, CMBA Architects of Des Moines, and Alley Poyner Macchietto Architecture of Omaha.

The proposals from each firm were largely introductory, and no action was taken by the board at the June 13 meeting. Patrick Smith and Aaron Hardy with Incite Design were the first to present, and Patrick Davis with Denovo was also in attendance. One of the things Smith said may set them apart from other firms was having construction management involved.

"We've done a lot of these long range plans, and as we continued to evolve, we felt it was important to bring more experts to the table," Smith said.

Hardy commented on the firm's history in the past five years, and said they have put together more than 20 long-range plans for school districts for projects that have reached a total bond amount of \$1.35 billion, and have assisted more than 80,000 kids in the area districts.

"That seems like a large number, and we do work with large districts, but my average district is 2,500 students with a bond project of around \$10 million," commented Hardy.

The approach for the project included engagement with

the board, staff, and students on their goals; conducting surveys, collecting data, analyzing the data, and the delivery of a report to the board.

"Each one of these steps can be lengthened or shortened depending on needs. When it comes to design, we ask the question of the user groups, and let them navigate and come up with things on their own, then help the board identify the plan that's best for the community," advised Hardy.

The board then met with Courtney Koch and Andrew Miller with CMBA Architects. Koch said the firm had a lot of experience in education.

"We have a very large portfolio of educational experience and long-term relationships with the clients that we work with. We value getting to be a partner throughout the long term of a project and be a consistent resource that can be called on at any time," Koch said.

Koch said they strive to make sure everything they did fit in with the community, what the district wanted to do, what the faculty wanted to see, and what would help the student.

"When it comes to the buildings, we're bringing all the resources together so that we're using every part of a project, not just designing a classroom space that is a set location with a set group of students in the space, and allow the students to use the spaces the way they see fit, but also allow visibility for faculty to be able to control what they're working on," explained Koch.

Additionally, Koch said they could provide a customizable website, and other necessities for the district to use to bring any project into fruition.

Last to present was Daric O'Neal with Alley Poyner Macchietto. O'Neal said that Alley Poyner had an understanding of the school and the community that went beyond any other group the district would see.

PLAN, Page 10A

## Teacher resignations increase significantly

Tess Nelson  
 The Red Oak Express

The careers of many teachers ended recently with this school year. According to the Iowa State Education Association (ISEA), teacher resignations in the state are up by 15% this year, the highest turnover the ISEA has seen in a few years.

Over the past several years, teachers have been dealing with the stress of COVID-19, remote teaching issues, attacks from politicians, parents and continued school shootings.

Red Oak Superintendent Ron Lorez said they have experienced turnover in the 20% to 25% range recently. He continued to say there are no easy solutions to the problem because of the numerous factors in play.

"At the end of the day, the teacher shortage is a simple math problem: more and more people are getting out of the profes-

sion and fewer and fewer people are coming in. If we don't find a way to balance that equation we are going to continue to struggle," said Lorez.

He continued to say he believes education is in the crosshairs of 'culture wars.' Lorez said this year alone there were more than 50 bills introduced in the state legislature focused on schools and public education.

"Most suggested we do more with less. Many of them targeted educators directly by challenging our motives, our commitment, and our abilities in the most outlandish ways. It's no surprise that teachers and administrators feel under attack by politicians trying to score cheap political points."

Lorez added, many of Iowa's legislators continue to "low-ball state supplemental aid" and "try to siphon funding away from public education" which has many teachers seeking other career opportunities.

"If we continue to see minimal funding and state aid that is a half to a third of the inflation rate, this problem is only going to get worse," he explained.

And while the majority of people tend to focus on pay as the primary reason for the teacher shortage, Lorez said teachers who leave the profession cite stress or burnout nearly twice as often as insufficient pay as their reason for leaving.

"We used to worry about teachers getting out of the profession within five years, now we are seeing it happen after one or two years. Our district is competitive with other schools in our area, but we are not necessarily competitive with other industries."

Lastly, Lorez said it seems like in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, many people are in a rather peculiar headspace.

"During the pandemic, people were generally gracious and grateful for all that

TEACHERS, Page 2A

## Burke resigns as auditor, commissioner of elections after 10 years

Nick Johansen  
 The Red Oak Express

After 16 years serving in the Montgomery County's Auditor's Office and 10 years as Auditor and Commissioner of Elections, Stephanie Burke is moving on.

Burke announced her resignation during the June 8 Board of Supervisors meeting. Her last day will be June 30. She accepted a job with the Stanton District as the school's business official and board secretary, replacing Shirley Maxwell, though Burke said Maxwell is not retiring yet.

"It's been an honor serving the constituents of the county for all these years, and I am delighted to have a career opportunity in the education field

with an amazing school district," Burke stated.

Burke said that the choice to accept the position with Stanton came with a lot of soul searching, but she ultimately felt the choice was correct.

"I've been here 16 years, and an opportunity like this just doesn't come up that often. I thought about it quite a bit, and talked through it with my family, and made the decision to move forward," said Burke.

After being the county's auditor for a decade, Burke said she's going to miss all the people she's worked with over the years.

"I've met a lot of people from my day to day work, and through various boards, and the staff, and the department heads. I'll miss them, and I'll also miss the other 98 county auditors I've worked



Burke

fantastic job coordinating and handling it. That really stands out in my mind. There will never be an election quite like that one," commented Burke.

with over the years. We have some really good auditors out there," Burke stated.

Among Burke's accomplishments during her tenure, Burke said one she's most proud of is conducting a successful election in the middle of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"We were able to do it safely, and it was quite challenging, but I felt we did a

fantastic job coordinating and handling it. That really stands out in my mind. There will never be an election quite like that one," commented Burke.

As she prepares to transition to the new position in Stanton, Burke said she's excited to be able to pursue a new endeavor.

I care about the Stanton District, and the community, which I live in. My three children are enrolled in Stanton, and I feel it will be a rewarding job to be part of the school district's team. I'm honored, excited, and delighted to be selected as the school's business official," Burke said. "I feel that with my knowledge, I can bring a lot to the district. I think the atmosphere will be amazing, as there are a lot of good staff members there, as well as administration. I'm not sure how thrilled my kids are about it, but I definitely think it's going to be neat to be a part of that learning experience."

BURKE, Page 2A



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# Repair work to courthouse roof to begin shortly

**Nick Johansen**  
The Red Oak Express

Work will soon be underway to repair the extensive damage sustained to a portion of the Montgomery County Courthouse roof.

In early May, the roof sustained damage to the centermost cupola as a result of strong significant wind. On Monday May 30, several additional pieces of the cupola fell as a result of continued strong winds, damaging a nearby parked car.

Due to the location of damage, height and complexity of the issue, an immediate fix was not possible and efforts were made to mitigate the damage.

At the regular meeting June 8, maintenance supervisor Dan Wright said arrangements had finally been made with the county's insurance carrier.

"On May 31, I got the green light to proceed by the insurance carrier, and contacted Renaissance Roofing. They told me they needed a little time to get a crane booked and get a crew lined up for the same day that the crane can be here," Wright said.

Wright added the crew had a clear plan in mind to repair the damage and make things more durable.

"I believe their plans are to just rivet the pieces, and only use self-tapping screws if they absolutely have to," advised Wright.

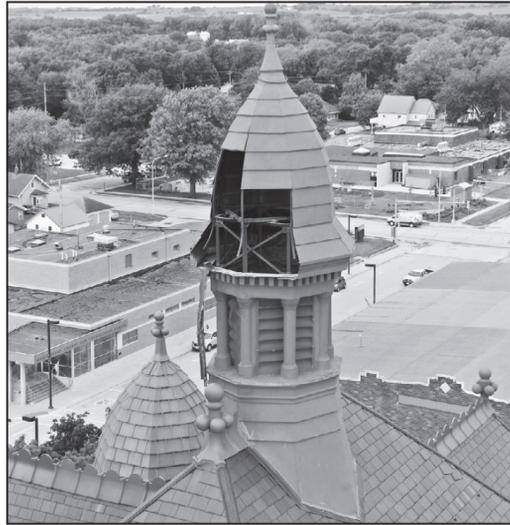
Wright said he told the insurance company that the longer the damage sat, the more damage the building would have, and that helped get the ball rolling. A date for the work to be started has yet to be determined.

"I told them in my last call that we hadn't even got an estimate on the further damage that has occurred since, but they told me that it would get figured out and said to get a crew there and get it fixed," commented Wright.

A date for the work to be started has yet to be determined. While the crane is on-site, Wright said he had also asked the crews for assistance in bringing the flag down so it could be restrung.

Also, Wright said the new building at the law enforcement center was now virtually complete and awaiting final touches.

"We've got everything on it except the garage doors, and there's still the additional three sections of concrete left to pour that we added. All of the other concrete work has been completed," Wright said.



The roof of the Montgomery County Courthouse, including the pictured cupola, was damaged on Memorial Day by high winds. (Photo provided by Brian Hamman)

Wright said he did not yet have a definitive timeline on when the garage doors would be installed, but it could take up to a month or more. In the interim, Wright said they are already using the building for storage pending the full completion.

In other business, the supervisors:  
• Reviewed sealed bids for a 2008 Dodge Charger and a Polaris four-wheeler. The high bid for the Charger was from Trudy Purdue for \$3,600. The Polaris high bid was \$3,264 from Heather Dolan. The supervisors approved both bids, and turned the bid information over to Montgomery County Sheriff Jon Spunaugle for the final sales.

# Many rules apply for construction cost share through soil and water

**Montgomery County Soil & Water Conservation District**

The Montgomery County Soil & Water Conservation district is issuing reminders to landowners.

Cost share demand is high for the landowners/producers in Montgomery County with 135 applications on file. The average wait time to receive cost share from the Iowa Financial Assistance Program for fall construction is six to eight years, while the wait for spring or summer construction cost share incentives are one to three years.

With financial assistance comes responsibilities. When an application has been approved by the Montgomery Soil and Water Conservation District, the State of Iowa financial assistance programs require that all practices are designed and built to meet the NRCS standards and specifications of the practice.

After installation of the practices, certification is completed by the certifying technician. Before cost share assistance is paid to the landowner(s), signatures are

required on but not limited to: the certification page, seeding page, and the Iowa Financial Incentive Program Maintenance/Performance Agreement between the landowner and the Montgomery Soil and Water Conservation District, which is recorded at the expense to the landowner.

Iowa Administrative Code - Soil Conservation (27) Chapter 10.31(2) states: As a condition for receipt of any financial incentive funds for implementing soil and water conservation practices, the owner of the land on which the practices have been installed shall agree to maintain those practices for the agreement and detailed on the form.

For a period of 20 years, beginning upon final inspection of the practice, the landowner agrees to the following:

Not to remove, alter or modify the practice as built. Also, they agree to maintain the practice(s). Maintenance includes but is not limited to:

- Maintaining seeding associated with the practice and ensuring sufficient cover or stand.
- Removal of invasive plants/vegetation

that could interfere with the performance of the practice.

- Repairing damage caused by wind, water or burrowing animals.
- Ensuring intakes and outlets are free of debris or sediment and function properly, including emergency spillways and outlets.
- Avoiding tillage, chemical drift or any other action that could threaten the integrity of practices.
- Cover crops shall not be mechanically or chemically terminated prior to the spring of the following planting season.

Landowners also agree that if the practice is removed, altered or modified, they will repair or reconstruct the practice at their own expense.

Invasive plants that are most common on the terraces are trees. Trees need to be clipped at the base of the stump and chemically treated. Tree roots can create a void in the structure of the terrace, thus resulting in holes and further damage.

Just a little reminder, it is the responsibility of the landowner to keep the trees off the terraces.

# TEACHERS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A

teachers do. Now they are back to taking teachers for granted. A growing lack of civility has made this even worse. Many students are less respectful and less compliant than they were even five years ago. Many parents are much less supportive than they used to be. This makes teaching an uphill battle."

Griswold Superintendent David Henrichs shared that approximately 18% of their certified staff members will not be back next year. That includes two teachers who retired and six teachers who accepted other teaching positions. These numbers are slightly higher than in recent years, he explained.

"The largest change that I believe is needed is to increase teacher pay. This may seem easy enough - each district could just elect to pay more. However, each district has to balance their budget," Henrichs explained. "It is a very difficult task to increase the pay of our staff members at a level needed to attract and retain staff when the amount of increased funding from the state is 2.5%. Given today's job market and the rate of inflation, districts have to give

more than a 2.5% increase to be competitive with other schools and businesses."

Dr. Mike Wells, Essex superintendent, said in Essex this past year, they had a teacher leave to another district and one retire. In Hamburg, where he also serves as superintendent, they had one teacher move to Omaha, one get out of teaching, and one retire.

"We added a charter school so we have had to try and find teachers which has been, and is, a huge challenge. The pay for teachers is ridiculous and if we don't take some huge steps to improve this we will continue to see less and less people go into education. We went to job fairs in Missouri and Arkansas and found one teacher," said Wells. "We used to get 100 apps for every job, today we get 0. This is the case across the country, and it is a real crisis."

Wells has a few suggestions as a way to help with the teacher shortage. He said to start the teaching salary at \$50,000, offer student loan forgiveness programs or even offer special interest rates on home loans, such as those for veterans.

# BURKE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A

Supervisor Donna Robinson, who had worked with Burke and who had worked with Burke the longest, wished Burke well and expressed her appreciation for Burke's efforts.

"I appreciate everything you've done, and we will miss you. I think we all want to congratulate you on this new role, even though it's a great loss for us," Robinson said.

The supervisors accepted Burke's resignation, with regret. Burke explained that to fill the vacancy, the supervisors had 40 days to appoint an auditor, which was no later than Aug. 9. With the general election coming up in November, there would be no time to hold a special election, and the position would be on the general election ballot to fill the vacancy.

The Republican and Democratic Party Chairs will have the opportunity to convene and put forth a candidate. Non-partisan candidates file a nomination petition with at least 50 signatures from eligible electors in Montgomery County. Aug. 8 is the first day to file nomination papers with the auditor's office, and the deadline is Aug. 31.

The supervisors agreed to seek interested parties to be appointed to the position until the November election, with the deadline for applications at 4:30 p.m. on June 30. Applications will be reviewed following the July 5 Board of Supervisors meeting, and interviews will be scheduled, with the appointment to take place at the July 12 Board of Supervisors meeting.

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LORENE ROSSANDER, 92

Lorene Henrietta Anna Rossander, 92, passed away on Wednesday May 18, 2022, at the Montgomery County Memorial Hospital.  
Lorene was born Jan. 26, 1930, to Paul H. and Edna E. Herzberg (Grebert) in Clarinda.  
Preceding her in death were her husband; parents; sister, Marian Seddon; brother, Dean Herzberg; and brothers-in-law, Jim Seddon and Lee Strickland.  
Left to cherish her memory are her children, Rodger Rossander of Stanton, and Lynn (John) Larson of Stanton; grandchildren, Lynette (Jeff) VanDen-Einde, Leanne (Steve) Fluckey, Loren Gray, Lathan (Cheryl) Gray; eight great-grandchildren; and several great-great-grandchildren; sisters-in-law, LaVern Strickland and Cathy Herzberg; as well as a host of relatives and friends.  
Services were held May 24, 2022, at Mount Calvary Lutheran Church in Villisca. Memorials may be directed to Mount Calvary Lutheran Church P.O. Box 24 Villisca, Iowa 50864.



JEANNINE SCHOMBURG-GOURLEY, 66

Jeannine M. Schomburg-Gourley, 66, Stanton, passed away in a motorcycle accident on Saturday, May 28, 2022, in Montgomery County.  
Jeannine Marie Schomburg-Gourley, the daughter of Melvin and Mary Jeanne (Tanner) Genie, was born June 25, 1955, at Mountain Home, Idaho. Jeannine was raised as a military child and lived all over the United States, France and Japan. She graduated from Highland High School in Albuquerque, N.M. Jeannine was united in marriage to David Mayer in 1975, where they lived and worked in Fremont, Neb. Jeannine later married Jimmy Schomburg in 1982, and they lived in the Stanton area.  
On June 12, 1998, Jeannine married Wendell Gourley at Viking Lake and they made their home in Stanton. Over the years, Jeannine worked for Lister Propane, Black Propane, Hy-Vee, Hayes Accounting and for many years, Belt Auto Center. Jeannine enjoyed quilting, sewing, growing flowers, motorcycle riding with Wendell, traveling, and her favorite color was purple. Jeannine loved her children and grandchildren so much; they were so important to her. She was looking forward to her first great-grandchild who is to be born close to her birthday.  
Jeannine was preceded in death by her parents; and brother, John Genie. Jeannine is survived by her husband, Wendell Gourley of Stanton; two children, Jason (Jayme) Schomburg of Dubuque, and Jessica (Scott) Donahoe of Elliott; three step-children, Jeremy (Alexia) Gourley of Dover, Tenn.; Ryan Gourley of Cincinnati, Ohio; and Tiffany (Marc) Behrens of Omaha, Neb.; 19 grandchildren, Helena and Serenity Kruse; Cora, Aurora, Adaline and Evalyn Donahoe; Ethan and Molly Schomburg; Brianne and Brooklyn Hulgian; Isabella and William Schomburg; Korbyn Behrens and Christina Cardozo; Dekyan, Easton and Kambrya Behrens; Nate Borgman; and Brennon, Logan and Aleah Gourley; and three sisters, Dona Stausbaugh and Carl Murphy of Caldwell, Idaho; Cathy (George) Green of San Antonio, Texas; and Michele Arnold of Villisca; other relatives and many friends.  
May God bless her memory and give strength to those who mourn.  
Celebration of Life Service will be held Friday, June 17, 2022, at 11 a.m. at Sellergren-Lindell-DeMarce Funeral Home, Red Oak.  
Visitation with the family will be held Thursday evening from 6 to 8 p.m. at Sellergren-Lindell-DeMarce Funeral Home. Memorials may be directed to the Jeannine Schomburg-Gourley Memorial for future family direction. Remembrances and condolences may be shared with the family at sldfuneralhome.com.  
Sellergren-Lindell-DeMarce Funeral Home is in charge of Jeannine's arrangements.



ANNE VAN DRUFF HALVIN  
PETER VAN DRUFF

A graveside celebration of life service for Anne Van Druff Halvin and Peter Bruce Vandruff will be held at 4 p.m. Thursday, June 23, 2022, at the Evergreen Cemetery in Red Oak. A time of refreshments and fellowship will be held at the home of Anne Anderson Bennett at 1351 210th St., Red Oak, IA 51566.  
Anne was born April 24, 1944, in Seattle, Wash., the daughter of Bruce and Mary Jo Van Druff. She passed away July 21, 2015, in Torrance, Calif.  
Peter Bruce Van Druff was born April 7, 1953 in Red Oak, the son of Bruce and Mary Jo Van Druff. He passed away Jan. 12, 2022, in San Juan Capistrano, Calif.  
Anne is survived by her sons, Matt Crandall and Alex Brockelsby; and her grandchildren.  
Nelson-Boylan-LeRette Funeral Chapel is in charge of arrangements.

KIRK SAMPLES, 90

Kirk Samples, Jr., 90, Red Oak, passed away Tuesday, June 7, 2022, at the Montgomery County Memorial Hospital.  
Kirk was born May 9, 1932, near Red Oak, the son of Kirk and Mary (Harover) Samples.  
Preceding him in death were his parents.  
Survivors include his wife, Deloris Samples of Red Oak; children, Mitch Samples of Wauke; and Dawn Samples of Wilmington, N.C.; seven grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.  
Graveside memorial services were held Tuesday, June 14, 2022, at the Iowa Veterans Cemetery in Van Meter. Memorials are suggested to the First United Methodist Church.  
Nelson-Boylan-LeRette Funeral Chapel is in charge of arrangements.

GLENN ODSON, 104

Glenn H. Odson, 104, Omaha, Neb., formerly of Red Oak, passed away Monday, June 6, 2022, at the Good Samaritan Society, Millard, Neb.  
Glenn Harold Odson, the son of Edward and Matilda (Johnson) Odson, was born Sept. 11, 1917, in Adams County. Glenn was raised in Adams County near Carbon. He worked on farms in Adams County. Glenn entered the U.S. Army on May 7, 1941, serving in World War II and was honorably discharged on Oct. 13, 1945. He moved to Davenport and worked in the dry-cleaning business.  
He was united in marriage to Dorothy B. Garey on Feb. 17, 1946, at Davenport. In 1955, Glenn and Dorothy moved to Lenox, where they owned and operated a dry cleaning and laundry business for 32 years. In 1988, they moved to Red Oak, later moved to Corning, and in 2009 returned to Red Oak. Glenn moved to Omaha, Neb., in 2014 to be closer to his daughter.  
He was a member of the Strand Lutheran Church, Lorraine Post #67 American Legion and VFW in Red Oak and was past member of the Masonic Lodge in Corning. Glenn enjoyed relaxing by going fishing.  
Glenn was preceded in death by his parents; his wife, Dorothy on Oct. 15, 2013; and four brothers, Paul, Elmo, Marvin and Merle.  
Glenn is survived by a daughter, Karen (Tom) DeGeorge of Omaha, Neb.; nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.  
May God bless his memory and give strength to those who mourn.  
Graveside Service with Military Rites were held Thursday, June 9, 2022, at Strand Cemetery, northeast of Villisca, in Adams County. Memorials are suggested to the Strand Lutheran Church or Red Oak American Legion. Remembrance and condolence maybe shared with family and friends at sldfuneralhome.com.  
Sellergren-Lindell-DeMarce Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.



JAMES "BUZZ" HERBERT, 81

James Fredrick "Buzz" Herbert, 81, Corning, passed away Friday, June 10, 2022, at his home.  
Buzz was born Jan. 24, 1941, in Macedonia, the son of Earl and Jeanette (Dodson) Herbert.  
Preceding him in death were his parents.  
Survivors include his wife, Gwen Herbert of Corning; children, Lauri Grossman of Redmond, Wash.; and Matt Herbert of Shepherd, Mich.; and four grandchildren.  
A celebration of life service will be held at 4 p.m. Friday, June 17, 2022, at the Activities Center of Southwest Valley Schools of Corning, with visitation with the family to follow until 7 p.m.  
In lieu of flowers, memorials are suggested to the Corning Community Schools for the Buzz Herbert fund for student mental and physical wellbeing.  
Nelson-Boylan-LeRette Funeral Chapel, of Red Oak is assisting the family with cremation services.

STEVE FISHER, 72

Steve Fisher, 72, Red Oak, passed away Sunday, June 12, 2022, at his home in rural Red Oak.  
Stephen Lee Fisher, the son of Donald and Wylma (Higgins) Fisher, was born July 1, 1949, in Clarinda. Steve was raised in Montgomery County until the family moved to Page County. He graduated from Villisca High School in 1967. Steve worked on the farm and then attended trade school.  
On June 7, 1969, Steve was united in marriage to Mary Abbey in Mt. Etna. After a few years, they made their home in the Red Oak area where Steve began a 47-year career (in the same building) as an auto mechanic. Over the years, Steve worked for Fox & Finley Chevrolet, Anderson Spiker Chevrolet, Don Hindmarsh Chevrolet and then R. K. Belt and Sons. Steve enjoyed keeping his hand in farming by helping his brother and parents-in-law on the weekends. Steve was also the caretaker of North Page Cemetery for 59 years. He was that guy who would always lend a helping hand to others.  
Steve was preceded in death by his parents; parents-in-law; sister-in-law, Ann Fisher; and brother-in-law, Bruce Burr.  
Steve is survived by his wife of 53 years, Mary Fisher of Red Oak; daughter, Ange (Greg) Kinser of West Des Moines; son, Dan (Brittany) Fisher of Ames; two grandchildren, Gregory Kinser and Stella Fisher; brother, Gale Fisher of Villisca; and sisters, Guila Burr of Clarinda, and Linda (Warren) Connor of Bella Vista, Ark.; nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.  
May God bless his memory and give strength to those who mourn.  
Funeral Service will be held on Saturday, June 18, 2022, at 10 a.m. at Sellergren-Lindell-DeMarce Funeral Home, Red Oak. Burial will be in North Page Cemetery, Page County.  
Visitation and viewing with the family will be Friday evening, June 17, from 5 to 7 p.m. at Sellergren-Lindell-DeMarce Funeral Home.  
The family requests memorials in lieu of flowers to the North Page Cemetery.  
Remembrances and condolence maybe shared with family and friends at sldfuneralhome.com.  
Sellergren-Lindell-DeMarce Funeral Home is in charge of Steve's arrangements.



JOANN RUNYAN

On July 21, 1946, JoAnn Runyan was born in Villisca to Richard and Ruby (Johnson) Runyan. She grew up in Villisca and graduated from Villisca High School in the class of 1963. She earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree in secondary education and English literature at Tarkio College, Tarkio, Mo. Her graduate study was done at the University of Northern Iowa in Cedar Falls; Bemidji State University, Bemidji, Minn.; and at the University of Nebraska in Omaha.  
JoAnn's teaching career began in 1967 in Atlantic as a junior high Language Arts teacher. In Atlantic she was on numerous educational committees, including the District Curriculum Coordinating Committee, where she was a lead teacher responsible for the English-Language Arts curriculum grades K-12. She was president of the Teachers' Association in 1986-1988.  
JoAnn was chief negotiator for the Atlantic Education Association for many years and served on the bargaining team. She was a formidable advocate for educators and students. She was elected to and served for many years on the Southwest UniServ Unit Executive Board. She was a trained mentor for beginning educators for several years and attended many ISEA Delegate Assemblies representing the Atlantic Education Association.  
JoAnn was a very effective School-to-Work Coordinator. Not only did she bring businesses to the school to talk to students, she also matched students with businesses for work experience. She facilitated students visiting businesses to give them an opportunity to know what the work was like. When COVID-19 closed the schools in 2020, JoAnn's program was put on hold.  
Following in her father's footsteps, JoAnn scored the volleyball games, cross-country meets, wrestling, track and ran the clock for basketball. She was a member of the Cass County Hospital Auxiliary and the Ker-A-Vor unit of the American Legion Auxiliary of Villisca.  
While teaching, JoAnn kept homes in both Atlantic and Villisca. As a 63-year member of First Presbyterian Church in Villisca, JoAnn served as a junior high Sunday school teacher with Carolyn Gage, a Ruling Elder on the Session, and Treasurer for over 15 years until the time of her death. She had more than enough table decorations for the many community dinners the church served.  
JoAnn had an outstanding Eastern Star history. She was initiated in the Villisca Chapter May 27, 1964. She has served as Adah, Martha, Electa, Organist, Secretary, Conductress, Associate Matron and as Worthy Matron five different years. Her Grand Chapter appointments included: Grand Representative to North Carolina 1972-1974; district Instructor from 1977 to 1992. In 1989, she was elected to the office of Associate Grand Conductress. In 1992-1993, JoAnn served as Worthy Grand Matron. JoAnn was also deeply involved in Rainbow Girls throughout her life.  
Early mornings in the spring and summer found JoAnn caring for her extensive flower gardens in Villisca. She enjoyed antiques and collectibles, music, and her family farm. Traveling to Branson, Mo., with her best friend, Gary Scroggie, brought her much joy. He stayed close beside her as she slowly traveled the final journey of her life. Her deep faith in God never left her. She is already deeply missed by her friends in Villisca, Atlantic and across the state.  
The Celebration of Life service for JoAnn was Saturday, June 18, 2022, at First Presbyterian Church in Villisca. Committal of ashes was in the Villisca Cemetery. Memorials may be directed to the church or to a project of the donor's choice in honor of JoAnn.



BARBARA JEAN MCALLISTER, 88

Indefatigable dancer, coffee drinker and lover of life, our unsinkable Barbara Jean McAllister, nee Freeman, died in peace and dignity at LaGrange Hospital on Sept. 27, 2020, after a short illness, surrounded by loving sons Roger (Angela Eve), Mike (Kathy), Terry (Angela Rae); and daughter-in-law, Angela Eve and special friend Paul Del Monaco. Survivors include granddaughters, Amanda (Lissa), Brooke, Carter and Georgia; and great-grandchildren, Flynn Todd and Emery Jean, all of whom gave Barbara Jean special delight.  
Born on a farm in Iowa on Oct. 22, 1933, Barbara Jean married Thomas Donald Roger McAllister, Jr. in 1951, raising three sons with him in Red Oak, until Roger's sudden death in 1974. Widowed at 40 with three sons to raise, Barbara Jean reinvented herself as a legal secretary and administrative assistant, moving to Council Bluffs in 1979 and then to Chicago in 1987, where she made many friends, including in the organization Parents Without Partners. There was no one who didn't like her. Barbara Jean's charm, energy, optimism and ability to climb many mountains in life will be sorely missed by her family and friends.  
A graveside celebration of her life will be held at 1 p.m. Friday, June 24, 2022, at the Evergreen Cemetery in Red Oak.  
Nelson-Boylan-LeRette Funeral Chapel is in charge of arrangements.



SEAN WEBER, 50

Sean Weber, 50, Red Oak, passed away Sunday, June 12, 2022, in Red Oak.  
Services are pending with Sellergren-Lindell-DeMarce Funeral Home.

Law and Order



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

REAL ESTATE

WARRANTY DEED

- Jimken Inc, and Kenneth Bennett, President, to Iowa MHPS LLC, 21-72-38.
- Patrick Hodges, Pamela Mertz, and Pamela Hodges to Kena Woods and Maia Erickson, Red Oak Willard's Addition Lt 2.
- Robert Geer, Jr., and Gwendolyn Pierson Geer to Ricki and Melissa VanScyoc, Stennett Original Plat Lts 25-27, 36-39.

- Justin Bumsted and Melissa Gagliolo to Cole and Jessica Bumsted, 26-73-38 Parcel A.
- Scott Shuey, Partner, Greg Weis, Partner, and Adams County Veterinary Services to Oak Valley Veterinary Clinic, 20-72-38 Parcel A.
- Scott Shuey, Partner, Greg Weis, Partner, and Adams County Veterinary Services to Oak Valley Veterinary Clinic, Villisca Lightbody Addition Lt 21.
- James and Karla Wood to Dodd and Paula Schimpf, Red Oak Eastern Slopes VII Lt 61.
- Steven Elliott and Dawn McIntyre, Attorney in Fact to Lelton Investments LLC, Red Oak Baldwin SD Lt 5.
- Ramon and Maria Ramos and Maria Zuno to Diana Hutchinson, Red Oak Northeastern Addition Blk 2 Lt 1 Bishops SD.
- Cecil and Jessica McCuen to Cecily McCuen, Villisca Original Plat Lt 399.
- Gary Pritchett, Sharon Hayes, and Darlene Carpenter to Deborah Pappas, 32-72-38 Lts 7-10.

QUIT CLAIM DEED

- Shirley and Brook Strauss to Shirley, Brook, and Trinton

- Christian and Mariah VanScyoc to Ricki and Melissa ManScyoc, Stennett Original Plat Lts 28-33.
- Jerrellynn, Jerrellynn K., and Jerrilyn Kay Bloom to Douglas W. and Douglas Bloom, 2-71-36.

SMALL CLAIMS

- Sorensen Auto Finance vs. Brandon Gomel, Red Oak, judgment default in favor of the plaintiff, \$6,500 with 4.08% interest from June 9, plus costs.
- Credit Bureau Services of IA Inc. vs. Kelly Gregory, Red Oak, judgment default in favor of the plaintiff, \$5,871.18 with 4.08% interest from June 7, plus costs.
- Credit Bureau Services of IA Inc. vs. Darcy Dalton, Villisca, judgment default in favor of the plaintiff, \$1,895.72 with 4.08% interest from June 9, plus costs.
- Credit Bureau Services of IA Inc. vs. Ralph Fish, Red Oak, judgment default in favor of the plaintiff, \$1,320.51 with 4.08% interest from June 7, plus costs.
- Montgomery County Sheriff vs. Jessica Boyce, Red Oak, judgment default in favor of the plaintiff, \$2,135.78 with 4.08% interest

- Credit Bureau Services of IA Inc. vs. Travis Alexander, Red Oak, judgment default in favor of the plaintiff, \$2,143.74 with 4.08% interest from June 7, plus costs.
- Revco Solutions, LLC vs. Christopher and Shauna Bozwell, Red Oak, judgment default in favor of the plaintiff, \$4,167.61 with 4.08% interest from June 7, plus costs.
- Montgomery County Sheriff vs. Jason Waters, Red Oak, dismissed with prejudice.

DISMISSED

- State of Iowa vs. Justin Dufek, 48, Omaha, probation violation, dismissed.

CRIMINAL

- Aggravated, State of Iowa vs. Dale Rasmussen, 58, Randolph, assault, pled guilty, \$450 fine, time served.
- Aggravated, State of Iowa vs. Rebecca Tullis, 39, Villisca, child endangerment.
- Simple misdemeanor, State of Iowa vs. Pablo Rivera, Jr., 57, Lubbock, Texas, assault.
- Simple misdemeanor, State of Iowa vs. Sheryl Franzen, 66,

- Mandy Knapp, Red Oak, registration violation, failure to provide proof of financial liability insurance.
- Dawn Nelson, Red Oak, operating non-registered vehicle.
- Ashley Rodriguez Gonzales, Omaha, Neb., no valid driver's license.
- Amy Parker, Shenandoah, speeding.
- Jacob Wunder, Red Oak, operation without registration card or plate.
- Amanda Baldwin Smith, Red Oak, disorderly conduct - fighting/violent behavior, pled guilty, \$75 fine, one day jail, time served.
- Simple misdemeanor, State of Iowa vs. Codey Thrasher, 32, Red Oak, disorderly conduct - fighting/violent behavior, pled guilty, \$75 fine, one day jail, time served.
- Simple misdemeanor, State of Iowa vs. Daniel Foote, 28, Essex, probation violation, two counts, dismissed.
- State of Iowa vs. Vincent Kesterson, 49, Red Oak, first offense, two days jail or Urban Defense, \$1,250 fine.

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- State of Iowa vs. Daniel Foote, 28, Essex, probation violation, two counts, dismissed.
- State of Iowa vs. Vincent Kesterson, 49, Red Oak, first offense, two days jail or Urban Defense, \$1,250 fine.

TRAFFIC

- Ryan Plambeck, Red Oak, speeding.
- Clayton Adams, Red Oak, operating non-registered vehicle.

## Stronger the Press, Stronger the People

THE TIME CAPSULE | ROY MARSHALL

### Was the "Death Car" in Red Oak a fraud?

Clyde Barrow probably sold more flathead Cights than some Ford dealers. Part of this was because of a letter received by Henry Ford. Signed "Clyde Champion Barrow," the letter describes the car as "trouble free" and a "dandy" that he preferred when he could "get away with one." There were skeptics who considered this a hoax, citing the fact that handwriting experts examined the letter and said Barrow hadn't written it. Another issue was Barrow's middle name, which was "Chestnut" rather than "Champion."

Ford, untroubled by these details, made the letter public and used Clyde's alleged endorsement for advertising. On July 4th, 1935, a year after Bonnie Parker and Clyde Barrow were killed by law enforcement, their "Death Car" was placed on display in Red Oak. For this the American Legion paid an undisclosed amount. Following a one-day appearance here, the shot-up Ford was hauled to Atlantic. There the Ford dealer shelled out for two days at their place of business.

The Red Oak Express carried a front-page story, as did the Atlantic News Telegraph. Both papers also ran paid ads. Might the Express and Telegraph have unwittingly promoted a fraud which, like the letter, the public wanted to believe?

Barrow loved the Ford 8-cylinder. Although not



the fastest car on the road, it was the fastest one sitting around to be stolen. Most importantly, it could outrun anything local law enforcement was driving. This was critical as there was no radio system with which to call ahead for assistance and roadblocks. There were also jurisdictional issues that often ended a pursuit at the state line.

Two months before police arranged a fateful "Come to Jesus" session, at which Clyde and Bonnie were shot full of holes, Barrow stole a tan 1934 Ford V8 40B Deluxe sedan from the garage of Ruth Warren, a resident of Topeka, Kan. Loaded with options, including a heater, the car sold for about \$700.

Everyone, I'm sure, has seen one or more dramatized versions of the ambush. Six experienced lawmen, each armed with multiple guns so they could drop one and empty another without needing to reload, fired over 200 rounds of ammo heavy enough to drop an elephant. Because Barrow was

the main target, and a firing squad from both sides of the road works poorly, all six were hiding in brush near the driver's side. The coroner's report, which was made public, says Clyde took 17 hits. Bonnie, perhaps because she was on the passenger side and remained upright a moment longer, had 26. How often the Ford was hit remains undetermined, as a few bullets went in one shattered window and out another.

Some accounts say 172 rounds penetrated the sides of the car. Another count has 167 and another puts the number at 112. This discrepancy may be partly because, in the months that followed, multiple "death cars" emerged. One claimed to be on a tour of the U.S. when displayed in Red Oak and Atlantic. Ads and news articles say the tour was personally approved by President Roosevelt. Addressing the crowd every two or three hours was C. Willey Stanley, "an internationally renowned criminologist." He would "reveal startling facts not disclosed in news reports."

Does it seem curious that FDR backed the tour and the federal government approved the displays, yet local organizations were required to pay for each appearance? And should we be suspicious of "C. Willey Stanley?"

We do know that after the ambush the scene

was processed, bodies removed, and the local sheriff impounded the vehicle. This was standard. State and federal authorities had full access and no reason to object. The owner had replaced the car and this one was a bloody mess, but Ms. Warren realized there was value. The sheriff initially had legitimate reasons to retain the car, and he did so for some time. When those reasons had long since ceased to exist, he told Warren his fees, which she must pay to get her Ford, totaled \$15,000. Ms. Warren contacted an attorney. A lawsuit was filed. These matters take time, but eventually she prevailed and took the car back to Topeka, then sold it to a circus promoter in 1937.

It would seem the actual car remained impounded in Louisiana when appearances were made in Iowa in 1935. Tours featuring fraudulent cars were detected in other Midwestern states, so did a scammer book a few shows in Iowa?

A news article tells us hundreds of people lined up to see the sight. Some readers probably had grandparents who took a picture. We'd love to share the photo and count the holes.

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

MOORE ON THE ISSUES | IOWA. REP. TOM MOORE

### Moore issues final wrap-up of legislative activity for current session

**Editor's note: This is part two of Moore's wrap up of the legislative session.**

As the 89th General Assembly has come to an end there are a number of comments and accomplishments that were sent to the Governor in 2022. This will be my last newsletter, but from time to time I will send an update on things of importance coming up or things that happen out of session.

Iowa's economy remains strong - so strong that we had the opportunity to deliver the largest tax cut in Iowa history while continuing to fund Iowans' priorities.

**HF 2317: Additional Income Exemption Option for Retired Farmers (Signed by Governor)**

This session, we made retirement income in Iowa tax free. But we know for farmers, retirement looks a bit different than other professions.

For many farmers, their retirement is in the land they own. So this bill creates an income exemption on money made by retired farmers from renting their land or from selling their property.

**HF 2198: Greater Flexibility for Child Care Providers (Sent to Governor)**

The Iowa House passed two policy proposals to address the child care shortage in Iowa. The first allows 16-year-olds working or volunteering at a child care facility to provide child care without additional supervision. The second adjusted the ratio of staff to children at a child care center to loosen regulation and bring the state in alignment with many other states.

These changes help address the worker shortage in the child care industry and allow child care providers to provide care for more families and make more money for their business. These changes are not requirements, but provide greater flexibility for child care providers to run their business how they see fit.

**HF 2127: Additional Money for Child Care Providers (Sent to Governor)**

This bill allows child care providers to accept additional money from families participating in the state child care assistance program. Current law does not allow those families to pay the difference between the CCA reimbursement rate and the rate the provider typically charges, even if the family agrees to pay the additional fee.

This bill would help providers make additional money by allowing them to collect more money from the families who can afford it.

**HF 2564: Assisting Businesses with Expanding Child Care Options for Employees (Sent to the Governor)**

The Economic Development Appropriations

bill contains a tax credit for businesses to expand child care options for their employees. House Republicans have made child care a priority over the last 3 years, and last year the governor signed legislation to address the cliff effect in child care assistance, double the income eligibility for the child care tax credit for families, increase child care assistance rates by \$13.4 million, and expand options for families through non-registered homes.

This bill tackles the issue from another angle House Republicans have been interested in working toward over the past few years - incentivizing businesses to help their employees find and pay for child care services.

**HF 2578: HHS Budget prioritizes Mental Health workforce (Sent to Governor)**

Iowa ranks 44th in the nation for psychiatrists per capita. Increasing access to mental health care is a huge priority for Iowans and these bills will help more Iowans get the care they deserve. The FY 2023 HHS budget adds in HF 2245 to ensure that health insurers are not excluding mental health providers providing telehealth to Iowans simply because they are not physically located in Iowa, and adds in HF 2529 to appropriate funding for 12 new psychiatry residencies at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics (UIHC). The residencies will prioritize Iowans in the application process.

**HF 2549: Mental Health Loan Forgiveness Program (Sent to Governor)**

This bill establishes a mental health practitioner loan repayment program for Iowans that agree to practice in Iowa for at least five years. This will draw more of the much-needed mental health care professionals to our state to get educated, trained and stick around to work after they graduate.

**HF 2546: Increasing funds for those caring for high-need patients (Sent to Governor)**

This bill requires Iowa Medicaid to establish a rate for psychiatric intensive care in Iowa. This will ensure that the health care professionals providing care for the most difficult mental health patients are being compensated appropriately.

**HF 2578 - MOMs maternal support legislation (Sent to Governor)**

This section of the HHS budget requires DHS to create the more options for maternal support program, a statewide program to promote healthy pregnancies and childbirth through nonprofit organizations that provide pregnancy support services.

DHS will issue RFPs to select a program administrator that is a nonprofit that has been in existence for at least 3 years and can manage subcontractors to provide pregnancy support services. The subcontractors must also have at least one

year of operational experience in providing pregnancy support services.

**HF 2501 - Improving the lives of Iowa Veterans (Signed by Governor)**

The Iowa House unanimously passed legislation that will result in more support for veterans here in Iowa. This bill allows for greater flexibility in the state's investment strategy to help grow the Veterans Trust Fund, a fund used to improve the quality of life for our Iowa veterans.

**SF 2383: The Governor's Workforce Bill (Sent to the Governor)**

The Governor's workforce bill includes many provisions to help Iowa veterans live and work in Iowa during and after their service. This bill requires licensing boards to expedite the licensing of a person married to an active duty member of the military, waives the licensing fee for veterans within five years of their discharge, allows Iowa veterans a lifetime hunting and fishing license, prohibits the DOT from charging fees for driver's and motorcycles licenses to veterans with a service-connected disability, and prohibits cities from charging parking fees for individuals with cars holding specific military license plates.

**HF 2298: Ban on COVID-19 Vaccine Requirement for Children (Sent to Governor)**

Iowa House Republicans passed a bill that says licensed child care centers, elementary, secondary, or postsecondary schools are not allowed to require the COVID-19 vaccine for enrollment.

Iowans have reached out to their elected officials expressing their concerns regarding COVID-19 vaccine requirements. The issue is even more heightened when it comes to children. This legislation will ensure Iowa parents can make their own decisions based on what's best for their child and that every child can get the access to education and child care that they deserve.

**HF 2562: Adding Protections for Mobile Homes Residents (Signed by Governor)**

After years of work, the Iowa Legislature passed a bill to add meaningful protections for Iowans in mobile homes. This bill provides protections for residents against retaliation from landlords, and requires a 90-day notice of any rental fee increase or cancellation of a rental agreement. It also gives legal remedies to residents if the landlord is not providing essential services, such as water.

**SF 522: Increasing Penalties for Elder Abuse (Sent to Governor)**

For the past several years Representatives, Senators, the public, and advocates have been working to find a way to protect older Iowans from physical, economic, and emotional abuse. This bill strengthens penalties for various crimes and cre-

ates a new crime for those who hurt older Iowans, which is defined as over the age of 60 in this bill.

These new charges will help ensure that those who choose to hurt older Iowans face serious consequences. SF 522 passed with broad bi-partisan support and will be effective July 1, 2022.

**SF 2378: House Adds Consumer Protections to Bottle Bill (Sent to the Governor)**

After years of hard work and bipartisan negotiations, the Iowa House passed a bill to make improvements to Iowa's bottle return law. SF 2378 had done a good job of getting the various industry groups on board with the proposal. However, the House felt additional protections for consumers were necessary. So we added an amendment to ensure this is a program that will work for consumers.

Senate File 2378 takes many positive steps towards improving the current system. It increases the handling fee for redemption centers and retailers who accept bottle returns to 3 cents per container, up from just 1 cent. It also gives retailers the ability to opt out of taking empty containers back if they meet one of the following criteria:

The retailer has a food establishment license and has a certified food protection manager on site, has an agreement with a mobile redemption system, or, the retailer is within the radius of a redemption center based on the convenience standard for their county.

It enhances enforcement by strengthening fines and enabling the DNR and attorney general to work together to ensure all stakeholders - retailers, distributors, redemption centers, and recyclers are following the law. It establishes a legislative review committee that will meet ahead of the 2026 legislative session to review how the law is working and report back to the legislature its findings and recommendations.

The current bottle deposit law has not been updated in over 40 years. These changes aim to give consumers more convenient locations to return their bottles and help the system run more smoothly.

**HF 2589: Banning "Zucker Bucks" (Sent to Governor)**

Iowa House Republicans are committed to ensuring Iowa's elections remain safe and secure. Under this new law, private entities would be prohibited from donating money to election offices.

Tom Moore has served as Iowa's District 21 State Representative since 2015. Contact Rep. Tom Moore at tom.moore@legis.iowa.gov.

#### DEADLINES

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

#### CONTACT US

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**Express**

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#### WHO WE ARE

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

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

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

## Community Calendar

### 16 June

Noon: SCORE webinar, "The 5 Stages of Delegation to Energize Your Business Growth." Go to [omaha.score.org/content/take-workshop-242](http://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.

4-7 p.m., Red Oak Farmers Market, Fountain Square Park.

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

7:30 p.m., "Beauty and the Beast, The Wilson Performing Arts Center, 300 Commerce Dr. reserve tickets by calling 623-3135.

### 17 June

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

6 p.m., Trivia Night at Five One 8, 518 N. 4th St.

7 p.m., "Family Camp," theatre #1; "Hello Bookstore," theatre #2; Red Oak Grand Theatre.

7:30 p.m., "Beauty and the Beast, The Wilson Performing Arts Center, 300 Commerce Dr. Reserve tickets by calling 623-3135.

### 18 June

9 a.m. to noon, Red Oak Farmers Market, Fountain Square Park.

5 to 7 p.m., Friends of Viking Lake Classic Car Show, lower picnic area at Viking Lake State Park.

7 p.m., "Family Camp," theatre #1; "Hello Bookstore," theatre #2; Red Oak Grand Theatre.

7 p.m., Dustin West: George Strait Tribute, 104 Lake Park, Glenwood. Tickets \$5 per person, \$10 per family, call 527-4651 for tickets.

7:30 p.m., "Beauty and the Beast, The Wilson Performing Arts Center, 300 Commerce Dr. reserve tickets by calling 623-3135.

### 19 June

2 and 7 p.m., "Family Camp," theatre #1; "Hello Bookstore," theatre #2; Red Oak Grand Theatre.

2 p.m., "Beauty and the Beast, The Wilson Performing Arts Center, 300 Commerce Dr. reserve tickets by calling 623-3135.

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

### 20 June

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.

### 21 June

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

Noon: SCORE webinar "Small Business Budgeting Made Easy." Go to [omaha.score.org/content/take-workshop-242](http://omaha.score.org/content/take-workshop-242) for more information.

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.

1:30 p.m., Water Day Party at the Red Oak Public Library, 400 N. 2nd St.

### 22 June

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.

## Summer program at RO Child Development Center

The Red Oak Child Development Center has announced it is hosting a summer program for all of the kids currently enrolled at the center.

The program will be held Monday-Friday from 8 a.m. to

5 p.m. at the center from now until August, and features weekly field trips, activity themed weeks, science experiments, and bike rides. Call 623-6630 for more information.

## Classic Car Show at Viking Lake Saturday

A Classic Car Show will be hosted at Viking Lake State Park from 5-7 p.m. June 18. The event will be held in the lower

picnic area, and entry is free. A meal, music and games are also available for a free-will donation.

## Happy Anniversary!

Celebrating their anniversaries this week are:

- Adam and Diana Hietbrink – June 16
- Dick and Jody Adams – June 17
- Jerry and Karon Stanley – June 18
- Roger and Barbara Magnussen – June 19
- Lynn and Sandy Taylor – June 21
- Kenny and Bev Hamman – June 21
- Wayne and Rogene Sederburg – June 21
- Dennis and Karen Requist – June 22
- Raymond and Carolyn Laird – June 22

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](mailto:news@redoakexpress.com), mail to P.O. Box 377, Red Oak, IA 51566, or drop by our office at 2012 Commerce Dr.

## Happy Birthday!

Celebrating birthdays are:

- Pat Stonehocker – June 17
- Emily Doty – June 17
- Tom Calnan – June 18
- Goldie Adams – June 18
- Hayden Hietbrink – June 18
- Jacob Uhlmann – June 19
- Jordan Moore – June 21
- Clara Lint – June 22

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

## Trees Forever hosting monthly webinars

Trees Forever, The Tallgrass Prairie Center, and various county conservation boards and roadside programs are offering Stewards of the Beautiful Land for a fifth year, starting Tuesday, June 15.

Stewards of the Beautiful Land is a four-session course, meeting monthly, geared for the outdoor enthusiast who wants to learn more about prairie plants, trees and forests, and the environments they thrive in, and how to advocate for native landscapes.

"Plant identification, establishment, and management as well as tree care and more will be taught," said Trees Forever program manager Jeff Jensen.

The course is structured with monthly webinars featuring guest presenters who lay the groundwork and knowledge base

for where to find native plants on the landscape, the various landforms of Iowa, invasive species identification and management, pollinator habitat enhancement and protection and more.

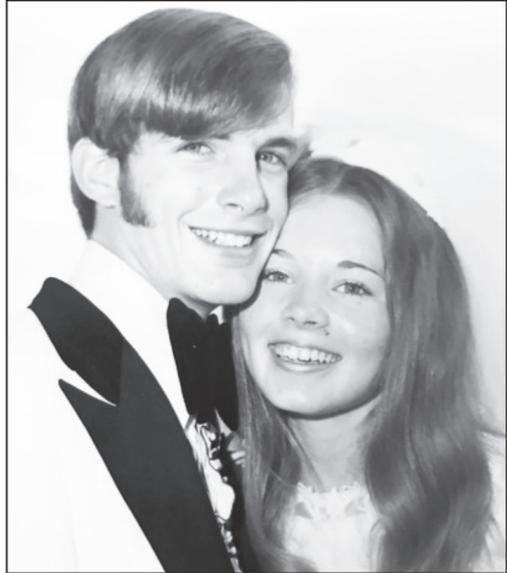
Each month will also feature an in-person meeting to learn from one another, walk through the woods or prairie identifying native plants and trees, and hands-on skills like how to properly plant and care for natives. In-person meetings are being hosted in Audubon, Bremer, Palo Alto, and Scott counties.

For more information contact Jeff Jensen at [jjensen@treesforever.org](mailto:jjensen@treesforever.org) or 515-320-6756.

Registration is live on the Trees Forever events calendar found at [treesforever.org/event/stewards-of-the-beautiful-landscape-session-1/](http://treesforever.org/event/stewards-of-the-beautiful-landscape-session-1/)

## Card Shower

ELWOOD 50TH ANNIVERSARY



Kirk and Joleen Elwood will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on June 24.

In honor of this occasion, their family is hosting a card shower. Cards may be sent to Kirk and Joleen at 610 Harris St., Emerson, IA 51533.

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and also have a Design Center for interior cabinetry, tile, flooring, countertops, etc. All kitchen and bath/home remodeling needs!

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## CHURCH DIRECTORY

<p><b>Advent Christian</b> 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.</p> <p><b>Assembly Of God</b> 1005 Senate, Red Oak, 623-2174, Services, 10:30 a.m.</p> <p><b>Baptist</b> 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. <b>Online:</b> 11 a.m. livestream.</p> <p><b>Southern Baptist</b> 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, <a href="http://crossroadsredoak.com">crossroadsredoak.com</a>. <b>Online:</b> 9:45 a.m. approx. live on Facebook.</p> <p><b>Catholic</b> St. Joseph's, 131 W. High, Villisca, Father Eze Venantius Umunnakwe,</p>	<p>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.</p> <p><b>Christian</b> 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. <b>Online:</b> 10:30 a.m. live on Facebook.</p> <p><b>Christian &amp; Missionary Alliance</b> Citylight Southwest Iowa, 705 Bradford, Emerson. Co-lead pastors Matt Keller, Tyler Mass. Worship with children's church, 10 a.m. in-person gathering. <b>Online:</b> 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. <b>Online:</b> 9 a.m. on KCSI, 9 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. Facebook, also YouTube/Red Oak Faith Community Church.</p> <p><b>Church Of Christ</b></p>	<p>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. River of Life Church, Hwy. 48 North, Red Oak, Minister David Haynes, Sunday School 9 a.m., Worship, 10 a.m.</p> <p><b>Church Of the Nazarene</b> 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.</p> <p><b>Covenant</b> Evangelical, Rev. Matt King, 308 Eastern, Stanton, Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Worship, 10:45 a.m. <b>Online:</b> 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 &amp; Hammond, Red Oak, Worship, 9:30 a.m.</p> <p><b>Jehovah's Witness</b> 210 Argus Road, Shenandoah, Thursday, 7:30 p.m.; Sunday, 10 a.m., public Bible discourse.</p>	<p><b>Lutheran</b> 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, Worship, 9:30 a.m. with no Sunday School. <b>Online:</b> 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.</p> <p><b>Non-Denominational</b> Oaks Community Church, 41310 Ellington Rd., Emerson, Rev. Ron Perry, 712-824-7218, Sunday</p>	<p>School, 10 a.m., Worship, 11 a.m.</p> <p><b>Presbyterian</b> 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, <a href="http://redoakpresbyterianchurch.com">redoakpresbyterianchurch.com</a>, Service, 10:30 a.m. <b>Online:</b> 10:30 a.m. live on Facebook/Red Oak Presbyterian Church</p> <p><b>Reformed Evangelical</b> Heartland Sovereign Grace Church, new church plant. Bible study Sunday, 5 p.m., <a href="http://www.swiacrec.com">www.swiacrec.com</a>, contact@swiacrec.com.</p> <p><b>United Methodist</b> 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. <b>Online:</b> 10:30 a.m. <a href="http://fumcro.org">fumcro.org</a>; click on the media tab to see previously recorded services. Wesley Chapel UMC, Rev. Carl Phillips, Worship, 8:45 a.m., Sunday School, 9:45 a.m. Red Oak Circuit, Linda Westerhold;</p> <p>Hawthorne, 1248 210th St., Red Oak, Worship, 10 a.m.; Stratton, 1695 150th St., Red Oak, Worship, 11:15 a.m. <b>Online:</b> 11:15 a.m. live on Facebook. Elliott United Methodist, Rev. Terry McClain, Sunday School, 9 a.m., Worship, 10 a.m. <b>Online:</b> 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. <b>Online:</b> 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. <b>Online:</b> 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.</p> <p><b>United Church Of Christ</b> First Congregational, 608 Reed St., Red Oak, Pastor Jenny Folmar, Sunday Worship, 10:30 a.m. in the sanctuary with fellowship to follow after the service.</p>
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## Two from Red Oak graduate from SWCC

The following students from the local area are among the students who graduated from Southwestern Community College during the spring 2022 semester.

The two commencement ceremonies were held May 6 at the Southwestern Community College

Student Center gymnasium.

- Connor Koppa of Red Oak earned an Associate of Applied Arts degree in Professional Music
- Treyten Ozuna of Red Oak earned a diploma in Practical Nursing.

## ISU announces spring dean's list

Numerous area students were named to the Iowa State University spring dean's list. Students must have earned a grade point average of at least 3.50 on a 4.00 scale while carrying a minimum of 12 credit hours of graded course work.

- Clarinda**
- Skie Campbell, 4, Animal Science.
  - Carly Rahn, 4, Event Management.
- Red Oak**
- Easton Hultman, Agricultural Studies.
  - Haley Plambeck, Dietetics (H SCD).
  - Andrew Shalters, Biology.
  - Eva Sherman, Kinesiology and Health.

- Hannah Vial, Elementary Education.
  - Zoey Welter, Biology (AGLS).
- Mallorie Wooley, Early Childhood Education.**
- Shenandoah**
- Claire Marie Adkins, Finance.
  - Brian Fischer, Agricultural Engineering.
  - Nichole Gilbert, Architecture.
  - Madisyn Anne Rostro, 4, History
  - Nicholas Stanley, 4, Industrial Technology.
  - Anthony Stogdill, Construction Engineering.
- Stanton**
- Abigail Adams, Elementary Education.
  - Tara Peterson, Supply Chain Management.

## NWMSU announces 2022 spring graduates

The Office of the Registrar and the Graduate School at Northwest Missouri State University have released the names of students who completed requirements for degrees at the conclusion of the 2022 spring semester.

Students graduating with magna cum laude honors earned a cumulative GPA of 3.75 to 3.94. Students graduating cum laude earned a cumulative GPA of 3.50 to 3.74.

- Andrew Seals, Corning, B.S., Human Services and Psychology.
- Lindsey Lundgren, Essex, M.S. Ed, C&I General.

- Anastasia Manrose, Essex, cum laude, B.S. Ed., English Education.
- Morgan Mundorf, Red Oak, B.S., Business Management.
- Garrett Rolenc, Red Oak, magna cum laude, B.F.A., Art: Graphic Design.
- Thomas Bates, Stanton, cum laude, B.S., Agricultural Science.
- Shelby Brockshus, Stanton, magna cum laude, B.S. Ed., Elementary Education.
- Waverly Brown, Stanton, cum laude, B.S. Ed., Early Childhood Education.

## NWMSU announces spring 2022 honor rolls

The Office of the Registrar at Northwest Missouri State University announced students named to the academic or president's honor rolls at the end of the 2022 spring semester.

To be included on the academic honor roll a student must carry a minimum of 12 credit hours and attain a grade-point average of 3.50 or above on a 4.00 scale. Students named to the president's honor roll have attained a perfect 4.00 GPA for the semester.

- **Corning, president's honor roll:** Kathryn Hoerman, Maslyn Hummel, and Kaitlyn Richey.
- **Elliott, president's honor roll:** Haylee Pennek.
- **Essex, academic honor roll:** Allison Johnson and Carlie Manrose.

- **Griswold, academic honor roll:** Claire Smith.
- **Red Oak, academic honor roll:** Brianna Clemons, Garrett Rolenc, and Mya Southwell.
- **Red Oak, president's honor roll:** Kamryn Buntrock, Alix Carlson, Chloe DeVries, and Abigail Pendleton.
- **Stanton, academic honor roll:** Thomas Bates, Rayanna Herrick, and Nicole Vorhies.
- **Stanton, president's honor roll:** Shelby Brockshus, Waverly Brown, and Devin R Isaacs.
- **Villisca, academic honor roll:** Tallen Myers.
- **Villisca, president's honor roll:** Rylee Jacobs.

## Fenster reflects on end of school year

**Chris Fenster**  
SWV Schools

Summer has arrived at Southwest Valley Schools. 2021-2022 was a great school year.

We graduated another senior class who are now Southwest Valley alumni and we are excited to bring a new group of preschoolers on board next fall.

We are continuing our journey of becoming a destination district. I set that goal when I arrived in the summer of 2018 and I am sure you are saying, what have we done to make it a destination district? Fair question.

We have completely updated our west campus facilities and established Early Childhood Education Centers in both communities.

We moved our alternative education program back to the high school and started accepting students from area schools to that program.

We also graduated our first adult learners with their HiSep degree. We worked together to educate our students through a global pandemic while other schools shut down or had to close temporarily because of COVID cases.

We have four administrators who have transformed their buildings into positive education centers that provide challenging curricula for our students. We have reduced staff turnover significantly and have a great team in place for the future.

Our enrollment has leveled off and has remained steady with some increase in the past four years.

Our communities continue to provide thousands of dollars for our graduating seniors in scholarship money. These are all part of the foundation we have laid

to start building our destination district at Southwest Valley.

The future is full of plans to improve our facilities on the district's east side. We have a committee that meets monthly to study what improvements are needed for our facilities, and the public is always invited to these meetings.

We plan to install new curtains and soundboards in the Southwest Valley high school auditorium and install a new boiler and air conditioning units in the high school activity center.

The school boards in both towns are committed to improving the curriculum and providing the best learning environments for our students.

This summer I am meeting with area superintendents to explore a career academy for our students that are interested in pursuing a career in electrical, plumbing, nursing, welding, etc.

This type of academy would allow our students to graduate from high school with different certifications that will prepare them for their careers without college requirements.

Southwest Valley schools are progressing with our goal in mind of providing a place where all students can learn together and live out our school's mission:

The Southwest Valley community will create an enthusiastic learning environment to promote responsibility and empathetic contributors to society.

Also, Allen Naugle would like to announce that he is planning on having a parent meeting for all incoming seventh through 12th grade parents on Tuesday, July 19, at 6 p.m. in the auditorium at Corning High School.

This meeting is an informational meeting in hopes to communicate as much information as possible for the upcoming

school year.

Parents and student-athletes are welcome to attend. Mr. Naugle will send out more announcements as the meeting gets closer.

If there are parents who cannot attend due to vacations, fairs, etc. Mr. Naugle will also be posting a document with the information that they will be going over as well in the near future.

Mr. Naugle would like to try something new next year. He is asking that all incoming seventh through twelfth grade students who plan on participating in sports register through the following link: [manager.varsity-bound.com/ia/southwestvalley/students](http://manager.varsity-bound.com/ia/southwestvalley/students)

The district will not require medical release cards to be turned in, concussion forms or physical forms. All of that information will now be done electronically through the Bound registration link shared above.

Mr. Naugle will then be able to keep track of physical dates, concussion forms and insurance through the Bound program. If anyone has already turned in a physical for next year please let Mr. Naugle know after you register, and he can upload a picture of the physical for the student.

The district is looking to go more paperless and Mr. Naugle said this should allow us to keep track of every student much easier moving into the future and allow you to upload new physicals and keep track of your dates as well.

If you have any questions please contact him any time at [anaugle@southwestvalley.org](mailto:anaugle@southwestvalley.org).

We welcome all of you to become more involved in our schools and be a part of what we are building at Southwest Valley - because it is always a great day to be a T-wolf!

## Red Oak Honor Rolls

### SECOND SEMESTER HIGH HONOR ROLL

**7th grade:** Caitlin Britten, Sawyer Bruce, Elliott Cartwright, Pace Chaillie, Weston Couse, Iyla Fine Elliana Freshour, Emmanuel Grass, Gillian Heim, Cathryn Horn, Natalie Johnson, Keely Jones, Elaina Kuipers, Gavin Lindsay, Vivian Lucas, Jaileigh Lundquist, Reese Montgomery, Jackson Perdue, Marlee Perrien, Mariel Ramirez, Amber Rea, Rowyn Rigby, Dillan Rydberg, Ryan Soar, Ethan Strunk, Elaina Utecht, Sergio Villanueva Guiza, Leya Walker, Haylee Wallace, and Mhylee Wallace.

**8th grade:** Jailyn Beacham, Nellie Blaine, Jayda Edie, Ethan Fouts, Josie Goldapp, Jasmine Grizzard, Karly Jenkins, Ellison Johnson, Sianna Klepinger, Sarah Knight, Mykinzie Magill, Joselyn O'Neal, Jacob Patterson, Mareli Ramos, Zoie Rohrig, Emily Sebeniecher, Alyssa Strebe, Anna Wenberg, and Bryce Williams.

**9th grade:** Elizabeth Baucom, Brody Bond, Nicole Bond, Kennedy DeVries, Brett Erickson, Landon Gjestad, Grace Goldapp, Marley Gray, Ella Johnson, Jessica Knight, Raevyn Lucas, Brinkly Sallach, Kyler Sandholm, Brayden Sifford, Blake Sloan, and Nevaeh Soar.

**10th grade:** Brenna Baier, Tyler Besson, Bryton Bergren, Macartnie Boeye, Olivia Bozwell, Cloie Bruce, Max DeVries, Lucia Domenech Garcia, Andy Franco Zamarron, Ty Jenkins, Kaysie Kells, Joshua LeRette, Jaydin Lindsay, Joseph McCunn, Cyrus Mensen, Merced Ramirez, Hailey Rydberg, Bryce Shirley, and Grace Wingfield.

**11th grade:** Dante Baucom, Dawson Bond, Haley Branam, Aiden Bruce, Logan Conn, Lainey DeVries, Madison Doyle, Jacob Eggers, Samuel Fields, Isabella Glassel, Helena Kruse, Josie Rengstorf, Tessa Rolenc, Hannah Smith, and Josie Vanderhoof.

**12th grade:** Camryn Bass, Payten Bass, Aleica Baumfalk, Taylor Bennett, Kyle Berkey, Nolan Blackman, Elizabeth Carbaugh, Jordan Carlson, Tory Carrick, Mirissa Deitering, Kate Edie, Novalea Fink, Aedynn Graham, Anna Grizzard, Delaney Hall, Shelby Heitman, Shelby Hewett, Audrey Hill, Alyssa Hogberg, Haley Jackson, Ryan Johnson, Trinity LaMar, Jessica Lukehart, Livia Metta, Lennon O'Neal, Delaina Olson, Lindsey Porter, Stephany Ramos, Bradley Sifford, Mattie Stephens, Alfredo Torres, Jaylyn VanHouten, Sebastian Vasquez, and Alexis Vera.

### SECOND SEMESTER HONOR ROLL

**7th grade:** Olivia Baucom, Kenadee Beacham, Owen Blystone, Paulina Bueno, Brooklyn Gilleland, Brody Hughes, Audrina Johnson, Rylan Mirts, Madison Osheim, Osiel Pederson, Rikki Pierce, Guadalupe Ramos, Jared Scriver, Nyvaeh Shrum, Gabrielle Smith, Jesika Smith, Sophie Snyder, and Matthew Utecht.

**8th grade:** Jesika Aldrich, Judy Budka, Anabel DeCesare, Chloe Devito, Sophie Devito, Masen Fisher, Cale Hall, Rylan Kruse, Harley Longnecker, Lilly Marsden, Megan Page, Madilynn Parker, Madison Roach, Zahir Rodriguez, Louisa Stickland, and Ace Wilkins.

**9th grade:** Adam Baier, Seth Baucom, Conor Britten, Jacob Brower, Jersey Churchill, Lillian Cobb, Alyson DeCesare, Abbie Eichelberger, Ilana Johnson, Miranda Johnson, Faith Ketelhut, Breanna Kinsler, Brynn Knaus, Jaide Larson, Abigail Pederson, Kady Riiibe, Hope Schmadke, Ashley Schmid, Syriana Spann, Lena Torbett, Cassandra Vera, Pablo Villanueva, Katelynn Wagaman, Alexis Wallace, Victoria Wendt, Logan Williams, and Marissa Williams.

**10th grade:** Prashna Bell, Jackson Biggerstaff, Hayden Brenner, Sebastian Clear, Kiah Cooper, Peyton Echnernach, Claire Eitzen, Griffin Eubank, Vincent Filpi, Hunter Gilleland, Brian Gonzalez, Hunter Jarrett, Abigail Johnson, Bennett Johnson, Elaine Klepinger, Connor Knight, Ukume Latus-Pantoja, Cade Lovell, Blayke Mirts, Tyler Mirts, Gracie Redd, Kiley Riiibe, Anderson Ruhl, Jack Schmadke, Brayden Sego, Annabelle Squires, and Kayden Wingfield.

**11th grade:** Bridgett Archer, Landon Couse, Riley Fouts, Michelle Grass, Tucker Johnson, Tanner Kinsley, Kindered Lehman, Eduardo Lepe, Lexi Meier, Zephyr Richardson, Chase Roeder, Aaron Schmid, Fateen Sealy, Ethan Wenberg, Ashley Wilkins, and Braden Woods.

**12th grade:** Allie Allison, Baylor Bergren, Ashlyn Blackman, Jasmine Elwood, Nicholas Fouts, Reese Jackson, Austin Johnson, Kaden Johnson, Kaila Larson, Julie Loftesness, Davan McRae, Karley Rensch, Gannon Sallach, Chase Sandholm, Luke Sperling, Payten Stilen, and Breckin Weston.

## East Mills Honor Rolls

### 4TH QUARTER PRINCIPAL'S HONOR ROLL

Ryleigh Bainter, Ann Barrett, Aspen Crouse, Mason Crouse, Ashlyn Curts, Kaelyn Curts, Olivia Embree, Grace Escritt, Ellie Foss, Mia Goodman, Natalie Goodman, Kaytelyne Hagymasi, Payton Harvey, Brooke Jones, Matalyn Kelly, Mallory Lang, Ailey Marburger, Layne Mastin, Davis McGrew, December McGrew, Daniel McMullen, Sophia Morrical, Loycee Palmer, Lilly Proctor, Venna Sayers, Klara Seipold, Walter Seipold, Mackenzie Stearns, Miah Urban, Allison VanArsdel, Kaylee Vandenberg, Megan Wells, Emily Williams, Brodyn Wray, and Cedar Wray.

### 4TH QUARTER GOLD HONOR ROLL

Joel Anaya, Justus Anaya, Anthony Anderson, Tylere Anderson, Kiley Barrett, Olivia Brammer, Ryleigh Brodigan, Tyler Buckner, Emersyn Burdic, Jay Campbell, Caitlynn Coates, Evan Copperstone, Lilley Crowder, Jaimee Davis, Taylor Deputy, Jackson Embree, Wyatt Franks, Adalyn Goodman, Taylor Gravett, Maggie Gray, Nadia Gray, Matthew Haley, Candis Hansen-Roegner, Leighton Hartshorn-Fulton, Lyla Henderson, Chance Hill, Shelby Hindman, Andrew Jackson, Saylor Jensen, Camryn Johnson, Madison King, Shaelynn Marburger, Rebecca Mayhew, Levi McDonald, Dayann McGrew, Isaac Mills, Kinsley Moyers, Anthony Obermiller, Haiden Olerich, Lincoln Palmer, Fletcher Proctor, Tyler Prokop, Kate Ripperger, Dylan Roegner, Collin Rogers, Evelyn Sampson, Cooper Stearns, Evelyn Stokas, Ryan Stortenbecker, Jeramy Stranathan, Hailey Study, Jenna Thornburg, Nicholas Updegraff, Caleb Urban, Sophia VanArsdel, Sheldon Vandenberg, Brylee Viner, Thoren Wade, Tessa Waymire, Braden West, Emma Williams, Jordan Williams, Megan Williams, Michael Wilson, and Paige Wingfield.

### 4TH QUARTER SILVER HONOR ROLL

Sylas Allen, Bianca Andersen, Caleb Andersen, Joshua Baucom, Rileigh Campbell, Peyton Embree, Landon Gibbs, Cooper Hagen, Ashton Hagymasi, Ruby Hastie Siera Janssen, Jerett Jentzsch, Dillon Jurjevich, Landynn Kinsler, Randi Knop, Andrew Laramy Audraya Loparco, Madilynn Marburger, Abigail Martin, Stevelyn Martin, Zander Petereit, Quinn Poorker, Darrien Sawtelle, Jack Sayers, Ryan Sayers, Wyatt Schmit, Max Smiley, Mason Talbott, Zach Thornburg, Jason Ungry, Kobe Viner, Cameron Wells, Kayden Williams, and Kyler Williams.

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"WHERE THE COMMUNITY COMES TOGETHER"

Y give?



Luke Jensen and the kids from the tennis clinic. (Photos submitted)

experiencing financial limitations with YMCA program and/or membership services. Funds from the Annual Campaign also help subsidize the cost of many youth YMCA programs. The support of those who have donated and volunteered over the years does not go unnoticed and is as vital to the Y now as it ever has been.

In a recent letter of encouragement from the Montgomery County Family YMCA Executive Director Carrie Shalters, she stated, "With summer upon us, I wanted to update you on where we stand with the Annual Campaign in 2022. Our goal is \$55,000 and so far we have raised \$30,000 in gifts and pledges toward that goal. We are regaining memberships from a significant loss during the worst of the pandemic and are feeling optimistic about the future of the YMCA. We are looking forward to restarting the youth swim team this coming winter after a several-year hiatus and recently had great participa-



Families enjoying the pool during the Healthy Kids Day.

When considering where you should allocate your resources (whether they be time, money, or skills) it's important to ask, "Why?" Why are they worthy of what you have to give? In an increasingly pessimistic world, still

shell-shocked from a pandemic, it can be easy to feel that we have less of not just money, but also ourselves to help others.

The Annual Campaign "Find Your Y" assists families and individuals in the community who are



Carson Roeder, left, and Hunter Gilleland of Red Oak face off on the air hockey table.

tion in the first Southwest Iowa High School Football Combine in which we partnered with Red Oak Community High School. We continue to train lifeguards, provide free second grade swim lessons and free seventh grade Y memberships throughout the year. In the meantime, we are always looking for and developing new programming to serve our community better."

Every day, the Montgomery County Family YMCA works to support the people and neighborhoods that need it most by addressing community matters, such as fitness and healthy lifestyle for all ages, chronic health issues, school partnerships, and to serve as a center for social networking. The Y is more than a gym. It's a cause. As a charity, we're dedicated to nurturing the potential of every child and teen, improving the nation's health and well-being, and giving

back and providing support to our neighbors. Funds raised supported a wide range of activities from athletics, fitness, healthy living, youth development, social responsibilities to summer day camp programming. The Y doesn't just strengthen bodies – it strengthens people, families, and communities.

Year after year, charitable gifts from YMCA donors make it possible for kids to have a safe place to learn and build confidence after school; for families to reconnect and grow together; and for members of the community of all ages, access to fitness education and training to reach their full potential.

Additionally, the YMCA is seeking input from the public for a name.

The organization is pleased to announce they will have a YMCA swim team for the fall/winter

2022-23 season, and the public is being invited to submit potential names for the new team.

From now until June 24, the public can submit name suggestions. From June 27-July 8, the names submitted will be narrowed down to a list of the top five suggestions, and the public will then vote on the top five names.

On July 11, the name with the most votes will be announced as the new name of the swim team.

To vote on the name of the swim team, or for more information about the Montgomery County Family YMCA, its programs, memberships, and volunteer/donor opportunities, call us at 712-623-2161, stop by the Y located at 101 E. Cherry St.; visit us on Facebook; or the website at mcymca.com.

YMCA ANNOUNCES SUMMER HOURS

The Montgomery County YMCA has announced it will be operating with modified summer hours from now until Sept. 6.

Regular Hours

- Monday-Friday: 5 a.m. to 8 p.m.
- Saturday: 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- Sunday: 2 to 5 p.m.

Pool Hours

- Monday-Thursday: 5:30 to 7 a.m., 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., and 3 to 7 p.m.

- Friday: 5:30 to 7 a.m., 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., and 3 to 5 p.m.
- Saturday: 9 a.m. to noon.
- Sunday: Closed.

Holiday Schedule/Closures

- June 20-21, Heat/air duct installation, closed.
- July 4: Closed for Independence Day.
- Aug. 15-21: Clean week, closed.
- Sept 5: Closed for Labor Day.

YMCA CELEBRATES 178 YEARS

On June 6, the YMCA celebrated 178 years as a nonprofit dedicated to strengthening communities through programs and services designed to foster youth development, healthy living, and social responsibility. Here are five past notable events and achievements that demonstrate the Y's commitment to the communities it serves:

- American Institutions: Celebrations such as Father's Day, and organizations like the Peace Corps, all have their roots at the YMCA.
- Summer Camp: The oldest known summer camp, Camp Dudley, first opened in 1885 and countless numbers of boys and girls have since learned the skills and wonders of camping through the Y, developing critical skills and making memories along the way.
- Innovating & Inventing: From James Naismith's invention of basketball to instructors creating racquetball and what would eventually become volleyball, the Y has

a rich tradition in activities that are played by millions of people around the globe. One Y staffer, Robert J. Roberts, is credited with inventing the term "body building."

- A Nobel Peace Prizewinner: YMCA leader John R. Mott was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1946 for the Y's groundbreaking role in raising global awareness and support and for the organization's humanitarian efforts.
- Furthering Education: The Y is credited with spearheading the first public libraries, night school for adult education and English as a Second Language (ESL) courses.

Today, the Y is the leading nonprofit committed to strengthening individuals and communities across the country. With over 2,600 locations, the Y serves 11 million people annually, improving the health and well-being of people of all ages and inspiring action in and across communities.

Here in Southwest Iowa, the Montgomery County Family

YMCA provides free memberships for seventh graders, free group swim lessons for second graders, and regularly runs fundraisers or collections to meet the needs of our area. We also put on programs, such as Healthy Kids Day in the Spring, and Winter Wonderland in the Winter, that are free and open to everyone in the community.

The long-standing policy at the YMCA is that no one is denied a membership or youth programming due to inability to pay by fundraising and providing scholarships for those in need.

A lot has changed since George Williams and 11 other young men gathered in London in 1844, but the heart of the Y's work remains the same. We're one of the oldest nonprofits in the United States and rely on members and donors to continue our work. Thank you for your continued support!

For more information call 623-2161, or visit the website at mcymca.com.

BUSINESSES OF THE QUARTER

The Montgomery County Family YMCA would like to honor the Round Table companies: Houghton State Bank, Red Oak Subway, Red Oak Chrysler, Alley Poyner Macchietto Architecture, David Carbaugh's State Farm, and Tech Support Services as our Businesses of the Quarter for the next two quarters from April to September.

All employees of the Round Table companies and their immediate families will receive a free membership to the Y\* until September. So, stop by if this means you! \*Does not apply to current members.

The Round Table recognizes those who support the goals and objectives of the Montgomery County Family YMCA through donations in three different cat-

egories: Gold (\$1,500), Silver (\$1,000), and Bronze (\$500).

The Round Table Program enables the YMCA's three areas focus which are Youth Development, Healthy Living, and Social Responsibility by partnering with businesses throughout the community. The program gives businesses the opportunity to make an annual one-time contribution to the YMCA which will be put toward the annual campaign, Endowment, or specific programs the business might choose to support.

Want to know how to become a Round Table participant? Simply contact Executive Director Carrie Shalters by email at cshalters@mcymca.com or by phone at 721-623-2161 for more information.



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# Machine glitch leads to 'emergency' recount of primary election results

Nick Johansen  
The Red Oak Express

As a result of some technical glitches with voting machines, a hand recount of the county's Primary Election ballots took place on June 10.

At a special emergency meeting of the Montgomery County Board of Supervisors June 9, discussions were held on holding an administrative recount of the ballots, due to the scheduled election canvass on June 15. County Auditor Stephanie Burke explained that the error occurred at infrequent intervals when the ballots were fed into the voting machines.

"Some of the precincts were inserting ballots, and in some instances, the number on the Unysin voting machine's tabulator would increase by an extra vote. At the end of the night, the precinct officials counted the ballots and the declaration of eligibility slips that were signed by eligible voters when they come in to vote, and those matched, but the tabulators were showing a different number. Nobody knows if the issue was just a reader error, or if it actually counted some of the ballots twice."

Burke said her recommendation, as well as the recommendation of the Iowa Secretary of State's Office, was to conduct an administrative recount in precincts one, two, three, six, and seven. The administrative recount could be requested by the auditor when the auditor suspected voting equipment in the election malfunctioned.

Burke added that the potential number of incorrect votes was minimal between the five specified precincts.

"After a complete tally of each precinct, it was noted that Precinct One was off by one vote. Precinct Two was also off by one vote. Both those precincts were at the Gold Fair Building. Precinct Three, which was at the First Christian Church in Red Oak, was off by three votes. Precinct Six in Stanton was off by one vote, and Precinct Seven in Villisca was off by one vote," explained Burke.

Additionally, Burke made it clear that the county maintained the highest professional standards to ensure the integrity of the election process, and all the voting machines were pre-tested, and publicly-tested, prior to the election, and at those times, there were no inaccuracies.

For the recount, Burke and the absentee ballot team used two machines, opened each ballot, and hand counted each vote before feeding the ballots into the machine. The votes will be manually placed into each machine, and the tabulated results from the machine will be compared to the numbers hand counted by the poll workers. Burke added there would be no major changes to the unofficial results posted June 7.

"We did not have any close races, so this will not affect any of the race outcomes. We simply want to be transparent, and I felt this was the best way, and that's why I'm recommending the administrative recount to make sure the results are 100% accurate," Burke advised.



Supervisors Charla Schmid, Mark Peterson, and Mike Olson, pictured from left, secured their respective nominations in the June 7 primary. Peterson's race was the only one contested on the ballot. (Nick Johansen/The Red Oak Express)

According to Burke, she and other auditors affected by the voting machine glitch were sent a letter from Unysin officials apologizing for the error, and the letter stated that work was underway to prevent the same issue from happening again in November during the general election.

The voting machine issue was not limited to Montgomery County. Burke said she was also aware of issues being reported in Page, Cass, and Mills County.

The supervisors approved Burke's request for an administrative recount of the county's ballots.

Around 1,081 ballots were counted from the 7,365 total voters in Montgomery County in the latest primary, and with the limited number of potentially double-counted votes from the voting machine errors, Burke said the numbers indicated a voter turnout of roughly 14.68% Burke stated those numbers were in line with past years.

"Based on what I've seen in the past, I'd say it's pretty normal and right on target for what we saw with the last gubernatorial election in 2018," Burke said.

Additionally, Burke said the turnouts in Montgomery County were similar to turnouts statewide, and many of the races were uncontested.

"In Montgomery County, the only race that was contested for District Four Supervisor. If there had been more contested races, I think we'd see a lot more voter turnout," commented Burke.

In that contested race, incumbent Mark Peterson was challenged for the Republican nomination by George Bruce. In the end, it was Peterson securing the nomination with 181 votes to Bruce's 49 votes. Peterson said he was pleased with the results.

"Hopefully what contributed to my win was my experience. Even before I became a supervisor, I attended a number of meetings so I could kind of hit the ground running. Now I'm in my eighth year, and I hope my results have spoken for a job well done," Peterson said.

This is only the second time Peterson has been contested in the race. There were three candidates on the ballot when he first sought the seat, and when he sought his second term, he was uncontested for the nomination.

Now that the results of the primary have been revealed, Peterson said he plans to keep doing what he's been doing since he took the position.

"It'll be business as normal, and I'll be continuing to try to do the right thing for the county," stated Peterson.

District Two Supervisor Mike Olson was uncontested for the Republican nomination and received 104 votes. There were no write-ins.

Also uncontested was District One Supervisor Charla Schmid, who was also seeking the republican nomination. Schmid received 99 votes, and there were two write-ins.

In other uncontested county races, Carleen Bruning earned 764 votes to secure the Republican nomination for County Recorder. There were six write-ins.

Also, Drew Swanson secured the Republican nomination in his uncontested race for County Attorney, receiving 717 votes. There were 14 write-ins.

The last local race was Jackie Porter, seeking the Republican nomination for County Treasurer. Porter received 751 votes, and there were four write-ins.

# Additional lifeguards hired at city pool

Nick Johansen  
The Red Oak Express

While the staffing situation at the Red Oak Pool is improving, the hours of operation will remain from 1-7 p.m. Monday through Friday with no weekend hours for the time being.

Discussion of the pool took place at the regular meeting of the Red Oak Park and Tree Board on June 9. Park superintendent Adam VanDerVliet updated the board on staffing numbers, and indicated that the lifeguard total has increased from six to 12.

"While we're up to 12 lifeguards, we're unable to be open full-time as of now. Of the last four lifeguards hired, two of them have full-time jobs, so they have said they can work one or two days per week," advised VanDerVliet. "There is also a lifeguard in Shenandoah who is looking for more hours, so he'll probably work the most for us. The fourth new hire is a student athlete, and so his hours will be worked around his summer sports schedule. I do have one lifeguard who has reached out to me about a potential hire, as well as someone interested in being a pool attendant."

Once the new lifeguards are in place and the hours can be examined, VanDerVliet said they would look at the potential for weekend hours, or a shift in hours from Tuesday-Saturday with Sunday and Monday being days of the pool's closure.

Also, VanDerVliet said the number of visitors to the pool have been solid, although the weather has played a factor some of the days.

"We're averaging around 117 people per day. June 3 was our biggest day with 204 visitors. The weather last week was a hit on our attendance numbers, as there have been cooler air temperatures, and the water temperature hasn't gotten very warm because of that," said VanDerVliet.

Board member Alexandria McFarland suggested raising the salaries of the lifeguard by \$1 to provide a further incentive for new hires. It was decided to discuss the potential salary increase at a later date. Also McFarland said she had heard from some of the current staff who would like to see a pool manager on site.

Currently, pool management is handled by VanDerVliet, who spends part of the day on-site while coordinating his other duties as park superintendent. VanDerVliet said he was in agreement that an on-site manager was needed.

"To run that pool to the best of its ability, it really does need a manager on-site, probably a salaried position. We've had some in the past, but due to a lack of staff things have changed," VanDerVliet said.

Park Board Chairman Bill Drey said that for a time, they hired some managers who were of a younger age, and there were complaints that the manager wasn't an adult.

"After that, we had a few years where we couldn't find any managers, so VanDerVliet took over as the pool manager, and worked in the job as much as he could," commented Drey.

McFarland requested that they advertise for the position, and if there was no interest, things were still working with VanDerVliet in the role. Further discussion on the subject is expected at a future meeting of the park and tree board.

The board also finalized updates to the lifeguard manual for certification reimbursements and the recruiting bonus.

According to the updated verbiage for the certification reimbursement, any new, first-year lifeguard for the Red Oak pool will be eligible to receive their one-time training expense paid for by the board under the following guidelines:

- They must be a new hire for the Red Oak pool.
- The individual must be hired by the board, prior to certification lessons beginning.
- Certification must take place at the Montgomery County Family YMCA to be eligible.
- The hired individual is expected to work a minimum of 75 hours to not be required to reimburse the city.
- If the minimum work hours are not met, the individual will be responsible for reimbursing the City of Red Oak for the certification expenses. This reimbursement must be paid within 60 days of the calendar year date of the pool closing.
- The City of Red Oak will coordinate with the Montgomery County Family YMCA to set up

a billing process for city-paid certifications.

For the recruiting bonus, the park and tree board will give a monetary bonus of \$50 per hired individual for the Red Oak pool to each current-year hired assistant manager, lifeguard, or pool attendant listed on the submitted application of the hire.

In order to receive the bonus, the submitted application must have the name of the referral listed either on the top as a referral or listed as a reference. The referral person must have been hired for the current pool year and have gone through the orientation provided by the pool manager to be eligible for the bonus. Once an application for employment has been submitted to the City of Red Oak, it cannot be resubmitted or have a referral added at that time. It must be on the original submitted application.

The City of Red Oak will pay out the bonus through payroll processing with any appropriate taxes being withheld. The bonus will be paid to the referral person after the new hire has been hired and completed their first pay period.

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## Roof replacement approved by DUR

Nick Johansen  
The Red Oak Express

The Red Oak Downtown Urban Renewal Board met for its regular meeting on June 8.

DUR Chairman Roger Vial reviewed the financial reports, and said when the board received its new round of funding July 1, around \$13,000 of the \$70,000 of funding provided by the City of Red Oak had been earmarked for some projects that have already been given final approval for funding requests.

Vial advised the board he had received one grant request for first-round approval from Rick and Susan Taylor from Davis-Taylor Insurance at 204 E. Reed St.

"They are looking to install new roofing, and provided two estimates. The low estimate was for \$43,798. They put the grant request at \$5,000 but they are actually eligible for \$7,500, because they are spending more than \$30,000 on the project. They also will qualify for an 18-year warranty on the work, and a 30-year lifespan," commented Vial.

Vial added that in years past, the board required more permanent rubber roofing to qualify for grant funding, but with the new, stronger roofing materials available, the board has shifted its stance to a 15-year warranty on the project.

"None of us want to be roofing experts, so instead, we've determined a policy that establishes the work is a long-term roof, instead of a quick fix, as if we allowed grants for quick-fix roofing projects, we'd be spending money every few years on the same projects," Vial explained.

The DUR board granted first-round approval for the roofing project at 204 E. Reed St.

Under projects for final approval was 201 E. Reed St., with a grant request from Bryant and John Blay, to remove and replace damaged concrete. Vial said he had nearly all the necessary documentation required for the project and expected the item to be up for approval at the next regular DUR meeting in July. No further action was taken.

The board also took no action on the second item under final approval, replacement of older single pane windows at 317 E. Reed St., Mark Jackson's Red Oak Hardware and Hallmark Gold Crown Store, as the windows had yet to be installed.



DUR member Shirley Billings listens during the June 8 meeting. (Nick Johansen/Red Oak Express)

The final project under final approval was 410 E. Coolbaugh St., the Red Oak Grand Theatre. Grant request was for tuckpointing the north elevation and inside parapet wall, for \$2,748.50. Final approval was granted, and the item proceeded to final approval with a request for funding. Vial said he had all of the necessary documentation.

"I have an invoice from Andrews Tuckpointing, and the cancelled check, for proof of payment, and we amended the amount to \$2,748.50," Vial said.

The grant amount was amended after subtracting out \$17,750 that was received from the Montgomery County Community Endowment for the \$28,744 project.

"Technically, this money didn't all come out of their pocket, and this is the first time this scenario has come up. Since they received a large portion of the funding for the endowment, the grant amount was amended to 25% remaining from the theatre's out of pocket expenses. It was decided to keep things uniform and factor in the secondary funding," Vial explained.

The board approved the request for funding from the Red Oak Grand Theatre, in the amount of \$2,748.50.

## Precipitation was 'below normal' for May



Iowa's precipitation in May was 3.46 inches, 1.38 inches below normal for the month, according to the latest Water Summary Update.

While there was some improvement in drought conditions, a small area of severe drought remains in and around Woodbury County. Soil moisture, streamflow and groundwater conditions show some improvement as well, but also reflect the dry conditions existing in northwest Iowa.

"Rainfall in Iowa for May should have been close to five inches, but we only ended up with 3.5 inches. Some improvement to drought conditions was seen, but parts of northwest Iowa are still dry," said Tim Hall, DNR's coordinator of hydrology resources. "While the state has received nearly normal rainfall for the year so far, northwest Iowa is running 2.3 inches behind for 2022, which is leading to concern as we enter the months of high water use."

For a thorough review of Iowa's water resource trends, go to [iowadnr.gov/watersummaryupdate](http://iowadnr.gov/watersummaryupdate).

The report is prepared by technical staff from Iowa DNR, the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, IIHR—Hydroscience and Engineering, and the U.S. Geological Survey, in collaboration with Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Department.

## Sign up to become a Master Gardener

Iowa Master Gardener Program Fall Hybrid Training will be Aug. 22 through Oct. 28. Master Gardeners come from many different backgrounds, but have a few key things in common: they love gardening, they love learning, and they love contributing to their local communities. If you want to deepen your horticultural knowledge and serve your community, join this year. To be awarded the coveted Master Gardener title, there are a few things you'll be asked to do:

- Complete a 10-week online training through Canvas
- Take a pre- and post-test at the beginning and end
- Participate in four in-person sessions with your county/region
- Volunteer 40-hours in your county by Dec. 31, 2023

Ready to apply? Applications available June 3 through July 8.

Go to <https://go.iastate.edu/NNCT4Y> to apply, Applications are due July 8.

Training timeline: July 8 - applications are due, August 22 - Online materials available, Sept. 2 - Pre-test due, Oct. 28 - Online portion ends, Nov. 11 - Post-test due.

There will be four in-person training sessions between Aug. 22 and Oct. 28 at the Mills County ISU Extension and Outreach office in Malvern.

For more information, go to [extension.iastate.edu/mastergardener/become-master-gardener](http://extension.iastate.edu/mastergardener/become-master-gardener) or contact Shirley D Miller at [shirleym@iastate.edu](mailto:shirleym@iastate.edu) or call the Mills County Extension Office at 624-8616.

## Historical commission seeks volunteers

The City of Red Oak has two open volunteer positions on the City's Historical Preservation Commission.

If anyone is interested in serving, stop by Red Oak City Hall, 601 N. 6th St., and pick up an application or download one from the city's website, [city.redoakiowa.com](http://city.redoakiowa.com).

Per Iowa's House File 243 the City attempts to make all boards and commissions gender balanced. Either of those positions may be either residents of the City or may reside elsewhere within Montgomery County.

Applications will be accepted until the positions are filled.

## PLAN

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A

"All of you sitting here on the school board are graduates of the Red Oak School District, as am I. In the same sense that helps you on the school board, it also helps me as an architect for your school projects. Alley Poyner has a history and commitment that the board will continue to receive with us continuing as your architect," commented O'Neal.

O'Neal added that while other firms may have similar qualifications and processes, none had the experience with the district as Alley Poyner.

"That's everything from your architectural team, to your engineers, civil engineers, and construction managers. We can conduct a more thorough facili-



Inman Elementary

ties assessment having a full knowledge of the systems that were designed and installed previously. We previously created a community engagement process and master plan that was based on trust, transparency, and constant communication. We will continue to do that through this next phase," advised O'Neal.

The board will discuss and decide on a firm at its next regular meeting June 27.

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