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# THE RED OAK Express

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Tuesday, Jan. 18, 2022 • Vol. 155, No. 3



A Red Oak Police Officer and an Iowa State Trooper walk along N. Broadway in Red Oak Tuesday, Jan. 11, following a pedestrian fatality accident the evening before. (Tess Nelson/Red Oak Express)

## Can redemption possible despite NPI's can closure

Tess Nelson  
The Red Oak Express

When Nishna Productions announced the closing of its redemption center at the end of 2021, it wasn't welcome news in the area.

In fact, two Red Oak organizations that rely heavily on the redemption center, the Optimists and Rotary Club, began scrambling to find alternative plans.

The Optimists and Rotary share a can donation area in the Red Oak Fareway parking lot. On even months, the Optimists redeem the cans and during the odd months, the Rotary redeems the cans. Both organizations use the funds from the can redemption as a way to support various school and community-minded events.

Tom Bronk heads up the can redemption for Red Oak Optimists, along with Doug Tye. Bronk said they have made plans to work with the Glenwood Resource Center for can redemption with NPI's closure.

"They bring a big truck and get whatever they can in there," Bronk said. "We weren't surprised when NPI announced they'd be closing; it was in the makings for years."

He added the annual pork chop supper and the can redemption are the two main ways the Optimists obtain funding.

Red Oak Rotary Club President Tim Fridolph said they have yet to come up with a concrete plan for can redemption.

"We've tried to get in contact with the Glenwood Resource Center, but we also don't want to overwhelm them," Fridolph said. "There's talk of a can redemption center in Shenandoah as well, so we will look into that avenue as well."

Considering the refund from redeeming cans, Fridolph said their decision has to make financial sense logistically.

He added the funds from the can redemption played a big role in the purchase of the Red Oak Rotary Welcome LED sign near the Law Enforcement Center.

"The donation we made toward the Red Oak Grand Theatre ticket booth came from can money. It is essentially our lifeblood. The events we hold, like the Daddy-Daughter dance, they aren't fundraisers, but more of a wash. Everything we do is solely based on these cans."

Like Bronk, Fridolph said Rotarians weren't surprised by the NPI redemption center closure, either.

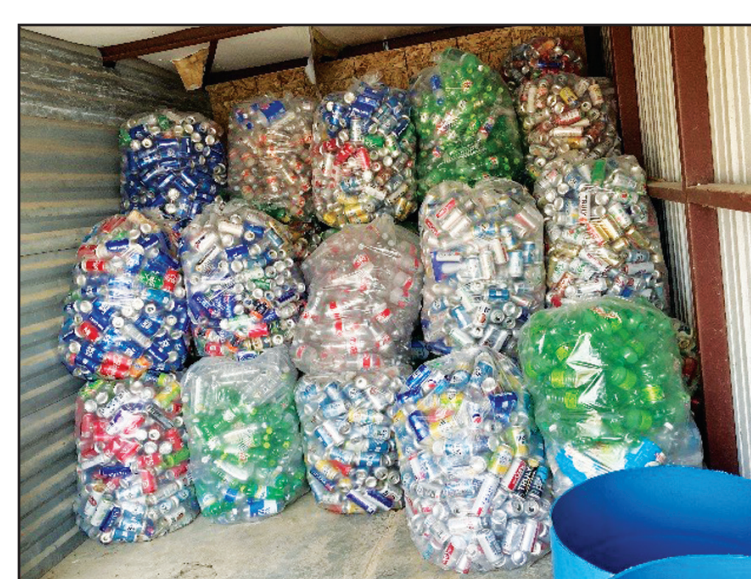
"This is a conversation that has been taking place for a long time. We all knew it was going to happen at some point, we just didn't know when."

"Over the years, Nishna Productions, Inc. has had a great working relationship with both the Rotary and Optimists Clubs in Red Oak," said NPI Development Specialist Emily Martin. "The Rotarians, especially, were generous in donating their time when the Redemption Center was full and the can sorting process was backed up. When NPI had to close the Redemption Center for a few days to get caught up, a group of five or more Rotarians could be found on Saturday afternoons sorting cans to help NPI staff sort cans."

Martin added Container Recovery, Inc. from Des Moines has offered an alternative process for redemption in Red Oak.

"Doug Webb, CRINC CEO-President, met with Sherri Clark, executive director of Nishna Productions, Inc., and Shawna Silvius, Red Oak mayor, last month. Webb would like to bring in a building where community members can drop off their redeemable items. This building would be an unmanned site," Martin explained. "Here's how it would work: Community members would register on CRINC's site and be assigned a barcode. The barcode would then need to be printed and attached to any bags of cans and bottles. The barcode would be required to unlock the door at the redemption building and would allow the community

CANS, Page 10A



The storage facility used by members of the Red Oak Optimists to store cans and bottles. (Photo by Tom Bronk)

## Pedestrian killed by officer responding to stove fire

Tess Nelson  
The Red Oak Express

An unthinkable accident occurred around 5:55 p.m. Monday, Jan. 10, near the intersection of North Broadway Street and Joy Street in Red Oak.

As Red Oak Police Officer Reece Anderson, 22, was responding northbound on North Broadway Street to a stove fire at Acorn Acres, with lights and siren activated, he struck 12-year-old Vana Marie Redd with the 2019 Dodge Durango he was driving.

According to the Iowa State Patrol crash

report, Redd ran into the roadway and sustained fatal injuries from the impact.

The accident remains under investigation by the Iowa State Patrol. No further information was released.

Redd's viewing and visitation will be held from 5 to 7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 18, at Sellergren-Lindell-DeMarce Funeral Home in Red Oak.

In lieu of flowers, an account has been set up at Houghton State Bank for her funeral expenses.

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

Officer Anderson is on administrative leave pending the investigation.

## Community mourns loss of Vana

Tess Nelson  
The Red Oak Express

The community of Red Oak is mourning the loss of Vana Redd, 12, who died tragically in a pedestrian traffic accident Monday evening, Jan. 10.

Melissa Shirley, Vana's aunt, described her as being free spirited and loving. Shirley said Vana and her siblings came to Red Oak to live with them in August. Their mother, Holly, had passed away in 2019.

"Coming to Red Oak was awesome for her," Shirley said. "She likes small town life. That night she just wanted to go get a bag of chips and a soda. You just don't think she won't walk back through the front door."

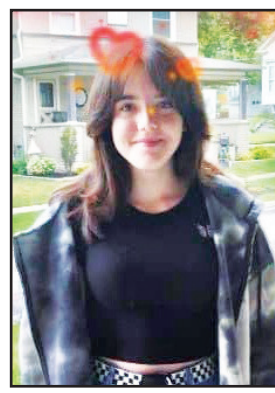
Shirley added Vana was doing very well in school and had made a lot of friends.

"She was truly happy here. The last six months had brought her so much joy; being here she was able to be a kid, a happy kid."

Vana and her siblings, Gracie, Jack and Lemuel, reside with Melissa and James Shirley and their children. Holly was James' younger sister. The Shirleys have lived in Red Oak since 2011.

"We are in awe over the support of the community. It is as though they are grieving with us," Melissa said.

Gracie, 15, said Vana was extremely



Vana Redd (Photo provided)

funny and liked to joke around.

"She was absolutely hilarious. She liked to joke around," Gracie recalled.

Vana liked music, mainly that from Beyonce, Doja Cat, Cardi B and Nikki Minaj. She liked watching TikTok and scary stories on YouTube. She also liked reading, although she somewhat kept it

under wraps, said Gracie.

"She liked Red Oak. She liked being able to walk all over town. She thought it was beautiful here. We had our arguments like siblings do, but she was my best friend," Gracie said. "She loved art. She loved her friends at school, she talked about them all the time. She was goofy; if she didn't know you, she could be shy, but otherwise she was goofy. She was like my mom, 100 percent. She was amazing."

Vana had a sweet tooth, but also liked fruit and smoothies. When she grew up she wanted to be a SWAT team member or a scientist, Gracie shared.

"The support has been great. It is overwhelming. Vana was a social, loving person and I feel like everybody is filling that void right now; like the community is trying to fill in that missing piece," Gracie said. "There is so much to remember about her."

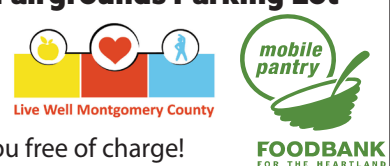


**Mobile Food Pantry**  
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Distribution Time: 3:30pm

No line up before 2:00 p.m.



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## Bell schedule change approved by school board

Nick Johansen

The Red Oak Express

The Red Oak School Board has approved a change to the district's 2022-23 schedule for the next school year.

Superintendent Ron Lorenz felt the change from a block schedule to a traditional bell schedule would help provide greater continuity and learning retention for kids and benefit instructors as well.

"This will allow our teachers to be more focused on instruction and allow them to cover more material, by them spending less time reviewing coursework. Also, it will reduce the negative impact of student absences. Also, our hope is that by reducing the time spend on one course per day, it will help eliminate boredom or lack of focus," explained Lorenz.

Another big reason for the proposed change is that the Iowa Department of Education has encouraged the district to provide at least 45 minutes daily of literacy and math instruction as part of the district's multi-tiered system of supports.

"Since we have been identified as a targeted district, we have to do whatever we can to close those achievement gaps for our students, and this is one of the things we're going to do to achieve that."

The board approved the schedule change from block scheduling to a traditional bell schedule.

The board also discussed some changes to the district's upcoming 2022-23 course description handbook.

Lorenz said the course book was important, because it allows the district to start the course enrollment process.

"One of the big things is that we've looked at generating some higher-level course offerings for kids, so we want to provide some advanced placement course offerings. They are contingent on college approval and teacher availability, but as of now, we're very optimistic that we'll be able to offer AP language and composition, AP calculus, and AP world history," Lorenz said.

"The process of getting kids registered, and getting kids

signed up for classes is contingent on this, so once it's approved, our counselors can start meeting with kids and fine-tuning schedules," commented Lorenz.

The AP courses will be more rigorous and in-depth, and in order for the students to obtain college credit, the students must take the AP exam. The district is qualified to issue the AP exams, though the district has to prepare by training the teachers, and getting kids enrolled.

"As an example, depending on the test score, they'll obtain college credit. My son took two classes, and he had to get a 3 on both tests. He got a three on one and a two on another, so he only got credit for one class, so one of the challenges for us is to change people's thinking. I'm sure we have some students who are reluctant to take more rigorous classes, so we're looking for ways to honor kids that elect to take these classes," stated Lorenz.

Also, it's unknown if the district would have to pay to give the AP tests. Lorenz said they are still early in the process, and it's a conversation the district's administration has not had yet. Also, Lorenz said they had two instructors in the district interested in teaching the AP courses who simply needed further training.

One other change was the Minisingers, which was now going to be offered as an elective music course, rather than a side program. This change was due to the shifting from a block schedule to an eight-period school day.

The board approved the changes to the district's course description handbook as presented.

The board also approved a resolution authorizing the redemption of general obligation school bonds. Lorenz said the resolution was procedural, as action had been taken last year by the board.

"Last spring the board authorized a surplus levy of \$4.05 in our FY 2022 budget to levy additional funds to prepay our 2018 general obligation bonds, so when they become callable in 2025, we'll have the opportunity to buy those down. At that time, we failed to obtain a formal resolution that would be executed and filed with the county auditor," Lorenz explained.

According to Lorenz, the surplus levy of \$145,000 is invested into escrow, and in June, 2025, they can pay down that amount, and continue to do so each year to give the district a bit more flexibility down the road. Lorenz said it was a simple procedural error and was something they were looking to correct.

The board approved the resolution authorizing the redemption of general obligation school bonds.

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## WCCA requests financial support from county

Nick Johansen

The Red Oak Express

The Montgomery County Board of Supervisors is considering another funding request from West Central Community Action.

Executive director Wendy Mueller spoke before the supervisors at its regular meeting Jan. 11 and praised them for their continued support of the organization.

"Your funding really allows for us to provide services in Montgomery County at the highest level, and we are requesting \$3,000, the same amount as last year," Mueller said.

Mueller added she had submitted a 28-E agreement that needed the signatures of the chairman and County Auditor Stephanie Burke in order to receive the funding.

Supervisor Donna Robinson said she had received the agreement in October 2021, but that it would need to be resubmitted and re-signed by newly-elected Chairman Mark Peterson and Burke.

Mueller outlined the areas the funding would be used for moving into 2022.

"We'll be distributing it in our outreach offices, local match requirements for any programs we serve in

Montgomery County, and any additional funding needs that we have to administer programs in Montgomery County," commented Mueller.

Additionally, Mueller expressed her appreciation for the work Supervisor Charla Schmid had been doing on their board of directors.

Mueller said last year, the organization provided a lot of support and served a number of people in the area.

"We served a total of 469 households, which consisted of more than 1,100 individuals. Of the households served, 43% were single-person, 62% were homes that had an income below 100 percent of the poverty guidelines, and 58% were on a fixed monthly income," said Mueller. "A total of 47% were between the ages of 18 to 59, and 53% of the households are owned, or are in the process of being bought."

West Central Community Action also provides Head Start, which promotes school readiness for children ages 3-5 who are from low-income families.

"That program really offers a variety of services, education, nutritional health, and social, and we operated two classrooms in Montgomery County. One served 16 children, and the other served 20 children. We also offer the Early Headstart program which provides services to infants, toddlers,

pregnant women, and their families in low-income situations, and we served a total of 19 children," advised Mueller.

West Central also provided weatherization services. A total of eight homes were weatherized with \$208,000 worth of services. The LIHEAP program also provided \$205,000 in services to Montgomery County residents. Services were also provided to 319 participants through the WIC program. Overall, a total of more than \$1.7 million in services were provided to Montgomery County residents.

Robinson said for the \$3,000 investment, the county got a lot back from West Central Community Action for the funding being requested. The funding request will be included in the ongoing budget discussions taking place by the supervisors.

In other business, the supervisors:

- Approved the sheriff's report of fees for December 2021, in the amount of \$15,901.
- Approved the Recorder's report of fees for December 2021, in the amount of \$22,513.
- Approved a tax transfer from rural services basic to secondary roads, in the amount of \$13,256.
- Approved a tax transfer from general basic to secondary roads, in the amount of \$741.

## February 1 is deadline to apply for MCCF grants

The Montgomery County Community Foundation reminds Montgomery County nonprofits that the deadline to apply for grant funds is Tuesday, Feb. 1. Applications are currently being accepted online for the spring grant cycle with approximately \$125,000 available to support Montgomery County nonprofit organizations and community projects.

Full application details, a fact sheet, and a link to the application form can be found online by selecting Montgomery County under County Listing at swiowafoundations.org.

Applications will only be accepted through the online system. Please note that there is a new grant application portal this cycle; all applicants will need to create a new account when first accessing the application.

This cycle of grants is made possible through the State of Iowa County Endowment Fund Program and is funded by a percentage of the state's commercial gaming tax revenue,

which is distributed annually to participating community foundations associated with counties without a state-issued gaming license. Only organizations providing services in Montgomery County are eligible to apply. They must be able to demonstrate broad community/county support and be an IRS-approved 501(c)(3) public charity, a local municipality, or a fiscally sponsored project.

For spring 2022, the Montgomery County Community Foundation will entertain requests for capital and program support. Requests for general operating support will not be considered.

Please contact Stacey Goodman (stacey@omahafoundation.org) or Sydney Calcagno (sydney@omahafoundation.org) at 800-794-3458 with application-related questions. All completed grant applications will be considered at the March board meeting, with applicants being notified of funding decisions by the end of March.

**Syphilis is on the rise in Iowa.**



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## Bruning announces her re-election as county recorder

Montgomery County Recorder Carleen Bruning has announced she is seeking reelection in the upcoming June 7 Primary Election and Nov. 8 General Election.

She has been employed in the Recorder's office for 23.5 years and has served as Montgomery County Recorder since 2006.

Bruning is a Certified Recorder and currently serves on the Iowa County Recorders Association's Certification Committee. She has also served several terms as President and Vice-President of District IV of the Iowa County Recorders Association.

A lifelong resident of Montgomery County, Bruning is a graduate of Stanton High School. She received her Associate of Arts degree from IWCC in Clarinda and her Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration



Bruning

from Bellevue University in Bellevue, Neb.

Bruning and her husband, Kenny, live on a farm north of Stanton. They have three children: Amy Sallach, her husband Jeff and their sons Cameron and Caden of Red Oak; Kelly Hill of Austin, Texas; and Kevin Bruning, his wife Jessie and their son Kase of Red Oak.

Carleen is a member of Mamelund Lutheran Church and the Women of the ELCA, American Legion Auxiliary #406, all of Stanton; Montgomery County Republican Women; Altrusa International of Red Oak, PEO HB and the Red Oak Grand Theatre Board, all of Red Oak.

"I am committed to staying current on legislative changes, procedural updates, administrative directives and program enhancements while remaining fiscally responsible. We continually strive to serve our customers with the highest level of professional customer service possible," Bruning said. "I am excited to implement our new digitalization project which will provide 24/7 online access to the real estate records in the Recorder's office."

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The Red Oak Express supports healthy community discourse and encourages readers to submit a letter to the editor. Letters must be signed and include a phone number for verification purposes.

VIEWPOINTS

THE TIME CAPSULE | ROY MARSHALL

A few fish through the ice

Two or three years ago I called a DNR fisheries biologist to ask what had happened to all the bullheads.

This was the favored fish of my parents, aunts and uncles. When a much younger wife and I moved to the Viking area our neighbors included Fred and Lucille Ludwigs.

They were a fine, friendly couple who sometimes went on all-night bullhead expeditions.

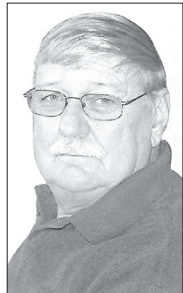
She showed my wife how she fried and canned the surplus for later use. Carroll Shissler, a friend from Red Oak, had a summer goal of catching, on a single outing, a five-gallon bucket of bullheads.

These he would clean while his wife packed them in freezer bags, eight or ten fish per, then filled with water and sealed to stack in the freezer. Five gallons was, Carroll said, about right for their winter supply.

The Express and other local newspapers had periodic articles disclosing that 5,000 or 10,000 bullheads had been released in one area lake or another. Bullheads were everywhere; now they are all but unheard of.

This, the biologist said, came about because people fish for different reasons now than then.

In the '70s, '60s and earlier they went for fun and food. Bullheads are members of the catfish family and, when taken from deep, relatively clean lakes, can be fried into a crisp, tasty main dish.



Then, in the '80s and '90s, fishermen began to feel that cleaning fish was just too much work and bother.

Today, he said, the great majority of those who fish have no idea of how to clean what they catch, and they're not interested in learning.

They spend liberally on the latest in equipment, hit the water in all manner of conveyances and fish hard, catching everything they can.

They do not, however, keep anything. Their idea of a fish sandwich is an over-processed, chemical-laced patty served on a bun at McDonalds. It may not actually contain fish.

The last thing these people want to see in the water are bullheads, so they're gone.

I was reminded of this conversation during a frigid spell around the first of January. The weekend barely reached 12 degrees.

Wife and I fled the house on Sunday afternoon and took a ride through Viking Lake. Nothing was stirring until we reached the pontoon area.

There, perhaps 30 yards out, was an ice fishing shack. Two or three hearty souls were inside and I said they were hard-nosed, old-school fishermen.

Wife was reminded of Florence Larson and I thought of Miller Cavin, who taught me to ice fish.

If bullheads were the target in summer, crappies were king in the winter. The best ice fishermen we knew were Wayne and Phil Larson, who knew how to find and catch crappies through a foot of ice.

They carved filets of those marvelous slabs that were lightly tinged with pink, the color taken on by crappies in icy water, and Florence (Wayne's wife) turned a mid-winter evening into an event that made fishing more than fun and food.

They'd invite friends and Florence would bring forth a platter of golden, deep-fried crappie filets that became a part of friendship and memories that linger after all these years.

No doubt anglers of today will have their memories of gathering around the TV to wait for delivery pizza and talk of \$18,000 gel-coated bass boats and tournaments planned for the coming summer, but I wonder if they're missing something.

Regardless, I waded as we drove away from the ice fishermen. Whether guys or gals, one is inclined to think they knew what they were doing. I'd bet that if they caught crappies they didn't put 'em back.

And we'll close by saying a friend called to ask what Bill Zenor might have said had he read our paper's front-page news story of Jan. 11.

The headline read that Iowa set a new record for deadliest year on the road, with the article confirming that Iowa established a new record in 2021 for most traffic fatalities in a year. The number was 353.

Bill Zenor of Red Oak, Iowa Highway Patrol #249, was handing out tickets in 1970, when 912 were killed in traffic crashes.

This was unusual, but in the 1960s and '70s, between 800 and 900 deaths per year was typical.

Zenor was advocating for seat belts, safer vehicles and better drivers, dedicated to the point that he frequently introduced himself by extending his right hand and saying "Zenor's the name and safety's my game. I suppose you know yours."

He was of a group that, although a small part of a larger process, played a role in a long-term commitment that eventually succeeded in bringing traffic deaths in Iowa from 800-900 in the 1970s to the 300+ we experience today.

A bit disappointing that none of the local officials interviewed for the article expressed awareness of this improvement, or credited their predecessors, so we will.

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

LETTER TO | THE EDITOR

Miner says never forget the atrocities of war

To the Editor:

I recently finished reading a historical novel set late in World War II, and I was struck by the author's depiction of American soldiers' march to liberate Dachau. For those who don't know the history, Dachau was one of the German concentration camps systematically killing Jews and other "undesirables."

The death of and disrespect for these human beings horrified the liberating soldiers.

Living in Montgomery County, Iowa, which lost more soldiers per capita than anywhere else in the United States during WWII, I was particularly disturbed.

We proudly fly our flags and thank veterans for their service. But as we lose WWII veterans, I wonder how many remember the hate they fought and that fueled Germany's rise to power?

How many remember Hitler used labels and scapegoating of people he feared to create division? How many remember how Hitler's propaganda machine fed lies to the German people?

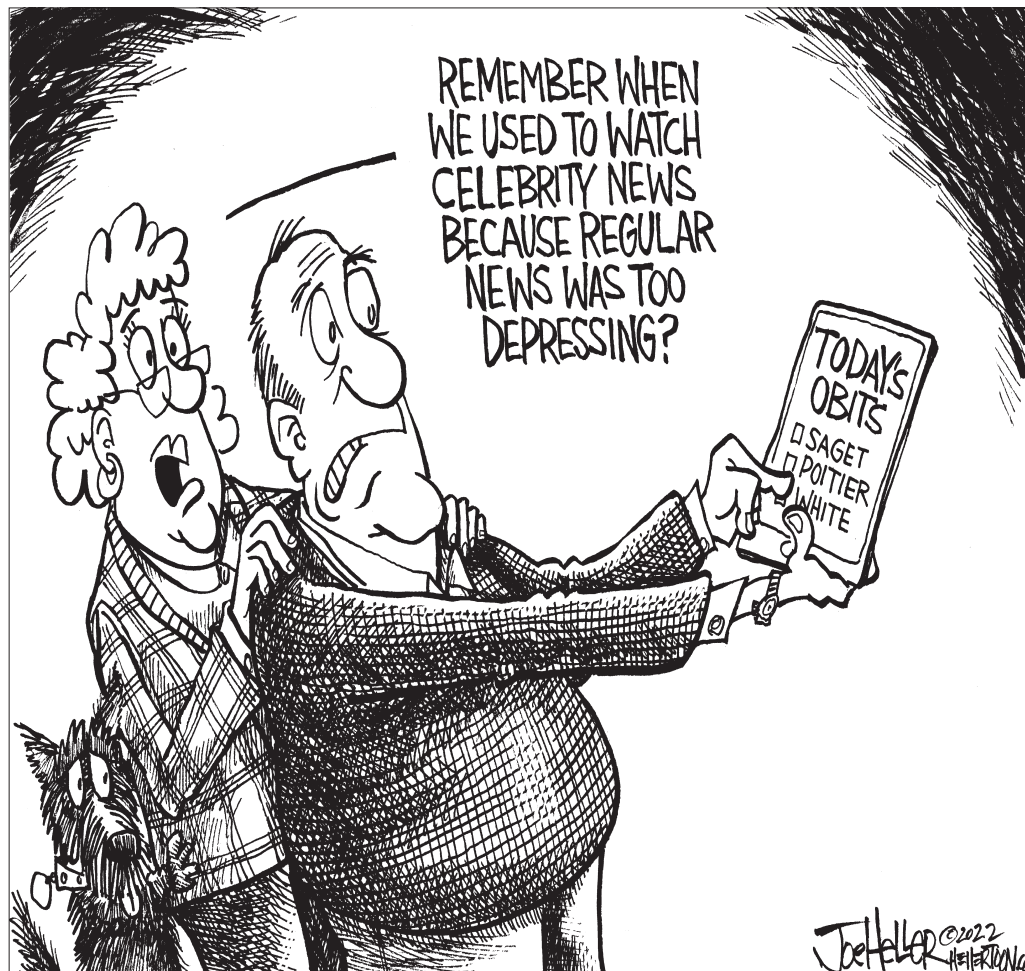
I wonder if we dishonor our "Greatest Generation" when we forget the horrors they saw?

And for the Christians among us who celebrate the Prince of Peace during Christmas, I am haunted by a message from the Apostle Paul in 2 Timothy 4:3-4.

"There will come a time when people will not tolerate sound teaching. They will collect teachers who say what they want to hear because they are self-centered. They will turn their back on the truth and turn to myths."

Paul wrote that in the first century A.D., and yet we repeat this mistake when we ignore history. We must abandon the myths. We can start by turning off cable news, talk radio, social media and deleting spam e-mail.

Cherie Miner Elliott



LAW AND ORDER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3A

• Simple misdemeanor, State of Iowa vs. Sally Petersen, 50, Red Oak, interference with official acts, pled guilty, 20 days jail, time served.

• Simple misdemeanor, State of Iowa vs. Sabrina Dawson, 33, Villisca, public intoxication, pled guilty, \$105 fine.

• Simple misdemeanor, State of Iowa vs. Sally Petersen, 50, Red Oak, trespass first offense, pled guilty, one day jail, time served, interference with official acts, pled guilty, one day jail, time served.

• Simple misdemeanor, State of Iowa vs. Destynie Saldana, 25, Red Oak, driving while license denied, suspended, cancelled, or revoked, pled guilty, \$250 fine.

• Simple misdemeanor, State of Iowa vs. Brook Moon, 22, Red Oak, trespass first offense, pled guilty, \$260 fine.

OWI

• State of Iowa vs. Chelsea Hale, 31, probation violation, dismissed.

TRAFFIC

• Mason Franzen, Red Oak, operating non-registered vehicle, speeding.

• Patrick Block, violation of gun conveyance law.

• Heather Carpenter, Des Moines, registration violation, speeding.

• Devon Smith, Red Oak, failure to maintain or use safety belts.

• Danica Sunderman, Villisca, speeding.

• Klarissa Mc Elroy, Clarinda, speeding.

• Mina Monjarez, Omaha, Neb., operating

non-registered vehicle.

• James Gilvin, Villisca, failure to maintain or use safety belts.

• Kendall Davison, Council Bluffs, operating non-registered vehicle.

• Anissa Baylor, Red Oak, no valid driver's license.

• Ramon Contreras, Turlock, Calif., speeding.

• Christopher Zimmerman, Clearfield, speeding.

• David Hughes, Jr., Red Oak, speeding.

• Courtney Jackson, Shenandoah, failure to maintain or use safety belts.

• Jordan Gosselink, Leighton, speeding.

• Stephanie Hightshoe, Red Oak, no valid driver's license.

• Justin Swisher, Red Oak, no valid driver's license.

• Vadim Telteten, North Royalton, Ohio, speeding.

• Stevens Spurgeon, Jr., Bellevue, Neb., speeding.

• Tyler Comer, Atlantic, failure to maintain or use safety belts.

• James Auten, Council Bluffs, restrictions on taking game - deer and turkey.

• Brittany Guillaume,

Bellevue, Neb., speeding.

• Timothy Gray, Nodaway, speeding.

• Thomas Akin, Kirksville, Mo, speeding.

• Clinton Collins, Jr., Omaha, Neb., speeding.

• Barbara Wilson, Red Oak, driving while license denied, suspended, cancelled, or revoked.

• Sara Kier, Villisca, driving while license denied, suspended, cancelled, or revoked.

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: Noon Fridays. Obituaries: 9 a.m. Mondays.

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THE RED OAK Express logo and contact information including ISSN 0747-3281, phone 712-623-2566, and website news@redoakexpress.com.

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copy sales are available from a coin rack in front of the Red Oak Express.



## Hopf, Martin enjoy Holiday Bowl experience



Evan Hopf, pictured left, and Levi Martin were two local participants in the 2021 Holiday Bowl parade in San Diego. The game itself ended up cancelled due to COVID-19. (Photo submitted)

Nick Johansen  
The Red Oak Express

Stanton students Evan Hopf and Levi Martin were among the students selected to participate in Honor Marching Band in the Holiday Bowl parade on Dec. 28 in San Diego.

Hopf said their flight was one of many American Airline flights canceled over the Christmas holiday, but once they arrived, it was a great experience.

"We saw the UCLA marching band and the other high school bands warm up. It was a little daunting during the lead up to the parade because we had only had one practice since the summer. However it was cool to see all the balloons and peo-

ple dressed up," said Hopf.

While the Holiday Bowl game was canceled because of COVID, Hopf said they were able to do some other fun things on the trip.

"In its place we got to go to the San Diego Zoo, and after the parade we stayed in California going to other theme parks. My favorite was probably Universal Studios in Hollywood," commented Hopf.

Martin said his experiences during the event were similar, and he enjoyed being able to explore a city he'd never been to before.

"However it was still a lot of fun exploring the city and visiting locations such as the Midway Museum," Martin stated.

After some early performance jitters, Martin said he was able to hit his stride during the performance.

"It was a lot of fun, and while I did feel pretty nervous at the thought of so many people watching me, I almost forgot about it while performing," explained Martin.

Hopf said he encouraged students to participate in Honor Band events, as you never know what it may lead to.

"I would definitely encourage others to try out for this honor band, even if you don't get to perform like this year. You still get a fun trip with a fun group," said Hopf.

## School Lunch Menus

**East Mills**

Wednesday, Jan. 19: Beef hot dog on a bun, green beans, cherry tomatoes, fresh oranges, Keebler Animal crackers.

Thursday, Jan. 20: Spaghetti with meat sauce, romaine lettuce with choice of dressing, carrot slices, sliced pears.

Friday, Jan. 21: Pulled pork nachos, or pepperoni pizza slices, shredded cheese, corn, fiesta black beans, tropical fruit.

Monday, Jan. 24: Shredded beef, bean, and cheese burrito, or pepperoni pizza slices, mixed vegetables, green beans, applesauce cups.

Tuesday, Jan. 25: Nacho bites, or pepperoni pizza slices, California blend vegetables, potato wedges, Sidekick.

**Essex**

*Salad and fresh vegetables served most days to grades 6-12, based on availability*

Wednesday, Jan. 19: Chili, cinnamon roll, celery sticks, baby carrots with ranch dip, sliced peaches.

Thursday, Jan. 20: Meatball sub sandwich on a hoagie bun, corn, sliced pears, chocolate chip cookie.

Friday, Jan. 21: Ham and cheese wrap, broccoli florets, corn chips, applesauce.

Monday, Jan. 24: Beef burritos, romaine lettuce with choice of dressing, tomato salsa, tortilla chips, mandarin oranges.

Tuesday, Jan. 25: Breaded chicken patty on a bun, sliced onions, lettuce, potato chips, green beans, applesauce.

**Griswold**

Wednesday, Jan. 19: Breaded pork patty on a bun, lettuce, hamburger dills, sliced onions, french fries, baked beans, Jell-O with fruit.

Thursday, Jan. 20: Chili or chicken noodle soup with saltine crackers, cheese cubes, carrot sticks with ranch dip, applesauce, cinnamon roll.

Friday, Jan. 21: Deli sub sandwich on a bun, potato chips, pickle spear, broccoli florets with ranch dip, Sidekick.

Monday, Jan. 24: Crispy popcorn chicken, mashed potatoes and gravy, corn, dinner roll, pineapple tidbits.

Tuesday, Jan. 25: Mr. Rib sandwich on a bun, potato chips, green beans, garden spinach salad with dressing, pickle spear, sliced peaches.

**Red Oak Elementary/ Preschool Center**

Wednesday, Jan. 19: Breaded chicken patty on a bun, hot roll; chicken Alfredo pasta, hot roll; or chicken Caesar salad, hot roll; mashed potatoes and gravy, green beans, fresh fruit, pineapple tidbits.

Thursday, Jan. 20: Hot club sandwich; or beef hot dog on a bun; or sweet and sour chicken salad, blueberry muffin; fresh garden salad with choice of dressing, french fries, fresh fruit, sliced pears.

Friday, Jan. 21: Italian pizza slices, focaccia bread; or cheesy chicken and rice soup, focaccia bread; or BBQ pork salad, pineapple muffin; fresh garden salad with choice of dressing, roasted vegetables, fresh fruit, tropical fruit.

Monday, Jan. 24: Chicken and waffles with syrup; or cheesy ham and potato soup, Italian bread; or sweet and sour chicken salad, Italian bread; fresh garden salad with

choice of dressing, corn, fresh fruit, applesauce.

Tuesday, Jan. 25: Cheeseburger on a bun; or spicy chicken sandwich on a bun; Mediterranean grain bowl; or cobb salad, blueberry muffin; fresh garden salad with choice of dressing, cucumber slices, tater tots, fresh fruit, mandarin oranges.

**Red Oak Jr./Sr. High School**

*Chicken patty, cheeseburger, and pizza are offered daily*

Wednesday, Jan. 19: Breaded chicken patty on a bun, hot roll; chicken Alfredo pasta, hot roll; or chicken Caesar salad, hot roll; mashed potatoes and gravy, green beans, fresh fruit, pineapple tidbits.

Thursday, Jan. 20: Hot club sandwich; or beef hot dog on a bun; or sweet and sour chicken salad, blueberry muffin; fresh garden salad with choice of dressing, french fries, fresh fruit, sliced pears.

Friday, Jan. 21: Italian pizza slices, focaccia bread; or cheesy chicken and rice soup, focaccia bread; or BBQ pork salad, pineapple muffin; fresh garden salad with choice of dressing, roasted vegetables, fresh fruit, tropical fruit.

Monday, Jan. 24: Chicken and waffles with syrup; or cheesy ham and potato soup, Italian bread; or sweet and sour chicken salad, Italian bread; fresh garden salad with choice of dressing, corn, fresh fruit, applesauce.

Tuesday, Jan. 25: Cheeseburger on a bun; or spicy chicken sandwich on a bun; Mediterranean grain bowl; or cobb salad, blueberry muffin; fresh garden salad with choice of dressing, cucumber slices, tater tots, fresh fruit, mandarin oranges.

**Southwest Valley**

Wednesday, Jan. 19: Sausage gravy over biscuits, peas, fruit, lettuce salad with choice of dressing.

Thursday, Jan. 20: Macaroni and cheese, green beans, hot roll, fruit, lettuce salad with choice of dressing.

Friday, Jan. 21: Hamburger on a bun, lettuce, sliced tomatoes, sliced onions, cheese slice, french fries, fruit, lettuce salad with choice of dressing.

Monday, Jan. 24: Mandarin orange chicken, seasoned brown rice, broccoli florets, pasta salad, fruit, lettuce salad with choice of dressing.

Tuesday, Jan. 25: Breaded pork tenderloin on a bun, baked beans, hamburger dills, sliced onions, fruit, lettuce salad with choice of dressing.

**Stanton**

Wednesday, Jan. 19: Pork chopette on a bun, baked beans, ranch potatoes, sliced oranges, mixed fruit.

Thursday, Jan. 20: Beef fritter, mashed potatoes and gravy, savory cooked carrots, mandarin oranges, sliced peaches, dinner roll.

Friday, Jan. 21: Corn dog, baked beans, sweet potatoes, macaroni salad, applesauce, pineapple tidbits.

Monday, Jan. 24: Taquito or beef hot dog on a bun, corn, lettuce salad with choice of dressing, mandarin oranges, raisins, Goldfish crackers.

Tuesday, Jan. 25: Chili, carrots, pears, applesauce, cinnamon roll.

## School Activities

**Wednesday, Jan. 19**

- Griswold: Snow date, Southwest Iowa High School Honor Band
- Stanton: No early dismissal
- 6:15-7:10 a.m., Southwest Valley: Dance team practice, activity center
- 6:15-7:15 a.m., Southwest Valley: High school softball pitching, new high school gym
- Noon-6 p.m., Southwest Valley: Red Cross Blood Drive, Villisca Community Center
- 1:30-2:30 p.m., Red Oak: CPR training, Montgomery County Family YMCA
- 5 p.m., Griswold: High School girls pitching practice, middle school gym
- 5-6 p.m., Southwest Valley: Coming youth basketball practice, third grade girls, Coming Elementary gym
- 6-7:15 p.m., Southwest Valley: Coming youth basketball practice, fourth grade girls, Coming Elementary gym
- 6:30-9 p.m., Southwest Valley: Men's volleyball league, activity center

**Thursday, Jan. 20**

- Griswold: No preschool
- 6:30-7:45 a.m., Griswold: High school boys throwers, middle school gym
- 6:45-7:45 a.m., Southwest Valley: High school baseball open gym, new high school gym
- 3:30-5 p.m., Red Oak: Sixth grade boys basketball practice, Inman Elementary gym
- 5-6 p.m., Southwest Valley: Coming youth basketball practice, third grade boys, Coming Elementary gym
- 5-6:15 p.m., Red Oak: YMCA basketball practice, fourth grade boys, Inman Elementary gym
- 5:15-7 p.m., Southwest Valley: Villisca youth sports basketball practice, middle school campus
- 6-7:15 p.m., Southwest Valley: Coming youth basketball practice, fourth/fifth grade boys, Coming Elementary gym
- 6:30-8:15 p.m., Griswold: High School AAU volleyball, high school gym

**Friday, Jan. 21**

- Griswold: No preschool
- Southwest Valley: Noon dismissal
- Red Oak: Dash 4 Cash, halftime of girls and boys basketball games
- 1:30 p.m., Essex: Early dismissal
- 3:45-5 p.m., Southwest Valley: Coming youth basketball practice, fifth grade girls, Coming Elementary gym
- 5 p.m., Stanton: Music department meal
- 5:30-6:15 p.m., Griswold: Kindergarten-second grade wrestling practice, elementary gym
- 6:30-7:30 p.m., Griswold: Third-eighth grade wrestling club practice, elementary gym

**Saturday, Jan. 22**

- Griswold: District large group speech contest
- East Mills: District large group speech contest
- Essex: Large group speech contest, Abraham Lincoln High School
- Red Oak: District large group speech contest
- Stanton: District large group speech contest
- 7 a.m., Red Oak: Club volleyball, Red Oak Jr./Sr. High School
- 10 a.m to 4 p.m., Southwest Valley: Villisca Youth Sports basketball games,

Southwest Valley High School 8 p.m., Red Oak: YMCA boys basketball, Inman Elementary gym

**Sunday, Jan. 23**

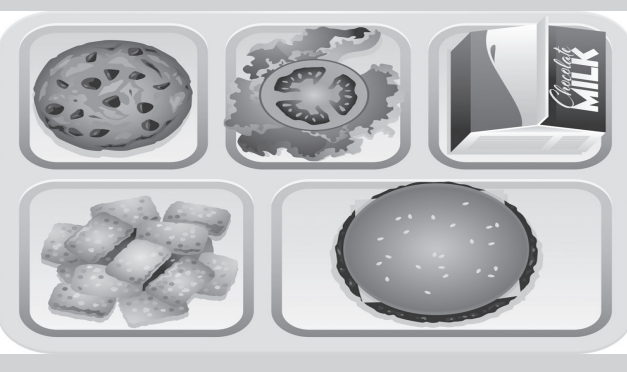
- Southwest Valley: Youth wrestling tournament, activity center
- 2-4 p.m., Griswold: High school baseball practice, middle school gym
- 4-5:30 p.m., Griswold: Sixth grade girls baseball practice, high school gym
- 4:15-5:45 p.m., Southwest Valley: High school girls basketball open gym, new high school gym
- 5-6 p.m., Griswold: High school girls pitching practice, middle school gym
- 6-7 p.m., Griswold: Third/fourth grade basketball practice, elementary gym
- 5:45-7:30 p.m., Southwest Valley: High school softball practice, new high school gym
- 7-8:15 p.m., Southwest Valley: Coming youth basketball practice, sixth grade boys, new high school gym

**Monday, Jan. 24**

- Griswold: IWCC junior high and high school Honor Band
- East Mills: IWCC junior high/high school Honor Band
- Griswold: Winter FAST testing
- 8 a.m., Red Oak: Remembering our Fallen program,
- 3:30-5:30 p.m., Red Oak: Sixth grade boys basketball practice, Inman Elementary gym
- 3:45-5 p.m., Southwest Valley: Coming youth basketball practice, fifth grade girls, Coming Elementary gym
- 5 p.m., Stanton: Booster Club meal
- 5-6 p.m., Southwest Valley: Coming youth basketball practice, third grade girls, Coming Elementary gym
- 5:30-6:15 p.m., Griswold: Kindergarten-second grade wrestling practice, elementary gym
- 6-7:15 p.m., Southwest Valley: Coming youth basketball practice, fourth grade girls, Coming Elementary gym
- 6:30-7:30 p.m., Griswold: Third-eighth grade wrestling club practice, elementary gym
- 6:30 p.m., Griswold: Middle school AAU volleyball practice

**Tuesday, Jan. 25**

- Griswold: Winter FAST testing
- 6:15-7:10 a.m., Southwest Valley: Dance team practice, activity center
- 6:30-7:45 a.m., Griswold: High school boys throwers, middle school gym
- 6:45-7:45 a.m., Southwest Valley: High school baseball open gym, new high school gym
- 3:30-5 p.m., Griswold: Sixth grade girls baseball practice, high school gym
- 5-6 p.m., Southwest Valley: Coming youth basketball practice, third grade boys, Coming Elementary gym
- 5:15-7 p.m., Southwest Valley: Villisca youth sports basketball practice, middle school campus
- 6-7:15 p.m., Southwest Valley: Coming youth basketball practice, fourth/fifth grade boys, Coming Elementary gym
- 6:15-7:30 p.m., Southwest Valley: Coming youth basketball practice, sixth grade boys, activity center
- 6:15-7:30 p.m., Southwest Valley: Sixth grade girls basketball practice, new high school gym



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

**Support Newspaper in Education**

Newspaper assignments are due Monday at the start of class.

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**Duane Altstadt**  
**Kiwanis Club**  
**Optimist Club of Red Oak**  
**Altrusa Club of Red Oak**

**In Memory of Curtis Swanson**

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

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

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

If you would like to contribute to Newspapers in Education, or if you are a teacher who would like to use the Red Oak Express in your classroom, contact Laura at 712-623-2566 or [circulation@redoakexpress.com](mailto:circulation@redoakexpress.com).

THE RED OAK  
**Express**



## “WHERE THE COMMUNITY COMES TOGETHER” It’s getting cold outside

It’s getting colder and the chance of snow is increasing during the winter month of January.

It’s not the best month for a new year to start for most of America. What with the frozen ground and dark months, the inclination to want to hibernate rather than start new things is strong.

We can blame the Roman king Numa for adding the month of January (and February) to the calendar, Julius Ceasar for retaining its use in the Julian Calendar, and Pope Gregory for continuing the tradition with the Gregorian Calendar in the 1500s.

We can understand Numa’s reasons. March was the first month before being bumped to third, but it takes its name from Mars, the Roman god of War. January, however, is named after Janus, the god of beginnings, which is more

auspicious and less violent.

Not surprisingly, even while the Gregorian calendar has been universally adapted, there are other calendars in use around the world with their first month ranging from their version of February to September.

The year is different in most of them as well, with it being 5782 in the Jewish Calendar, 4719 in the Chinese Calendar, and 1443 in the Islamic Calendar for instance.

Regardless of which month you start your year with or which year you are in, the Montgomery County Family YMCA is a nice indoor retreat for families during the wintry weather.

After all, it’s a place that promotes youth development, healthy living, and social responsibility. Not only is our Bulkeley Wellness Center filled with state-of-the-art equipment and free weights,

but the walking track that circles around it and above the Wilson Gymnasium provides the perfect non-icy place to walk.

The Helen and Nancy Murphy Fitness Room also located on the upper level provides a perfect area to work on various exercises and stretches with a punching bag tantalizingly in the corner.

All in all there are a variety of ways for folks to get in their physical fitness needs without worrying about the colder winter temps as we continue to move forward into this new year.

### Aquatics

The Wilson Aquatic Center on the main floor offers its own share of indoor delights. Year-round balmy temperatures with water a cerulean blue and lifeguards vigilantly watching is available for swimmers.

It features swim lanes on one side with diving boards



The Wilson Aquatic Center remains a popular destination for families during the colder winter months. (Photos submitted)

and a gradually sloping pool on the other with a handicap access lift chair and a newly installed palm tree-shaped water toy that creates little water falls when turned on.

As we wrap up the latest round of our Group Swim Lessons, we will begin another American Red Cross Lifeguard Training Session.

The two-year Lifeguard Certification will ensure that future lifeguards are rescue ready at the Y and other pools during the coming summer.

A full kitchen with a meeting room can be used for parties, business meetings, club events, etc. in the multi-purpose room. Tumbling classes are held there on Wednesdays as well as the Men’s Bible Study on Thursday mornings.

The Youth Enrichment Center located just off the front lobby offers a relaxing place for kids to read one of the many books in the lending

library, play games, or just get together with their friends.

The Wilson Gymnasium is the perfect place to play basketball, volleyball, or just run around in.

All year round a high-energy men’s basketball game is played on Wednesday evenings. The gym boasts no less than six adjustable basketball hoops that can even be lifted up to provide room for volleyball nets for the coed volleyball games on Thursday nights on the smooth wooden floors.

Throughout the day it is used for everything from bootcamp-like exercise routines to pickleball.

### Tennis

The Carder Tennis Center provides a total of four tennis courts with a tennis center viewing area above it that offers spectators and family a chance to watch the many matches or tournaments below.

Near continuous tennis classes during the year and tennis groups that play together utilize the space. It is also used for off-season baseball practice on the last tennis court. The space has recently been used for another purpose as well. The Carder Tennis Center also recently hosted the Halloween Trick or Treat on the Trail when weather was inclement.

Racquetball is located near the tennis courts with safety goggles and racquets available at the Front Desk.

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., Red Oak, visit us on Facebook, or our website at mcymca.com.



A Montgomery County Family YMCA member takes advantage of the equipment in the Bulkeley Wellness Center.

### YMCA SWCC STUDENT MEMBERSHIPS

The Montgomery County Family YMCA is extending a special membership opportunity to SWCC students registered at the Red Oak campus for the school year of 2021 -2022. Students and their family members can have access to the YMCA facility at a special price.

• Children of SWCC students must be high school age or younger or a college student under the age of 24.

Please note that this is a facility membership only and participants are not eligible for program discounts or Nationwide Membership.

For more information on this special program with the Montgomery County Family YMCA, please stop in for a visit



or tour of the YMCA, call 712-623-2161, or visit us on Facebook, or the Y’s website at [www.mcymca.com](http://www.mcymca.com).

### 7TH GRADE MEMBERSHIPS AVAILABLE

All area 7th graders can receive a free Youth Membership at the Montgomery County Family YMCA for the 2021/2022 school year. Stop by the Y for an application to fill out; the student’s parent must have photo ID. We can’t wait to see you! It’s going to be a GREAT year!

- Valid for NEW memberships only.
- Membership good until May 2022.

For more information on how you can become a

member, volunteer, and/or a donor please call John Blomstedt, YMCA Executive Director at 712-623-2161, stop in at the Montgomery County Family YMCA located at the beautiful Red Oak Legion Park, 101 East Cherry Street, Red Oak, Iowa, or email John at [johnb@mcymca.com](mailto:johnb@mcymca.com).



### BUSINESSES OF THE QUARTER

In recognition, the Montgomery County Family YMCA would like to honor all Villisca area businesses as the Businesses of the Quarter for the months of January, February, and March.

In recognition for being chosen as the Businesses of the Quarter, all employees of Villisca-area businesses and their immediate families will receive a limited free membership to the YMCA. You only need to provide proof of employment to enroll. This benefit applies to only the employees that are not current members, and is

only applicable at the Montgomery County Family YMCA.

Join us in congratulating all of the businesses in the City of Villisca, on behalf of the entire YMCA, for being our Businesses of the Quarter.

For more information on how one can become a member, volunteer, donor, or simply involved with the Montgomery County Family YMCA, please stop in for a visit or tour of the YMCA, call 712-623-2161, or visit us on Facebook, or the Y’s website at [mcymca.com](http://mcymca.com).

### YMCA RECEIVES BIG GRANT FROM IA DEPT. OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS

The Montgomery County Family YMCA is a recent recipient of the Strengthening Communities Grant from the Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs along with seven other recipients. The department awarded a total of \$250,000, which will benefit seven rural Iowa communities: Clinton, Hampton, Keokuk, Lake City, Maquoketa, Red Oak and Stanton.

The funds from the grants support facility renovation and construction projects and are made possible by an appropriation from the Iowa Legislature through the Rebuild Iowa Infrastructure Fund. Noted for its dedication to providing programs that promote youth development, healthy living, and social responsibility the Montgomery County Family YMCA was able to show the impact it has on the community to help secure the grant of \$35,000. A future project is in place that will focus on the

replacement of the heating, ventilation, and air-conditioning units in the facility. The YMCA believes these upgrades will help save 20% or more on their electrical costs for cooling the facility.

Montgomery County Family YMCA Executive Director John Blomstedt commented on the grant saying, “The Strengthening Communities Grant is welcomed as it will play a major role in helping the YMCA complete the \$150,000 project. I would also like to thank Iowa State Senator Mark Costello and Iowa House Representatives David Sieck and Cecil Dolecheck for their role in approving the funding for the Strengthening Communities Grant for the 2021-2022 budget year.” More information about the creative place-making grants and community designation programs can be found online at [iowaculture.gov](http://iowaculture.gov).

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# The Stanton Scoop



## Spider-Man: No Way Home

By AJ Baker

In Spider-Man: No Way Home, Peter Parker's world is flipped upside down when his Spider-Man identity is revealed to the whole world. Unable to deal with the new pressures, Peter goes to Doctor Strange for help.

Doctor Strange ends up helping him, though Peter messes up his spell. This brings the whole multiverse into chaos. Will Doctor Strange and Spider-Man bring the world to order

again? Or will the multiverse be destroyed?

Spider-Man: No Way Home was a rollercoaster of emotions. There were many intense and fun moments.

This movie was very enjoyable with a lot of action. The CGI and effects were smooth and realistic. The movie was a bit predictable, though it didn't hinder its story line. The cameos were very entertaining, and long-time Spider-Man fans will love it. Rating: 10 out of 10.



Senior Spotlight students, from left, top row: Tristan Frank, Carter Johnson, Logan Roberts. Front row, from left: Allie Sandin and Ashley Henneman.

## Senior Spotlight

By Dacey Henneman

Seniors at Stanton High School were asked a few questions about their experiences in high school. We got many of the same answers and many different answers.

Tristan Frank's favorite tradition is walking down the hill before football games. Tristan's favorite activity is football, since it's his favorite sport. In his free time, he spends time with friends and family. He plans to go to college after high school. Tristan's favorite memory was making the state playoffs. Tristan will miss playing sports with his teammates the most.

Ashley Henneman's favorite tradition is singing after every basketball game. Ashley said her favorite activity was FFA because it gave her many new leadership skills and taught her many skills. In her free time, Ashley spends time with her friends and family. After high school, she plans on attending Iowa State University to major in Agriculture Education. Ashley is going to miss school activities the most.

Allie Sandin said her favorite school tradition was the pancake feed during

homecoming and her favorite activity is golf. In her free time, she works with her lambs for fair. After high school, Allie plans on attending Iowa State University as a business major. Allie's favorite memory was being Homecoming and Santa Lucia queen.

Allie said she would miss seeing her friends every day and hanging out with them.

Carter Johnson said his favorite tradition is singing after basketball games. His favorite activity is P.E. because it is relaxing. He likes to play basketball in his free time. After high school, he wants to go to college to be a nurse anesthetist.

Carter's favorite high school memory was winning close games in sports. He will miss seeing people he grew up with every day when he leaves. We interviewed Logan Roberts and he said his favorite tradition is Santa Lucia. His favorite activity is football because it is his favorite sport. After high school, he wants to study biology and chemistry.

His favorite memory was state football and he will miss football most because of the memories he made.

## Jr-Sr. High Christmas party

By Brody Holmes and Eli Davis

Stanton High School celebrated a Christmas party on Wednesday, Dec. 22. Activities during this party included dodgeball, a scavenger hunt, board games, and a movie.

Grades 6-12 participated in these Christmas activities. The junior high and high school students decorated doors for Christmas. The seventh graders won first place on the door decorating, and the theme of their doors was based on the Home Alone movies.

After the dodgeball tournament, the high school students walked down to the Stanton Care Center to sing Christmas songs. After caroling, the high school students watched the junior high dodgeball championship. The high school also finished their championship.

To end the day, senior class president Cameron Sallach addressed the students about fun ways to spend Christmas break.



Stanton 7th graders run to get the ball for the Christmas party dodgeball tournament.

## Staff appreciation

By Hunter Bishop and Preston Carpenter

Mrs. Sandy Allen is a custodian at Stanton Community Schools. Everyone at the school appreciates Mrs. Allen and her enthusiasm, so we decided to ask her a few questions about her job.

Mrs. Allen said her favorite part of her job is "...the autonomy of it; especially, I love that I'm trusted with the building. I especially love being around the staff and the children, and it sounds unusual, but I love to clean. And I love to do physical activity."

She claimed that she doesn't have a least favorite part about her job.

"I truly can't think of anything. I am given some tasks that might repel people, but I love it, because I love to serve."

Mrs. Allen stays motivated in her work because she loves to serve others.

"I know my motivation is my trust in God, and my love to serve my neighborhood. That's my motivation to do my very best every day."

Another thing Sandy does is award classes with a golden shoe for exhibiting good character.

"The golden shoe was sort of a symbol of the golden



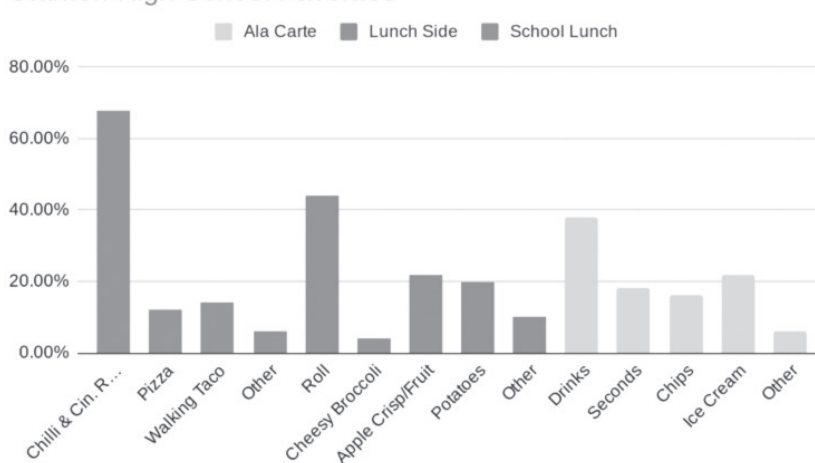
Mrs. Sandy Allen

rule. In the past, I was rewarding classes with a thank you before COVID. And when COVID came out, I thought we all needed to know the safety not just to ourselves, but for others. Classrooms are rewarded for being aware of their environment and others, especially picking up after themselves. When I see people are giving to others, in small, little ways [I wanted them to know] that they are deeply appreciated."

Mrs. Allen was awarded with a check from the Pella Corporation on Nov. 16, 2021, for her work at the school and with the students.

"[I was] extremely humbled. Every year I write a letter to the graduating seniors. I tell them no matter where life takes you, whether you're a wealthy businessperson or a laborer, do what you want and do it to the best of your ability. I was glad that they noticed that. I was floored and I really appreciated it."

## Stanton High School Favorites



Lexi Chambers and Nolan Grebin recently asked Stanton High School students what their favorite school lunches were.

## Hour of Code

By Lexy Frank

On Dec. 12, the Stanton kindergarten through fifth grade students were involved in an activity called Hour of Code.

Hour of Code introduced millions of students across the country to one hour of computer science and programming. Stanton High School computer science students helped the kindergarten understand how to program robots and helped the younger kids learn how

coding works.

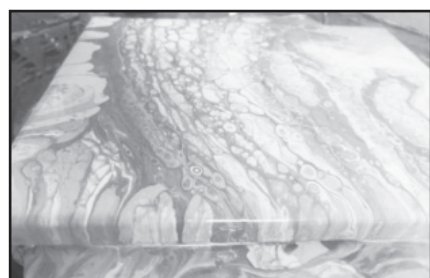
Tristan Frank, a senior who participated in the Hour of Code, commented, "Each high school student had stations doing different things involved with computer programming and got to work with all of the elementary kids."

Tristan also stated, "The high school students took three work days preparing this event for the kids. Tristan's favorite part of the program was seeing the kids learn new things and seeing the enjoyment on their faces."



A fourth grade student learning during the Hour of Code.

## Painting inspires student



Artwork by Sami Jo Helberg

By Rayah Veik and Sami Jo Helberg

Sami Jo Helberg is currently a junior at Stanton High School who uses art as a healthy way of expressing her emotions. After a rough patch in her early teenage years, her mother introduced her to painting; immediately, Sami Jo found what made her fulfilled!

Although she stated that her best work is created when it's unplanned, Sami Jo has a precise process. In response to a question about the meaning of her pieces she stated "Yes, all my art is made for the betterment of others."

From glitter to acrylic paint and silicone, Sami Jo does it all! She has sold multiple pieces in the past and plans to sell more in the future.

## FCCLA, blood drives, and Pink Out

By Carly Roberts

Family, Career and Community Leaders for America (FCCLA) "members develop skills for life through character development, creative and critical thinking, interpersonal communication, practical knowledge, and career preparation" (<https://fcclainc.org/about> 2022). FCCLA makes multiple differences within families and communities across America.

Allie Sandin is the Stanton High School FCCLA president. She has been a FCCLA member for all four years of her high school career. She really enjoys helping with the FCCLA Pink Out event each year because it helps raise money for breast cancer awareness. Allie's favorite part of FCCLA is working at blood drives. The advice Allie would give all high schoolers who are wanting to join FCCLA is, "You should join because it's a good organization or club, and it helps with leadership roles throughout your entire life."

On Dec. 17, Stanton High School FCCLA sponsored a Pink Out for Breast Cancer awareness during basketball season. The Pink Out committee also sponsored Chuck-a-Duck for the younger kids, then for the older bunch of kids there was a 3-Point Contest.

Then for the community the FCCLA members held a lasagna supper for everyone who attended the basketball games. FCCLA members collected a free-will donation at the supper. Two FCCLA members walked around during halftime of the boys and girls games holding pink buckets to collect donations for breast cancer research.

FCCLA also sponsors local blood drives. While the first blood drive didn't have the turn out they wanted, Stanton FCCLA is planning another blood drive. The next FCCLA blood drive will be March 16, located at the Viking Center in Stanton from 8 a.m. -2 p.m. To sign up contact Mrs. Brooke at the school (712) 829-2162.

## Sports manager spotlight

By Elly McDonald and Leah Sandin

Seniors John Peterson (left) and Allie Sandin (right) are featured this month as our Stanton High School basketball managers' spotlight.

John Peterson has played basketball before but is a boys basketball manager this year due to a recent surgery on his shoulder. As a manager, John takes statistics and helps the team any way he can. His favorite part of being a basketball manager is going to the games and cheering on the team. John's least favorite part of managing the team is filling up water bottles. John works on a farm with livestock in his free time.

Allie Sandin has never played basketball, but she has been a girls basketball manager all four years of high school. Allie takes statistics as a manager. Her favorite thing to do is cheering on the team. Allie's least favorite thing to do as a manager is recording statistics during an



Peterson



Sandin

intense game when there is a lot going on. Allie's favorite moment as a manager is when Elly used the wrong terminology for statistics and messed up the iPad. In her free time Allie prefers to show livestock and take care of her animals.











## ROJH GBB begins

Charm Carpenter  
The Red Oak Express

The Red Oak seventh and eighth grade girls basketball teams got the season going with a home game against Glenwood on Monday, Jan. 10, dropping the season opener. The Red Oak seventh grader girls fell 25-8.

“For the first game, it was a good game,” Red Oak junior high girls basketball coach Tristin Johnson said. “We saw plenty of things to be happy about, but also saw some things we need to work on.”

Keely Jones led the Tigers with six points, while Mariel Ramirez chipped in two.

The eighth grade girls fell 37-11.

“Just like the seventh grade game, we saw plenty of things that went well for us, but also saw some things we need to work on,” Johnson said. “We broke the press a few times really well, but will continue to work on it to make sure we do it more often.”

Nellie Blaine had four points, Emily Sebeniecher, Jocelyn O’Neal, and Ellison Johnson had two points each.

### Shenandoah

The girls hosted Shenandoah on Tuesday, Jan. 11, splitting wins with the junior Fillies.

The seventh grade team eked out a 23-21 win after an early lead.

Jones finished with 13 points, Ramirez four points, Mhylee Wallace four points, and Natalie Johnson two points.

The eighth grade team fell 21-13, after dropping a 12-2 lead at the half.

Sebeniecher finished with nine points, and Johnson and Blaine added two points each.

The teams are back in action tonight as they travel to Tabor to take on Fremont-Mills beginning at 4:15 p.m.



Southwest Valley pep band performs at a break during the game Thursday, Jan. 13, in Corning. (Charm Carpenter/The Red Oak Express)



Above: The Stanton basketball cheerleaders are looking for the Viking spirit. Pictured from left: Emma Sallach, Dacey Henneman, Ashley Henneman, and Stephanie Bair. (Charm Carpenter/The Red Oak Express)



Above and below: Little dancers performed at the boys half time at the game in Corning on Thursday, Jan. 13. (Charm Carpenter/The Red Oak Express)



Above: Dancers from Red Oak, Stanton, and Villisca performed at the boys half time at the game in Corning on Thursday, Jan. 13. (Charm Carpenter/The Red Oak Express)



## RO youth wrestling results

Special to The Express

The Red Oak youth wrestling team competed in the Creston Youth Tournament in Creston on Saturday, Jan. 15.

Red Oak results: Malcolm Fine finished second; Finley Stranathan finished third; Adalynn Smith finished second; James Lincoln Grizzard finished second; Austin Rea finished fourth; William Rea finished fourth; Payton Doyle finished third; Sawyer Perdue finished first; and Jackson Perdue finished third.

## STANTON BB

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1B

The Viqueens defeated the Timberwolves 63-20 to climb to 11-0 on the season. SWV dropped to 2-10.

The Queens never trailed in the game, beginning the first quarter with an 18-4 run, and holding the Timberwolves to one free throw in the final eight minutes of play.

“Credit goes to Stanton, who has a solid core of players who complement each other so well,” Southwest Valley head girls basketball coach Mike Cormack said. “We did a great job in the first quarter limiting their

outstanding inside player Jenna Stephens, but then Abby Burke steps up to make four three-point shots in the quarter. We limit Burke to one point the rest of the way, but by guarding the outside closer, it opens it up for Stephens to score 17 and Marleigh Johnson to get 16. This is a well-balanced team, and there is a reason they are undefeated.”

Cormack noted that this was the first varsity start for Haidyn Top, and Kyra Simmons gained many varsity minutes too,

as both sophomores have moved up to the varsity level.

**Stanton:** Stephens 17 points, 12 rebounds, four assists, one steal, three blocks; M. Johnson 16 points, eight rebounds, two assists, four steals, one block; A. Burke 13 points, two rebounds, two assists, one steal; Sandin six points, one rebound, two assists, three steals; Kyla Hart six points; Hannah Olson three points, nine rebounds, two steals; R. Burke two points, one steal; Lauren Johnson one rebound, one assist; Carly Roberts one assist.

**SWV:** Maggie Haer seven points, one assist, three steals; Ryanne Mullen five points, one rebound; Charlee Larsen three points, five rebounds, two assists; Norah Lund two points, five rebounds, one assist, one steal, one block; Rebecca Wetzel two points; Sadie Groszkruerger one point, one rebound; Top three rebounds, one steal; Madeline Bevington two rebounds; Alana Drake two rebounds; Simmons one assist.

Stanton eked out a 41-40 win over Southwest Valley after holding the Timberwolves to just two points in the third period, and taking a six point lead into the final eight minutes of play.

The thrilling final period began with an 8-3 Timberwolves run, which got them to within one, 33-32. Viking Grebin hit two clutch treys in the first four minutes of the final period to keep the Vikings ahead, pulling away 36-32. With just a minute left in the game, Stanton’s 41-32 lead diminished as SWV’s Joey Oathoudt, Gabe Fuller, and Isaac Currin combined for an 8-0 run, that just wasn’t quite enough.

Stanton sophomore Grebin earned his first double-double, finishing with 14 points, 10 rebounds, three assists, and five steals to lead the Vikes.

Currin led the T’Wolves scoring with 10 points, four in the final 18 seconds of the game.

**Stanton:** Thornburg 12 points, eight rebounds, one steal; Johnson eight points, 15 rebounds, five assists, four steals, one block; Gettler seven points, one rebound, two assists, five steals; L.

## Calendar

### Tuesday, Jan. 18:

- Corner Conference Tournament
- East Mills BB @ Essex, girls 6 p.m., boys 7:30 p.m.
- Griswold BB @ Stanton, girls 6 p.m., boys 7:30 p.m.
- Red Oak bowling hosts Creston, 1 p.m.
- Red Oak G/B BB host Atlantic, girls 6 p.m., boys 7:30 p.m.
- Red Oak 7/8 GBB @ Fremont-Mills, 4:15 p.m..
- Southwest Valley wrestling hosts quad, senior night, 5:30 p.m.
- Southwest Valley G/B BB @ Nodaway Valley, girls 6 p.m., boys 7:30 p.m.

### Wednesday, Jan. 19:

- Corner Conference Tournament
- East Mills GBB vs. Sidney @ Stanton, 6 p.m.
- Stanton GBB hosts Fremont-Mills, 7:30 p.m.

### Thursday, Jan. 20:

- Corner Conference Tournament
- Stanton BBB vs. Sidney @ East Mills, 6 p.m.
- East Mills BBB hosts Fremont-Mills, 7:30 p.m.
- Red Oak 7/8 GBB @ Clarinda, 4:15 p.m.
- Red Oak wrestling hosts quad, 5:30 p.m. (senior night)
- Southwest Valley G/B BB hosts East Union, girls 6 p.m., boys 7:30 p.m.

### Friday, Jan. 21:

- Corner Conference Tournament
- Griswold hosts GBB consolation, 6 p.m., championship, 7:30 p.m.
- Red Oak G/B BB host Glenwood, girls 6 p.m., boys 7:30 p.m.
- Southwest Valley wrestling hosts John J. Harris tournament, 4 p.m.
- IWCOA Girls State Wrestling @ Coralville, 9 a.m.

### Saturday, Jan. 22:

- Corner Conference Tournament
- Fremont-Mills hosts BBB consolation, 6 p.m., championship, 7:30 p.m.
- Southwest Valley wrestling hosts John J. Harris tournament, 10 a.m.
- IWCOA Girls State Wrestling @ Coralville, 10 a.m.

### Monday, Jan. 24:

- Essex G/B BB host Nodaway Valley, girls 6 p.m., boys 7:30 p.m.
- Griswold GBB @ Tri-Center, 6 p.m.
- Red Oak GBB hosts Exira-Elk-Horn Kimbalton, 6 p.m.
- Southwest Valley G/B BB host AC/GC, girls 6 p.m., boys 7:30 p.m.

### Tuesday, Jan. 25:

- East Mills G/B BB @ Stanton, girls 6 p.m., boys 7:30 p.m.
- East Mills, Red Oak wrestling @ Underwood, 5:30 p.m.
- Essex G/B BB host Nodaway Valley, girls 6 p.m., boys 7:30 p.m.
- Griswold G/B BB host Sidney, girls 6 p.m., boys 7:30 p.m.
- Southwest Valley G/B BB @ Lenox, girls 6 p.m., boys 7:30 p.m.



Stanton senior Quentin Thornburg (white jersey) leaps for the jump shot in the lane as four Sidney Cowboys try to defend. (Charm Carpenter/The Red Oak Express)



Southwest Valley’s Blake Thomas goes for the jump shot over Stanton’s Evan Gettler. (Charm Carpenter/The Red Oak Express)









Table with columns: Cable Companies, WEDNESDAY EVENING, JANUARY 19, 2022. Rows include channel numbers (A-D) and program titles like 'The Price Is Right at Night', 'The Amazing Race', 'Good Sam', etc.

Table with columns: Cable Companies, THURSDAY EVENING, JANUARY 20, 2022. Rows include channel numbers (A-D) and program titles like 'Young Sheldon', 'United States', 'Ghosts', etc.

Table with columns: Cable Companies, FRIDAY EVENING, JANUARY 21, 2022. Rows include channel numbers (A-D) and program titles like 'Undercover Boss', 'Magnum P.I.', 'Blue Bloods', etc.

Table with columns: Cable Companies, SATURDAY EVENING, JANUARY 22, 2022. Rows include channel numbers (A-D) and program titles like 'NFL Football: Divisional Round', 'The Wall', 'Shark Tank', etc.



**Employment**

**Employment**

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**Miscellaneous**

**Card of Thanks**

Thanks to everyone for the birthday cards, it made my birthday special. Jack Baird

Thank you to the truck driver who stopped to help me when my car was off the road. You saved my life. Thank you to the rescue squad for taking good care of me.- Ethlyn Spires

The family of Madeline Bergren would like to express our deep appreciation for the many expressions of sympathy shown us at the time of mom's passing. Thank you Ron and Sara DeMarce for the kind and caring help you provided to us. Thanks to Pastor Fred for your comforting words. Thank you to Dr. Michael Mahoney, and the staff at Accura Stanton for their compassionate and exceptional care of our mom over the past several years. A special thanks to Dina Marsh and Yvette O'Neill, who went above and beyond in caring for mom. And to our family and friends, thank you for the many ways you have shown us kindness, love, and support, especially your prayers which were and continue to be a source of great comfort to us as we navigate life without our beloved mom. May her bright spirit live on in us all.

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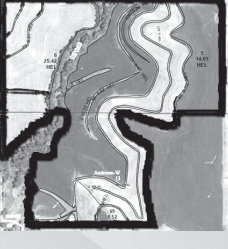
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