

The News-Review

SERVING THE KEOKUK COUNTY AREA SINCE 1860

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 24, 2025
NUMBER 52, 164TH YEAR

Community CALENDAR

Memorial Tree of Lights What Cheer Library

Nov. 19th - Dec. 31st.
Posting will be on City Hall Window, P.O. Box 324 What Cheer, IA 50268.

Knights of Columbus Harper Pepper Tournament

1/10, 1/31, 2/7, 2/21, 3/7, 3/21. 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm.

Blood Drive

Holy Trinity Catholic Church, Parish Center Classroom

Tuesday, Dec. 30, 2:00-6:30 p.m.

For more info call Cindy Weber ad 641-636-2116

Bingo Night at the Roost

January 17, 7:00 p.m.

El Gringo Loco food truck will be serving food from 4-7 p.m.

All proceeds go to support Little Eagles Childcare

Keokuk County Democrats Caucus Meeting

Feb. 2, 2026, Doors open at 6:00 p.m.

Sigourney City Hall for ALL Keokuk County Voting Precincts

Voter registration provided on-site

Sigourney American Legion Post #19

Meets 4:00 p.m., Third Tuesday of every month at Memorial Hall

Keswick American Legion Post #319

Meets Monthly @ 5:30 p.m. on the first Wednesday of each month

At the Keswick American Legion Post

Men's Caregiver Support Group

Bridget's Public House 208 1st Ave E. Oskaloosa, IA 52577

1st and 3rd Wednesday from 10:30am - 12 Noon.

Former Keota Police Chief Criticizes City's Lack of Police Coverage

By Casey Jarmes | The News-Review

KEOTA – In 2023, Keota Police Chief Doug Conrad left the city's department for the Washington County Sheriff's Department. More than two years later, the city still hasn't found a replacement for Conrad. Conrad spoke to the council during their Dec. 15 meeting, expressing his frustration that nothing had been done since he left.

He brought up State V. Allen, a 1997 Iowa Supreme Court Case that decided that cities must provide police services. Conrad explained that that case clearly stated that cities could not opt out of providing police coverage, arguing that, if they could, then counties could opt out of providing police coverage in favor of state police coverage, and the state could opt out of providing police

coverage in favor of just having federal police coverage, which was absurd. Conrad stated that there was precedent for county supervisors personally being sued for a lack of police coverage and that he didn't think it would be a stretch to sue city council members.

Conrad stated that at least one person had died because of lack of police coverage, who wouldn't have died, if he had still been with the city. He explained that this person called the Washington County Sheriff's Department, just wanting to talk, but he was unable to meet with them at the time, due to no longer being with the city. Thirty minutes later, the man was dead, because no one stopped to talk to him.

Conrad stated that he would not let this issue go, because it needed to be addressed. He stated that he

had spoken with the Iowa Attorney General's Office and Washington County Sheriff Jared Schneider, who was willing to try and get something set up, either with Keota partnering with Washington County, or Keota partnering with Sigourney and Richland.

"Sit back, and cross our fingers, and hope that something bad doesn't happen, I don't think is a good plan of action...This is a big deal. It's a serious deal, and it deserves and mandates our consideration, our discussion in how to fix this," said Conrad.

Councilman Mike Bender agreed this was a problem, saying it needed to be on the city's radar until it was solved. He stated that they had done some due diligence, but that every option the city had tried in the past two years had either been something the city couldn't afford

or killed by there not being enough officers at another department. He stated that they had checked out four or five different candidates, but that all of them had either said no or requested an "outrageous" amount of money. Bender stated that they could try to negotiate with Schneider again. He stated that the idea of a specific time frame for police coverage was obsolete, and that they shouldn't look at something like 40 hours a week of police coverage or 10 hours a week of patrol time, because it wasn't enough. Bender stated that the new mayor and council members, who will take over at the next meeting, will need to look at new options and keep looking for coverage.

Mayor Tony Cansler stated that he had taken steps to get police coverage, including contacting "Sigourney," who told him they would get back

to him in two weeks. Then, two weeks later, they said it would take two more weeks. Cansler stated that they kept saying two more weeks and that the discussion went nowhere. It was unclear if Cansler meant that he had spoken to the City of Sigourney, or the Keokuk County Sheriff's Department, located in Sigourney.

Cansler stated that they had placed ads in the paper and gotten two applicants. However, one asked for an extremely high salary the city couldn't afford and the other had no experience, meaning the city would have had to pay to put him through police academy. Cansler stated that they were working with a police officer from northern Iowa to get rid of old evidence and that this

POLICE
pg. 3



Pekin Students Receive Shirts

By Casey Jarmes | The News-Review

PACKWOOD – On Dec. 17, the Pekin Parent Teacher Organization provided

all of the school's students with Pekin t-shirts. "This was an initiative from PTO to make sure that all of our students and staff had a Pekin Panther t-shirt,

and so we partnered with area businesses to make sure the kids had a shirt before Christmas," said PTO co-president Sarah Deutsch.

"We just wanted to make sure every student had a little Christmas gift from our Pekin Community," said vice president Gretchen Adam.

Earlier in the month, the PTO held a Santa's workshop for students to shop. They plan to hold a school carnival in the spring.

Ribbon Cut for Fidelity Bank

By Casey Jarmes | The News-Review

SIGOURNEY – On Oct. 17, Sigourney-based bank County Bank was acquired by Fidelity Bank and Trust, a Dubuque-based chain. An open house and ribbon cutting was held on Dec. 19. After acquiring County Bank's branches, Fidelity now has 38 branches, mostly in Iowa.

"I think the really cool thing about Fidelity, is when people hear Dubuque, they think it's a big city bank. People think Wells Fargo or stuff like that. But most of our banks are small towns, so they're basically very much like County Bank was. They just have more branches... Our mission statement is

'Making hometown lives better.' County Bank was a very good community bank,



Photo courtesy of the Keokuk County Economic Development

and Fidelity is like that, only we're in more communities. So they're very involved in projects and community groups and things like that," said Assistant Vice President Lucas Meier.

County Bank, originally called Keokuk County State Bank, was chartered in 1876. It changed its name to County Bank in 2013, after expanding to feature banks outside of Keokuk County. The acquisition led to no change in personnel at County Bank. Meier stated that the bank would now offer more products and account types, as well as a trust department for wealth management and investments.

2025
Award Winning Newspaper
In this issue

Agri-View.....	6B
Church Calendar	5
Classifieds	6
Local	2-3, 7
Records	2B-3B
The Sun Spot.....	8
Sports.....	9-10



Print your favorite memories



The News-Review

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M-F 9 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

CORRECTION

In the story “Keota School Board Discusses Shared Athletic Program Costs,” published in the Dec. 17 issue of the News-Review, we listed Keota HR Director Missy Sellers as commenting on the cost of a shared wrestling program. In reality, another person at the meeting commented on the price. The News-Review apologizes for this error.



L to R: Jesse Hannam, David Goldman, Larry Chmelar

New Sigourney Council Members Sworn in

By Casey Jarmes | The News-Review
SIGOURNEY – During the Dec. 17 meeting of the Sigourney City Council, newly elected council members Jesse Hannam, David Goldman and Larry Chmelar were sworn in. These new council members take the seats previously held by Stephani Lentz, who lost reelection, Adam Clark, who did not run for reelection, and Gary Iosbaker, who was elected mayor, respectively. Also at the Wednesday meeting, the council approved a \$308,500 bid from TanksCo to rehabilitate the water tower. The company will sandblast the interior of the tower and paint both the inside and outside of the tower in late spring or early summer 2026. Matt Walker from French-Reneker-Associates stated that he had reached out to communities who had worked with TanksCo; the only one to respond was Waverly, who had nothing bad to say about the Texas-based company. Walker stated he had heard that TanksCo worked long hours and were efficient, which is good, considering concerns about the water tower being offline during the project. This was the last meeting of retiring Sigourney Mayor Jimmy Morlan, who was elected in 2021. Morlan thanked the city employees and council at the end of the meeting. “Our council gets along very well, and I’ve always appreciated that. That’s not true in a lot of councils. Thank you for your service, thank you for everything you do,” said Morlan.



Santa visited Keota Elementary on Dec. 18

Merry Christmas Charlie Brown



By Rick Janssen

December 22, 2025

I was wondering what to write about for this week’s column. I could write another column about ringing the Salvation Army bell again during the 4-degree temperatures, or another ice fishing column. Then I realized when the paper would come out and it would be right at prime Christmas time. It made me think of all things Christmas and one of those Christmas memories is watching A Charlie Brown Christmas on TV. A Charlie Brown Christmas premiered on December 9, 1965, and it has become one of the most beloved of Christmas specials. Here are some things you might not know about the program. When Charles Schulz was approached to do the program, he was not really interested in getting into animation. He had been asked many times before to help produce a TV special, but he had turned them all down. When he was asked once again to do a Christmas special, he finally gave in, but with a few demands of his own.

First off, he wanted actual children to do the voices of his characters. The studio wanted to use adult actors, but Charles did not like that idea. He thought the voices of actual children would be more authentic for the program. They found the right children but then what to do about Snoopy. His voice was just speeded up nonsense. An actor barked and snuffed into a recording, and they sped up those noises to create Snoopy’s voice. Even the jazz music we know so well was not what CBS wanted. They thought jazz would be too sophisticated for their target audience of young children. Now, that soundtrack plays in our minds every year. CBS wanted to add a laugh track like they used on every other comedy of the day. Because he was so upset, Charles Schulz walked off the set and did not come back for a period of time. When he finally returned the producer took the hint and left off the laugh track. The real big stumbling block with CBS was they objected to using Bible scripture to tell the Christmas story. They thought the sponsor (Coca Cola) would not agree with that part of the program. Again, Charles Schulz insisted that the scripture reading by Linus remain in the show. After some lengthy discussions the scripture was left in.

Even after all these problems, nearly half of the country tuned in to watch the special and it has won numerous awards. The special still airs every year and has become a staple in many people’s homes to help celebrate the season. So, what is Christmas all about? I will let Linus take it from here. *And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) And all went to be taxed, everyone into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David) to be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn. And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about*

JANSSEN
pg. 5

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talk	<p>Talk with your partner before having sex. Talk about when you were last tested & suggest getting tested together.</p> <p>Talk to your healthcare provider about your sex life. Ask about HIV & STI testing—including what tests you need & how often.</p>
test	<p>Get tested! It's the only way to know for sure if you have HIV or an STI.</p> <p>Many STIs don't cause symptoms, so you could have one and not know.</p>
treat	<p>HIV & all other STIs are treatable.</p> <p>If you test positive for an STI, work with your healthcare provider to get the right treatment.</p> <p>If you test positive for HIV, your provider or testing location will connect you to treatment & resources!</p>

STOP HIV IOWA

Find testing near you!
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Community CALENDAR

Richland Public Library
Tuesday/Wednesday/Thursday: 2:30-6:00
Friday: Noon-5:00
Saturday: 10:00-1:00
Closed Sunday and Monday. For more information call 319-456-6541

Wilson Memorial Library
Mondays 10-6pm
Tuesdays, Wednesday, and Thursdays 10-5pm
Fridays 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
Saturdays 8-12.

Sigourney Public Library
Monday/Tuesday/Wednesday/Thursday 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Friday 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Saturday 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Hedrick Public Library
Monday/Thursday/Friday 2 - 6 p.m.
Tuesday 1 - 5 p.m.
Wednesday 12 - 4 p.m.
Saturday/Sunday Closed

What Cheer Public Library
Monday 12:00-6:00 p.m.
Wednesday 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Friday 12:00-5:00 p.m.
Saturday 9:00-11:00 a.m.

Sigourney Kiwanis
Serving the community since 1969. Kiwanis meet Wednesdays, from 12 to 1 p.m. at Keokuk County Bowl, visitors are welcome.

Free Grace Recovery
Wednesdays at 7 p.m. at Free Grace United at 107 E Broadway St. What Cheer.
For: All Addictions: any

hurt, habit or hang up. Come as you are.
Childcare provided.
Everyone is welcome.
freegrace.tv/recovery

Old Keota Business
Anyone having old photos of former Keota businesses, please contact Larry Gale Sanders. The photos will be used in a Keota Business Pictorial Album.

Keota Food Pantry
The food pantry in Keota is open on the last Sunday of the month at the United Church of Faith, 10-11 a.m. Anyone needing food is invited.

Richland Community Food Bank
Located at Richland Methodist Church, 106 W South St. Richland, (319) 456-2251 Sherry Jipp. Open Tuesday and Wednesday 9:30-11:30 a.m. and Thursday 5-7:00 p.m.

City of Keota Public Meeting
Public meetings will be held on the First and Third Monday of each month. at 7 p.m. at Keota City Hall. Special Meetings will be posted at City Hall.

Keota School Board
The Keota School Board meets the second Thursday of each month, typically at 6 p.m.

Keota VFW Auxiliary
The VFW Auxiliary meets the third Tuesday of each month, typically at the VFW building.

Keokuk County Historical Society
Open Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 2

p.m.
KCHS will be closed the weeks of Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Years. During winter, when school is cancelled, KCHS will be closed.

Keokuk County Supervisors
The Keokuk County Board of Supervisors meets weekly on Mondays at 8:30 a.m.

Alcoholics Anonymous Sigourney
AA Meetings at Community Outreach Center-Sigourney: Wednesdays at 8 p.m. for more information, call (319) 461-6869.

Narcotics Anonymous-Sigourney
NA Meetings Community Outreach Center-Sigourney: Thursdays at 6 p.m.
615 S Jefferson St Sigourney

Food Pantry-Sigourney
Food Pantry Community Outreach Center-Sigourney: Call the Lord's Pantry at 641-224-2588 or contact a minister

Keokuk County Public Health
Keokuk County Public Health is here to serve you. We offer an array of services such as: home health services, immunizations, education, diabetic care, foot care, partner's program, etc. We have walkers, wheelchairs, shower chairs, canes, etc. to loan out free of cost. Please call us if you or a loved one is in need. For more information, call (641) 622-3575.

Alcoholics Anonymous-Keota
AA every Monday at 7 p.m. at the Good Neighbor Fellowship Church on Broadway.

Alzheimer's Support
Alzheimer's Support Group meetings are held the first Monday of each month at the Presbyterian Church in Washington at 6:30 p.m.

Take Off Pounds Sensibly
Weekly meetings Tuesdays, 4:30pm - 5:30 pm
Keokuk County Extension Office, 641-777-1653

Grief Share
Sigourney Christian Church, 308 S Jefferson St
Wednesdays at 1 p.m., beginning Nov. 6
No charge

Fiddle Dee Dee
3rd Wednesday of every month, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Junk Journal Workday. Bring your own junk journals to build and work on. You can collaborate, share supplies, or ideas.

Keokuk County Democrats Open Meeting
First Tuesday of the Month
Meet & Greet at 6:30 p.m.
Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Webb Masonic Lodge #182
A.F. & A.M.
Meets first Tuesday every month
Dinner 6:30 p.m.; Stated meeting 7:30 p.m.
For more information call 641-660-4605

MENUS

Goodwin Senior Dining Center (Wellman)

Dec. 26th
Closed For Christmas
Dec. 29th
Scrambled Eggs w/ Sausage
Gravy, Fresh Fruit, Bread
Pudding.
Dec. 31st
Closed for New Years

Keota

Christmas Break

English Valleys

Christmas Break

Sigourney

Christmas Break

Milestones (Sigourney and Delta)

Dec. 25th
Closed for Christmas
Dec. 26th
Meatloaf, Mashed Potatoes, Gravy, Green Beans, Fruit, Wheat Roll.
Dec. 29th
Beef Enchilada Casserole, Rice & Beans, Tossed Salad w/ Dressing, Mandarin Oranges.
Dec. 30th
Cook's Choice with Dessert
Dec. 31st
Closed for New Years Eve

Tri-County

Christmas Break

Pekin

Christmas Break



Keota Elementary Principal Seth Milledge dressed as an Elf on the Shelf on Dec. 18



Keota Secretary Crystal Wright won the school's fourth annual Ugly Sweater Contest



Keota kindergarten and 6th-grade students sang carols at Harvest Acres Nursing home on Dec. 17

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POLICE from pg. 1

officer had drawn up a 28e agreement for police coverage. Cansler stated that they had sent the agreement to the Keokuk County Sheriff's Department, so they could make changes, but that it hadn't been sent back yet. Conrad stated that Keokuk County doesn't have enough people and is also struggling to keep officers. He stated that, in the last three years, three or four different officers had been hired and then left. Conrad stated that he didn't see this changing until the department's administration changes.

Conrad stated that, if small towns in Washington County like West Chester (population 144), Crawfordsville (population 277) and Ainsworth (population 511) can get police coverage, Keota (population 897) should be able to. Bender stated that, when they talked to Washington County, they wanted Keota to pay enough for a full-time officer, including salary, vehicle and gear costs, for 40 hours of coverage. Bender stated that they couldn't go off coverage time, because it includes court time, when the officer is not covering the city. Conrad stated that they could negotiate 40 hours of response time.

Conrad brought up an incident where Washington County deputies arrived in Keota 25 minutes after a call, followed by state patrol officers arriving after 35 minutes, then followed by Keokuk County deputies. He stated that that incident turned out to be nothing, but that future incidents wouldn't be.

"Something bad's going to happen, and the people who sit in this room, will be the ones that pay," warned Conrad. "To me, if I was sitting in your seats, that would not be acceptable."

Earlier in the Monday

meeting, Councilman Heath McDonald explained that he had received concerns from people around town about people not shoveling snow off the sidewalks in front of their homes following the previous snowstorm. He stated that, two days after the snow storm, he had counted 40 houses with un-shoveled sidewalks west of Davis Street, with many more east of Davis. He stated that he was unsure how to go about this, noting that, if the city scoops sidewalks, everyone will expect the city to do it for them, similarly to the problem with people not picking up sticks. McDonald estimated that, if they paid someone to clear sidewalks, at around 60 sidewalks per storm, that could end up costing \$10-12,000 per storm. He stated that they could assess this cost to people's taxes, but that this would result in them waiting months for that payment.

Public Works Director Micah Harmsen stated that he has a hard enough time keeping the streets clear and wouldn't have time for sidewalks, meaning they would probably need to hire someone. He stated that they didn't currently have money for this in the budget and would have to pay for it out of the general fund. Harmsen stated he wasn't sure how to go about dealing with sidewalks. Councilman Keith Conrad stated that the ordinances say people have 24 hours to clear their sidewalks and that, if someone slips and breaks their leg, they can sue the property owner. Councilman Matt Greiner asked if not clearing snow could be listed as a problem on the code enforcement notices left on doors. City Clerk Hunter stated it could. McDonald stated he would be happy to leave notices on doors for not scooping snow and that some

people might scoop snow if notified; he noted that, with overgrown lawns, most people will mow if given a tag or a phone call.

Greiner stated that, with heavy snow storms, it can be hard to clear within 24 hours, especially if the homeowner is elderly. He asked where they should draw the line between people being too old to clear snow and people just not wanting to. Councilwoman Patty Tinnes also raised concerns about people not being physically able or financially able to clear snow. Bender stated he was glad that the new council, not him, would have to decide on this issue. Discussion was tabled, with the council planning to discuss this more with the new council and new mayor next month.

The council approved yearly wage increases for city employees, including: a raise from \$62,000 to \$64,170 for Harmsen; a raise from \$63,000 to \$67,410 for Public Works Director Kevin Slaubaugh; a raise from \$52,000 to \$53,800 for City Clerk Hunter Bruns; and a raise from \$17 per hour to \$20 per hour for Assistant Clerk Kristen Clarke. These raises will go in effect on July 1, 2026. The council approved spending \$390 for blower parts and \$2584.70 for two new motors for the water plant. The council approved setting the Fiscal Year 2027 Revenue Workshop for Jan. 12 and the Expenditures Workshop for Jan. 26; times for these meetings were not decided.

During the public comment time, former member of the city council Danielle Imhoff stated that, as someone who works in government and works with budget, she was confused as to how the council could vote on FY27 salaries, before doing the budget workshops. She

stated that she was not aware of any government entity that does this and called the timing suspicious. Imhoff also stated that a lot of the problems the council discussed stemmed from a lack of law enforcement presence. She stated that they can make excuses, but the council had shown that night, when voting on salaries months ahead of when typically done, that they can get things done if they want to. Imhoff claimed that, if getting police coverage was a priority, it would get done. She claimed that she knew, from her time on the council, that the council did not treat it as a priority. She stated that this does not reflect the opinions of most citizens and that this had been partially reflected in the election results.

"Like Doug said, it's only a matter of time until something really bad happens. And you're going to be the ones responsible," Imhoff said.

A library employee stated she had concerns with parking during the Christmas in Keota event on the 6th, stating that there wasn't enough parking and that it was a safety issue due to children crossing the street. She stated that the library doesn't have events all the time, and that some people don't think it warrants extra parking, but that she thinks it should be looked into.

Another concerned citizen claimed that, after the snow storm a few weeks ago, the sidewalk in front of city hall wasn't shoveled. He stated that he knew Harmsen was busy, but that the city needs to lead by example if they want everyone else to clean up snow.

Ryan Carr, who will take over as Mayor of Keota in

POLICE pg. 5

PROFESSIONAL DIRECTORY

MEDICAL SERVICES
KEOKUK COUNTY HOSPITAL AND CLINICS
MEDICAL CLINICS:
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BEHAVIORAL HEALTH
641-622-1170
HEDRICK CLINIC
641-653-2437
SPECIALTY CLINICS:
CARDIOLOGY
641-672-3360
DERMATOLOGY
515-348-6383
ORTHOPEDICS
641-621-2376
PODIATRY
641-622-1180
WOUND CARE
641-684-8448

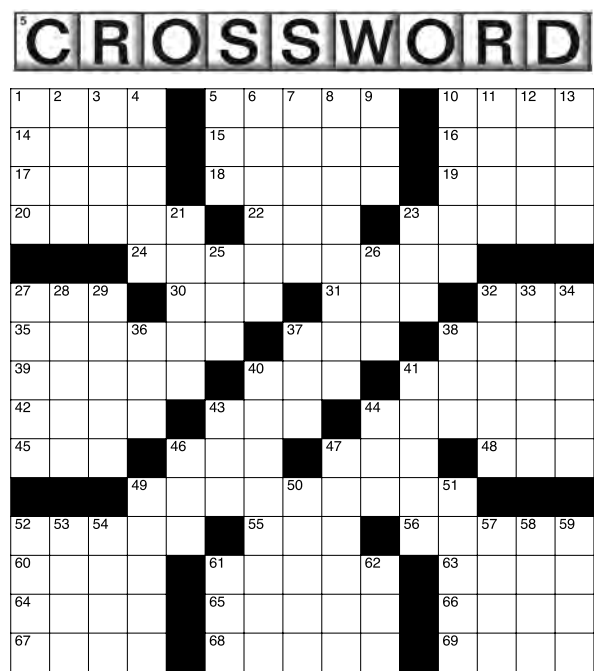
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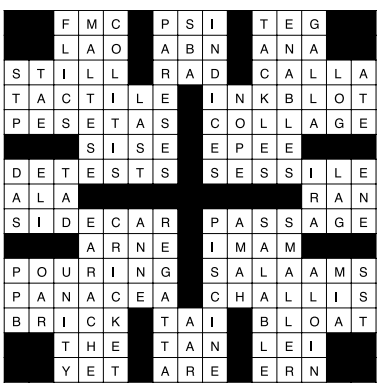


- CLUES ACROSS**

 - 1. Light cavalry
 - 5. Coconut palms
 - 10. Rounded knob
 - 14. Central Japan city
 - 15. Sandwiches
 - 16. Shape produced by a curve
 - 17. Ancient region in modern-day Syria
 - 18. French modernist painter
 - 19. Grandmother
 - 20. Mammary gland of cattle
 - 22. Rocky peak
 - 23. Secret plan
 - 24. Songs to one's lover
 - 27. More (Spanish)
 - 30. Father
 - 31. Chinese principle underlying the universe
 - 32. Ballplayer's accessory
 - 35. Together
 - 37. A person's brother or sister
 - 38. Evil spirit
 - 39. Monetary units
 - 40. Partner to cheese
 - 41. About Sun
 - 42. Group of like-minded people
 - 43. After B
 - 44. Seaside room
 - 45. Recipe measurement
 - 46. Partly digested food
 - 47. Flat-faced dog
 - 48. People of southern Africa
 - 49. Salts
 - 52. Beard lichens
 - 55. Sanders is one
 - 56. Fencing sword
 - 60. Ethnic group of Albania
 - 61. Metric weight unit
 - 63. Italian seaport
 - 64. Longtime late night host
 - 65. Extremely angry
 - 66. Miami mascot
 - 67. Mid-month day
 - 68. Marked for omission
 - 69. Body part
- CLUES DOWN**

 - 1. Two-toed sloth
 - 2. Fat from a pig's abdomen
 - 3. Romanian city
 - 4. Specifies
 - 5. Rounded, glaciated valley
 - 6. Spoke
 - 7. Collection of sacred books
 - 8. Extravagantly theatrical
 - 9. Very fast airplane
 - 10. Forearm bones
 - 11. Ancient kingdom
 - 12. Legitimate: ___ fide
 - 13. Semitransparent gemstone
 - 21. Counsels
 - 23. Head honcho
 - 25. Cool!
 - 26. Touch lightly
 - 27. Extract money via taxation
 - 28. Dyes
 - 29. Cloying sweetness
 - 32. Sodas
 - 33. Coastal village in Guam
 - 34. Chemical ring
 - 36. The bill in a restaurant
 - 37. Car mechanics group
 - 38. One-time presidential candidate Dole
 - 40. Health care for the aged
 - 41. Wise persons
 - 43. Passage with access at one end
 - 44. Make a wound
 - 46. America's spies
 - 47. Roof of the mouth
 - 49. Plants of the lily family
 - 50. Pinkish-red color
 - 51. Vaccine developer
 - 52. Mottled citrus fruit
 - 53. A place to store garden tools
 - 54. Rare goose native to Hawaii
 - 57. Popular Hollywood pig
 - 58. Musician Clapton
 - 59. A move exposing one to danger
 - 61. Historic Spanish soldier
 - 62. CNN's founder

LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS



ENCOURAGE KINDNESS
TODAY

PUT A SMILE
IN SOMEONE'S DAY

English Valley Well and Pump Service
Bill Van Dee
Trenching and Backhoeing
North English, IA
319-664-3516

Statler Construction Inc.
NOW is the time to start planning for building Your New Home!
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E Z E E N S N B C A N F V G E Z M I B C
I C L P C B D F H I C N O I T C E F N I
E V S E Y N N U R V F R A T Z V I R U S
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N T I D E L E N I C I D E M R O Z M T A

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

WORDS

- ACHES
- ANTIBIOTICS
- CHILLS
- CONGESTION
- CONTAGIOUS
- COUGH
- FATIGUE
- FEVER
- GERMS
- HEADACHE
- HYDRATION
- IMMUNITY
- INFECTION
- MEDICINE
- MUCUS
- PREVENTION
- REST
- RUNNY
- SNEEZE
- STUFFY
- THROAT
- TISSUES
- VACCINE
- VIRUS

THE HISTORICAL VIEWPOINT

Santa Letters from Years Past

By Casey Jarmes | The News-Review
This issue comes out on Christmas Eve. Tonight, all across the county, children will go to bed, dreaming of presents under the tree. Last week, we published our yearly Santa Letters special section, where local children wrote out claims that they had been good and lists of gifts they hoped to receive. The News-Review has been publishing Santa letters for decades. For this week's column, I thought it would be fun to travel back in time, and see what local children asked for 10, 15, 20, 25, and 30 years ago.

1995
Megan wanted a Barbie Jeep, a Jenny the Gymnast doll, and a makeup set. She told Santa that she went deer hunting with her family, but didn't shoot any deer, and asked if any of Santa's reindeer had any babies.
Lisa M. Wehr, age 5, asked for a Puppy in my Pocket and a box of 16 crayons. She said she would try not to fight with her brother Neil or call him a stinker.
Cody, age 6, asked for a game and a gameboy carrying case.
Steven asked for a happy

Christmas.
Amanda, age 8, asked for a My Size Barbie, Polly Pocket, a stuffed animal, and most of all, to be with her whole family on Christmas.
Keaton asked for Batman stuff. He wrote that he'd been good that year, but that his daddy had said his mommy was bad, and asked Santa to still bring her something. He mentioned that he made Santa cookies, but that he had burnt them, and that his mom said they would make Santa's cheeks rosy.
Shana R. Hauschild asked for Pocahontas pajamas, a Teacher Barbie, other Barbie things, a wolf shirt, and a battery operated car, a phone, and a dragging suitcase. She also wrote that her dog, Cookie, wanted a doggy coat and bones.
2000
Cassie Griffith asked for a four-wheeler, a bike, a computer, jewelry, and clothes. She asked Santa what the weather was like at the North Pole and said that she thought she had been "nice" this year, with the quotation marks around the word nice.
Brianna Winegarden

asked for a puppy or a rabbit, writing that she just wanted a pet, even if it was the only present she got from Santa. She also asked for breakable dolls, Bryers, a horse tack, writing stationary, and a glow in the dark watch.
Kaitlyn Fairchild asked for a dancing baby, a black lion fack, cotton candy, markers, and a dress-up set. She also drew a little cartoon of a very sad looking Santa Claus.
Michael wrote he just wanted Santa to give him a baby kitten.
Abby Glandon, age six, wrote that she hoped that Santa would bring every little boy or girl a present and that she hoped no one got sick in the shop. She asked for a telescope or a trampoline, noting that a trampoline was a little too big, but still wanted one. She said she would leave Santa some cheese.
Monica Morris wished for her half-sister in the hospital to get better. She also asked for a scooter, a puppy, some stuffed animals, a sister, and a little bit of Santa's beard.
Macy asked for a Wedding Princess Barbie and a Ken Prince Barbie.
2005
Nolan Joseph Wehr asked for a long planter, marbles, Power Rangers movies, Batman movies, books that he could read, a bow and arrow, an ant farm and a semi to haul his cows.
Tanner asked for a toy cat, toys for the cat, a big trampoline, and a wizard outfit.
Kennedy Seaba-Wilkinson asked for first aid kits.
Steven Sparks

asked for copies of "It's the Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown," "The Emperor's New Groove," and "Jurassic Park," a race track, a Hot Wheels car wash, anything Spider-Man, a remote control car, Uno Attack, a SpongeBob PS2 game, and a set of LEGOs.
Madison Craig (or, more likely, a parent) wrote that she was so excited about turning two on December 23. She wrote she looked forward to visiting Santa sometime before Christmas and wanted a special doll.
Megan Montgomery wrote she wanted a cash register, a computer, and a real dog with long ears.
Ben wanted Yu-Gi-Oh!, an ultimate lightsaber, everything that's Star Wars!, a cyborg wrist rocket, toy guns, Star Wars stuff, Star Wars, a Yu-Gi-Oh duel disk, and Power Rangers toys.
2010
Belle asked for a Taylor Swift CD, a Harry Potter castle LEGO set, a new robe, and an iDog. She also wrote that her sister Ellie wanted a teacup pig and that she hoped all the kids everywhere got toys that year.
Cole asked for a tool box and a Beyblade. He wrote that he would leave Santa a yummy cookie.
Mason Moore asked for an MP3 player, a Boys of Fall CD, an Iowa Hawkeye wall crasher, a BB gun, a Butler Bulldogs sweatshirt, and a Florida Lil Teammate figure. He also wrote that he hoped Santa would get to everyone's house safely.
Levi Crawford asked for an Xbox Kinect and a remote control airplane. He wrote that they didn't have a chimney, so Santa would

Letter to the Editor Policy

The News-Review welcomes the opinions of our readers in the form of letters to the editor, as long as the submissions are not in bad taste and refrain from attacking individuals without supporting documentation or a rational and legally defensible justification. In any event the newspaper reserves the sole discretion to decide whether or not a reader submission will be published. If your letter is selected it will be run on a single occasion and you agree to give us the right to publish it in print and digital form. The News-Review will not accept letters that are duplicated, reprinted, copied, or otherwise reproduced. Letters should be original, type-written or neatly handwritten. Letters should not exceed 300 words. Letters exceeding this length could be subject to editing and may not be published in their entirety.
The News-Review does not as a general rule print form letters or letters which are also submitted to other newspapers. We are most interested in sincere personal views as opposed to canned publicity releases or talking points for

an individual or a cause, therefore if a writer cannot assure us that their submission is individual and personal, it may be rejected.
Your Letter to the Editor must include:
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• Your complete address
• Your telephone number
Your address and telephone number will not be printed in the newspaper, but will be used for verification by newspaper editorial staff.
Unsigned letters and letters containing personal attacks the newspaper deems to be of a libelous nature will not be published. The News-Review reserves the right to end debate on a topic after both sides have had ample chance to express their views. The News-Review reserves the right to edit or refuse all letters. All columns and letters on the opinion page are the views of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of The News-Review.

Correction and Retraction Policy

The News-Review strives for accurate and complete news reporting but occasionally we get it wrong. In cases where an error has been made we will run a correction, clarification, retraction or editor's note in the next edition. Our goal in any event is to inform readers of corrections clearly and quickly, citing the incorrect information and updating with the correct information.
All corrections will be printed on page 2A in the next issue published. The correction will denote the issue, article and incorrect information along with the correction. Digital corrections will also be made and an editor's note will be added to the bottom of the article in question noting what was inaccurate and noting when the article was amended. If the article was posted on Facebook, Twitter or any other online medium controlled by The News-Review, a post will be made linking to the corrected article, noting the correction.

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The News-Review

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The News-Review dates back to 1960 after the consolidation of the Keokuk County News and the Sigourney Review.
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Worship Guide

Please check with your church for updates, online services, postponements and cancellations. In light of COVID-19 measures, please contact your church to find out how services are being held or streamed online before attempting to attend.

DELTA
Delta Christian Church
108 W 3rd St.
Worship: Sunday at 9:00 a.m.

Delta Methodist Church
Pastor Vince Homan
Worship: 9 a.m.
Sunday School for Elementary age children is at 9:30-10:15 a.m.

FREMONT
Fremont Community Church
Sunday Worship 9 a.m.
Children's Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Adult Sunday School 10:15 a.m.

First Baptist Church of Fremont
Pastor Robb Bruns
Sunday School, 9 a.m.
Sunday Worship, 10 a.m.

GIBSON
Gibson Presbyterian Church
Pastors Amy McGriff and Robert Elgin
Worship, 10 a.m.
Communion on the third Sunday of the month.

HEDRICK
The Church Of Living Water
Pastor Shane Jarr
13 North Main St., Hedrick
Sunday School - 9:30 a.m.;
Sunday Worship -10:40 a.m.;
Evening Services - 7 p.m.
Bible Study Wednesdays - 6 p.m.

Hedrick First Christian
206 Park St. Hedrick
Sunday School 9:45 a.m.;
Gathering for Worship, 10:45 a.m.

Hedrick Community Church A Global Methodist Church
Pastor Michael Elrod
203 N. Spring Street, Hedrick
641-653-4477
Sunday: 9 a.m. Worship
In Person, or online through our Facebook Page or www.hedrickumc.org

KEOTA
Good Neighbor Fellowship
126 E Broadway
Sunday: 9 a.m. Sunday School, 10 a.m. Service

Holy Trinity Parish
109 N Lincoln St.
Rev. Fr. Robert Lathrop
Office Phone: 641-636-3883
Sunday Mass: 8:30am

Religious-Ed Sundays 9:30-10:45am

United Church of Faith
201 North Ellis Street, PO Box 208
Keota, IA 52248
(641) 636-3825
keotaucf@cloudburst9.net
www.keotaucf.org
Sunday Worship Service 9:00 a.m.

KESWICK
Keswick and Webster UMC
Pastor Brandi Meyer
319-430-7299
Keswick United Methodist Church
Service: 9:00 a.m.
Webster United Methodist Church Worship service: 10:00 a.m.
Communion is on the 1st Sunday of the month for both churches

New Life Fellowship
Hwy. 22 South, Keswick
319-738-3851
Pastor John Stringfellow
Service Sunday at 10 a.m. and Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.
Teaching Tuesday is Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.
Evening of Praise: every third Saturday of the month at 7 p.m.

NEW SHARON
The Lighthouse Church
641-637-2251
www.nsfcc.org
Pastor Eric Sneed
Sunday: Sunday School 9 a.m.;
Worship 10 a.m.
Wednesday: WOW Kids 6-7:30 p.m.
Thursday: Prayer Connect 5:50-6:20 p.m.

New Sharon Assembly of God
www.newsharonag.org
Pastor Shane Farnum
Youth Group: Wednesday: 6:30-7:30 p.m.
Sunday: 9 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship Service

New Sharon Friends Church
Sunday Worship, 9:30 a.m.
Sunday School, 10:45 a.m.

New Sharon Harvest Community Church
Pastor David Pinkerton
2083 Hwy. 102
641-295-0109
Sunday School 8:45 a.m.
Fellowship 9:30 a.m.
Worship 10 a.m.

New Sharon Lower Grove Church
Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.
Worship, 10:30 a.m.

New Life Fellowship New Sharon
Lead Pastor Rick Baarda
www.newlifefellowships.org
641-637-2561
newlifefellowships@gmail.com
Worship Service: Sunday, 9:15am (Church)
Children's Sunday School during pastor's morning message. (Church Basement)
Adult Small Group: Sunday, 10:30am (Church)
Adult Small Group: Wednesday, 1:30pm (McVay FC)
G2C Youth Group (2-6th)- Wednesday, 6:00 -7:30pm (Church)
PROS Youth Group (7-12th) - Wednesday, 6:30 - 8:30pm (McVay FC)

Union Mills Christian Church
Pastor Josh Martin
1405 Parkin Ave, New Sharon, IA 50207
641-637-2339
Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.
Worship, 10:35 a.m.

NORTH ENGLISH
St. Joseph's
221 N Knollridge St.
Rev. Fr. Robert Lathrop
319-664-3325
Mass Time: Saturdays 5:00pm (Nov through Feb: 4:00pm)
Religious-Ed: Wednesdays 6:00-7:15pm

Christian Church
Pastor Luke Caster
131 N. Howard St.
Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m.
Ph. 319-664-3338

OLLIE
Grace Family Church
Rev. Dar Eckley, Pastor
24536 Hwy. 78, Box 64, Ollie, 52576
Sunday Worship - 10:15 a.m.
Sunday school-10:15 a.m.
RockKnowledge Youth Group is Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.

Ollie Baptist Church
Church Phone: 641-224-9797
Ollie Pastor Tom Grove
Sunday: 9:30 a.m. Worship
Thursday: 9 a.m. Sewing and Quilting

Prairie View Church, A Global Methodist Church
Pastor: Steven Lamb
641-667-2502
27131 Hwy 78, Ollie
Sunday: 9:00 a.m. Worship,
Followed by Fellowship
Sunday School 7:50 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

OSKALOOSA
Park Church of Christ
Minister David Pearce
1804 Burlington Road
Oskaloosa
Sunday Morning
9:30 a.m. Classes
10:30 a.m. Worship

RICHLAND
Richland Methodist Church
Pastor Michael Elrod
106 W. South St., Richland
319-456-2251
Sunday Worship: 11 a.m. in person or Facebook page.

Trinity Friends Church
Pastor Jerry Hoover
206 Main St,
641-919-8922
Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m.

Woolson Friends Church
Pastor Jerry Hoover
1005 Jasmine Ave,
641-919-8922
Sunday Worship 11:00 a.m.

ROSE HILL
Rose Hill Community Church
Pastor: Mike Sennett
2011 Main St.
Sunday School- 9 a.m.
Sunday Worship- 10:15 a.m.
Free Food Bank Distribution- Every second Friday of the month.

SIGOURNEY
Be the Light Ministry
200 Kramer St.
Sunday- 9 a.m. Traditional
11 a.m. Contemporary
Sunday School (PK-6) 10-10:45 a.m.

The Bethel Church
Pastor Nick Needham
319-329-6070

6 miles East of Sigourney on Highway 92.
Website: thebethelumc.org
Sunday School at 9:30 a.m.
Worship at 10:30 a.m.
Member of the Global Methodist Church

First Baptist Church
Pastor Joe Hohenshell
308 N. Jefferson St. 319-450-8333
Sunday School, 9 a.m.; Worship Service, 10 a.m.

First Presbyterian Church
First Presbyterian Church
215 N Jefferson St, Sigourney
Pulpit supply for Pastor
641-622-2247
Sunday Worship: 9:30 a.m.

Christian Church of Sigourney
308 S. Jefferson, 641-622-2151
Pastor Dan Glandon
Sunday School all ages: 9:30 a.m.
Traditional Service: 10:45 a.m.
Adult Bible Study: Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.

Hope Lutheran Church, LCMS
The Rev. Richard Meyer
315 W. Kelly Street
Office: 319-668-2999
May-Sept.
Sunday: Worship at 11 a.m.
Communion the first and third Sunday
Oct-April
Saturday: Worship at 5 p.m.
Communion the first and third Saturday

Lancaster Christian Church
Pastor Don Frost
22934 W. County Rd. V5G
815-262-5273
Sunday School: 9 a.m.; Worship Service: 10 a.m.

St. Mary's Catholic Church
415 E Pleasant Valley St.
Rev. Fr. Robert Lathrop
Office Phone #641-622-2316
Sunday Mass: 10:30am
Religious-Ed Sundays 9:00-10:15am
Bulletin Deadline is Wednesday 9:00am
Email: sigourneystmary@diodav.org

Sigourney United Methodist Church
Website: sigourneyumc.com
(641) 622-2641
Pastor Brandi Meyer
Sunday Worship Services - 11:00 a.m.
Everyone is Welcome

SOUTH ENGLISH
English River Church of the Brethren
29252 137th St., South English
319-667-5235
Worship 10 a.m.

WHAT CHEER
What Cheer Baptist Church
Pastor DJ Danner
641-660-9948
109 E Briney
What Cheer
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.;
Worship: 10:30 a.m. Sunday evening services, 6:30 p.m.
Adult Bible Study: Wednesday 6:30 p.m.

What Cheer Methodist Church
The Rev. Vince Homan
Sunday School, 9:30; Worship, 10:30 a.m.
Second Tuesday - Local food event for Tri-County and Delta
Fourth Tuesday- Food Truck from Ottumwa Food Bank- Anyone in Keokuk County

What Cheer Hilltop Chapel
506 E Briney St., What Cheer
641-634-2990
Pastor John Bacon
Sunday Worship: 10 -11:30 a.m.
Kids Church: 10:30 a.m.
Women's Bible Study: Mondays at 6:30 p.m.
Men's fellowship: Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.
Community Kids Club: first-sixth grades Thursdays at 6 p.m.
Prayer Meeting: Third Friday each month at 6:30 p.m.

Free Grace United
107 East Broadway St. What Cheer, IA 50268.
10 a.m. Sunday service with Kids Church.
Recovery meeting weekly
Wednesday 7 pm

VIEWPOINT from pg. 4

have to use the front door.

Reagan Power asked for dolls, video games for her DSI, and new crayons. She wrote that her brother wanted a Lightning McQueen coloring book and that they would leave Santa Pepsi and carrots for his reindeer.

Sophie Whitmore asked for a Pengo for Christmas. She asked how Santa was doing, said she hoped Santa had a safe trip, and told him to tell Mrs. Claus she said hi.

Liberty Hahn asked for Uno, a picture of Rudolph, a play reindeer, and a play Santa that can move, talk, and say "Ho ho ho."

2015
Josie Greiner asked for a sparkly dress, a sparkly pony, a sparkly Elsa dress, a big pumpkin like a ball one, a Christmas tree that no one can have, a pink sparkly soccer ball for girls not boys, a pink purple sparkly tree, and a pink sparkly unicorn.

Jace Chalupa asked for a hex bug catcher, a James Stark Green Bay Packers jersey, and a tablet. He also told

Santa about a dream he had about touching the Elf on the Shelf, causing it to come alive, then turn into a blanket, then leave him a hundred dollars.

Jaden wanted "games The Avengrrr with the person. You know the one."

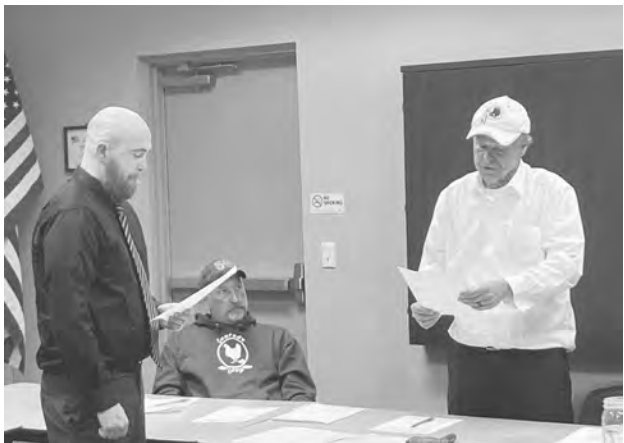
Izzi Chalupa asked for a zoomer cat, a chocolate pen, new earrings, something to put her laundry in, and new pajamas with kitties all over them. She wrote that she hoped Santa could make it to Keota, asked if his reindeer left the carrots they left out, and if Rudolph's nose still glowed.

Brinley asked for a watch and a Barbie. She wrote that she should be on the nice list because she helps her mom.

Avalyn asked for a tea set, Baby Alive, Baby Alive furniture, a Hello Kitty Blanket, and a silky dress. She asked how Santa's reindeer fly.

Keegan asked for a toy car to ride in outside, a shovel for plowing the snow, and a ninja turtle car, and also asked what the elves do in the summer.

POLICE from pg. 3



Ryan Carr being sworn in.

January, used his public comment time to thank the leaving council for their passion and sacrifice, saying he appreciated all they had done and looked forward to working with those staying. He suggested offering silver cord volunteer hours to get local high schoolers to shovel snow. He stated that they might not get any volunteers, but that this would be free. At the end of the meeting, Carr and newly elected councilmen John Mather and Chad Greiner were sworn in.

During council comments at the end of the meeting, Keith Conrad stated that it had been a pleasure working with Tinnes, Bender and Cansler and congratulated Carr, Mather and Chad Greiner on being elected. Matt Greiner echoed Conrad's comments, thanking Cansler, Tinnes and Bender for all they had done, and stated he looked forward to the new ideas the newly elected officials would bring. McDonald stated he felt the same and that he looked forward to working with the new guys during budget time. Bender said his eight-year run had been enjoyable, that he appreciated the friendships outside of the city council, and that he was excited to see what the new guys did. Tinnes stated she was grateful to have been on the council, that she had gained opportunity, knowledge and experience she will never forget, and the certainty that she wants to be on the council and will run again. She stated that she was excited for what the new guys would bring and that, as a city and a community, they

should support each other and work together to solve problems. She encouraged the public to attend council meetings and make their opinions known. She stated she didn't need a title to be part of the community and would continue volunteering and attending meetings, as a member of the public.

Cansler, who is leaving office after 23 years, stated that he would take blame for things that hadn't been accomplished, but that everything positive that had happened in his time came from the city council and the citizens of Keota. He gave the work to build the new pool as an example, stating that the community had come together and worked hard to fundraise the pool's construction. He gave specific praise to Slaubaugh, Doug Conrad, Harmsen, Clarke, Bruns and various other city clerks for the work they had done over the years, and to the community for keeping him in office for many years. He stated that the new council would learn that some decisions are easy, but some decisions are tough to know what the right decision is. He stated things often weren't cut and dry and took time to figure out.

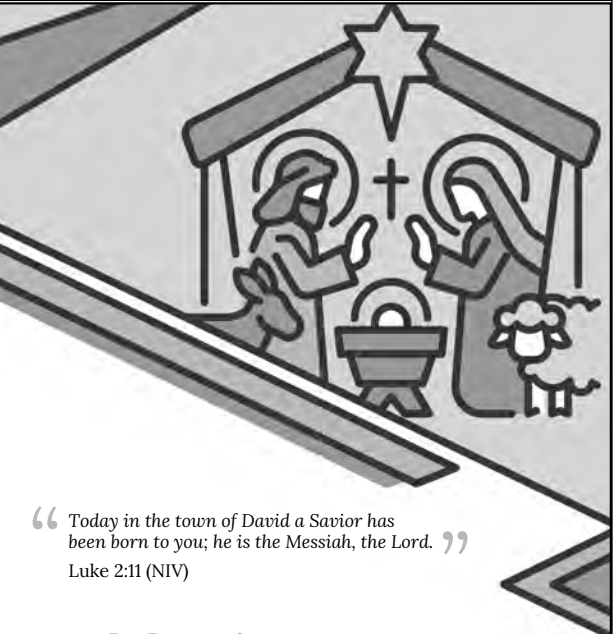
"It had been an honor," said Cansler. "It is my honor. It hasn't always been easy, but, we've always made it through it...If I didn't love the community, I wouldn't have stuck around, I sure as hell wouldn't have run for mayor, all these times. The community is what makes Keota what it is."

JANSSEN from pg. 2

them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling

clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, good will toward men. (Luke 2:1-14 KJV)

Merry Christmas Everyone!



Celebrating Christ's Birth

In the time leading up to Christmas, we enjoy all the season has to offer: decorating, giving gifts, spending time with loved ones, and a lot more. While these joyful feelings may seem fleeting, we can seek out lasting joy in recognizing the fact that Christ was brought into this world for us. In celebrating Christ's birth, we can find both the real meaning of the holiday, but also a measure of hope in a world that often feels characterized by conflict. Truly, the narrative of Christ's birth and life provide excellent guidance for us when encountering such conflict in our own lives. From His family's first steps towards Bethlehem to His last days on earth, Christ has laid out a perfect blueprint for us. In attempting to both emulate His actions and celebrate His birth this Christmas season, we are serving Christ.

-James Stone

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We will offer for auction the following Real Estate located 6 miles West of Sigourney, IA on Hwy 92, then 1 mile South of Delta on Hwy 21.
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144 students from the Sigourney Elementary Art class from Mrs. Rebecca Shaw, Art Teacher brought their creative talent to KCHC. The students 5 to 12 years old colored holiday pictures for the walls of the nursing area to the halls ways by the x-ray to Office. Staff, patients, and visitors were among the judges to vote for the best out of the age groups. This was one of the hardest to vote for because all the pictures were creative, colorful and had holiday expression. Pictured is the 11-12 age group winner Beau's coloring.



The Hospital Auxiliary held a Christmas bake sale on Dec. 18 to raise money for scholarships



Santa Claus visited the Sigourney Senior Center on Dec. 18. Frankie Besser sang and Sharon Pieffer played piano at the event.



English Valleys middle and high schools held a Christmas Concert on Dec. 18



Tri-County held a winter concert on Dec. 18

Iowa farmers say the end of federal health care tax credits will hit their budgets

Iowa Farmers Union members call for extension of Affordable Care Act tax credits

By Cami Koons, Iowa Capital Dispatch
Iowa Farmers Union members said on Dec. 15 that the federal decision to end enhanced tax credits related to the Affordable Care Act will negatively impact farm and rural economies by drastically cutting into farmers' budgets.

Farmers on the call said their premiums are slated to increase by thousands of dollars in 2026 if Congress does not extend the tax credits.

According to data gathered by the health policy outlet KFF, 27% of farmers, ranchers and agricultural managers rely on individual marketplace insurances, the large majority of which are purchased through ACA Marketplaces.

Matt Russell, Iowa Farmers Union executive director and Marion County farmer, said the current health care system is flawed, but increasing premiums for the more than 24 million Americans who benefit from ACA coverage is "outrageous" and delivers a "gut punch" to working families.

"The Affordable Care Act provided a path for small businesses, entrepreneurs and farmers to pursue livelihoods that didn't require having someone work a job for the health insurance benefits," Russell said. "...Remember the days when the farming family had to have an off-farm job for health insurance? Because Republicans are letting these enhanced premium tax credits expire, we are headed back in that direction."

Enhanced tax credits for folks who purchase from the Affordable Care Act Marketplaces were rolled out in 2021 and extended through 2025. The credits increased the amount of assistance enrollees could receive and allowed enrollees with household incomes above 400% of the federal poverty level to receive tax credits.

The enhanced credits led to a more than doubling of the number of people enrolled in ACA plans, with the vast majority receiving the tax credits to partially offset the cost of their premiums, according to KFF research.

Beth Hoffman, a Monroe County farmer raising beef and goats, said she and her husband sit at or below the 400% poverty line most years, which for a household of two in 2025 is about \$84,600 annually. Hoffman said with the enhanced credits, there was a graduated drop-off that meant if they sold slightly more beef one year and their income tipped

to \$85,000, they would still be eligible for a portion of the premium tax credits.

If the credits are not extended and Hoffman's farm brings in more than \$85,000 in 2026, she and her husband would owe that credit, which she said would be close to \$16,000.

Hoffman said the result is that she and her husband have opted for a less comprehensive health care plan, with a more than \$8,000 deductible per person.

"The choice that we made was not to go into a doctor more often, and to just deal with all the issues you might have with your health," Hoffman said. "This in a nation that has some of the top health care in the world, I just I can't access it now because I'd have to be paying this deductible."

Hoffman said living in a rural area, there are a limited number of health care providers to choose from, which can make a change in insurance even more cumbersome to navigate.

The Iowa Farmers Union virtual press conference was held Dec. 15, which coincided with the deadline to sign up for ACA plans for 2026 coverage.

Seth Watkins, who runs a cow-calf operation with sheep and bees in Page County, said insurance premiums for his family of four are set to increase from about \$600 each month to \$2,300 each month, plus an increased out-of-pocket threshold per person.

Watkins questioned if the politicians deciding these policies understand that farmers and independent business owners have to buy their own insurance plans.

"Our politicians talk about us being the backbone of our economy, and yet the people that are making these decisions have great benefits," Watkins said. "I'd like them to put themselves in our shoes and understand what this is like."

He said a bad market or poor weather is not what will put him out of business as a farmer, "it's a catastrophic health issue."

Democrats in the nation's capital have been pushing for an extension to the ACA tax credits, which resulted in the nation's longest federal government shutdown earlier this year, but subsequent efforts to extend the credits have not garnered the necessary votes.

Republicans introduced their own bills to lower health care costs in both the House and the Senate. The Senate bill, which did not pass last week, would fund Health Savings Accounts, tax-advantaged savings accounts that consumers tap

FARMERS pg. 8

January Open Meeting and Open Records Training Announced

Iowa public officials can meet state training requirements and strengthen their understanding of government transparency by attending Open Meeting and Open Records sessions offered by Iowa State University Extension and Outreach Community and Economic Development this January.

Under House File 706, all newly elected or appointed public officials in Iowa must complete training on the state's open meetings and open records laws. This includes city and county officials, board and commis-

sion members, municipal staff and extension council members. ISU Extension and Outreach's course is approved by the Iowa Public Information Board and fulfills the legal requirement.

Six virtual sessions will be offered in January:

- Jan. 6, noon–2 p.m.
- Jan. 8, noon–2 p.m.
- Jan. 20, noon–2 p.m.
- Jan. 22, 4:30–6 p.m.
- Jan. 27, 10 a.m.–noon
- Jan. 29, 4:30–6 p.m.

The training provides a practical introduction to Iowa Code Chapters 21 and 22, often referred to as the state's "sunshine laws."

Participants learn the fundamentals of posting public meeting notices, developing agendas, entering and documenting closed sessions, and managing access to records in compliance with state law.

"Many officials want to do the right thing but aren't always sure how the statute applies in real-world situations," said Sara Shonrock, community development specialist with ISU Extension and Outreach. "We break it down in plain language and use examples that reflect the decisions local boards and councils

make every day."

Each session includes time for questions and real scenarios that help participants understand how the laws guide everyday governance decisions.

The registration fee is \$50 per participant, and advance enrollment is required.

For more information visit <https://www.extension.iastate.edu/communities/open-meeting-and-open-records-training> or contact Sara Shonrock at sshonroc@iastate.edu.

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COUNTRY GIRL’S CORNER

Happy New Year One & All!

By Sheryl L. Carter
I never get decorated for Christmas until after Thanksgiving and I get the Christmas Spirit. I probably got a little of that during our Sully Christmas Celebration, and seeing the lighted trees on display out at our church from various locals.
It didn't take me long this year as I got smart a couple of years ago, by looking through the Christmas things stored in the basement, then picking out some stuff and putting them in a laundry basket and bringing upstairs. One wreath, lighted—put new batteries in it—good; a centerpiece for the kitchen table with a new battery-type candle that is warm and cheery, and festive things set around here and there in the main rooms, and we were good to go.
The previous two weeks I put more miles on Jazzy by going to Pella one day and the Grinnell the next, after enjoying our wonderful Book Club that Thursday morning. That weekend was the monthly Many Treasures, so Dorothy and Scottie came up and we went out together.

We always find a few things of use. I always check out the books first and found some this time, too. Last Sunday morning during SS was our Christmas program, and then morning worship.
This week I got my hair cut uptown at AllyCuts by my excellent beautician, then worked on a Christmas project and was able to finish. On Wednesday I was in Pella for the weekly shopping and stopped by my good young friend to catch up and enjoy a hot cup of her espresso. That evening was Women of Grace Bible study out at church, the last one for two weeks.
And what did I do Thursday and Friday? I have no idea as I didn't do up a list and by this time, it has all disappeared from my brain. Ha! I do know I got my water paints out again, and began some projects. Oh, now I remember at least for Friday: Scottie came up and we got some much-needed jobs done, one of which was cleaning up my stove—top and oven, a big job for sure. We also flipped the latex foam layers in my mattress, which made a big difference

when I hit the bed later on that night, then he ran the big vac for me. A big day, and so glad those things got done. I kept opening my oven door to see it so sparkling!
Yesterday I worked around here and spent the afternoon painting. I am learning slowly but surely.
Today was SS and church, and as SS was winding down, I realized I was not warm at all, so left my purse and Bible in the pew I usually sit in, and beat it home the few blocks to put on a warmer wool sweater, and get into my feather coat. Ah, what a difference.
Back out to church and realized I had left my keys in my other coat hanging on a kitchen chair. Now what? Walk back home? Nope, I decided to ask one of the friends I would be with at lunch to drive me home after church, which she was happy to do. Then followed her over to Grinnell to attend a Christmas Lunch hosted by another of our friends. Five of us were there today for her good dinner with all the trimmings of eggnog, and hot chai, plus a yummy Christmas fruit loaf with whipped cream for dessert. Then we retired

to her cozy living room for the afternoon. This all from a lady who had just moved a brief few weeks previous, and is still in the process of putting everything together. But the main things are done, and once again she has made a lovely warm and homey place to live, and welcome her friends and family.
Now back home, and the sun has gone down, and I see uptown at Casey's as I came past, our gas prices continue to finally come down! Today it is \$2.40! Yay!
Today is the winter solstice, the shortest day of the year. Now the sun, which comes up nearly by 8 am over my neighbor's garage as I look out my east kitchen window, will begin to travel back the long way clear to the other side of my window until it reaches June 21, six months from now.
This week I have more plans to carry out, if the Lord wills, in preparation for some visitors this next weekend. So, we will see how that all pans out.
So, friends, this is it from me for the last Country Girl of 2025. See you next year!



MAHASKA COUNTY NEWS

OFF THE VINE

By Jackie Perkins
Monday, December 22, 2025...WHAT?! Okay time, slow down! Why is it that most of my “thinking” happens during the night, making sleep impossible. It was another one of those nights, and I just awoke from a text from Casey asking about a writing for this week. Oh, oh! During my weeks I think of things and think I'll remember, this morning that isn't working so well but here it goes.

ago my friend Lena Mae Van de Pol signed up for a class at IHCC on this art and I have enjoyed it since. All you need is simple paper, scissors and some sort of pattern. I think of Lena Mae each time I sit and cut paper!
Greg was delighted to receive an invitation to have breakfast with the guys of the Cedar Elevator Gang on Saturday. Dick Boyd have out the call as Greg McVey was back from Montana for his mother's memorial service. He so enjoyed being with the group and the memories from the 1970s. Greg's dad)Kenneth Perkins) owned the elevator and those times were full of live-stock feed, hauling grain and playing pitch! Kenneth was killed in an accident in 1980, so that was prior to that.

The past week was quiet, so some cookies and candy did get made! Not like I would have liked, but at least some. Shopping didn't happen, and I really didn't miss that. This season has gotten crazy and for me that needs to end! We will see how this all works out...and since I'm doing the Twelve Days of Christmas schedule, I still have time to shop a little before January 6!
We will host Greg's siblings and families on Christmas. I'm excited about that as we have never had space to accommodate more than a few at a time. My table was delivered to the dining room yesterday, so the folding table got removed. Thanks to a purchase from Peyton Leathers (I hope I got his name correct) and a paint job from Mari Job I think I can seat at least 10-12 around one table!

Greg is in Fremont this morning to coffee time and hopefully will be bringing back the final load from 324 N. Harrison St. This will include the mail box we have used for 54 years! Dad and Mom have it to us for Christmas the first year we were there. It is mounted on an old pump, and a spot will be found here in University Park. We have no delivery here and must go to the Post Office. So if you ever need to send something, my new address is PO Box 245, University Park, IA 52595. The Post Office...that is another issue! Just how many holiday greetings have you received this year? I think the PO is running themselves out of business, and taking the greeting cards with them. So sad. We used to look forward to cards coming in the mail daily this time of year. At the farm there was a door in the kitchen leading to the upstairs, and Mom always taped each card to the door and frame. That was Christmas Decorating back then.
Wishing you all a safe and happy Holiday, and please include some memories...old and new.

I am quite pleased that I have not purchased one “new” thing for this house! By no means is it decorated in a color scheme or particular style. Just full of things that I like and enjoy. I have a story with all my treasures.
What fun we had in Keota at Fiddle Dee Dee on Saturday! I sat with Danielle Bombi and it was enjoyable to get to know her a little. She did not bring a project to work on – but did bring treats! I happened to have some of my Scherenschnitte (German paper cutting) supplies, and I think Danielle may have a new hobby! Years

FARMERS from pg. 7

for medical expenses that are not otherwise reimbursed, for ACA enrollees.
The House bill, sponsored by Iowa Republican U.S. Rep. Mariannette Miller-Meeks, would target Pharmacy Benefit Managers and appropriate cost-share reduction payments beginning in 2027. The House plans to debate the bill this week.
The bill would also allow a group of employers to purchase a plan together to receive a lower rate than they could as individuals.
Russell said these are issues that need to be addressed in the future, but don't help the farmers and entrepreneurs that are set to pay “exorbitant premiums” in the new year.
“If that's their plan to address what we're facing with the expiration of the enhanced premium tax credits, then they're basically saying:

you're on your own for '26,” he said.
Russell said the issue hits especially hard for businesses and farms above the 400% poverty threshold who used the ACA Marketplaces to purchase insurance. This group, he said, represents the “middle” of agriculture where farmers are trying to scale up to be full-time farmers.
Aaron Lehman, the union's president, spoke at a congressional hearing about the enhanced credits in early December. Lehman said Monday the enhanced credits allowed farmers to innovate, upgrade equipment, grow their farms and have a “doable” budget.
“All of this is economic activity that's really important for our rural communities, but if the enhanced premium tax credits expire, the cost to

our farmers will be deep, and it will cave in family budgets,” Lehman said.
Watkins said the “belt tightening” in his family budget because of the expired credits will mean fewer trips to the local restaurant in town and probably no equipment upgrades in 2026.
“That's less money we're spending at home, and Iowa does not need that right now,” Watkins said.
Farm payments won't be of much help
On Dec. 8, the Trump administration announced it would send \$12 billion in one-time payments to farmers across the country who have suffered from market disruption.
The amount that Iowa farmers will receive is not yet determined, but farmers on the Monday call said the payments will go toward

farm income gaps that were already there, regardless of health care costs going up.
“If it stays in my bank account for a day, it'd be a miracle,” Watkins said.
Lehman said health care increases combined with farmers' high input costs and disrupted trade markets, are leading to “incredibly difficult conversations” about how to make next year's crop.
“The Affordable Care Act works when we can take good steps to get the next generation onto the farm, and it works when rural people can freely move to jobs that are more beneficial to their farm and to their family,” Lehman said. “All those things tell us that these investments we make for affordable policies with the Affordable Care Act are very worthwhile.”
Editor's note: Beth Hoffman is an occasional guest columnist for Iowa Capital Dispatch via the Iowa Writers' Collaborative.
Read more from Cami Koons online at IowaCapitalDispatch.com
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Self-care strategies to protect long-term mental health

Mental health has always been important, but the need for people to prioritize their emotional, psychological and social well-being gained greater attention during the COVID-19 pandemic. Social distancing restrictions designed to reduce cases of COVID-19 contributed to feelings of isolation, depression and anxiety in millions of individuals across the globe, sparking a heightened sense of curiosity about what people can do to safeguard their mental health in the short-term but also over the course of their lives.
Pandemic-related restrictions have long since been lifted throughout much of the world. But the need to prioritize mental health remains. The National Institute of Mental Health notes that self-care can play a vital role in maintaining mental health. With that in mind, individuals can consider these strategies as they look to safeguard their mental health over the long haul.
• Exercise regularly. Exercise benefits the body in myriad ways, and those benefits extend

to mental health. The NIMH reports that a 30-minute daily walk can boost mood. In addition, the United Kingdom-based Mental Health Foundation reports that regular physical activity positively affects self-esteem and can even lead to a reduction in stress and anxiety. That's important to note, as the online medical resource Healthline reports that chronic anxiety can adversely affect the body's nervous, cardiovascular, digestive, immune, and respiratory systems.
• Maintain social connections. The NIMH also touts the benefits of maintaining social connections, including relying on friends and family for emotional support and practical help. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention notes that people who are socially connected and maintain stable and supportive relationships are more likely to have better mental health outcomes than those who don't.
• Eat a nutritious, balanced diet. The American Society for Nutrition notes that diet can

be an important ally for people looking to improve and preserve their mental health. Numerous studies have examined the relationship between diet and mental health, and the ASN notes a growing body of research suggests a strong connection between a healthy diet and mental health. A 2019 review published in The American Journal of Clinical Nutrition found that increased consumption of fruits and vegetables positively affects psychological health. That same review also indicated daily vegetable consumption provides a therapeutic effect that can help to reduce symptoms among people with clinical depression.
• Resolve to read more. Much like exercise, reading has been linked to a host of positive health outcomes, including mental health benefits. A 2009 study from researchers at the University of Sussex found that reading can reduce stress by as much as 68 percent. Escapism is another potentially potent benefit of reading, as a recent report in Psychology Today noted that researchers believe narrative absorption, which refers to the experience of being immersed or engaged while reading a story, provides an escape or opportunity for mental reflection.
Self-care can go a long way toward promoting long-term mental health. Various strategies and activities fall under the umbrella of self-care, and each can have a profound and lasting effect on mental health.





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Source: www.arts.gov/sites/default/files/ToRead.pdf

Workshop Helps Local Leaders Use Data to Justify Solutions

Elected officials, city and county clerks, grant writers, nonprofit staff and community planners can learn a practical way to use information in project decisions through a new virtual workshop from Iowa State University Extension and Outreach Community and Economic Development.

Proof That Works – Using Data to Justify Solutions will be held Thursday, Jan. 15, 2026, from 10 a.m. to noon. As part of the pilot launch, registration is \$50. The session is one of three workshops in Leading with Data, a new pilot series that teaches a straightforward process for identifying, gathering and using data to support community decisions.

“People serving their community often have to explain decisions with limited time and not a lot of information to work with,” said Kayla Lyftogt, data literacy researcher with ISU Extension and Outreach’s Community and Economic Development. “This workshop provides a practical approach to make sense of

local information and communicate next steps with confidence.”

Participants will learn a step-by-step approach to gathering information, identifying trends and interpreting what those findings mean for their community. They will also explore how to turn that analysis into a clear, evidence-informed case for grants, proposals or council discussions and how to select key indicators to track progress over time.

The Leading with Data series provides a broad-based foundation for anyone who wants to build confidence in using data to support community work. Across the three sessions, participants learn how to clarify local issues, synthesize and analyze information, justify actions with evidence and communicate results in ways that build trust and understanding among stakeholders.

The Jan. 15 workshop will be held online. For more information, visit the <https://www.extension.iastate.edu/communities/leading-with-data> or contact Kayla Lyftogt at kllyf@iastate.edu.

Sigourney girls grab back-to-back wins before break

By Mark Schafer |
The News-Review

SIGOURNEY - Responding to challenges is what makes up the character of a team.

Going into the last week before break the Sigourney girls needed to show just what kind of response they are capable of. It could be safe to say that the response from the Savages was a satisfactory one.

Sigourney won both of their games last week. It started with a 51-34 victory over HLV-TC on Dec. 16. They were then able to finish off the week with a 65-30 win over Iowa Valley.

"I love that they showed up to play," Sigourney head coach Kaylee Weber said after the win over Iowa Valley. "We've started some games really flat lately. To see the early energy tonight has been great. I'm glad they reacted and moved the ball well. We played really well."

In their 35-point win on Friday night the Sigourney girls surrendered the first two points of the game as Iowa Valley was able to get through the Savage defense and score a layup. From there the next 10 minutes featured Sigourney showcasing their skills.

Throughout the first minutes of the game Sigourney wasn't afraid to deploy their tough defense as they swiped at high dribbles and stepped into the passing lanes of the Iowa Valley players. Although steals and Iowa Valley turnovers were a plenty for Sigourney early on, the points didn't come as easily.

Brynn Clarahan tied the game at two with a pair of free throws. Then came a three pointer by Bailey Gretter.

Once that shot fell the rest of the offense just seemed to fall into place for the rest of the Savages.

"Almost everyone scored tonight," Weber said. "I like that



Becca Gretter (4) from Sigourney goes up for a shot as Iowa Valley defender Myla Frimml (45) tries to block her shot. Gretter would finish with 10 points in a 65-30 victory. Photo by Mark Schafer

we are sharing the ball a lot more than we had been. You know, Brynn is still going to be Brynn, and score the points that she does. We had a lot of other players that scored for us. We don't get a lot of balance on the scoring sheet, but it is nice when we are able to get those things. I like it, I like it a lot when we have a scoresheet like that."

Before some fans were able to get settled into their seats the Savages had taken a 20-2 lead, and the lead wasn't stopping. After the first quarter Sigourney led 23-2 and had the game well in control.

Of the first 32 points scored in the game, 30 of them belonged to the Savages as a multitude of different players scored for Sigourney. Addy Fineran had a three pointer. Becca Gretter added her own three. Adalynne Tremmel would also drain a three pointer.

By halftime the Savages were able to lead 39-13, the score kept climbing in the second half as the Savages were able to outscore Iowa Valley 26-17 in the final 16 minutes.

Clarahan led all scorers on Friday night with 19 total points. Bailey Gretter added 16 points in the win. Adalynne

Tremmel was able to score 11 points. Becca Gretter added 10 points. Another five points came from Fineran. Charli Smothers finished with four points in the Friday night win.

Earlier in the week the Savages had bested HLV-TC 51-34. In that contest the Savages were able to score 15 points in the first quarter, and they limited the Warriors to just two points. By halftime the Savages were able to lead 28-10.

Overall the Savages added 23 more points in the second half, HLV-TC would score 24 points in the second half as the Savages were able to win, stopping a two game slide they had been on.

"I told the girls that they have something to prove," Weber said. "The girls took last week to heart. They know they are a better team than what showed up. Today, this was big. Iowa Valley scored a little more than what I would have liked. We had 10 threes tonight which is great for us. We are starting to see the court better, which is great, but, of course, now we go to break."

The Savages stand at 4-2 overall on the season. They will return to the court on Jan. 6 when they host English Valleys.

Panthers survive scare against Columbus

By Mark Schafer |
The News-Review

PACKWOOD - It wasn't certain if the inaugural home game of the season was going to be celebrated or not.

Thursday night the Pekin boys basketball team opened up their home schedule with a 66-60 win over Columbus. Although they were able to get the win, the nails of the fans watching the game were gnawed down, as the game closed up in the second half and down the stretch.

"There is a lot of value in getting the first home win," said Pekin boys basketball head coach, John Swanson. "Our guys were pretty poised and we executed the plays extremely well tonight. We made some plays out of the timeouts. This point in the year we don't have time to work on game situations. To see the situations like we did, that is going to help."

The game started off comfortably enough for the Panthers as they enjoyed a 20-8 lead after the first quarter. From there, Columbus seemed to wake up and challenge the Panthers the rest of the way.

The Panthers started the final frame with a 48-42 lead, but immediately, the Wildcats were able to narrow the lead to just three points.

For most of the fourth quarter the lead bounced between three and six points, but the Wildcats were able to pull within two points with just 1:30 left in the game. Just when it seemed that Columbus was setting up to take the lead, Pekin junior, Henry Adam, was able to make a move.

The speedy junior was able to rush to the side and get a steal. Eventually he would pass the ball off to Cole Millikin who drove inside the lane for a layup. He made the shot and gained a foul for the and one opportunity.

Millikin made that shot, and the lead grew to five points.

Just when the Panthers seemed like things were going to get easy, Columbus made another run. The Wildcats were able to drain a three pointer, something they had excelled in throughout the second half of the game, to close the game back within two points.

Once again, Millikin was able to draw a foul. He made the first of the two shots, but missed the second, putting the Panthers up 64-60 with under a minute to go.

Columbus tired to get down court in a hurry, so they attempted a long pass down the entire length of the floor. However, the bass went too high, and bounced off a rafter, resulting in a turnover.

Eventually, Pekin's Alijah Brock would end up with the ball. He made both free throw shots and the Panthers would go on to grab a 66-60 victory.

"We needed to be relaxed," Swanson said about what made the game closer than it started out being. "We threw the first punch, but Columbus was ready to throw punches right back. We had a lot of careless turnovers. Down the stretch, we missed a lot of easy shots and easy rebounds that we were supposed to have. We didn't go after the ball as much as we should have. Our defense really needed to get to the ball. Credit to Columbus, they really came out strong."

After the Panthers had been able to grab the 20-8 lead in the first quarter, Columbus started to hit three pointer after three pointer to trim the lead 29-21 at halftime.

"It is tough to defend a team that shoots a lot of threes," Swanson said. "It is tough to switch things up not just when a team shoots a lot of threes, but also makes a bunch

of them like they were. We should have backed off from some of the shooters quicker than we did. They are unique in that they live or die by the three. Every time I thought we had them, they would bury a corner three."

The Panthers were able to keep pace with the Wildcats through most of the game, never surrendering the lead.

Although they never gave up the lead, they let the Wildcats get a little more comfortable than needed.

"We beat ourselves quite a bit with a bunch of bad turnovers and missed shots," Swanson said. "When you turn the ball over, it is really hard to get momentum going. Obviously, it also allows the other team to have the ball when we don't. We weren't cutting, the ball was stale. I think we were thinking just a little too much."

Despite the turnovers, the veteran Panthers were able to get through the game and claim the victory, which was their fourth-straight win at that time.

Thursday night, the Panthers were led by Millikin with 25 total points. Nolan Glick was able to add 13 points in the win. Brock had 11 points. Henry Adam finished with six points, and Riley Smith added another six points.

The Panthers fell to Hillcrest Academy on Dec. 19, 57-49. No scoring stats were available at press time from that contest. On Dec. 16 against Lone Tree, the Panthers were dominant as they were able to win 72-37. By halftime the Panthers led 46-22. They would allow just 15 points in the second half of the game.

Overall the Panthers stand at 5-2 on the season.

The Panthers are off until Jan. 2 when they play Hillcrest Academy at the Casey's Center in Des Moines.

Panthers close out final week with battles against Columbus, Hillcrest

By Mark Schafer |
The News-Review

PACKWOOD - The final week of the season before break proved to be a bit of a roller coaster.

A tough schedule of conference games awaited the Panthers before break. They were able to experience some of the highs, with a Friday night win over Hillcrest Academy 52-40. There were some low spots too, including a 41-32 setback against Columbus, where the Panthers led for the first three quarters of the game.

For the Panthers it is all about the growth the girls are showing as they adopt to a new style and way of play under head coach Neil Hartz.

"We have to have positive and a strong mental state," Hartz said, following the Thursday night game. "We have to believe in what we are putting in. Everything we are doing is completely new. It's not like we have been doing this for a long time. This is my first year with the girls, and we have only been working on our game stuff for the past six weeks. It isn't like we have had years to fine tune everything. We will keep building and keep learning and see how that goes."

There were more than a few lessons to be learned in Thursday night's game.

Battling a Columbus team that was going to battle no matter what the Panthers learned what it takes to win a close game.

After leading 24-18 at halftime, the second half didn't go the way the Panthers had been

expecting.

Throughout the third quarter the Panthers were able to create what they wanted. They were able to get open shots at the hoop, but the ball refused to fall. Shot after shot rolled off the rim, and usually, fell into the hands of a Columbus player.

With so many empty possessions, the once healthy lead of the Panthers started to dwindle. Throughout the quarter Columbus would get close to Pekin, and the Panthers would continue to create space with their own made shots. Close to the end of the third quarter Columbus was able to force a turnover and score, taking the lead for the Panthers down to just two points, 31-29.

"We didn't get out of our own way through most of the second half," Hartz said. "We need to start valuing the ball. We can't have 30 turnovers a game and be successful."

The turnovers started to work against the Panthers in the final quarter. Columbus closed the gap to just one point early on, and would later use a 4-0 run to grab the lead. Pekin continued to struggle to create shots, and hold onto the ball as the lead for Columbus grew in the final minutes.

As time was running out the Panthers just tried to pepper the rim with as many shots as they could, trying to gain any firepower to turn the game around. The shots continued to tease the Panther fans with shots that just rolled out of the rim, and not letting the Panthers get closer than six points.

Eventually Columbus would

hold onto a nine point win.

"We have to make some shots," Hartz said. "We made some threes that was a positive. If we can't get the ball to Anna (Hadley), then someone else is going to have to want the ball and step up. Abby (Guise) has shown she is able to make some shots, but she gets so tired so easily. We don't have a lot of time to work on things. We need to really focus on getting better during Christmas break."

Anna Hadley led the Panthers with 13 points in the game on Thursday. She added 13 rebounds as well. Guise finished with 10 points. She added four assists and three steals.

Maddy Petrehn would finish with eight total points. Ezra Parsons and Carlie Gambell both scored three points.

The Panthers didn't have much time to dwell on the game that slipped away from them on Thursday night. Friday night the Panthers were able to play against Hillcrest Academy.

Friday night's game was one of healing for the Panthers as they were able to stop a three-game skid with a 52-40 victory over the Ravens.

The Panthers trailed by three after the first quarter, but held Hillcrest Academy to just six points in the second quarter to take the lead at halftime.

Strong defense carried over the rest of the way for the Panthers as they limited Hillcrest Academy to 20 points in the second half. Pekin would finish with 29 points in the second half. That gave them a 12-point win, and a bit of cheer going into the break.

Hadley had a strong game against Hillcrest Academy scoring 24 points with 18 rebounds. Gambell finished with 14 points and four rebounds. Guise finished with eight points and three rebounds.

Mya Glick would finish with four points while Addison Smith added two points in the game.

The win improves the Panthers to 4-3 overall on the season.

English Valleys boys improve to 5-1 with pair of wins

By Mark Schafer |
The News-Review

Boys Basketball:
Bears down North Mahaska, HLV-TC

NORTH ENGLISH - It wasn't an easy contest, but they were able to survive.

Last Tuesday the English Valleys boys basketball team started off the week with a 46-43 victory over North Mahaska.

Both teams were tied after the first quarter, but a 17-point second quarter helped give the Bears a lead. They extended their lead in the third quarter. North Mahaska would battle back and close in on the lead late in the fourth quarter, but English Valleys held them off and grabbed the three-point win.

Christian Tripses would led the Bears in scoring with 19 total points. Everett Bender scored eight points. Ben Axmear and Kane Axmear would both score five points each. Tyler Lortz was able to score six points and Roejert Patterson added three points in the victory.

According to Bound, this was the first time since Jan. 26, 2009 that the English Valleys boys team had bested North Mahaska in basketball.

The wins continued on Friday night as English Valleys won 58-37 over HLV-TC. Although they trailed after the first half, the Bears were able to score 29 points in the second half, while limiting the Warriors to 17. That sparked the Bears to the eventual 11 point win.

Bender scored 20 points in the victory. He added 10 rebounds. Christian Tripses finished with eight points and three rebounds. Kane Axmear had six points. Another seven points came from Roejert Patterson. Ben Axmear scored five points in the win.

The pair of wins improves the Bears to 5-1 overall on the season.

Keota falls in back-to-back games

KEOTA - In one of the toughest weeks of the season so far, Keota was able to learn

some lessons.

The Eagles started their week off with a game against undefeated Lynnville-Sully. After trailing throughout most of the first half, the Eagles were able to out score the Hawks 30-28 in the second half. However, that wasn't enough to overcome the deficit as Lynnville-Sully would win the game 57-47.

Jackson Vittetoe would end up leading the Eagles with 12 points. Both Chase Haifley and Ayden Galindo would add 10 points each. Brennan McGuire finished with nine points.

Porter Cave had four points and Blake Baker finished with two points in the game.

Friday night the Eagles went on the road, but were defeated 65-56 against Montezuma. Both teams were tied after the first quarter. Montezuma took a three point lead at halftime. That lead just continued to grow throughout the second half.

Galindo led the Eagles with 15 points. Another 14 points came from Jackson Vittetoe. McGuire added nine points and Blake Baker added seven points. Porter Cave added six points. Five points were scored by Chase Haifley.

Overall the Eagles stand at 3-3 on the season.

Girls basketball:
Bears split games, move to 3-2 on the season

NORTH ENGLISH - The week ended on a high note for the Bears.

After falling in their Tuesday game, English Valleys recovered with a Friday night victory over HLV-TC, winning 59-46.

Both teams were tied at 14 after the first quarter. English Valleys would take control of the game with a 14-3 run throughout the second quarter. The halftime lead continued to grow throughout the third quarter. The lead was large enough that the Bears were able to withstand a late charge by HLV-TC in the final frame.

Addison Achenbach would score 22 points for the

Bears to lead them in scoring. Another 18 points came from Anna Luers. Mallory Koehn would finish with eight points. Aubrey Achenbach would score five points and Kaylynn Caster scored four points.

In their Tuesday night game the Bears fell 48-27 to North Mahaska. In that game the Bears were unable to gain much offense against North Mahaska, trailing 22-11 at halftime.

Anna Luers scored 12 points for the Bears. Addison Achenbach finished with nine points. Kaylynn Caster would score six points in the game.

Overall the Bears are 3-2 this season.

Keota ranked No. 14, falls in pair of games

KEOTA - The week started on a high note for the Eagles.

In the most recent IGHSAU rankings they had Keota ranked as the No. 14 team in class 1A. That celebration was cut short as the Eagles fell in back-to-back games during the week.

On Tuesday night the Eagles were playing No. 7 ranked Lynnville-Sully, falling 69-41. The Hawks scored 20 or more points in the first three quarters, while the Eagles were limited to just 29 points in the first half.

Cameron Haifley would score 14 points in the game. Emily Conger scored seven points. Karley Greiner added another five points. Jessalyn Aller finished with five points as well. Elyse Lyle and Adyson Ahlberg both scored four points in the game.

The game on Friday night didn't get easier as the Eagles battled No. 11 ranked Montezuma. Montezuma won the game 53-25.

Cameron Haifley and Jessalyn Aller would both finish the contest with six points each. Emily Conger and Karley Greiner both scored four points each. Dakota Dodd scored three points while Elyse Lyle finished with two points.

Overall the Eagles are 6-2 on the season.



Carlie Gambell (right) from Pekin goes up for a shot against the defense of Columbus' Kymila Bacon (left) during a Dec. 18 game played in Packwood. Photo by Mark Schafer

Athletes of the Week
By Mark Schafer

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Anna Hadley

Every game she played in last week, she just seemed to be close to unstoppable. Pekin senior Anna Hadley turned in three strong games for the Panthers last week. It all started with a 20 point and 18 rebound effort in a setback against Lone Tree on Dec. 16. Hadley, wasn't slowed down by that game. When the Panthers returned to the court on Dec. 18 Hadley again turned in a double-double. This time she scored 13 points and se-

cured 13 rebounds in the game. She wasn't done yet. Hadley would follow up on Friday night with a game where she scored 24 points and added 18 rebounds, as she helped the Panthers beat the Ravens 52-40. The News-Review would like to congratulate Hadley on her outstanding week of play, and for being named this week's Athlete of the Week.



Solon Yates

Friday night it seemed no shot was too long. Once he was able to dial in his shot, Sigourney senior Solon Yates seemed to be nearly unstoppable as he was able to make five three pointers in a 66-53 win over Iowa Valley. The three point barrage was just the tip of the ice berg in terms of what Yates was able to do. Not only did he finish the game with 17 points, he also had four rebounds, one assist and a steal in the final game

before Christmas break. Earlier in the week Yates had been a crucial member of the Savages as he led his team with 22 points in a 76-30 victory over HLV-TC. In that game he was able to pull in three rebounds, two assists and a steal. The News-Review would like to congratulate Solon Yates on his outstanding week of play, and for being named this week's Athlete of the Week.

Sigourney retires to break with wins over HLV-TC, Iowa Valley

By Mark Schafer | The News-Review
SIGOURNEY - A little bit of a test never hurt anyone. Especially in the final game before break. That is exactly what Sigourney faced as they were able to survive their final test before the break with a 66-53 victory over Iowa Valley. Although the Tigers entered the game with a 1-4 record, it was clear early on that they were a much better team than what they were showing.

"Not every night are we going to be able to blow our opponents out of the water," said Sigourney head boys basketball coach, Mitch Eslick. "First, Iowa Valley is a really good team, and they came out ready to play with lots of energy. It took us a little bit to get going, and we definitely found our groove there in the second half and were able to settle into a good last 10 minutes of the game." Before the Savages could get comfortable in the second half, they had to battle through the first half.

Sigourney was able to grab the early lead from Iowa Valley, but the Tigers kept creeping along, closing the score to one possession several times in the first quarter. Late in the first quarter a missed shot by the Savages gave Iowa Valley a rebound which they would use to rush down the floor and score a layup to

take a 14-12 lead. Having lost the lead on their home floor the Savages knew they had to respond and they were able to as Sigourney used back-to-back layups by John Berg to take the lead back. Eventually they would close out the first quarter on a little bit of momentum and the lead, 18-14. Iowa Valley wasn't going to go away. In the second quarter, they were able to limit the score to just one point again, but neither team took control of the game. Iowa Valley would gain the lead for a moment, but Sigourney would feed the ball to Solon Yates, who was able to knock down a three pointer, giving the Savages their lead back. Then, he made sure to cement the lead. Yates was able to swipe away the ball for a steal and eventually hit one more three pointer to help the Sigourney lead grow to seven points just before halftime. With Yates warming up from beyond the arch the rest of the Sigourney players started to gain more and more confidence.

"When Solon shoots well, that opens up the court for the rest of us," Eslick said. "If they start to focus on Solon then we are able to get Brayden, or John, or Landon the ball. We have all sorts of guys that can score. Ike can score from anywhere too. If teams key on Solon, that is



Ike Molyneux from Sigourney lines up a shot in the second half of an eventual 66-53 win over Iowa Valley.

great, because we can just use the other weapons." The other weapons is exactly what Sigourney relied upon in the second half. Although Iowa Valley would tie the game early in the third quarter at 29, the Savages were able to go on an 11-0 run that gave them the lead. Once again, the run for Sigourney was started by Yates who hit a three pointer. Momentum from that shot helped Landon Conrad knock down his own three pointer. Brayden Wood then joined the three point shooting party. In the blink of an eye the lead was growing and growing and Iowa Valley wasn't able to keep up. "I like the way that we matched how hard Iowa Valley played in the second half. I think we didn't quite match them in terms of play wise in the first half, but the second half was much, much better," Eslick said. "We were able to find a way to win, which is exactly what we needed." At the start of the fourth quarter, the Savages led 47-34, and the lead only continued to grow. Although Iowa Valley did trim the lead to nine early on, the Savages continued to feed the ball to some of their best shooters and eventually Sigourney was able to win by 13. John Berg scored 18 points in the win. Solon Yates add-

ed 17 points. Brayden Wood scored 10 points. Ike Molyneux finished with seven points. Another six points came from Landon Conrad. The victory on Friday was preceded with a 76-30 win over HLV-TC on Tuesday night. In that game the Savages led 32-9 at halftime, and continued to pour on the points well into the second half. Solon Yates scored 22 points for the Savages, leading the way. Brayden Wood added 12 points. John Berg scored eight points. Another seven points were turned in by Jordan Tremmel. Ike Molyneux and Chase Clarahen both scored six points each. Landon Conrad scored five points. With the wins the Sigourney boys move to 5-1 overall on the season as they enter their winter slumber. As for how the team has developed, Eslick is happy with what the team has shown through the first six games. "We are going to have a big week of practice," Eslick said. "We need to work on our press. We just need to build some confidence as we head into the month of January and figure some things out that way." Sigourney is off until Jan. 6 when they will host English Valleys. Photos by Mark Schafer



Sigourney-Keota senior wrestler Owen Menke (top) grapples with a Colfax-Mingo wrestler during the 285-pound match. Menke won the match and went 3-0 overall in the Dec. 18 quadrangular. Photo by Mark Schafer

SK wrestlers go 1-2 on senior night

By Mark Schafer | The News-Review
SIGOURNEY - For the seniors on the team they were able to leave with mostly good memories. On Dec. 18 the Sigourney-Keota boys wrestlers celebrated senior night with a quad against Colfax-Mingo, English Valleys and Lisbon. The Cobras were able to win the match against Colfax-Mingo 33-30. Dillon Menke was able to win his 157-pound match when he pinned his opponent in 1:22. That was followed up in the 165-pound match when Max Peterson was able to pin his opponent in just 15 seconds. Owen Menke would win the last of the head-to-head matches. He won a 2-0 decision in the heavyweight division. He scored two points in the second period, which was just enough to give him the win. Other winners, by forfeit, for the Cobras included: Jacob Libe (138); Ryker Van den Huevel (144); Luke Flynn (150).

In the match against English Valleys the Cobras and Bears actually tied each other, 36-36. However because English Valleys had two fewer forfeits in the match, they were able to win. Head-to-head winners for the Cobras included Owen Menke needing eight seconds to pin Matthew Martinez. Jacob Libe pinned Hunter Offerman in the 138-pound match in just one minute. Winning by forfeit for the Cobras: Dillon Menke (157); Max Peterson (175); Ryker Van den Huevel (144) and Luke Flynn (150). Against Lisbon the Cobras fell 43-30. Owen Menke was able to win the 285-pound division with a pin in 39 seconds. Van den Huevel would win the 144-pound match as he needed 3:26 to gain the victory. Flynn pinned his 150-pound opponent in 50 seconds. Dillon Menke was able to win the 157-pound match with a pin in 1:32. Wins by forfeit: Max Peterson (165).



John Berg (left) from Sigourney tries to secure a rebound against Iowa Valley player Noah Etzel (right) during the second half of the game played Dec. 19.



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COURT RECORDS

Civil

Dec. 15th

Counter Plaintiff: Joseph E. Clubb, Julie M. Clubb; Defendants: Joseph E. Clubb, Julie M. Clubb, County Bank, Veridian Credit Union; Plaintiffs: Robbin Renee Clubb, Tony Clubb, Estate of Willard Decker JR; Notice of Appeal.

Defendant: Kellie Jo Dickey; Plaintiff Cavalry SPV I, LLC; Order for Judgment.

Dec. 17th

Defendants David Alan Heady JR, Victoria L. Heady;

Plaintiff Jefferson Capital Systems LLC; Dismissed W/O Prejudice.

Defendant Candace J. Marley; Onemain Financial Group, LLC AS; Petition Filed.

Criminal

Dec. 17th

Defendant Devin Lee Fleenor, Plaintiff State of Iowa; Order for Arraignment, Trial Information.

Dec. 18th

Defendant Michael Tyler Castro; Payee Keokuk County; Payor Tina Bertram; Plain-

tiff State of Iowa; Order of Arraignment.

Defendant Gary Edward McAdams; Plaintiff State of Iowa; Order of Arraignment.

Schedule Traffic

Dec. 13th

Defendant Christina Mary Johnson; Dark Window or Windshield.

Dec. 14th

Defendant: Keagan Dean MacCready; Failure to Maintain or Use of Safety Belts-Adult.

Defendant Todd E. McCoid;

Speeding 55 or Under Zone (21 or Over).

Defendant Edgar Esau Xinic Bac; Speeding 55 or Under Zone (16-20 Over), Failure to Provide Proof of Financial Liability, No Valid Drivers License.

Defendant Sandra Louise Murphy; Speeding 55 or Under Zone (6-10 Over).

Defendant Jordan Skyler Leffler; Operation Without Registration Card or Plate.

Defendant Kylie Kay Cucchiara; Dark Window or Wind-

shield.

Dec. 15th

Defendant Jesue Antonio Oliva; Failure to Maintain or Use Safety Belts- Adult, No Valid Drivers License.

Defendant Nai Way; Windshield and Window Requirement.

Defendant Kimberly Dianne DeWeese; Speeding 55 or Under Zone (6-10 Over).

Defendant Jeffrey Lamont Smith; Speeding 55 or Under Zone (6-10 Over).

Dec. 16th

Defendant Hannah Lee Janssen; Speeding 55 or Under Zone (16-20 Over).

Defendant Andrew Cody Roder; Fishing and Hunting- No License.

Dec. 17th

Defendant Drake Eric Durlinger; Driving or Towing an Unsafe Vehicle.

Defendant Carol Ann Allandingham; Speeding 55 or Under Zone (11- 15 Over).

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PROPERTY TRANSFERS

Dec. 9th

Warranty Deed: Moore Brothers LLC to Rita Jane Shewmake; PT SW SW 07-76-12.

Dec. 11th

Special Warranty Deed; Albert Mews, Jayme Mews, Michael Steckly, Jennifer Steckley, Justin O'Rourke, Melissa O'Rourke, Jennifer Steckly to Three O Farms LLC; PT SW NW 08-77-11, PT NW SW 08-77-11, PT NW SW 08-77-11.

Court Officer Deed: Dennis B. Conrad Estate, Michael D. Conrad Co Executor, Nathan Chalupa Co Executor

to Dennis B. Conrad Revocable Trust; PT SE SE 24-76-10, PT SE SE 24-76-10, NE SE 24-76-10, SE NE 24-76-10, NE NE 24-76-10, KEOTA CLARKE'S REPLAT

(KEOTA) Lot: 01 Block: 01, KEOTA CLARKE'S REPLAT (KEOTA) Lot: 02 Block: 01, KEOTA CLARKE'S REPLAT (KEOTA) Lot: 03 Block: 01, KEOTA CLARKE'S REPLAT (KEOTA) Lot: 04 Block: 01, KEOTA CLARKE'S REPLAT (KEOTA) Lot: 05 Block: 01, KEOTA CLARKE'S REPLAT (KEOTA) Lot: 19 Block: 01, KEOTA CLARKE'S REPLAT

(KEOTA) Lot: 20 Block: 01, KEOTA CLARKE'S REPLAT (KEOTA) Lot: 21 Block: 01, KEOTA CLARKE'S REPLAT (KEOTA) Lot: 22 Block: 01.

Dec. 12th

Deed Quit Claim: Cary L. Sheeley, Douglas Wolcott, Douglas W. Wolcott to Brian Long, Stephanie Long; PT SIGOURNEY ORIGINAL PLAT SIGOURNEY Lot: 05 Block: 18.

Survivors Spouse: Cheryl Joyce Sieren Deceased to Lawrence E. Sieren; NW SW 06-75-10 Parcel: AUD PAR B, PLAT 2015-0938.



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PUBLIC NOTICE
City of Keota • Intent to Sell Property

PUBLIC NOTICE – INTENT TO SELL N DAVIS STREET PROPERTY
PUBLIC NOTICE
CITY OF KEOTA, IOWA
Notice is hereby given that the City Council of the City of Keota, Iowa, has declared its intent to sell the City-owned property located on N. Davis Street (Parcel ID: KO-COK-054910) to the Keota Community School District.
The proposed sale price for the Ellis Street property is Twelve Thou-

sand Dollars (\$12,000.00).
This intent to sell was passed and approved by the Keota City Council at its regular council meeting held on October 21, 2025.
Additional information regarding the property, including the legal description and terms of sale, may be obtained by contacting Keota City Hall during regular business hours.
City Clerk
City of Keota, Iowa
Published in The News-Review on December 24, 2025

PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice of Petition • Case No. JVVJ005988

TO: ALL PUTATIVE BIOLOGICAL FATHERS OF B.A., A CHILD BORN ON JULY 2, 2017, IN POLK COUNTY, IOWA
You are notified that there is now on file in the office of the Clerk of Court for Keokuk County, a Petition in Case Number JVVJ005988 which prays the child in interest, B.A., be found to be a child in need of assistance. For further details, contact the Keokuk County Clerk of Court Office at (641)622-2210. The petitioner's attorney is Terri A. Menninga, Assistant Mahaska

County Attorney, whose address is 106 S. 1st Street, Oskaloosa, Iowa 52577, and whose telephone number is (641) 673-9819.
You are notified that the next hearing in this matter is scheduled to be held in the Iowa District Court for Keokuk County, at the Courthouse in Sigourney, Iowa, at 1:30 o'clock P.M. on March 11, 2026
Sara Oden, Clerk
Kim Andeway, designee
CLERK OF THE ABOVE COURT
Published in The News-Review on December 24 and 31, 2025, and January 7, 2026

TRUST NOTICE
Axmear Revocable Trust

IN THE MATTER OF THE TRUST:
DAVID M. AXMEAR AND ELIZABETH ANN AXMEAR REVOCABLE TRUST DATED OCTOBER 22, 2009, AS AMENDED AND RESTATED TRUST NOTICE
To all persons regarding David M. Axmear, deceased, who died on or about the 27th day of November 2025.
You are hereby notified that Douglas J. Wood and Darci Elizabeth Ann Axmear are the Successor Co-Trustee of the David M. Axmear and Elizabeth Ann Axmear Revocable Trust dated October 22, 2009, as Amended and Restated. That, at this time, no probate administration is contemplated with regard to the above-referenced decedent's estate. Any action to contest the validity of the trust must be brought in the District Court of Keokuk County, Iowa, within the later to occur of four (4) months from the date of second publication of this notice or thirty (30) days from the date of mailing this notice to all heirs of the decedent, spouse of the decedent and beneficiaries under the trust whose identities are reasonably ascertainable, or thereafter be forever barred.
Notice is further given that all persons indebted to the decedent or the trust are requested to make immediate payment to the under-

signed trustee and creditors having claims against the trust must mail them to the trustee at the address listed below via certified mail, return receipt requested, and unless so mailed by the later to occur of four (4) months from the second publication of this notice or thirty (30) days from the date of mailing this notice (unless otherwise allowed or paid) a claim is thereafter forever barred.
Dated this 15th day of December 2025.
David M. Axmear and Elizabeth Ann Axmear Revocable Trust dated October 22, 2009, as Amended and Restated
/s/ Douglas J. Wood
Douglas J. Wood
11516 Angle Road
Ottumwa, Iowa 52501
SUCCESSOR CO-TRUSTEE
/s/ Darci Elizabeth Ann Axmear
Darci Elizabeth Ann Axmear
5905 Winslow Road
Marion, Iowa 52302
SUCCESSOR CO-TRUSTEE
Attorney for Trust:
Paul Zingg, ICIS#: AT0000331
104 S. Court St.
P.O. Box 493
Ottumwa, IA 52501
Email: pzingg@lisco.com
Date of second publication:
December 31, 2025
Published in The News-Review on December 24 and 31, 2025

PROBATE
David M. Axmear ESPR038653

THE IOWA DISTRICT COURT FOR KEOKUK COUNTY
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF
David M. Axmear, Deceased
Case No. ESPR038653
NOTICE OF PROOF OF WILL WITHOUT ADMINISTRATION
To All Persons Interested in the Estate of David M. Axmear, Deceased, who died on or about on November 27, 2025:
You are hereby notified that on December 12, 2025, the Last Will and Testament of David M. Axmear, deceased, bearing date of October 22, 2009, was admitted to probate in the above-named court and there will be no present administration of the estate. Any action to set aside the Will must be brought in the district court of the county within the later to occur of four months from the date of the second publication of this notice or one month from the date of mail-

ing of this notice to all heirs of the decedent and devisees under the Will whose identities are reasonably ascertainable, or thereafter be forever barred.
Dated the 15th day of December 2025.
/s/ Douglas J. Wood
Douglas J. Wood, Proponent
11516 Angle Road
Ottumwa, Iowa 52501
/s/ Darci Elizabeth Ann Axmear
Darci Elizabeth Ann Axmear, Proponent
5905 Winslow Road
Marion, Iowa 52302
Attorney for Estate:
Paul Zingg, ICIS#: AT0000331
104 S. Court St., P.O. Box 493
Ottumwa, IA 52501
pzingg@lisco.com
Date of second publication:
December 31, 2025
Published in The News-Review on December 24 and 31, 2025

PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice of Petition • Juvenile Case No. JVVJ006025

IN THE IOWA DISTRICT COURT IN AND FOR KEOKUK COUNTY
IN THE INTEREST OF
R.S.,
Minor Child
Juvenile Cause No. JVVJ006025
NOTICE
To: Joshua Rice, Father of R.S., born July 1, 2025
You are notified that there is now on file in the office of the Clerk of the above Court, a Petition in the above-entitled action alleging that the foregoing child is in need of assistance. For further details contact the office of the Clerk of Court for Keokuk County, Iowa. The Petitioner is the State of Iowa whose attorney is Keokuk County Attorney Maddison A.E. Denny and whose address is 101 South Main Street, Sigourney, Iowa 52591, telephone

number (641) 622-3500, facsimile number (641) 622-2688, email: attorney@keokukcounty.iowa.gov.
You are further notified that said Petition has been set down for hearing before the Juvenile Court at the Courthouse, Third Floor, in Sigourney, Keokuk County, Iowa, on January 14, 2026, at 2:00 p.m.
Note: You are advised to seek legal advice at once to protect your interest.
If you need assistance to participate in court due to a disability, call the disability coordinator at (641) 684-6502. Persons who are hearing or speech impaired may call Relay Iowa TTY (1-800-735-2942). Disability coordinators cannot provide legal advice.
Published in The News-Review on December 17, 24 and 31, 2025

PROBATE
Lynn T. Fisher ESPR038652

THE IOWA DISTRICT COURT FOR KEOKUK COUNTY
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF
Lynn T. Fisher, Deceased
CASE NO. ESPR038652
NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT OF ADMINISTRATOR AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS
To All Persons Interested in the Estate of Lynn T. Fisher, Deceased, who died on or about November 30, 2025:
You are hereby notified that on December 10, 2025, the undersigned was appointed administrator of the estate.
Notice is hereby given that all persons indebted to the estate are requested to make immediate payment to the undersigned, and creditors having claims against the estate shall file them with the clerk of the above-named district court, as provided by law, duly authenti-

cated, for allowance, and unless so filed by the later to occur of four months from the date of the second publication of this notice or one month from the date of the mailing of this notice (unless otherwise allowed or paid) a claim is thereafter forever barred.
Dated on December 9, 2025.
Sue A. Fisher, Administrator of the Estate
19702 Hwy 22
Keswick, IA 50136
Thomas M. Buchanan, ICIS#: AT0001162
Attorney for the Administrator
Elwood, Elwood & Buchanan
423 N. Highland St.
PO Box 70
Williamsburg, IA 52361
Date of second publication
December 24, 2025
Published in The News-Review on December 17 and 24, 2025

PUBLIC NOTICE
City of North English • Sealed Bids

The City of North English will be accepting sealed bids for a 2008 Chevy 2500 with steel utility box. Extended cab, 4x4, 6.0 Liter Gas, 90,700 miles. "As Is Condition." The City has the right to reject any and all bids. All bids due to North

English City Hall by end of business day January 6th. Contact Dave Knipfer for more information at 319-653-1793.
Published in The News-Review on November 19 and 26, and December 3, 10, 17 and 24, 2025

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PUBLIC NOTICE
Sigourney CSD • Minutes 11.12.2025

SIGOURNEY COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2025
The Board of Directors of the Sigourney Community School District met in regular session on Wednesday, December 10, 2025 in the Sigourney Jr/Sr High Library. Board members present included: Adam Sellers, Mike Bensmiller, Cody Branstad, Amy Wilcox, Tim Bruns, Steven Seeley and Adam Clark. Also present were Kevin Hatfield, Angie Lamberson, Missy Sellers, Jenny Gay, Jessica Meier, Donita Clarahan, Dave Daughton and Casey James.
Call to Order/Determination of Quorum: President Bensmiller called the meeting to order at 6:03 PM, and acknowledged a quorum of the board.
Approve/Amend Agenda: Director Seeley moved to approve the agenda as presented. Seconded by Director Bruns. Motion carried 7-0.
Welcome Visitors: None
Non-Action Items: Dave Daughton presented on the 2026 Legislative Session and priorities. Jenny Gay and Donita Clarahan gave the Insurance Study Team Presentation. The Notice of Contract Nonrenewal with Varsity Group and the Digital Display Board in the Big Gym

were discussed as well as the Superintendent Search Process and the District background and verification processes for hiring.
Administrative Reports: Spencer reported on the Preschool survey results; Webb listed the honor roll count; The AD reported all winter sports are underway; Maintenance has been busy with snow removal. Tom Watson reported they have been working on GoGuardian Maintenance; The Transportation Department added Ross Hemsley as a driver; Nutrition reported on their wonderful Thanksgiving feast and the Junior Chef Event that will take place in December.
Consent Agenda: Director Seeley moved to approve the following consent agenda items as presented:
Minutes from November 12, 2025 Regular Meeting and Organizational Meeting.
Financial Reports from November 2025.
Payment of Bills: General \$75,454.25; Activity \$16,579.28; Management \$6,787.75; SAVE \$12,150.00; PPEL \$3,957.68, Debt Service Fund \$600; Nutrition \$45,885.83; Trust \$6,000.00
Open Enrollment:
OUT to Mid Prairie HSAP - H & M Chmelar
OUT to Williamsburg - M & E Etter
OUT to Iowa City Community

Schools - A DeRoos Personnel:
Resignations: Kevin Hatfield - Superintendent; Sydney Hanson - Asst HS VB Coach
New Hires: Addyson Anderson - HS Boys Wrestling Cheer Sponsor
Volunteers: Cole Streigle - HS Boys Wrestling
Fundraisers: Soup Supper at Basketball Games - 2027 STEM Trip; Krispy Kreme sales - After Prom
Seconded by Director Bruns. Motion carried 7-0.
Board will Focus on Student Learning and School Improvement:
1. Moved by Director Wilcox to approve the process to notify non-renewal of contract with Varsity Group Advertising firm effective at the end of the school year. Seconded by Director Sellers. Motion carried 7-0.
2. Moved by Director Bruns to approve the display board contract with Joe Milledge, Owner, GM, and Thunder Country KLIC-FM, pending Board attorney final review and completion of Varsity Group Contract nonrenewal. Seconded by Director Branstad. Motion carried 7-0.
Board Will Focus on Finance, Business, and Policy:
1. Moved by Director Clark to approve the qualified applicants per the Board's Voluntary Early Retirement policy and plan. Second-

ed by Director Seeley. Motion carried 7-0.
2. Moved by Director Seeley to approve SBRC Application Request for Open Enrollment Out - \$100,715. Seconded by Director Wilcox. Motion carried 7-0.
3. Moved by Director Clark to approve second reading of District Policy 903.06. Seconded by Director Branstad. Motion carried 7-0.
Announcements/Suggestions for Next Meeting: District Calendar 26-27 updates; 5 - year Finance Projections/Mid - Year Financial Condition of District Report; OPAA Food Service Director Report; SiteLogIQ - Bond Follow; Sharing Participation Agreement - Keota; Board Policy Committee Preparations for 1st Readings; Board Building and Grounds(facilities) Planning Meeting(TBD); Board Finance Committee(TBD); Next Regular Board Meeting will be January 14, 2026 at 6:00 pm.
Adjournment: Director Wilcox moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 PM. Seconded by Director Seeley. Motion carried 7-0.
Mike Bensmiller, Board President
Angie Lamberson, Board Secretary
Published in The News-Review on December 24, 2025

PUBLIC NOTICE
City of Keota • Minutes 12.15.2025

KEOTA CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2025 – 7:00 PM
Minutes
The regular meeting of the Keota City Council was called to order at 7:00 PM by Mayor Cansler.
Roll Call
Council Members Present: Mayor Cansler; M. Greiner; H. McDonald; K. Conrad; M. Bender
Staff Present: Hunter Bruns, City Clerk; Kristian Clarke, Assistant City Clerk; Micah Harmsen, Public Works; Janie Westendorf, Library
Public Present: Casey James (News-Review); Doug and Angela Conrad; John Mather; Mike and Sue McDonald; Diana and Brett Mather; John and Angie Carr; Brian Murphy; Chad Greiner; Brandon and Danielle Imhoff; Lucas Bender; Nicole Strand; Josh (ION)
Consent Agenda
Motion to approve the consent agenda by Bender, seconded by McDonald. Motion carried.
Resolutions
• Resolution 2025-74: FY 2025 Street Finance Report Motion to approve by Conrad, seconded by Bender. Motion carried.
• Resolution 2025-75: Motion to approve a 3.5% wage increase for Micah Harmsen by Bender, seconded by McDonald. Motion carried.
• Resolution 2025-76: Motion to approve a 7% wage increase for Kevin Slaubaugh by Bender, seconded by McDonald. Motion carried.
• Resolution 2025-77: Motion to approve Kristen Clarke wage increase to \$20.00/hour by Bender,

seconded by McDonald. Motion carried.
• Resolution 2025-78: Motion to approve a 3.5% wage increase for Hunter Bruns by Bender, seconded by McDonald. Motion carried.
• Resolution 2025-79: Quote from Delta Industries — motion to approve by Greiner, seconded by Bender. Motion carried.
• Resolution 2025-80: Motion to approve by Conrad, seconded by Bender, with correction of quote. Motion carried.
• Resolution 2025-81: Motion to approve by Conrad, seconded by Bender. Motion carried.
• Resolution 2025-82: Motion to approve by Bender, seconded by Greiner. Motion carried.
New Business
• Budget Workshops:
• Revenue workshop scheduled for January 12, 2026
• Expenditures workshop scheduled for January 26, 2026
• Sidewalk Snow Removal: Motion to table and place on next agenda by Conrad, seconded by Bender. Motion carried.
• Approval of November Timesheets and Comp Time: Motion by Bender, seconded by McDonald. Motion carried.
Discussion
Doug Conrad – Law Enforcement (State v. Allen, 1997): Former Keota police officer Doug Conrad expressed concerns regarding the lack of law enforcement coverage in Keota. He stated it is the City's responsibility to provide law enforcement services and not rely solely on the County. Mr. Conrad stated he would not let the issue rest.

Council Comments
• K. Conrad: Thanked Bender, Tinnies, and Cansler for their service to Keota; congratulated the new Council and Mayor; expressed looking forward to the new year and working together.
• M. Greiner: Thanked all Council members and expressed appreciation for their care and dedication to the community.
• H. McDonald: Stated he has enjoyed working with the current Council and noted the new members are joining at an important time with the upcoming budget.
• M. Bender: Expressed gratitude for eight years of service, the friendships made, and appreciation for the support shown to new members.
• P. Tinnies: Expressed gratitude for the past six months, opportunities, knowledge gained, and friendships formed; thanked the Council and Mayor; stated plans to continue attending meetings and wished everyone well.
Public Forum
• Danielle Imhoff: Complimented the City Facebook page and communication; questioned wage increases prior to budget approval; expressed concerns about lack of law enforcement and public safety priorities.
• Diana Mather: Thanked those involved in Christmas in Keota; noted heavy library attendance and limited parking during the event.
• Ryan Carr: Thanked the Council for their passion and sacrifice; suggested exploring opportunities with the school for students needing Silver Cord hours to assist with sidewalk snow removal.

• Sue McDonald: Thanked all Council members and wished everyone a Happy New Year.
• Brandon Imhoff: Stated concerns that if residents are required to clear sidewalks, the City should also lead by example; noted City sidewalks were not cleared after the last snowfall.
• John Mather: Thanked the current Council and stated he looks forward to working together.
Swearing-In
Mayor Cansler administered the oath of office to Ryan Carr, Mayor, and new Council Members Keith Conrad, John Mather, and Chad Greiner.
Mayor Comments
Mayor Cansler credited the Council for the positive changes made in Keota over the past ten years. He noted that decision-making can be difficult and takes time. The new project was highlighted as a major success, with strong community support and fundraising by residents. Mayor Cansler praised Micah Harmsen for his work taking over Public Works and thanked Kristen Clarke for helping keep the City operating during critical times. He stated that serving as Mayor for 22 years was a significant accomplishment and thanked the community for the opportunity, expressing his love for Keota and appreciation for the community that makes it what it is.
Adjournment
Motion to adjourn by Conrad, seconded by McDonald. Motion carried.
The meeting adjourned at 8:31 PM.
Published in The News-Review on December 24, 2025

PUBLIC NOTICE
City of Keota • Minutes 12.1.2025

KEOTA CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2025- 7:00PM
Minutes
Public Hearing – Adoption of Sigourney Ordinance – 7:00 PM
The public hearing was called to order at 7:00 PM. No public comments were received. A motion to adjourn the public hearing was made by Conrad and seconded by Bender. Motion passed. Hearing adjourned at 7:01 PM.
Public Hearing – Real Estate Purchase of 302 N. Green St. – 7:05 PM
The public hearing was called to order at 7:05 PM. No public comments were received. A motion to adjourn the public hearing was made by Conrad and seconded by Bender. Motion passed. Hearing adjourned at 7:05 PM.
Regular Meeting – Call to Order – 7:05 PM
The regular meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM by Mayor Anthony Cansler.
Council Members Present: McDonald, Tinnies, Bender Absent: Greiner Staff Present: City Clerk Hunter Bruns, Assistant Clerk Clarke Public Present: Ryan Carr,

John Mather, Chad Greiner, Casey James
Amendment & Approval of Agenda
A motion to amend the agenda to add Resolution 2025-73 – Sale of Rock River Arms 5.56 LAR-15 to Doug Conrad for \$900 Motion to approve by Bender, seconded by McDonald. Greiner absent. All ayes. Motion carried.
New Business
None.
Closed Session – Iowa Code 21.5 (Real Estate)
A motion to enter closed session at 7:30 PM was made by Bender and seconded by McDonald. Motion carried.
Closed session began at 7:33 PM (motion by Conrad, second by Bender).
A motion to exit closed session at 7:40 PM was made by Bender and seconded by Conrad. Motion carried.
Regular meeting resumed at 7:43 PM.
Council Comments
• McDonald: Nothing to share.
• Tinnies: Shout-out to city employees for good work on snow removal.
• Conrad: Reminder to Council to get meeting numbers to Clerk for payroll.
• Bender: Nothing to share.

er, seconded by McDonald. Greiner absent. All ayes. Motion carried.
Resolution 2025-73 – Sale of Rock River Arms 5.56 LAR-15 to Doug Conrad for \$900 Motion to approve by Bender, seconded by McDonald. Greiner absent. All ayes. Motion carried.
New Business
None.
Closed Session – Iowa Code 21.5 (Real Estate)
A motion to enter closed session at 7:30 PM was made by Bender and seconded by McDonald. Motion carried.
Closed session began at 7:33 PM (motion by Conrad, second by Bender).
A motion to exit closed session at 7:40 PM was made by Bender and seconded by Conrad. Motion carried.
Regular meeting resumed at 7:43 PM.
Council Comments
• McDonald: Nothing to share.
• Tinnies: Shout-out to city employees for good work on snow removal.
• Conrad: Reminder to Council to get meeting numbers to Clerk for payroll.
• Bender: Nothing to share.

Public Forum
• Ryan Carr: Expressed disagreement with the City purchasing the burned home on Green St., stating the City should not "bail people out."
• Chad Greiner: Stated citizens are frustrated with the number of properties the City owns.
• John Mather: Agreed with previous comments, stating property issues should be the owners' responsibility, not the City's.
Mayor's Comments
Mayor Cansler commended city staff, noting that the public works team is doing a great job with road maintenance and had been out early Sunday morning working on snow removal. He also stated that Hunter and Kristen are doing great work in the office.
Adjournment
A motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:44 PM was made by Conrad and seconded by Bender. Motion carried.
Minutes submitted by: Hunter Bruns, City Clerk
Mayor -Anthony Cansler
Clerk- Hunter Bruns
Published in The News-Review on December 24, 2025

PUBLIC NOTICE
Keokuk Co BOS • Minutes 12.8.2025

KEOKUK COUNTY BOARD MEETING
DECEMBER 8, 2025
The Keokuk County Board of Supervisors met in regular session, Monday, December 8, 2025, in the Board Room of the Courthouse. Present were Daryl Wood, Kevin Weber and Christy Bates, County Auditor. Michael C. Hadley was absent.
Weber moved, Wood seconded to approve the agenda as submitted. All ayes and motion carried. Also present was Casey James. News-Review, Pie Reighard and Aaron Kephart, Conservation Department.
Wood moved, Weber seconded to approve the minutes of December 1, 2025, as submitted. All ayes and motion carried.
Met with Engineer McGuire regarding the Keokuk County Highway Department was held. Blades were out on all county roads Saturday evening, back out Sunday to clean up pavements and returned attention to gravel roads Monday morning. The County Engineer's Conference was successful in high attendance, leadership speakers and neighboring states attending to share ideas as well.
Weber moved, Wood seconded to approve the Keokuk County Conservation Department FYE 2025 Annual Report as submitted. All ayes and motion carried. Director Reighard presented information covering staff, board members, project expenses and sources of revenue, along with a listing of camping fees and cabin rental guests.
Various Board and Committee reports were held. Wood participated in a Pathfinders phone conversation. Weber informed the Workforce meeting was cancelled last week.
Discussion of old/new business

and public comment was held. Emergency Management/911 Director Fortney shared a rate increase notice from Muscatine Fire Department regarding our Hazardous Material (HazMat) contract raising the fee from 25¢ to 50¢ per individual for review. Don Hartman, Verdin Clock representative, provided pricing with description of repair work needed for proper operation of the clocks in the Courthouse bell tower in the amount of \$27,000 and \$7,115 option to upgrade the digital bell controller for review.
Met with Sarah Berndt, District 6 Leader, Unity Stevens, Senior Lead System Navigator and Jane Morgan, Community Health Consultant of Behavioral Health regarding Iowa Primary Care Association (Iowa PCA). On July 1, 2025, Iowa launched a new unified Behavioral Health Service System that combines mental health and substance use services to expand access to

quality, affordable and accessible healthcare to meet local needs, including integrated behavioral health, medical, oral health and pharmacy services. It was suggested to share this information with Keokuk County Public Health, Veterans Affairs, General Assistance and Sheriff's Office.
On vote and motion Wood adjourned the meeting at 10:00 a.m.
The above and foregoing information is a summary of the minutes taken at the above indicated meeting. The full and complete set of minutes is available at the Keokuk County Auditor's Office and www.keokukcounty.iowa.gov.
Approved –
Disapproved –
absent Michael C. Hadley
Daryl Wood, Kevin Weber
Published in The News-Review on December 24, 2025

quality, affordable and accessible healthcare to meet local needs, including integrated behavioral health, medical, oral health and pharmacy services. It was suggested to share this information with Keokuk County Public Health, Veterans Affairs, General Assistance and Sheriff's Office.
On vote and motion Wood adjourned the meeting at 10:00 a.m.
The above and foregoing information is a summary of the minutes taken at the above indicated meeting. The full and complete set of minutes is available at the Keokuk County Auditor's Office and www.keokukcounty.iowa.gov.
Approved –
Disapproved –
absent Michael C. Hadley
Daryl Wood, Kevin Weber
Published in The News-Review on December 24, 2025



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PUBLIC NOTICE City of Sigourney • Claims 12.17.2025		
CITY OF SIGOURNEY DECEMBER 17, 2025		
Access Systems Leasing- Services -	\$114.04	
Acco Unlimited- Supplies-	\$720.20	
All American Pest Control- Services-	\$248.00	
Armstrong Heating & AC, Inc- Services-	\$195.00	
Arnold Motor Supply- Supplies-	\$112.27	
Atwood Electric- Services-	\$165.00	
Bailey Office Outfitters- Supplies-	\$76.58	
Ben Hanson Trucking- Services-		\$750.00
Column Software PBC- Services-	\$78.60	
Dakota Supply Group- Supplies-	\$2,963.60	
First Point- Services-	\$136.58	
French-Reneker-Associates, Inc- Services -	\$6,684.60	
Greenleys, Corp- Supplies-	\$74.50	
H&M Farm & Home- Supplies-	\$477.40	
Hach Company- Supplies-		\$625.69
Heartland Shredding- Services-	\$69.00	
Hopkins&Huebner, P.C.- Services-		
IMWCA- Services-		\$625.00
Microbac Laboratories- Services-		\$973.00
SEMCO Landfill- Services-		\$1,842.75
Sinclair Tractor- Supplies-		\$1,463.86
Sines Plumbing- Services-		\$317.24
USABlueBook- Supplies-	\$49.06	
Windstream- Services-	\$5.99	
Total-	\$19,042.46	
<i>Published in The News-Review on December 24, 2025</i>		

PUBLIC NOTICE City of Delta • Minutes 12.10.2025		
DELA CITY COUNCIL MEETING WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2025		
6PM DELTA CITY HALL		
The Delta City Council met in regular session on December 10, 2025 at 6:00pm at the Delta City Hall with Mayor James Ahlberg presiding.		
Council present: Roma Neitzel, Jody Kleinschmidt, Melvin Lambert, Nathan Slagter, and Barb Fisher.		
Also present: Shannon Kleinschmidt, Michelle Keasling, Justin Hulbert, Deal Keasling, Justin Bringman, Dixie Shipley, Dolores Carey, and Rick Hein.		
Council reviewed the agenda, November minutes, Treasurer's report, bills for approval, and water billing report. Kleinschmidt made motion for approval. Slagter 2 nd . Roll call, all ayes. Motion carried.		
Ahlberg opened the floor for public comment. Fire Chief Hulbert discussed the conditions of High Street during the snow storm, and reported that they had to have a		
fireman bring his personal plow to allow the ambulance access to the scene. He asked that attention be given to drifting snow.		
Council discussed a request to move a trailer and the ordinances and protocols associated. They also discussed the DNR serving an order to 202 N. East St. for property cleanup.		
Council reviewed a request from Windstream to install fiberoptics in the area. Neitzel made a motion for approval. Fisher 2 nd . Roll call, all ayes.		
Council was updated on the upcoming Open Records Trainings being offered through the Iowa League of Cities. They also reviewed the state requirements to complete and possible ramifications of failing to comply before the deadline.		
Keasling presented the maintenance report. The truck oil was changes, plow was maintenance, and the linkage was adjusted. Keasling reports that a tractor tire needs to be replaced as soon as		
possible as it has a bulge in it.		
Carey swore in the new 2026 mayor and council members: Shannon Kleinschmidt, Dolores Carey, Melvin Lambert, Nathan Slagter, Barbara Fisher, James Ahlberg.		
Council reviewed the quotes given for a new furnace. Lambert presented the idea of purchasing a furnace from Menards and having it installed. Slagter made motion. Lambert 2 nd . Roll call, all ayes.		
Intuit.....	\$194.74	
ICAP Ins.....	\$11,467.00	
Column.....	\$316.55	
JD Financial.....	\$277.38	
IMWCA.....	\$53.00	
Carey.....	\$2,407.65	
Windstream.....	\$430.90	
US Cellular.....	\$179.00	
N&N Sanitation.....	\$2,655.00	
Gilliland.....	\$311.02	
WRWA.....	\$1,801.28	
IA Dept of Rev.....	\$1,026.95	
Walmart.....	\$55.86	
<i>Published in The News-Review on December 24, 2025</i>		

PUBLIC NOTICE Sigourney CSD • Claims 12.10.2025		
SIGOURNEY CSD DECEMBER 10, 2025		
GENERAL FUND		
AGRI LAND FS, INC.....	1,737.74	
AHLERS & COONEY, P.C.....		2,584.40
ALL AMERICAN PEST CONTROL.....	276.00	
ALLIANT ENERGY.....	6,061.07	
AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES.....		330.42
ATWOOD ELECTRIC, INC.....	205.28	
BROTHERS MARKET.....	138.12	
CARDMEMBER SERVICE.....	223.31	
CENTRAL IOWA DISTRIBUTING, INC.....	540.00	
CITY OF SIGOURNEY.....	2,972.68	
CJ COOPER & ASSOCIATES, INC.....	240.00	
COLLEGE BOARD.....	163.08	
CULLIGAN WATER TECH.....		99.95
ENGLISH VALLEY RADIO & TV SERV.....	200.00	
EXCEPTIONAL EDGE.....	562.60	
FILTER SHOP, INC., THE.....	15,925.85	
GREAT PRAIRIE AEA.....	10,963.85	
H & M FARM & HOME SUPPLY CO.....	240.11	
HUGLUND BUS COMPANY.....	338.80	
INDIAN HILLS COMMUNITY COLLEGE.....	30.70	
INDIAN HILLS COMMUNITY COLLEGE.....	8,356.05	
IOWA DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES.....	4,534.57	
ISFIS, INC.....	434.50	
ISOLVED BENEFIT SERVICES.....	61.10	
J.W. PEPPER & SON, INC.....	331.58	
JET PHYSICAL THERAPY.....	1,629.38	
JOHNSON CONTROLS.....	875.00	
KCII RADIO.....	649.95	
KEOKUK COUNTY AUDITOR.....	3,422.29	
KEOKUK COUNTY BOWL.....	658.75	
KEOKUK COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPT.....	648.90	
LAKESHORE LEARNING MATERIALS, LLC.....	263.37	
MAHASKA COMMUNICATION GROUP.....	4,160.40	
MID-AMERICA PUBLISHING CORPORATION.....	200.00	
MIDWEST SCORING LLC.....	185.00	
MISC ON MAIN.....	2,778.50	
OPEN ROAD DRIVING SCHOOL INC.....	203.00	
SCHOOL BUS SALES.....	400.17	
SINCLAIR NAPA.....	50.00	
TIMBERLINE BILLING SERVICE LLC.....	613.29	
U.S. CELLULAR.....	97.34	
WASHINGTON LAWN CARE LLC.....	1,500.00	
WEST MUSIC CO.....	130.29	
Fund Number 10.....	75,454.25	
ACTIVITY		
BGM CSD.....	48.00	
BROTHERS MARKET.....	552.60	
BUTLER, TERRY.....	270.00	
CARDMEMBER SERVICE.....	582.86	
CHRISTNER, MICHAEL.....	160.00	
CHRISTNER, RYNE.....	160.00	
DECKER SPORTING GOODS.....	1,743.00	
FRESH START DISTRIBUTORS LLC.....	885.75	
GAME-ONE.....	2,136.38	
GILLIAM, JOSH.....	400.00	
JET PHYSICAL THERAPY.....	1,629.37	
KAYZA & VINE CREATIVE CO.....	100.00	
KENNY, MARK.....	300.00	
KLEIN, STEVEN.....	90.00	
KOEHN, JOHN.....	160.00	
LEBAHN, LANE.....	250.00	
LENOX, ERIC.....	400.00	
LORBER, GREG.....	180.00	
MAHASKA BOTTLING.....	1,011.87	
MCCLENDON, ANTHONY.....	100.00	
METZ, SCOTT.....	100.00	
MOSE LEVY CO., INC.....	311.21	
MURPHY, BOB.....	250.00	
OLIVER, ED.....	160.00	
PARKER, JERRY.....	160.00	
PARKER, TODD.....	160.00	
PEDERSON, KEVIN.....	90.00	
TEACHER SYNERGY, LLC.....	117.58	
THIESSEN, TIFFANY.....	90.00	
TOWN & COUNTRY WHOLESALE.....	1,870.66	
VANDEGRIFT, TONY.....	90.00	
WALKER, LANE.....	250.00	
WASHINGTON LAWN CARE LLC.....	1,500.00	
WEBER, KLYNT.....	90.00	
WOOD, NATHAN.....	180.00	
Fund Number 21.....	16,579.28	
MANAGEMENT		
SU INSURANCE COMPANY.....	6,787.75	
Fund Number 22.....	6,787.75	
SAVE		
BUSH SPORTS TURF LLC.....	12,150.00	
Fund Number 33.....	12,150.00	
PPEL		
ACCESS SYSTEMS LEASING.....	957.30	
RANDY'S FLOORING.....	3,000.38	
Fund Number 36.....	3,957.68	
DEBT SERVICE		
UMB BANK, N.A.....	600.00	
Fund Number 40.....	600.00	
NUTRITION		
OPAA! FOOD MANAGEMENT, INC.....	45,885.83	
Fund Number 61.....	45,885.83	
TRUST		
COE COLLEGE & BRADY CLARK.....	1,000.00	
IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY & MCKINLEY CHITTICK.....	1,000.00	
IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY & REAGAN CLARAHAN.....	2,000.00	
NORTHEAST IOWA COMMUNITY COLLEGE & CAIN WEBER.....	1,000.00	
WILLIAM PENN UNIVERSITY & JAYDEN MONTGOMERY.....	1,000.00	
Fund Number 81.....	6,000.00	
TOTAL ALL FUNDS.....	167,414.79	
<i>Published in The News-Review on December 24, 2025</i>		

PUBLIC NOTICE Tri-County CSD • December 2025 Claims		
Activity-December 2025		
4 Seasons Fund Raising, FFA sales.....	\$2,727.46	
Eric Lenox, official.....	\$158.90	
First National Bank Omaha, senior trip.....	\$1,912.02	
FNBO, supplies.....	\$56.69	
Jeremiah J Frahm, official.....	\$150.00	
HLV Community School District, gate.....	\$156.55	
Mahaska Bottling, senior pop.....	\$809.04	
Mark Teater, official.....	\$172.80	
Mintex Citrusinc, FFA sales.....	\$5,964.10	
Travis Zaputil, official.....	\$193.40	
Activity,*BANK ACCOUNT TOTAL.....	\$12,300.96	
General-December 2025		
Ahlers & Cooney P.C., services.....	\$29.00	
Alliant Energy, services.....	\$3,516.28	
Amazon Capital Services, supplies.....	\$5,918.99	
Anderson Erickson Dairy Co., milk.....	\$1,201.11	
Rebecca J Appleget, reimb for memorial.....	\$31.99	
Belle Plaine Community School, S1 shared services.....	\$55,922.21	
Caseys General Store INC., vehicle gas.....	\$783.14	
Casey Thompson, training.....	\$1,000.00	
Column Software PBC, Nov minutes/claims.....	\$166.68	
Cox Sanitation & Recycling Inc, services.....	\$210.00	
Dannco INC., supplies.....	\$289.55	
Dog Training Elite Des Moines, therapy dog training.....	\$3,000.00	
Farmers Lumber Company, supplies.....	\$78.17	
First National Bank Omaha, supplies.....	\$858.11	
FNBO, supplies.....	\$137.55	
Great Prairie AEA, Dec SpEd.....	\$7,452.20	
H & M Farm & Home Supply Co, maint supp.....	\$163.08	
IHSADA, 2026 fee.....	\$150.00	
Ion Environmental Solutions LLC, services.....	\$638.00	
Iowa Communications Network, services.....	\$173.75	
Iowa School Finance Information Service, GASB 75 OPEB.....	\$1,000.00	
Johnson Controls Fire Projection Lp, services.....	\$800.00	
Jostens Inc, graduation supplies.....	\$253.75	
Keith Molyneux, snow remov.....	\$4,506.25	
Keokuk County Auditor, 2025 election.....	\$1,105.13	
Martin Bros Distributing Co Inc, food supplies.....	\$7,308.30	
Mid-American Publishing Corp., subscription.....	\$77.00	
Moose Mechanical, services.....	\$2,187.00	
Multi-County Oil Co Inc, building/ bus fuel.....	\$16,846.40	
Nutrien Ag Solutions, supplies.....	\$225.00	
Pitney Bowes Bank Inc Purchase Power, postage.....	\$400.00	
Pitney Bowes Inc, meter rent.....	\$142.98	
Poweshiek Water Assn., services.....	\$477.75	
Quill Corporation, supplies.....	\$790.36	
Roto Rooter Sewer Service, services.....	\$251.00	
Schroeder Graphics & Signs, logo.....	\$30.00	
Sinclair Napa, maint supp.....	\$230.60	
Soar Learning INC, teaching supplies.....	\$449.50	
State of Iowa-Dept of Inspections Appeals & Licen, inspection.....	\$120.00	
SU Insurance, insurance.....	\$5,815.00	
Tri-County CSD, reimb.....	\$35.00	
Victor Lumber, supplies.....	\$21.98	
Windstream, services.....	\$1,390.17	
General,*BANK ACCOUNT TOTAL.....	\$126,182.98	
<i>Published in The News-Review on December 24, 2025</i>		

PUBLIC NOTICE Tri-County CSD • Minutes 12.17.2025		
TRI-COUNTY COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING		
December 17, 2025 - 5:30 pm Board Room 3003 Hwy 22 Thorburg, IA 50255 MEETING MINUTES		
Board President Chad McKain called the regular meeting to order at 5:30 pm. Board Secretary, Beckie Appleget, acknowledged a quorum of the board by roll call.		
Board members present: Chad McKain, Heather Schmidt, Ben Molyneux, and Derek Hall.		
Board member absent: Jacob Edmundson was absent.		
Also Present: Superintendent, Chad Straight; Principal, Jennifer Berg; Athletic Director, Amanda Sowers; and Board Secretary, Beckie Appleget.		
Reading of the Mission Statement by Heather Schmidt.		
Amend/Approve Agenda for the Retiring Board: Molyneux moved, seconded by Hall, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried 4/0. Approval of Consent Agenda Items: Schmidt moved, seconded by Molyneux, to approve the consent agenda items, including the approval of the minutes from the November 19, 2025, Regular Board Meeting. Motion carried 4/0. Accept Abstract of Election: Molyneux moved, seconded by Molyneux, to approve and accept the abstract of the 2025 election results from the county auditor. Motion carried 4/0. Adjournment: Hall moved, seconded by Molyneux, to adjourn the meeting at 5:33 p.m. Motion carried 4/0.		
Call Meeting to Order by Board Secretary: Board Secretary, Beckie Appleget, called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m. and acknowledged a quorum of the board by roll call.		
Board members present: Derek Hall, Heather Schmidt, Chad McKain, and Ben Molyneux. Board member absent: Jacob Edmundson		
Swearing in of Board Members: The newly elected school board members, Ben Molyneux and Derek Hall, were formally sworn in, affirming their commitment to uphold the Constitution, state laws, and district policies. Each member took the oath of office and assumed their responsibilities as a board member. Election of Board President and Oath of Office: Appleget opened nominations for board president and vice president. McKain		
was nominated for board president; there were no other nominations. Hall moved, seconded by Molyneux, to elect Chad McKain as Board President. Motion carried 4/0. Appleget administered the oath of office to McKain. Election of Board Vice President and Oath of Office: Schmidt was nominated for board vice president; there were no other nominations. Molyneux moved, seconded by Hall, to elect Heather Schmidt as Board Vice President. Motion carried 4/0. Appleget administered the oath of office to Schmidt.		
Approval of Consent Agenda Items		
Amend/Approve Agenda: Molyneux moved, seconded by Schmidt, to approve the consent agenda as presented. Motion carried 4/0.		
Organizational Items: The dates and times for the 2026 Board Meetings will be the 3 rd Wednesday of each month at 5:30 p.m., with Robert's Rules for Conducting Board Meetings. Brett Nitzsche for Ahlers was named as the Legal Counsel for the Tri-County CSD. Mid America Publishing/The News Review was named as the official paper for publishing board agendas and minutes. The Nondiscrimination Notice was approved as presented.		
Approval of Financial Reports: SBO Stacey Kolars provided financial reports to the board. Approval of Summary List of Bills: General/ PPEL/SAVE/Nutrition Funds bills totalling: \$126,182.98, and Activity Fund bills totalling \$12,300.96. Resignations: None		
Communications and Reports		
Student Reports/Programs/Celebrations: Ms. Berg recognized the students of the month recipients. PK3: Ensley Edmundson. PK4: Harrison Weber. Kindergarten: Carter Seyb-Jones. 1 st Grade: Jillian McCulloch. 2 nd Grade: Jaxson Singleman. 3 rd Grade: Oaklynn Van Patten. 4 th Grade: Emersyn Schmidt. 5 th Grade: Grant Sowers. 6 th Grade: Grayson Purdy. Secondary: Gracen MacCready and Grace Lindley. The Winter Concert was rescheduled due to the weather to December 18 th . The elementary students will be going to the Capri Theatre for their holiday celebration, and secondary students who were proficient on ISASP and made growth will be going to the TRIO. Community/Public Request: None. Board Report: None. Superintendent Report: Mr. Straight reported that he attended the IPSIP insurance meeting.		
He also reported that, according to legislation, all schools will be facing a funding shortfall. Please contact your legislator regarding the issue. Principal Report: Ms. Berg reported that Winter FAST assessments will begin after students return from winter break, and Ms. Prell's Art students created beautiful winter paintings throughout the building and did a really nice job. Activities Director Report: Coaching Positions; resignations: none; recommendations: none. Open Positions: JH baseball, HS boys wrestling, and JH & HS girls wrestling coaches. Girls' JH basketball, Boys' JH Wrestling, HS Basketball, and HS Wrestling have all started. The events held at TC have been JH Girls' Basketball and JH & HS Boys Wrestling. Thank you, Athletic Boosters, for contributing \$300 toward senior banners. Mrs. Sowers attended the monthly AD meeting on December 3 rd .		
Old Business: None.		
New Business		
Employment of Personnel: None. Action/Discussion on SBRC Application for MSA from Open Enrolled Out Not on Count: Hall moved, seconded by Molyneux, to approve the request to the SBRC for MSA for \$88,866. Motion carried 4/0. Action/Discussion on Solar Contract with 1Source Solar: Molyneux moved, seconded by Schmidt, to approve the contract with 1Source Solar once it is received/reviewed, and to make the down payment to move forward with the project. Motion carried 4/0. Action/Discussion on HLTV Legislative Forum: HLTV is hosting a legislative forum; the date has not been set. Action/Discussion on Naming a Board Member to the Conference Board: Hall moved, seconded by Schmidt, to nominate Jacob Edmundson to the Keokuk County Conference Board. Motion carried 4/0. Discussion of IASB Convention: The board discussed the highlights from the IASB convention.		
Board Talking Points: The board discussed a 4-day school week. A survey will be sent out to collect information by asking questions. The questions will be designed to gather opinions regarding the topic.		
Adjournment: Molyneux moved, seconded by Hall, to adjourn the meeting at 6:20 p.m. Motion carried 4/0.		
President, Chad McKain Board Secretary, Beckie Appleget <i>Published in The News-Review on December 24, 2025</i>		



English Valleys Bearometer

December 24, 2025

www.facebook.com/Bearometer

Issue: XVI

Olivia Debevec Brings English Valleys Leadership to the State Level

By: Tyler Wiseman

The English Valleys Student Council is proud to announce that sophomore Olivia Debevec has been selected as a District Officer for the Iowa Student Council. This District Officer position is a state-level student leadership role, and Olivia will serve as the Southeast Iowa District Officer.

As a District Officer, Olivia will work closely with student councils across the Southeast District by helping plan events, leading meetings, and sharing ideas between schools and the state organization. Through this role, she will help strengthen connections between local student councils and student leadership across the state of Iowa.

Olivia earned this honor through a competitive, multi-step selection process that included an interview with the Iowa Student Council State Board and several additional requirements. Students from schools across the Southeast District applied for the position, and Olivia was chosen from a highly qualified group of candidates.

This achievement marks a significant accomplishment for both Olivia and English Valleys, as she becomes the third EV student to be selected as a District Officer. Please join us in congratulating Olivia Debevec on this outstanding achievement and leadership honor.



Students Spread Holiday Cheer with Handmade Ornaments

By: Cael Grove



Special Education is hopping with fun, hands-on learning activities, and Ms. Cortado's classroom is a wonderful example of learning through creativity and community involvement. Her students have been actively engaged in a festive project that helped them grow academically, socially, and emotionally while spreading holiday cheer.

As part of a Christmas ornament project, students learned and practiced important fine motor and life skills. They began by measuring and mixing water, flour, and salt to create dough, developing math and sensory skills along the way. Students then learned how to knead the dough and use their hands to shape and form ornaments. The next step involved cutting shapes and using molds, followed by baking the ornaments to prepare them for decorating. Finally, students painted and added glitter, creating beautiful, personalized ornaments while expressing their creativity.

Beyond the classroom, Ms. Cortado's students extended their learning into the community. On Tuesday, December 9, the class took a field trip to the South English Library, where they proudly delivered and donated their handmade ornaments. With the support of their dedicated paraprofessionals, students helped decorate the library, shared cheerful conversations, and experienced the joy of giving back.

The celebration continued on Thursday, December 11, when students used extra ornaments to decorate the school Christmas tree. Their colorful creations added a warm, personal touch to the school's holiday display and showcased the students' hard work and creativity.

Through this project, Ms. Cortado's class not only learned valuable academic and fine motor skills, but also strengthened their connection to the community and learned the importance of generosity and holiday traditions. The project truly reflected the spirit of a Bear and brought joy to both the students and those around them.

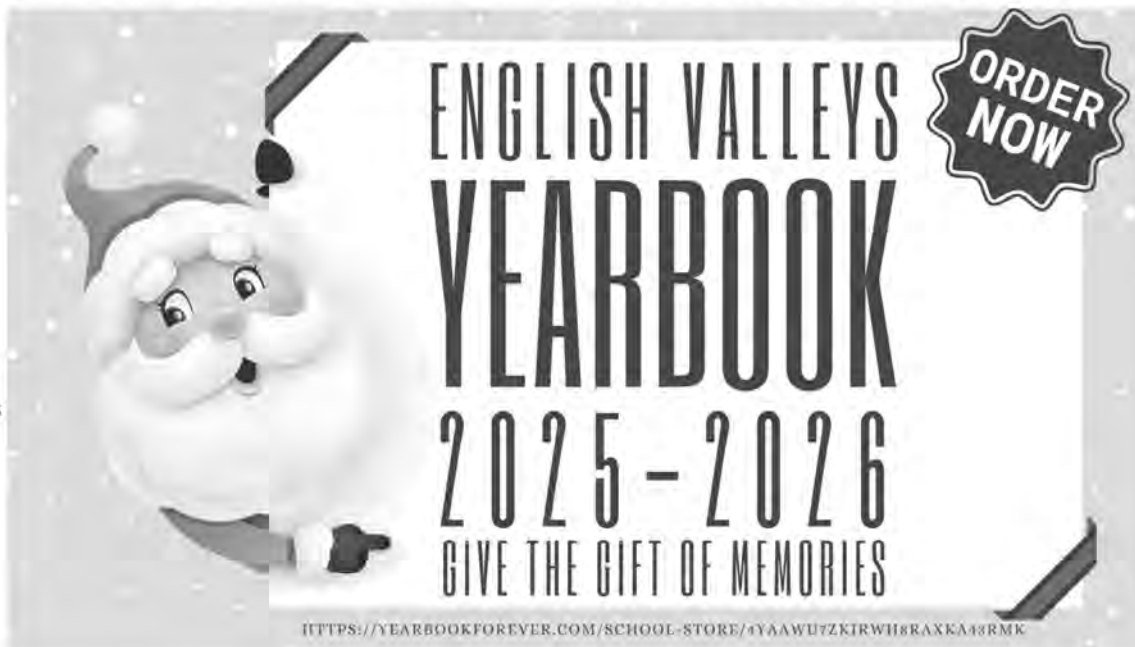
Reassessments: Empowering Students to Learn and Grow

By: Phoenix Spies

At English Valleys, students are given meaningful opportunities to grow through reassessments. Reassessments allow students to take an assessment again after receiving feedback, giving them the chance to improve their grade while continuing to learn. More importantly, reassessments help students better understand the concepts they are struggling with and demonstrate increased mastery of content-specific standards.

When students receive their assessments back, teachers provide feedback that helps them identify areas for improvement. This feedback allows students to self-assess their learning and focus on specific skills or concepts. By targeting what they need the most help with, students are able to revise more effectively and strengthen their understanding of the material. Reassessing also plays a key role in building student confidence and a growth mindset. It shows students that a low score is not final and that learning is a process. Through reassessment, students can see their progress, recognize what they have learned, and gain confidence in their ability to improve. This approach encourages students to take ownership of their learning and self-monitor their progress over time.

Overall, reassessments at EV support both academic achievement and personal growth. They help communicate student learning to all stakeholders while reinforcing the idea that effort, feedback, and persistence lead to success. To learn more about English Valleys' Standards-Based Grading (SBG) policies, please visit our website: www.evbears.com/sbg.html





THE EAGLE'S WING

Issue No. 7

Keota Jr./Sr. High School Student Newspaper



Senior Spotlight

LUKE MOELLER

This week's senior spotlight is Luke Moeller. Luke's mom is Jamie Moeller. She graduated from Waco High School and now works as a 1st grade teacher. His dad is John Moeller; he graduated from Mid Prairie High School. He now works as a construction worker at DeLong in Washington. Luke has two brothers and a sister. Jacob is 25, Justin is 24, and Emily is 18; she and Luke are twins. When Luke graduates high school, he wants to attend William Penn University to work on getting a degree in kinesiology. His future plan is to become a physical therapist; to achieve that goal he is going to work hard in school. When Luke was younger, he had always wanted to be a singer and make music.



Luke's friends, classmates and the people around him would say that he is kind, productive and smart because that's what he tries to be everyday. In high school, Luke has participated in many activities like Eagle Rock!, plays, speech, coding club, CYM, track and cross country. His most memorable high school memory is running in cross country. It was hard but worth it in the end. Luke's favorite class was chemistry with Hobbs because they would do fun stuff with chemicals. His favorite activity was doing speech and the plays because it was always fun to perform with his friends. His favorite teacher at school was Dr. Cullett or Edwards. Luke doesn't have a favorite school tradition that Keota does. His biggest pet peeve is when people only see topics from their perspective and are not open/minded. After graduation, Luke will miss the people and how they are all nice so there was never a dull moment. Luke wants people to remember him by being nice and as an active member in the community. Luke's advice for anyone would be don't take classes like that. Seriously, unless it's a college class, don't take too many or you'll have to work on them at home like he had to do.



By: Kaylee Kindred

STUDENT OF THE WEEK

This week's student spotlight is Marlee Geriner; she doesn't happen to have a nickname that people call her. Marlee has 2 siblings; an older sister Ava and a younger brother Micah. She is involved in a few extracurriculars such as cheer, speech, FFA and EagleRock! Marlee's favorite class is animal science. Her favorite memory at Keota is going on the all state speech trip last year her freshman year. She likes to read in her free time and hang out with friends and family. When she grows up, she wants to be an ultra sound tech.



By: Kaylee Kindred

EVENTS

17 KHS S1 Semi-Finals S/K Bowl Quad @ Sig. - 1:00 PM
17 Srs. & Parents: FAFSA Night - Zoom Rm - 5:00-7:00 PM
18 End Q2/Sem 1
19 No School - (PD Day - AM)
19 BB @ Montezuma -6:00
20 S/K(B) W @ IC, Regina - 9:00 AM
22 Var BB vs No. Mahaska - 6:00
22 - Jan 4 Winter Break

EAGLE'S WING STAFF

2025-2026

KAYLEE KINDRED

ADVISER: Dr CULLETT
This page was composed and designed by Keota High School students. The News Review is not responsible for the makeup or editorial content expressed.

HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL

The boys and girls had their first conference basketball game on Tuesday at Keota, playing Belle Plaine. The girls played first, winning their game with a score of 66-22. The boys then played and also won with a score of 62-29. Both of their next games will be on Friday playing HLV at HLV. The girls basketball team is now 3-0, having other games before the first conference game. For the boys, this was their first game, starting the season off with a win.

By: Kaylee Kindred



MRS CONRAD
STAFF

DAKOTA DODD
12TH

WILL KLIEN
11TH

ELYSE LYLE
10TH

DACIN REDLINGER
9TH

SAVANNAH YODER
8TH

EVAN GERINER
7TH



"Filling house with decorations"

"Baking cookies"

"Opening presents"

"Reading by the fire"

"Building snowman"

"Making ginger-breads"

"Poker"

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE CHRISTMAS ACTIVITY?

