



# THE RED OAK Express

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Christ Cupboard volunteers on hand Wednesday, July 6, included, from left: Lois Trinity, Lori Johnson, Sandra Rea, Rose Kelly, Sue Kearn, Etta Fort, Ed Fort, Mary Rold, Becky Hill, Sarah Johnson, and Joyce Johnson. (Tess Nelson/Red Oak Express)

## Increase in need at Christ's Cupboard

Tess Nelson  
The Red Oak Express

The rising cost of, well, everything has led to a sharp increase in those seeking assistance at Christ's Cupboard Food Pantry in Red Oak.

Director Lois Trinity said from January to June 2022, they have served more than 2,000 people, putting them on pace for a record number of clients since they opened in 1997.

Trinity said when the COVID pandemic hit, they didn't close up shop but rather took things outside. However, with government stimulus checks, they didn't see an increase need of services.

"It is concerning," said Trinity.

She continued to say before the rise in inflation, it was rare for them to serve more than 100 clients per week. In the past two months alone, it has been close to 100 per week consistently.

"We are also seeing people who have never been to a food pantry before," said Trinity. "Last week we had 13 families who were new to food pantries; that is unusual."

Trinity said nearly all of those who frequent the food pantry reside in Montgomery County, specifically Red Oak. The majority of those seeking help are employed, but lack the extra funds for items such as clothing, personal hygiene products or even food.

"It is eye opening," said Trinity.

But Christ's Cupboard isn't alone. A recent survey by the anti-hunger organization Feeding America has shown that increased demand has affected nearly 80% of U.S. food banks, as higher prices cause more families to seek assistance. Inflation has spiked in the U.S., marking it the highest rate in 40 years. This has left families, who would never consider using a food pantry or assistance

program struggling to make ends meet and reaching out for help.

"If they need to fill up their car with gas in order to drive back and forth to work, they might not have anything left over," Trinity said.

Mary Rold of Red Oak has volunteered at Christ's Cupboard for seven years. She said she really enjoys helping others and "doing God's work."

"I have noticed the number of those seeking assistance has increased week after week. Times are scary for people," Rold said. "We are blessed to be able to help so many."

While Montgomery County might be one of the more poor counties in Iowa, it is also one of the most generous. Trinity said despite the uptick in need, the shelves remain stocked.

"We are so grateful because we are so blessed," Trinity said.

Local churches, organizations and individuals often donate items, as do the local businesses like Red Oak Fareway, Red Oak Hy-Vee and Red Oak Kentucky Fried Chicken.

Christ's Cupboard accepts clothing, household items, non-perishable food items, unused personal hygiene items and items such as toilet paper and laundry detergent. During the summer they also accept fresh produce. Monetary donations are also accepted. Items may be dropped off at its 206 E. Coolbaugh location Wednesday afternoons. Please utilize the back door. Monetary donations can also be sent in care of the First Covenant Church, 211 E. Hammond, Red Oak, IA 51566.

"We do this in the Lord Jesus' name. We want to pass along his love for us," Trinity said. "Judgment is not passed on anyone."

CUPBOARD, Page 6A



The second cutting of hay is taking place across the local area. This photo was taken south of Red Oak on Highway 48. (Tess Nelson/Red Oak Express)

## New state law allows open enrollment year-round

Tess Nelson  
The Red Oak Express

A new Iowa law allows parents to enroll their children in any public K-through-12 school at any time.

Governor Kim Reynolds approved the immediate change to Iowa's "open enrollment" policy last month, which lets parents transfer their children out of the district in which the family lives.

The change takes effect immediately, meaning families no longer need to give a reason to send their student to a new district any time throughout the year as long as the new district accepts them.

State legislators voted to eliminate the school open enrollment deadline after it became clear the Iowa House lacked the votes to pass a proposal from Reynolds that would have given 10,000 Iowa families scholarships to pay for private school expenses.

Parents typically had to make a transfer request by March 1 each year, with transfers only allowed into neighboring school districts. That adjacency rule is gone as well.

However, school districts may still refuse transfer applications for lack of room.

The 90-day wait for athletics still applies with the new law, and parents are responsible for transporting children open enrolled to another district.

Additionally, the sending and receiving districts do not have to be contiguous to

(or border) each other, but must remain in the state of Iowa.

Stanton Superintendent David Gute explained the March 1 deadline was in place for school districts to make staffing decisions to prepare for the next year.

"With no deadline, this could cause the district to deny open enrollment applications because they don't have the staff to educate the students," Gute explained. "This can also negatively affect a district's budget, if they lose several students over the summer or early in the school year, and had teaching staff already under contract for the next year. The district would be required to pay for the teaching staff and would receive less revenue from the state in the future because of the loss of student enrollment."

Red Oak Superintendent Ron Lorenz said the district has already revised its procedures in accordance with the new requirements. He declined to comment further.

Dr. Mike Wells, Essex superintendent, said in principle he is in favor of the changes to open enrollment.

"The March 1 date was always odd to me because parents are not thinking about the next school year in March, and many families were denied open enrollment because they missed this date," Wells said.

However, he added he's concerned that students will hop back and forth between districts.

"For example, a student gets upset

OPEN ENROLLMENT, Page 2A

## O'Neal outlines facilities plans

Nick Johansen  
The Red Oak Express

The Red Oak School Board took its first steps towards facilities planning and capital improvements at the regular meeting July 11.

At the July 27 meeting, the board unanimously approved awarding services for facilities assessment and long-range planning to Alley Poyner Macchietto Architecture. Architect Daric O'Neal, representing Alley Poyner Macchietto, was on hand at the July 11 meeting to discuss the details of the upcoming facilities assessments and the master facilities planning process. O'Neal started out by expressing his appreciation to the board for the selection of Alley Poyner Macchietto for the test.

"I am appreciative you chose to hire us to conduct this assessment and master plan for you. We're proud of the work we've done here, and we're glad to have the opportunity to continue," O'Neal said.

The entire process is slated to take up to five months to complete. O'Neal said there were key target dates coming up over the next month to begin the process.

"Starting the week of July 18, we will begin some 3D scanning of the school buildings, and we'll have an architect down here doing those scans which will be presented to the board at a later date," explained O'Neal.

On July 20, O'Neal said they would begin condition assessment walkthroughs with their entire team, including representatives from Boyd Jones and Building Crafts. The initial walkthroughs are slated for Inman Elementary, the Red Oak Early

Childhood Center, Red Oak Jr./Sr. High School, and activities buildings. During the week of Aug. 1, those walkthroughs will take place at the Webster and Bancroft buildings and the district's central office.

Over the next five months, O'Neal said he was planning to update the board once per month on the progress being made on the assessment.

O'Neal shared with the board a timeline of how the district had gotten to this phase, and shared the next steps in the assessment process.

"We'll want to see your enrollment numbers this fall after class starts. We do a simple calculation of square footage, number of students, and how many square feet you get per student in your facilities. Our target is always 200 square feet per student when you're looking at a K-12 grade facility," commented O'Neal. "We identified critical repairs, costs for those, optional repair items on all of the facilities, and throughout this process, we're going to be going through all of the facilities again, and create a very similar list of dollars, quotes, and priorities for you, and arrive at implementation scenarios for the district moving forward," said O'Neal.

After school begins, plans call for user group meetings with administrators, teachers, and community members on the best use of the Webster and Bancroft buildings, and student and parent surveys will also be issued.

Superintendent Ron Lorenz requested input from the school's Student Improvement Advisory Committee as they went through the process.

BOARD, Page 8A



### Mobile Food Pantry

#### Wednesday, July 27th

Location:  
ROCSO Football Field/Fairgrounds Parking Lot

Distribution Time: 3:30pm

No line up before 2:00 p.m.

The mobile pantry is available to you  
*free of charge!*





# New wind energy projects in county suspended, for now

**Nick Johansen**  
The Red Oak Express

The Montgomery County Board of Supervisors has agreed to temporarily suspend new wind energy projects in the county.

At the regular supervisors meeting July 5, zoning administrator Barry Byers advised the supervisors the current ordinance pertaining to wind turbines was in need of review.

"The current ordinance was passed in 2007. The setbacks for a large utility-scale windmill is essentially the tower height right now, which is well below state average. Tower height is around 300 to 400 feet, and most counties are 1,000 feet, or at least one and a half times the tower height," Byers explained.

Also, Byers stated the ordinance was currently a two-page document, and thus did not have much other information in it.

Supervisors Chair Mark Peterson said he had discussed the ordinance with Byers, and that the feeling was that Byers wanted the Montgomery County Planning and Zoning Commission to have time to review the ordinance and see where the county was at and potentially get the ordinance updated.

"With that in mind, we need to tap the brakes in the meantime, and possibly say we're not going to take any new wind turbine applications until we put something new in place," Peterson commented.

Byers agreed, and stated he had talked with the planning and zoning commission and given them necessary information to research and come up with potential revisions.

"We're probably going to meet towards the end of July. That will give the commission members time to review the information and decide on necessary changes," Byers said.



Zoning administrator Barry Byers discusses the county's current wind ordinance at the supervisors meeting July 5. (Nick Johansen/The Red Oak Express)

Peterson also brought the matter to the attention of Montgomery County Attorney Drew Swanson, who gave further guidance.

"The feeling is that since the ordinance would be considered weak at this time, that could be worse than having no ordinance at all, because someone could come to the county pretty easily and say that this is what the county has in place, and this is what we're working with," Peterson stated. "As I said, we need to slow down."

We're not going to necessarily disallow wind turbines forever, but we need to give the zoning commission time to get an up-to-date regulation put together instead of having a large-scale company rush to the county for a project because the current regulations look so favorable right now."

Supervisor Donna Robinson suggested Byers seek input from other counties that had wind turbine regulations in place.

"There are a number of wind turbines that are in Cass County already and have been for years, along with Adams County. Obviously Page County is in a situation where it's very controversial, and I would like us to look at ordinances that are obviously successful," said Robinson.

Byers confirmed he had reached out to the suggested counties, and said the overall goal was to create an ordinance that offered a middle of the road solution that was fair to both parties.

Supervisor Mike Olson motioned to implement a moratorium on new wind energy projects for one year, with the caveat that they could extend or suspend the moratorium at any time upon board approval.

The supervisors unanimously approved the moratorium.

## Countywide electronics recycling event Aug. 6

**Nick Johansen**  
The Red Oak Express

The Montgomery County Landfill Association is planning another recycling event.

Association member Donna Robinson said the event will be focused on electronics and is slated for Saturday, Aug. 6, from 8:30 to noon at the Montgomery County Fairgrounds.

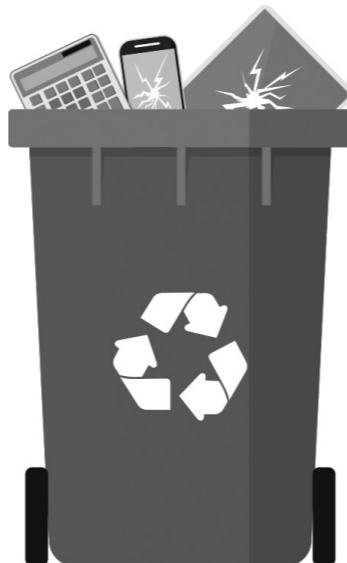
"We will be accepting things like tablets and other electronics of that nature. We will be releasing a full list of accepted and non-accepted items at a later date. At this point in time, we're pretty sure TVs will not be accepted at this time," said Robinson.

Association member Brad Wright said they try to shift events between recycling electronics and disposing of hazardous household chemicals.

"Typically we do one for one year, then one the next. In 2021, we actually did a combined event due to cancelling the 2020 event due to COVID, and now we're back on track with the electronics portion only this year," commented Wright.

The event is limited to Montgomery County residents, though Wright said things around the event will be lax.

"There are people who live here with out of county plates, and so we simply tell people it's supposed to be for Montgomery County



only, but we don't do anything really to enforce that, we just ask people to use the event on their honor," Wright said.

Holding the event, Wright said, was a good way to help keep the properties around the community clean.

"I like doing anything we can that gives people less excuses to leave it out on their back porch. Any time we can offer the residents a legal way to get rid of it, it helps," Wright stated.

While the hours of operation are planned from 8:30 to noon, Wright said those hours may become flexible.

"If they get full, then we might have to close things down early. Whenever we do one of these events, the firm we work with is given a set dollar amount, and they track the materials coming in, and when we get to that maximum dollar amount, we shut things down," Wright explained.

## Clarios expansion placed on hold indefinitely

**Nick Johansen**  
The Red Oak Express

The Red Oak City Council received some disappointing news regarding a proposed expansion project at Clarios.

The council had planned for discussion on tax incentives regarding the project; however, Red Oak city administrator Brad Wright said he found out on the afternoon of July 5 that plans had changed.

"This was a project that has been considered for the past four or five years, and then last fall, things got more serious and they got things put together. Just last month, they got funding through the Iowa Economic Development Authority, and I was contacted and told that the project was now put on hold indefinitely. In fact, I was told they have put a hold on all of the capital projects," Wright said.

The plan included a 22,000 foot expansion to the building and the addition of around 13 new full-time employees, at a cost of \$23 million. When the project will proceed is anyone's guess.

"They do not know when the project will be moving forward



City administrator Brad Wright, left, and city clerk Mary Bolton at the Council meeting. (Nick Johansen/The Red Oak Express)

again, and had no additional information, and all I know is that as of now, the project is off," advised Wright.

Since the building was located outside city limits, Wright had begun a conversation with the Montgomery County Board of Supervisors, as the county had to be involved in discussions.

"I had already approached the supervisors and begun a conversation there, of course. I will let the council know if anything about the project changes," said Wright.

The Council also heard a request from the Red Oak Community School District for a no-parking zone on the east side of 8th Street north of Inman Drive. Wright said the request was to expedite the ability for buses to proceed from the school.

"When the school buses are trying to come out of Inman Drive and come north onto 8th Street, with the traffic coming south from the high school and all of the cars parked along the east side of 8th Street waiting to pick up their kids, it's very difficult for them to make that turn," explained Wright. "They are wanting to do a short no-parking area that will allow them to make the turn and get headed north and merge when they have a chance. The total distance of the no-parking area would be 60 feet, with appropriate signage."

The council approved the no-parking request from the school. Red Oak Mayor Shawna Silvius also discussed the potential for the city to submit a Destination Iowa Community application that would provide funding for various city projects.

"The community application is a little more inclusive and allows for multiple projects, which would be more comprehensive. There's also a Creative Placemaking application that can be submitted by a city or a county, and applications for outdoor recreation and tourism. So I wanted to let the council know that there are people meeting on those, and discussions are being held," Silvius said.

Councilperson Brian Bills added that in order to be successful in submitting an application, it needed to be as inclusive as possible, and the more projects that could be included in the application, the more of a chance it would be approved.

The item was not on the agenda for official discussion, and no action was taken by the council.

- In other business, the council:
- Appointed Bill Jordan to fill one of two vacancies on the Historic Preservation Commission.
  - Heard an update from Daric O'Neal and Steve Adams regarding housing incentives in the city.

## OPEN ENROLLMENT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A

Essex, [the family] open enrolls their child out of district, then discovers the grass is not greener and want to come back or they find out that its inconvenient to drive to the other district and the cost of transportation is expensive and wants to come back. Also, there is the athletic eligibility question where a student jumps over to another school because they might be able to start in sports. Overall, I support the change and we will have to see how it all pans out."

Lastly, David Henrichs, Griswold Superintendent, said it could be somewhat of a tracking nightmare for the school business offi-

cial. Overall, he said it is yet to be seen what issues may occur with changes to open enrollment.

"There are a lot of things we don't know at this point; we will have to wait and see on how it pans out," Henrichs said.

For additional information on the updated open enrollment specifications, go to <https://educateiowa.gov/pk-12/options-educational-choice/open-enrollment>.

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## Stronger the Press, Stronger the People

THE TIME CAPSULE | ROY MARSHALL

### Growing a hippie's corn in a protein tub

Jonathan Spero and I exchanged several emails during the winter of 2018-19.

I was interested in a type of sweet corn he'd spent 20 years developing. He was curious as to how it would perform in what he called "Iowa corn country," a place he'd never been.

Had he lived long enough I'd have told him his Top Hat was great, but the Tuxana has an issue with color. Wife and I then belonged to the local Sunshine Garden Club.

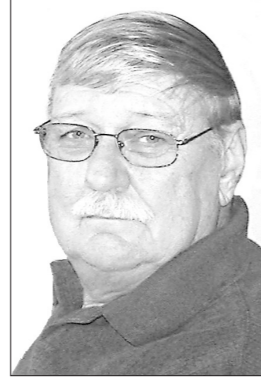
I asked a few members if they'd trial Spero's varieties and keep records. My role was to obtain the seed, test varieties they didn't choose and keep overall records.

As a writer, lecturer and recognized authority in his field, Spero's name carried weight in the organic food community.

Anyone who plants sweet corn, whether by the acre or just a hill or two, probably pays from \$5 an ounce to \$30 and up per pound of seed.

Those who grow a lot understand the monetary benefit of a crop that can reliably reproduce itself, and there's a potential of refining a strain adapted to a particular location.

Old varieties of OP (open pollinated) sweet corn did this, but lacked the tender, sweeter flavor of modern hybrids.



Spero claimed to have developed OP corn that matched any of them. Garden Club results were mixed, but overall there wasn't much to report.

One lady planted a 100-seed packet, kept records and scored the result high in all regards, including taste. Another said the herd bull got out and eliminated her sweet corn. Two reported a wet month of May foiled their plans. A couple of others had their reasons for not planting, one gave his seed away, another I haven't seen since, and so it went.

My own trial was of Spero's Tuxana and Aloha. The latter grew 12 feet tall and would have made a fine ornamental in the right place, but was flattened by wind. Tuxana, although I only raised a dozen plants, was excellent with a taste comparable to SE (sugar enhanced) hybrids. In late March of 2020 I received an email from Spero. He was anxious to know how the test had gone. The season was again approaching, he had other

sweet corn and was interested in how it would rate with the "corn country" group.

I delayed answering. The garden club, all fine people, were more about socializing and flowers than sweet corn.

I was attempting to find three or four vegetable gardeners who would participate when, a few days after his email, I learned that Spero had, quickly and unexpectedly, died.

I knew him only through his work and a few email conversations, and read the obituary and articles about him with interest.

Born in New York in 1952, he was 16 when he attended the drug-laced, free love and music festival known as Woodstock.

He was a hippie, at least to the extent of advocating love, peace and an idealistic lifestyle. An anti-Viet Nam war activist, he claimed conscientious objector status and helped other dodgers by becoming their "draft counselor."

Flower children grow older. Spero became an organic farmer, married, had children, took up surveying, moved to Oregon and bought an acreage he called "Lupine Knoll Farm."

Opposed to mega-corporations he believed were taking control of the world's food supply by creating a reliance on their farm chemicals and patented

seeds, he went to work developing open pollinated, non-patented vegetable varieties intended for the backyard gardener, organic producer and other growers who wanted to replant the seeds they grew.

Successful with kale, lettuce and broccoli varieties now found in seed catalogs, he was especially committed to sweet corn.

He crossed ancient landrace corn with modern hybrids and, selecting seeds from those that met expectations, spent years getting them to reproduce true-to-form.

He told me there were improvements yet to be made; the broad genetic base often produced renegade ears or kernels inconsistent with the parent plant. He was working on this when he died.

I use a livestock protein tub, grow a dozen stalks a year and now have my fourth generation of his Tuxana. It was white the first year, white and yellow the second, white, yellow and some red the third, and we'll see what this year brings.

Taste is fine, and each stalk usually yields two ears, but the color is unreliable so I doubt it would go over at the farmers market.

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

FROM YOUR CAPITOL HILL | IOWA SEN. TOM SHIPLEY

### Shipley postscript to last legislative session

Since we ended the legislative session earlier this year, I wanted to just touch on some things that are very important to many of us in rural Iowa.

While there has been mention of it being a drawn out session, it is really nothing new – just the process working as it has for over 100 years.

I don't believe one side or the other has all the answers so people being what they are, it takes time to hopefully get a solution that works for most people.

Some of the areas we touched on and added funding for include:

- \$780,000 for rural primary care loan repayment for nurses
- \$300,000 for rural vet loan repayment program
- NEW Funding of \$520,000 for mental health providers loan repayment program
- \$3,500,000 for expansion of I-Jag program to rural schools and middle schools
- \$1,800,000 for incentives for home health care in rural areas
- \$1,300,000 for Behavioral Health Intervention Services
- \$4,500,000 for Child and Family Services
- \$3,000,000 for state park infrastructure improvements
- \$1,000,000 for recreational trails
- \$16,100,000 for a new Vet Diagnostic Lab at Iowa State University

One of the issues that I was contacted about

often was the "bottle bill." I believe we came up with a good solution.

It was not easy, and many people sent their thoughts on a solution. Lots of suggestions for a fix; all were different and all convinced that was the answer.

The bill we passed will certainly help redemption centers and hopefully get the ones that have closed to open up again.

It also allows for an alternate system called "Dropett" that utilizes technology to collect cans and return the deposit to an individual OR send that money to the charity of your choice. It also keeps the used cans out of places that prepare food, which no one seemed to support.

By the time this gets to print the primary election will be long over and the next phase will begin.

While it will get very old to hear ads that are nasty, remember this is nothing new. Go back in history even to the founding of our nation.

What happens today pales in comparison to the awful things that were done in the early elections. That doesn't mean this whole process isn't that bad. It's just the reality is now there are way too many ways to disseminate information - true or false.

Tom Shipley has served as Iowa's District 11 State Senator since 2015. Contact Sen. Tom Shipley at tom.shipley@legis.iowa.gov.

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

### Summer travel

**Q: What do Iowans need to know to renew or apply for a passport?**

**A:** The U.S. Department of State issues passports to American citizens for overseas travel. A year ago, the State Department was beset with a tremendous backlog as international travel picked up when COVID-19 restrictions lifted. This summer many Americans are resuming vacations that were put on a pandemic-related back burner. In the interim, a family member's passport may have expired. Before rebooking a dream vacation to Europe, South America or elsewhere, it's important to check every family member's passport expiration date. Infants also require a valid passport. The passport book is required for overseas travel. The passport card may be used for entering the United States from land and sea ports-of-entry from Canada, Mexico, The Caribbean and Bermuda. The good news is the State Department has trimmed its wait time from 18 weeks to less than 12 weeks. Applicants should expect a turnaround time between 8 to 11 weeks from the day the application is received at a passport agency. Iowans may choose to expedite their application for a \$60 fee that trims the turnaround processing to 5 to 7 weeks. Find specific information online at travel.state.gov about renewing, reporting a lost or stolen passport and tracking a renewal application status. Most eligible adults may renew passports by mail with form DS-82. Also keep in mind, some countries may not allow entry if a traveler's passport is set to expire within six months of entering the country. Check the list of accepted documents for proof of identification and citizenship here. Note that new applications require certified identification documents. Passports for those 16 and younger are valid for only five years (10 years for those age 17 and older) and the minor must apply in person and be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian at a Passport Acceptance Facility. The Department of State designates post offices and public libraries to accept passport applications on its behalf. Find the most convenient location here. As always, my Senate office is at your service to provide guidance and assistance to Iowans encountering delays with passport applications. To assist you, a consent form is required to look into your



case. Fill out the form found on my website <https://www.grassley.senate.gov>. Go to the Services tab and click Help With Federal Agencies. Although my office can't guarantee a desired outcome, we'll do what we can to help Iowans obtain passports in time.

**Q: What advice do you have for Iowans planning a trip to Washington, D.C.?**

**A:** I encourage Iowans to put a visit to the nation's capital on your family vacation list. Visiting the seat of our federal government offers Iowans of all ages an opportunity to immerse themselves in history, architecture, museums, monuments and more. For Iowa veterans and family members of service members, the war memorials on the National Mall between the Lincoln Memorial and the U.S. Capitol are particularly meaningful. The demand for tours is ramping back up, and I advise families to plan as far ahead as possible. Tours may be requested through my office up to six months in advance for certain attractions. Iowans can go to my website, [grassley.senate.gov](https://www.grassley.senate.gov) to fill out a tour request form and find links to popular destinations in Washington, such as the Smithsonian Museums, Arlington National Cemetery and the Holocaust Memorial Museum. This summer my Senate office started a first-of-its-kind walking tour of the Capitol grounds. Senate Majority Leader Schumer and Speaker Pelosi have extended COVID-19 restrictions that continue to limit access inside the U.S. Capitol, and that's disappointing for Iowans who travel halfway across the country to visit. I've urged them to expand access sooner, rather than later. In the meantime, members of my staff will conduct walking tours two times a week of the Capitol grounds so Iowans can learn about the history and architecture of the building and ask questions about the people's branch of the federal government. The hour-long walking tours are available Tuesday and Thursday mornings at 10:30 a.m., except Federal holidays. Iowans can reserve a spot on the walking tour at [grassley.senate.gov/services/visiting-dc/tour-request-form](https://grassley.senate.gov/services/visiting-dc/tour-request-form).

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



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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# THE RED OAK Express

Dedicated to Freedom Since 1868

ISSN 0747-3281

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

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WHO WE ARE

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

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

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



**Community Calendar**

**14 July**

8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Bible Reading Marathon, Montgomery County Courthouse lawn, 105 E. Coolbaugh St.  
Noon. SCORE webinar, "Ask an Expert - Retail Strategies that Address Supply Chain, Automated Technology, Social Commerce and More." Go to [omaha.score.org/content/take-workshop-242](https://www.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.

**15 July**

5:30 p.m., Alcoholics Anonymous, Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 1101 Summit St.  
6-9 p.m., Vinyl Night with Dan Crouse at Five One 8, 518 N. 4th St.  
7 p.m., "Downtown Abbey: A New Era," theatre #1; "The Bob's Burgers Movie," theatre #2; Red Oak Grand Theatre.

**16 July**

9 a.m. to noon, Red Oak Farmers Market, Fountain Square Park.  
7 p.m., "Downtown Abbey: A New Era," theatre #1; "The Bob's Burgers Movie," theatre #2; Red Oak Grand Theatre.

**17 July**

2 and 7 p.m., "Downtown

Abbey: A New Era," theatre #1; "The Bob's Burgers Movie," theatre #2; Red Oak Grand Theatre.  
5:30 p.m., Alcoholics Anonymous, Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 1101 Summit St.

**18 July**

12:30 p.m. Bingo, Red Oak Senior Center, 2700 N. 4th St. Call 712-623-3497 or Carolyn 402-926-8683 for more information.  
5:30 p.m., Red Oak School Board meeting, Red Oak Junior/Senior High School, or via Zoom.  
7 p.m., Alcoholics Anonymous, Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 1101 Summit St.

**19 July**

8:30 a.m., Montgomery County Supervisors, North Meeting Room in courthouse basement, open to public.  
Noon, SCORE webinar, "Ask an Expert - Solutions to the Challenges of Rural Business Ownership." Go to [omaha.score.org/content/take-workshop-242](https://www.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.

**20 July**

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.



**Val's Sugar Shack open for business**

Val's Sugar Shack at 601 N. 3rd St. is now open for business. Hours of operation are from 6 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday. Pictured at left is Val Glenn, owner/operator. Cake decorations are done by Rayna Putnam, and Glenn is assisted in the business by her granddaughter, Harley Magers and fiancée, Norman McDonald. The cherry/apple/blueberry turnovers and cheeseburgers are very popular menu items. Call 623-0050 or visit the Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/valsugars shack> for more information. (Nick Johansen/The Red Oak Express)

**Elks add two members**



The Red Oak Elks Lodge #1304 initiated two new members on June 20. Pictured are, from left: Macy Baker and Jennifer Latham. (Photo submitted)

**Summer lunch available**

Multiple area school districts are offering summer meal options throughout the summer.  
Red Oak's summer lunch program runs until Aug. 12, and is available Monday through Friday. There are no income guidelines and it is available to all children age 18 and under.  
Free breakfast and lunch is only available to students who are currently in the summer enrichment program.  
At Inman, breakfast is served each day from 7:30 to 8 a.m., and lunch from 11:30 a.m. to noon. At the Red Oak Jr./Sr./High School, breakfast is available from 7:30 to 8 a.m., and lunch from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Anyone with questions or looking for cost information can contact Katie VanMeter at [kvanmeter@opafoods.com](mailto:kvanmeter@opafoods.com).

At the Villisca Campus, meals are free to all children age 18 and under, and the cost for adults to eat is \$4. The Villisca summer lunch program runs until Aug. 5 at the Villisca Middle School cafeteria.  
There are no preregistration requirements, and everyone is welcome to come and be served.  
There is no summer lunch program being offered at the East Mills School District; however, any students under the age of 18 are eligible for a free breakfast and a snack, from now until Aug. 12.  
Hours of operation are from 7:45 a.m. to 11 a.m., at the East Mills elementary cafeteria.  
There is no summer lunch at Stanton or Essex.

**Adams named to dean's list**

Charli Adams, of Elliott, was named to the Hamline University dean's list for the spring 2022 term.  
To qualify, students must

earn a GPA of 3.5 or higher and complete a minimum of 16 credits graded on the standard letter-grade scale for the term.

**Shelter meeting next week**

Heart of South West Iowa Animal Coalition will be holding another meeting in regards opening an animal shelter in Red Oak. The meeting will be held at 5:30 p.m. on July 20 at Stadium 34 at 1200 Senate Ave., in the Johnson room. All are welcome to attend.

**Vacation Bible School event**

Area youth are invited to take part in a special vacation Bible school event next week.  
The Red Oak First Covenant, First Presbyterian, and First Methodist churches have teamed up to host the event.  
The churches are inviting all kids age kindergarten through 6th grade to Zoom into Fun at the Zoomerang Vacation Bible School at 211 Hammond St. Hours are from 5:30 to 8:15 p.m. on July 20-22.  
On Saturday, July 23, hours are 9:30 a.m. to noon.

**Happy Birthday!**

Celebrating birthdays are:

- Bob Kinser - June 14
- Boston O'Flynn - June 15
- Emily Doty - June 17
- Tom Calnan - June 18
- Goldie Adams - June 18
- Hayden Hietbrink - June 18
- Jacob Uhlmann - June 19

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.

**Happy Anniversary!**

Celebrating their anniversaries this week are:

- Butch and Marilyn Neligh - July 15
- Bob and Peggy Boeye - July 16
- James and Norma Marsh - July 17

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.

**Senior Menu**

Thursday, July 14: Beef hamburger on a bun, hamburger dills, oven roasted potatoes, baked beans, pudding, milk/coffee.  
Friday, July 15: Chicken and dumplings, whipped potatoes, mixed vegetables, bread slice, applesauce, milk/coffee.  
Monday, July 18: Beef goulash, tossed spinach salad with dressing, Texas toast, peach cobbler, milk/coffee.  
Tuesday, July 19: Ham and cheese sandwich, pasta salad, coleraw, pineapple tidbits, milk/coffee.  
Wednesday, July 20: Taco salad with seasoned ground beef, shredded lettuce, shredded cheese, diced tomatoes, diced onions, taco sauce, tortilla chips, pinto beans, pudding, milk/coffee.  
For more information, call the Senior Center at 623-3497 or Carolyn at 402-926-8683.  
Please call for reservations by 9:30 a.m. the day before you plan to eat lunch.

**CHURCH DIRECTORY**

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

**Assembly Of God**  
1005 Senate, Red Oak, 623-2174, Services, 10:30 a.m.

**Baptist**  
The Bridge (First Baptist Church), 406 N. 3rd St., Red Oak, Rev. Len Taylor, Worship, 11 a.m.  
Grace Baptist, 1510 N. 6th St., Red Oak, Gary D. Walters, Bible class, 10 a.m., Worship, 11 a.m., Worship, 6 p.m.; Wednesday, Prayer, 7 p.m.  
Grace Baptist, 525 Main St., Griswold, Victor Maxson, Bible study, 10 a.m., Worship, 11 a.m. **Online:** 11 a.m. livestream.

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

**Catholic**  
St. Joseph's, 131 W. High, Villisca, Father Eze Venantius Umunnakwe, Sunday Mass, 8:30 a.m.  
St. Mary's, 1510 Highland Ave., Red Oak, Father Lazarus Kirigia, Saturdays, 5 p.m. (1st, 3rd, 5th Saturday); Sunday, 10:30 a.m., in Spanish, 1 p.m.

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

**Christian & Missionary Alliance**  
Citylight Southwest Iowa, 705 Bradford, Emerson. Co-lead pastors Matt Keller, Tyler Mass. Worship with children's church, 10 a.m. in-person gathering. **Online:** 10 a.m. live on Facebook.  
Faith Community, 2701 N. 8th St., Red Oak, Rev. David MacDonald, Worship, 9 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. Sunday School for kindergarten-adults, 10:45 a.m. Wednesday activities: JUMP, Pre-K grade 4, 4-5:20 p.m. or 6-7:20 p.m. SHOUT, grades 5-6, 4-5:30 p.m. EXIT, grades 7-12, 7-8:30 p.m. **Online:** 9 a.m. on KCSI, 9 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. Facebook, also YouTube/Red Oak Faith Community Church.

**Church Of Christ**  
Church Of Christ, Elliott, Sunday Bible School, 9 a.m., Worship, 10 a.m., Men's and Women's Bible study and breakfast, first Sunday of the month at 7:30 a.m.  
River of Life Church, Hwy. 48 North, Red Oak, Minister David Haynes, Sunday School 9 a.m., Worship, 10 a.m.

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

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

**Jehovah's Witness**  
210 Argus Road, Shenandoah, Thursday, 7:30 p.m.; Sunday, 10 a.m., public Bible discourse.

**Lutheran**  
Bethesda Lutheran, Rural Clarinda, Worship 9:30 a.m. Worship, Sunday School 10:30 a.m.  
Bethlehem Lutheran, 1101 Summit St., Red Oak, Rev. Jennifer Yeske-Drown, Sunday worship, 11 a.m., evening service 4 p.m.  
Strand Evangelical, Rural Villisca, Rev. Marietta Nelson-Bittle, Worship, 9:45 a.m.  
Fremont Lutheran (Nyman), 1147 Ironwood Ave, Red Oak, Pastor Ann Albert, Worship, 9:30 a.m., Sunday School, 10:30 a.m.  
Mamrelund Lutheran, 410 Eastern Ave., Stanton, Rev. Eric Kutzli, Worship, 9:30 a.m. with no Sunday School. **Online:** 9:30 a.m. FMTC Cable Channel 1, also live on Facebook.  
Mt. Calvary, 107 S. 5th, Villisca, Jerome Wagoner, Worship, 9:00 a.m.  
Tabor Lutheran, 1711 Q Ave., Stanton, Worship, 8:15 a.m., Sunday School, 9:15 a.m.  
Peace Lutheran, (A WELS Congregation), 411 Church St., Shenandoah, Saturday Worship, 5:30 p.m.; Bible and Sunday School, 6:30 p.m.

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

**Presbyterian**  
Center Ridge, 1546 N. 110th St., Red Oak, Caryn Pedersen, Worship 1 p.m., two times a month. Call 623-9023 for more information.  
First Presbyterian, 109 S. 3rd Ave., Villisca, Rev. Sandra Wainwright, Sunday School, 9:30 a.m., Worship, 10:30 a.m.  
Red Oak Presbyterian, 511 E. Coolbaugh, PO Box 402, Red Oak, Caryn Pedersen, [redoakpresbyterianchurch.com](http://redoakpresbyterianchurch.com), Service, 10:30 a.m. **Online:** 10:30 a.m. live on Facebook/Red Oak Presbyterian Church

**Reformed Evangelical**  
Heartland Sovereign Grace Church, new church plant. Bible study Sunday, 5 p.m., [www.swiacrec.com](http://www.swiacrec.com), contact@swiacrec.com.

**United Methodist**  
First United Methodist, 600 E. Hammond, Red Oak, Rev. Dr. Eric Sayonkon, Worship, Sunday, 10:30 a.m.; Youth group Wednesday 6:30-8 p.m., grades 6-12, snack is served. **Online:** 10:30 a.m. [fumcro.org](http://fumcro.org); click on the media tab to see previously recorded services.  
Wesley Chapel UMC, Rev. Carl Phillips, Worship, 8:45 a.m., Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.  
Red Oak Circuit, Linda Westerhold; Hawthorne, 1248 210th St., Red Oak, Worship, 10 a.m.; Stratton, 1695 150th St., Red Oak, Worship, 11:15 a.m. **Online:** 11:15 a.m. live on Facebook.  
Elliott United Methodist, Rev. Terry McClain, Sunday School, 9 a.m., Worship, 10 a.m. **Online:** 10 a.m. live on Facebook.  
Emerson United Methodist Church, Rev. Denise Stevens, 801 Bradford Ave., Emerson, (712) 824-7368, Sunday School, 9:30 a.m., Worship, 10:30 a.m.  
Grant United Methodist, Rev. Jenn Van Nostrand, Worship services, 9 a.m. **Online:** 9 a.m. live on Facebook  
United Methodist, 203 S. 3rd Ave., Villisca, Rev. Jenn Van Nostrand, Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Worship, 10:30 a.m. **Online:** 10:30 a.m. live on Facebook.  
Strahan United Methodist, Hastings, Rev. David Kwangki Kim, Worship, 9:30 a.m., Sunday School, 10:30 a.m.

**United Church Of Christ**  
First Congregational, 608 Reed St., Red Oak, Sunday Worship, 11:30

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## Cattlemen's Heritage Beef Company offers guaranteed shackle space at Mills County plant

Cattlemen's Heritage Beef Company has announced its intention to sell guaranteed shackle space for 10 years at its planned 1,500-head-per-day beef-processing facility in northwest Mills County in an effort to provide pricing stability for independent cattle producers in western Iowa, eastern Nebraska, southeastern South Dakota, northwestern Missouri, northeastern Kansas and southwestern Minnesota. The facility has been proposed for a parcel of land northwest of the Interstate 29-Highway 370 interchange.

"A daunting problem for beef producers, even after they've sold their livestock to a processor, has been the inability to know definitively what day their cattle will be accepted for harvest. All too often, that problem leads to added costs and reduced profits or even a loss for producers," said Chad Tentinger, the project's lead developer and a fourth-generation cattle producer. "Because a true producer-processor partnership and a mutually beneficial relationship are the cornerstone and foundation of the Cattlemen's Heritage business model, we know that our shackle space program is a win-win for everyone involved."

According to a Cattlemen's Heritage Beef Company press release, producers will be able to place a deposit of \$50 per shackle. Within 30 days of the company's construction loan closing, a final payment of \$200 per shackle would be required. Following the plant opening, which is tentatively scheduled for the first quarter of 2024, producers would receive a \$50 payout per delivery on each shackle that they have reserved. The \$50 annual payout would be in effect for 10 years, generating \$500 in revenue over the life of the agreement.

"Obviously, that's a two-to-one return on each shackle, which will help family farmers earn a better return on every head of livestock that they process through the Cattlemen's Heritage facility," Tentinger said.



Cattlemen's Heritage Beef Company noted that recent news reports indicate that 98% of marketable meat processed in the U.S. comes from "a mere 50 facilities." When pandemic-related plant closings were exacerbated by other crises, including fires and cyberattacks, states and the U.S. Department of Agriculture launched a range of efforts to encourage additional shackle space, the press release stated.

Trade organizations, including the National Cattlemen's Beef Association, have promoted a number of incentives to increase the amount and diversity of shackle space as well as competition within the processing industry.

Cattlemen's Heritage Beef Company is a corporation led by Tentinger, founder and owner of Ten Corp Inc., and an Iowa cattle producer. Tentinger hopes to provide a market for cattle raised by smaller, independent cattle producers. In June 2021, the company announced its plans to build the \$325 million beef processing facility in Mills County. The plant is projected to employ up to 750 workers.

## Public meeting on carbon pipeline

The Iowa Carbon Pipeline Resistance Coalition will co-host a public meeting on the dangers and damages of proposed CO2 pipelines from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Thursday, July 14 in the Firehouse Restaurant backroom.

The Firehouse Restaurant is located at 310 E. Washington Ave., Red Oak. Doors will open at 6 p.m.

This meeting will discuss the proposed Summit CO2 pipeline that would run through Montgomery, Page, Fremont and several other counties in the state.

This event is free and open to the public. Go to bit.ly/NoCo2Pipelines to reserve a space or call Iowa CCI's office at 515-255-0800.

This meeting is sponsored by the IPCRC (Iowa CCI, Sierra Club IA Chapter, Great Plains Action Society, 100 Grannies, Food & Water Watch, Science & Environmental Health Network)

## Below normal rainfall in Iowa for June

Iowa's June precipitation was 3.75 inches, 1.51 inches below normal for the month, according to the latest Water Summary Update.

An area of extreme drought returned to Iowa for the first time since August 2021, and drought conditions were deteriorating as the month ended. Streamflow, groundwater and soil moisture conditions are below normal in parts of Iowa.

"June rainfall in Iowa was below normal for the third month in a row. While we saw improvement in May, that

changed in June, especially in northwest Iowa, where some locations are more than 8 inches short of rainfall for the year," said Tim Hall, DNR's coordinator of hydrology resources. "Unfortunately, average monthly precipitation decreases as we move through summer into fall, but there is still an opportunity to improve conditions throughout the rest of the year."

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

## Public health to assume general assistance office duties

Nick Johansen  
The Red Oak Express

The Montgomery County Board of Supervisors has approved a proposal to staff the county's General Assistance office following the departure of administrator Sonia Jackson on July 8.

The Montgomery County General Assistance office helps clients assess their needs, does client referrals and coordinates with other community resources. The General Assistance office works closely with local organizations to insure non-duplication of services and to maximize resources for resolving local poverty issues.

Programs offered through Montgomery County General Assistance include emergency rent and utility assistance, emergency food assistance (works with local food pantries) and burial assistance for indigent clients. General Assistance also provides protective payee services through Social Security and notary services. They also have available applications for Southern Iowa Regional Housing Authority (SIRHA) and rent reimbursement claims.

Montgomery County Supervisor Donna Robinson said the Montgomery County Public Health office has agreed to take over the duties of that office, some of which are very important. MCPH administrator Samantha Beeson outlined some of the more important needs of the position that needed to be immediately handled.

"Sonia was the payee for the county for people taking part in State Supplemental Assistance, so there is a great need to get someone other than Sonia on the checking account of all these people so their bills can be paid and they can still get their money. If we don't have anyone lined up, then



Montgomery County Public Health administrator Samantha Beeson discusses assuming the duties of the General Assistance office with the Montgomery County Board of Supervisors. (Nick Johansen/The Red Oak Express)

everything will be frozen until someone is assigned to be the payee," Beeson said.

Beeson said Crystal Berkey, who currently works for MCPH as a clerk, was being suggested as the designee for the general assistance administrator position, and compensated in a way similar to Dan Wright, who serves as maintenance supervisor and the county sanitarian.

"In that case, whatever hours he works as a sanitarian comes out of that budget, and the rest of his salary comes out of maintenance, so in this case, Berkey's work as administrator for General Assistance would

be compensated from that budget and her MCPH hours out of our budget. That seemed to be the easiest way to keep the duties separated and will also show what money out of each budget is being spent on public health duties and general assistance duties," Beeson explained.

The Montgomery County Public Health Board approved the proposal, and it just needed approval from the Montgomery County Board of Supervisors in order to proceed. Beeson added that the arrangement was not set in stone, and could be modified later at the county's request.

"We can sit down in August or September and see how it's going and what needs to be modified. I'm certainly open to suggestions," commented Beeson.

Robinson said it was important to note that the proposal was not intended to undermine the importance of the administrator position.

"We're not making light of things or suggesting it's not important by not refilling it with a dedicated employee. We're working to absorb it a little bit as a cost savings to the county, but it will not be any less important to the people who are getting help from the department, and they will continue to get any and all assistance that they have gotten in the past," stated Robinson.

Additionally, Robinson wanted to express her appreciation to Jackson for her dedicated service to the county.

"Sonia has served more than 20 years in this position, and she's done a really good job with it over the years, and I appreciate Samantha and her office stepping up to help the county moving forward," Robinson said.

The supervisors unanimously approved a motion to assume the duties of the general assistance position as presented.

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IOWA NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION

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All Iowa public notices in one place... free, searchable and online

Dear family and friends of Pat Maher... Thank you!

We wish to send to you a very heartfelt and sincere THANK YOU for all of the cards, hugs, calls, text messages, comments shared on Facebook, flowers/plants, memorials, food, and for the genuine love and support of your heartfelt condolences for our dear mom and grandma.

Thank you to Dawn and Brian at NBL funeral chapel and to those of you who served your part at mom's services, including those involved with the luncheon! Thank you!

Even though there is great sadness, there is much happiness to know of the positive impact she made on so many lives! There is a unanimous consensus that her laughter, smile, warmth, and genuine care of the human spirit (including four-legged creatures) made an unknown difference in many lives.

A consistent theme was that of a wonderful human being!

Keep sharing mom's spirit! Be kind to one another! Do what Pat would do... smile, talk, and care... truly care! Everyone matters!

We care for you and we thank you for sharing in the life of our dear mom and grandma. Thank you for your continued love and support!

Very Sincerely,  
Mike, Kim, Kristi, and families.

## CUPBOARD

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A

In addition to Christ's Cupboard, the next Live Well Montgomery County Mobile pantry will be July 27 beginning at 3 p.m. at the Montgomery County Fairgrounds. Mobile pantries are also scheduled for Sept. 28 and Nov. 16, said

Live Well Montgomery County Director Laura Kloewer.

"We are starting to harvest from our community gardens and will be distributing fresh produce throughout the county at the food pantries. Recently, we were able to take lettuce, radishes and zucchini to Christ's Cupboard," said Kloewer. "Prices are high and it's hard for a lot of folks right now. Live Well Montgomery County is committed to continuing to

assist where we can to fill gaps and support existing programming as it relates to food insecurity."

Like Christ's Cupboard, Kloewer said the mobile pantry is also seeing an increase in what is needed.

"Our mobile pantry events have always been successful, but we are seeing to a lot of new faces at these events. We hope to continue the Mobile Pantries through 2023, but we don't have anything finalized yet."

### Christ's Cupboard Needs

- Soups of all kinds
- Pasta sauce
- Pasta
- Canned fruit
- Canned vegetables
- Pork and beans
- Tuna
- Boxed mac and cheese
- Rice
- Ramen noodles
- Long spaghetti
- Peanut butter
- Cereal of all kinds
- Toilet paper
- Laundry soap
- Toothpaste

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## A Junction Days 2022 recap - All roads did lead home



Kesandra Pullen  
Events and Marketing  
Coordinator

Nearly everyone who has lived in or regularly visited Red Oak has the memory of rounding a corner or coming over a hill and suddenly being able to see our signature orange water tower.

Whether Red Oak was your home in the past, is your home now, or maybe you are considering Red Oak as a potential new home, this idea that all roads eventually lead home was our inspiration for Junction Days 2022. Junction Days is the prime opportunity for the community to embrace one another and to celebrate the relationships and memories we have, or those to come,

with our families, friends, and alumni. And that is just what everyone did this last weekend in June is come together, embrace community, and have a fantastic time overall!

If you were in Red Oak over the Junction Days weekend you know we had some amazing weather, except for a short sprinkle

mid-day on Saturday.

For those who came out for the grand parade, the downtown events, ROAR, and all the other activities over the weekend, we thank you for your participation. Even with the short sprinkle we had on Saturday, Red Oak 2022 Junction Days was still a giant success!

There are so many individuals, organizations, businesses, city employees, and others to thank, and because Junction Days is truly a community event it isn't possible without everyone's cooperation and hard work.

I know we may sound like a broken record thanking everyone again, but with this being my first year on this side of Junction Days, it has been an eye opening and exhilarating experience to really see and understand how many hands it takes to put on an event of this size.

This is just one of the many reasons why I love small town America, especially Red Oak, because when we come together, we do anything we set our minds to!

I have a few snippets I want to share from Junction Days. I know the rain on Saturday slowed some of our events down a bit, but I was thrilled to see that some of our food vendors were sold out before the rain ushered the masses inside.

Plus, we have heard from local businesses that the rain might

have stopped the outdoor activities, but they were thrilled to see how many came inside to eat, shop, and enjoy some of the indoor facilities our community boasts!

On top of that our brave Minute to Win It contestants didn't even want to stop due to the rain. They were willing to power through and compete rain or shine, and if it hadn't been for our sound system getting too wet, we would have gladly let them. If you missed the fun of the high intensity timed competition, be sure to come down and participate next year.

We had some registered for Minute to Win It from as far away as California.

Overall, Junction Days weekend was a great afternoon with great people. We want everyone to be aware that the Chamber is always open to new ideas and events, but those who bring us ideas need to be willing to help make it a possibility.

The chamber's office can't take on everything ourselves, but we can help you champion a fun new activity or idea for the community. Thank you all again to all our amazing sponsors, volunteers, chairs, and everyone for participating and continuing this amazing tradition of Junction Days.

### We couldn't have done it without our volunteers - Thank you!

Aaron West  
Al Thole  
Batten Sanitation  
Boy Scouts  
Brock Bucy  
Connie Dentlinger  
Dan Pollock  
Darrell Bucy  
David Pullen  
Drew Swanson  
Fareway Meat & Grocery  
Finch & Lilac Photography - Laura Kloewer  
First Interstate Bank  
First United Methodist Church  
Greg Brower  
Houghton State Bank  
Joe's Portables  
Josh & Brittany Prokupek  
KCSI  
Kerry Carlson  
Larry and Faye Brandstetter  
Mark and Marsha Benda  
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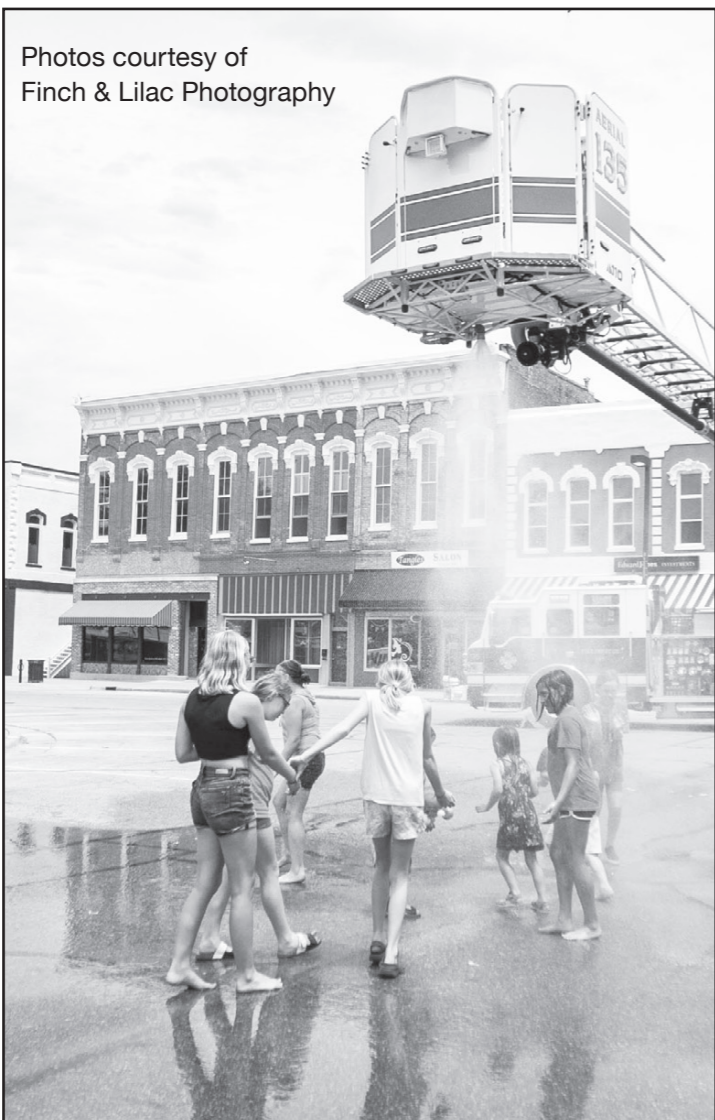
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# Input on Community Based Services wanted

The Department of Human Services (DHS) has partnered with researchers at Mathematica to conduct a system wide assessment of community-based services for people with behavioral health, disability and aging needs.

Community-based services are the services you need to stay in your home and neighborhood rather than an institutional setting. This may include case management, personal care, home health care and transportation. The assessment seeks to understand how people access and use these services through Medicaid and other programs. By early 2023, the research team expects to make recommendations to enhance and improve service delivery.

With their partner, The Harkin Institute, the research team is currently gathering input from invested Iowans across the state in two ways:

First, Iowans can share their experiences with community-based services in a feedback form available at CommunityServicesIowa.com. The form will accept responses through Aug. 31.

Second, the research team is hosting listening sessions across the state with people who receive community-based services, their families, caregivers and providers. Outreach teams will host the sessions at several locations in Southwest Iowa in October. Locations include: Atlantic, Clarinda, Council Bluffs, Creston, and Shenandoah.

Listening session participants will receive a \$25 gift card for their time. They can also receive a \$10 gift card to help cover travel and childcare costs. Most sessions will be in English, with options for American Sign Language and Communication Access Realtime Translation.

Anyone interested in participating in an in-person or virtual session in your area, they must register, as session space is limited. They can sign up by emailing harkinoutreach@drake.edu or call (515) 271-3688.

The Iowa Department of Human Services looks forward to input through these important opportunities to advance service delivery across the state.

## BOARD

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A

"They'll probably be involved in the community meetings anyway, but we've had a lot of conversations about facilities and those kinds of issues, and I'm hoping we could find a way to blend those meetings so those members can continue to feel like they're part of the process," Lorenz said.

O'Neal told the board they they could involve any groups or individuals needed as part of the process.

The board also approved a resolution transferring up to \$15,000 from the district's general fund to the activity fund to purchase protective and safety equipment, per Iowa Code.

Also approved was the renewal of a Microsoft licensing agreement for the district, including Microsoft 365 licensing and server licensing, as well as the renewal of Brightly software for the district.

# Gas and diesel prices are the main contributors to inflation high

**Bruce Shultz**  
Vice President,  
National Farmers Organization

Around the globe, people are feeling the pain of inflation, currently at a 40-year high. The main contributor is gas and diesel prices. In today's global economy, goods are moved across America, as well the world. The price rise in fuel has led to a spike in the cost of everything we produce and buy.

Factors leading to this economic hardship include recovering economies from COVID-19 shutdown(s) because of pandemic restrictions. For nearly two years, air travel was significantly lower. Canadian CTV News reported in May of 2020, more than 17,000 airplanes were parked indefinitely worldwide. Many people were either working from home or not working at all. Of course, the lack of commuter traffic lowered oil demand even further.

This reduction in fuel consumption caused big oil companies to change their operational philosophy. They decided to no longer pri-

oritize repairing refineries, and in some cases shut them down indefinitely. Now, let's take a look at big oil pre-pandemic, in June 2019. A Sunoco refinery outside of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania caught fire.

This was the oldest continually running refinery in the U.S., and it was subsequently shut down and the property was sold. It erased 175,000 barrels per day from the production equation. In 2021, Hurricane Ida also contributed to the closing of several refineries in the Gulf Coast area. Phillips 66 decided to shut down its Belle Chasse, Louisiana facility and not replace the lost production of 255,000 barrels per day.

In the past two years, there have been eight other refineries shut down totaling about one million barrels per day. Yet what we hear from big oil companies is that they are producing as much as they can. They seem to be engaging in what many of us believe was happening all along, collusion. This time it is not just the price, but cutting production that keeps prices soaring at the pump.

Analysts report oil entities are making record profits. Why would they want to change the system? Those same companies insist they

lost billions during the pandemic, and are simply trying to recoup their losses. However, I own some oil stocks in my IRA. During the pandemic, I still was paid quarterly dividends.

If they were losing money, where did all this cash come from that was being paid to shareholders? Apparently from the cash they had banked in accounts from past profits.

In January 2021, the price of a barrel of oil was about \$52. Gas per gallon as a national average was \$2.39. Federal taxes accounted for 18.4 cents per gallon and the average of four midwestern states accounts for 26.1 cents per gallon of state tax.

When you subtract 44.5 cents per gallon of taxes, \$1.94 per gallon remains. On June 30, 2022, a barrel of crude oil was \$106. AAA reports an average June 28 gasoline pump price of \$4.86. Subtract the taxes and you end up with \$4.41 per gallon. Big oil companies did not see all their inputs double, including wages for refinery workers. I don't begrudge anyone for making a profit, which every successful business must do. However, it seems to me that profits should not be made at the expense of society.

# IFBF seeks 'Grow Your Future' award applicants

Iowa Farm Bureau Federation (IFBF) is seeking applications for the next "Grow Your Future" Award winner. This competition, reserved for IFBF members ages 18-35, is for entrepreneurs with a farming-related niche or specialty business.

First, second and third place finalists will receive \$7,500, \$5,000 and \$2,500, respectively, to expand their businesses. To apply, submit an application and short video to iowafarmbureau.com/growyourfuture.

"To make the family farm work, a majority of today's young farmers have off-farm income," says IFBF President Brent Johnson. "We have seen ingenious ideas result from that situation. Iowa agriculture is incredibly diverse, and past Grow Your Future Award participants exemplify that. Farmers in this contest have raised crickets for human consumption, developed successful direct-to-consumer markets and helped further Iowa's water quality goals through custom cover crop services. Our goal is to help the next generation of farmers excel in whatever method of farming they choose."

Up to 10 entrepreneurs will be selected from the applicant pool and then narrowed down by public vote. Those who emerge from the vote will compete in a pitch-off during the 2023 Young Farmer Conference on Jan. 28, 2023, where the top three placings will be announced.

The winners of the 2022 Grow Your Future Award, in order, were Lillie Beringer of Beringer Family Farms, Jade Moret of Holland Flower Farm and Melissa Nelson of Hungry Canyon.

"The Grow Your Future Award allowed me to share my story and financially take my beef sales to the next level with increased freezer space," says 2022 first-place winner, Lillie Beringer. "I enjoyed networking with like-minded, young farmer entrepreneurs and was truly humbled by the opportunity and constant support."

# Firefighters called to new Family Dollar/Dollar Tree location

Red Oak Firefighters responded to a fire call at the Family Dollar/Dollar Tree at 1205 N. Broadway at 4:19 p.m. July 7.

According to Red Oak fire chief John Bruce, firefighters were dispatched to the scene in regards to a reported sound of an explosion with the smell of smoke being inside the building. The building was evacuated as a precaution.

Fire crews arrived on scene and reported nothing showing. The aerial was deployed to the roof so that the HVAC's systems could be examined - no issue was

located with those units. Law enforcement on scene stated there was an odor of smoke and possible light haze within the structure. The interior was examined, including circuit breakers, water heating system, cooling units, etc., with nothing showing indications of malfunction of failure of equipment.

Fire crews remained on scene for approximately half an hour. The structure contained no smoke and with all systems being checked with thermal imaging cameras, as well as the fire notification system holding in the normal operational mode - the structure was ultimately turned

back over to management and advised to call if anything changed. No injuries were reported to emergency services personnel or citizens.

The Red Oak Fire Department wishes to extend its appreciation to the store staff, management personnel, and patrons that evacuated the building and assisted fire crew personnel as needed.

The Fire Department was also assisted at the scene by the Red Oak Police Department, Montgomery County Sheriff's Office, and Montgomery County Communications.

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JULY 15-17

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**DOWNTON ABBEY / A NEW ERA**

The Crawley family goes on a grand journey to uncover the mystery of the dowager countess's newly inherited villa.  
PG

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A ruptured water main creates a sinkhole right in front of the business. The family helps each other to keep the doors open.  
PG-13

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