



The News-Review

SERVING THE KEOKUK COUNTY AREA SINCE 1860

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

\$150

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 pm.

For more info call Cindy Weber at 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.

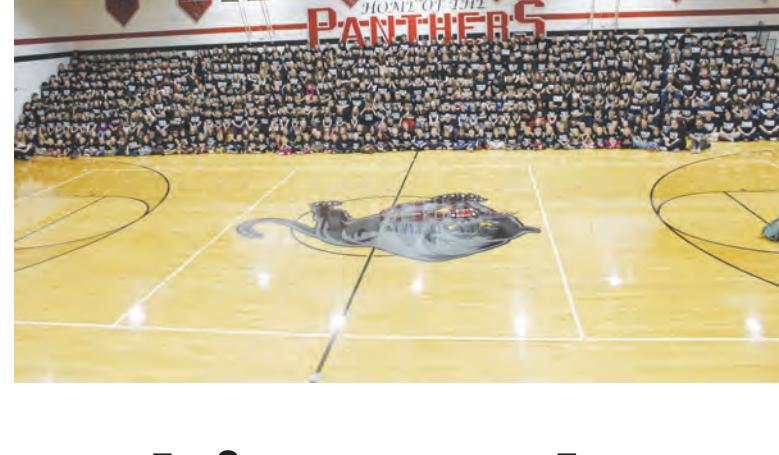
Bender stated that the new mayor and council members, who will take over at the next meeting, will need to look at new options and keep looking for coverage.

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,



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.



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Photo courtesy of the Keokuk County Economic Development

Print your favorite memories



The News-Review

120 E Washington St.,
Sigourney, Iowa
(641) 622-3110

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.



To R: Jesse Hannam, David Goldman, Larry Chmela

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 Chmela 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 Losbaker, 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 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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Since 1886

We can stop HIV, Iowa— by protecting our sexual health when we talk, test, treat.

talk Talk with your partner **before** having sex. Talk about **when** you were last tested & suggest getting tested together.

test Talk to your healthcare provider about your sex life. Ask about HIV & STI testing—including **what tests you need & how often**.

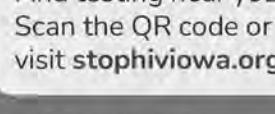
treat Get tested! It's the only way to **know for sure** if you have HIV or an STI.

Many STIs **don't cause symptoms**, so you could have one and not know.

HIV & all other STIs are **treatable**.

If you test positive for an STI, work with your healthcare provider to get the right treatment.

If you test positive for HIV, your provider or testing location will connect you to treatment & resources!



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visit stophivioawa.org

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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

Births, Engagements, Weddings, Anniversaries

Share your story!

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info@sigourneynewsreview.com

120 E Washington St, Sigourney, IA 52591

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 offi-
cers had been hired and then
left. Conrad stated that he
didn't see this changing until
the department's administra-
tion changes.

Conrad stated that, if
small towns in Washington
County like West Chester
(population 144), Crawfords-
ville (population 277) and
Ainsworth (population 511)
can get police coverage, Keota
(population 897) should
be able to. Bender stated that,
when they talked to Wash-
ington 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 in-
cident where Washington
County deputies arrived in
Keota 25 minutes after a
call, followed by state pat-
rol 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 Con-
rad. "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-shov-
eled 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 prob-
lem with people not picking
up sticks. McDonald estimat-
ed 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 pay-
ment.

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 mon-
ey 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 side-
walks. Councilman Keith
Conrad stated that the
ordinances say people have
24 hours to clear their side-
walks and that, if someone slips
and breaks their leg, they can
suit the property owner. Council-
man 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 be-
tween people being too old to
clear snow and people just not
wanting to. Councilwoman
Patty Tinnis also raised con-
cerns 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 dis-
cuss 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
Slabaugh; a raise from to
\$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 ap-
proved spending \$390 for
blower parts and \$2584.70
for two new motors for the
water plant. The council ap-
proved 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 com-
ment time, former member
of the city council Danielle
Imhoff stated that, as some-
one who works in govern-
ment 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 tim-
ing suspicious. Imhoff also
stated that a lot of the prob-
lems 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 vot-
ing on salaries months ahead
of when typically done, that
they can get things done if
they want to. Imhoff claimed
that, if getting police cover-
age was a priority, it would
be 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 some-
thing really bad happens.
And you're going to be the
ones responsible," Imhoff said.

A library employee stated
she had concerns with park-
ing during the Christmas in
Keota event on the 6th, stat-
ing 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

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 Rolls.

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

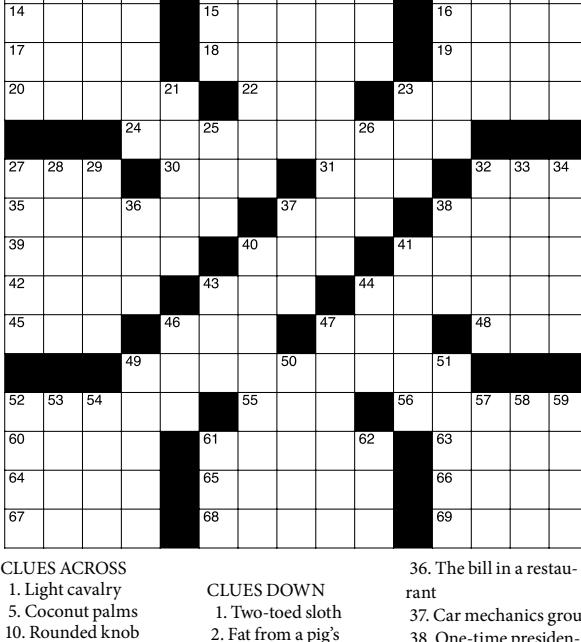
Pekin

Christmas Break



This week's crossword, sponsored by:
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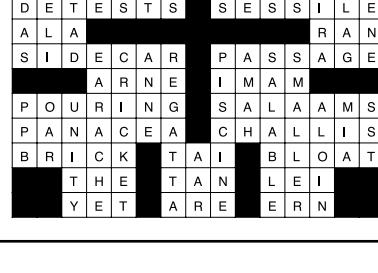
CROSSWORD



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. 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. Species
 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
 14. Counsels
 15. 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

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

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a word to the wise

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If you are a print subscriber and would like access to the e-edition, Please call our circulation department at 1-800-558-1244 ext 122 or email at circulation@midamericapub.com

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, typewritten 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:

- Your full name with signature
- 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.

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

We reserve the right to edit any and all copy presented to our news department. We reserve the right to reject any advertising, request pre-payment and cancel at any time. Contract rates available on request. Quantity discounts available.

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If The News-Review shall fail to publish a notice as required, in whole or in part, it shall in no event exceed the amount of the charges allowed by law for the publication of the notice which was not published.

COLD & FLU WORD SEARCH

WORDS

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

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.

Cassie Griffith asked for a four-wheeler, a bike, a computer, jewelry, and clothes.

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.

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, 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.

Kaitlyn Fairchild asked for a dancing baby, a black lion pack, 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.

Nolan Joseph Wehr asked for a long planter, marble-works, 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

2005

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

The News-Review

Worship Guide

Wednesday, December 24, 2025 • 5

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.

Communion on the third Sunday of the month.

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 Sned

Sunday: Sunday School 9 a.m.;

Worship 10 a.m.

Wednesday: WOW Kids 6:30-7:30 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.

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HEDRICK

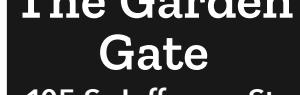
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Ringing in the ears
Nausea
Vomiting
Slurred speech
Fatigue

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**The News-Review**120 E Washington St.
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(641) 622-3110**DONNA HUSBAND**

Donna Husband will be turning 90 on January 7th. Please help her celebrate by sending cards to 1000 S Stuart St. Apt #6 Sigourney, IA 52591

REAL ESTATE AUCTION

HUNTING – FARMLAND/CRP ACRES – TIMBER

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.

Fri – January 30, 2026 – 10:00am**121 ACRES M/L – 54.9 CSR2**

Keokuk Co – Warren Twp – Sect. 14

Auction to be conducted at the Delta Community Center located on the corner of 4th & Valley St.

Discover 121 acres m/l of highly sought after recreational & income-producing land located on the North Skunk River. An ideal opportunity for hunters, investors, & outdoor enthusiasts alike. This exceptional tract offers a balanced blend of prime habitat and reliable annual income, making it both a destination property & long-term asset. The farm features a combination of 53.68 acres m/l productive crop acres with 54.9 average CSR2. There are 40.74 acres enrolled in the CRP program with 20.86 acres in contract at \$193/acre thru 9/30/30 & 19.88 acres in contract at \$264.12/acre thru 9/30/40. These acres add stable income potential with additional 17 acres m/l of timber, enhancing wildlife habitat. The diverse cover & natural travel corridors attract whitetail deer, turkey, pheasant and upland game, offering premier hunting experiences throughout the seasons. Its proximity along the river further elevates its appeal, offering scenic beauty, water access and increased wildlife activity. **Note:** Buyer will have tillage rights to farm this Tract for the 2026 crop year. 100% of the 2026 CRP payment will be paid to the Buyer. Duwa's Auction Service LLC shall assume no liability for any errors, omissions or inaccuracies in the information provided. All critical information shall be independently verified. **TERMS:** 15% down day of auction, balance due March 4, 2026. **CLOSING & POSSESSION:** March 4, 2026. **TAXES:** Prorated to date of closing. All announcements day of auction take precedence over all previous advertising.

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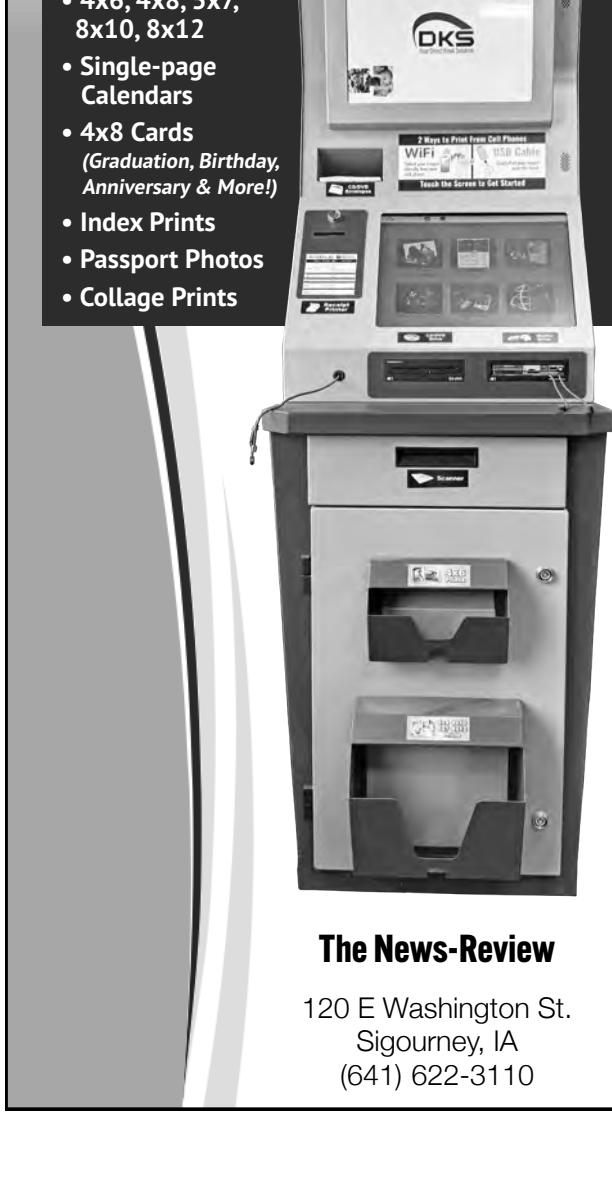
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144 students from the Sigourney Elementary Art class from Mrs. Rebecca Shaw, Art Teacher brought their creative talent to KCHC. The students 5 to 12 years old colored holiday pictures for the walls of the nursing area to the halls ways by the x-ray 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.



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



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

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 government 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 sshonrock@iastate.edu.

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FARMERS
pg. 8

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

50% above the poverty line,

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

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into to pay for health care expenses.

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 winter 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!

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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Or By Appointment

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."

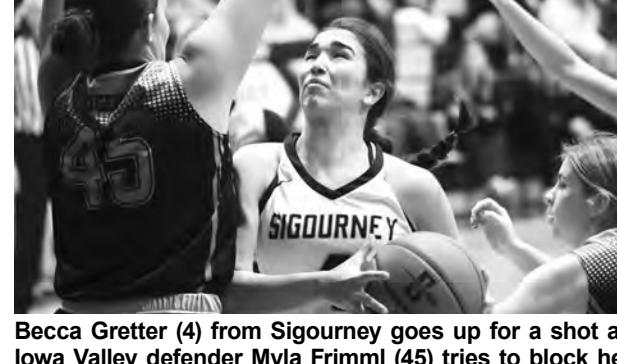
In their 35-point win on Friday night the Sigourney girls surrendered the first two points of the game as Iowa Valley was able to get through the Savage defense and score a layup. From there the next 10 minutes featured Sigourney showcasing their skills.

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 Claranan 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.

Claranan 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 tried to get down court in a hurry, so they attempted a long pass down the entire length of the floor. However, the ball 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 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 half-time, 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 three's 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 half-time.

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 season.

The win improves the Panthers to 4-3 overall 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

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 lead 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 the Hawks 30-28 in the second half.

Christian Tripses would lead 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.

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

NORTH ENGLISH - 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 49-41.

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 Hailey 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 Hailey and Jessalyn Aller would both finish

the contest with six points each.

Emily Conger and Karley Greiner both scored four

points each. Dakota Dodd

Athletes of the Week

By Mark Schafer

Sponsored by

The News-Review

Anna Hadley

Every game she played in last week, she just seemed to be close to unstoppable.

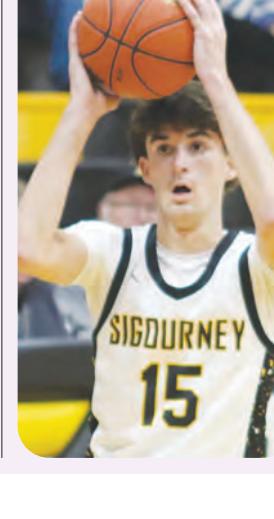
Pekin senior Anna Hadley turned in three strong games for the Panthers last week. It all started with a 20 point and 18 rebound effort in a setback against Lone Tree on Dec. 16.

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 Esliek. "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



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

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," Esliek 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

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," Esliek 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 added

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 Claranian 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, Esliek is happy with what the team has shown through the first six games.

"We are going to have a big week of practice," Esliek 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).



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The News-Review

SERVING THE KEOKUK COUNTY AREA SINCE 1860

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2025
SECTION B, NUMBER 52, 164th YEAR

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 Cucchiari; 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 Requirements.

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 Durflinger; Driving or Towing an Unsafe Vehicle.

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

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 Steckly, 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 El- lis 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 de-

scription 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. JVJV005988

**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 JVJV005988 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 (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 Angie Road
Ottumwa, Iowa 52501

SELLER CO-TRUSTEE
/s/ Darci Elizabeth Ann Axmear
Darci Elizabeth Ann Axmear

5905 Winslow Road

Marion, Iowa 52302

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 mailing of this notice (unless otherwise allowed or paid) a claim is thereafter forever barred.

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 Angie Road

Ottumwa, Iowa 52501

/s/ Darci Elizabeth Ann Axmear

Darci Elizabeth Ann Axmear, Pro-

ponent

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:

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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
Danco INC., supplies	\$289.55
Dog Training Elite Des Moines, therapy dog training	\$3,000.00
FNBO, supplies	\$56.69
Jeremiah J Frahm, official	
Semco Landfill, Services	\$150.00
HLV Community School District, gate	\$156.55
Sinclair Tractor, Supplies	\$1,463.86
Sines Plumbing, Services	\$317.24
USAbuleBook, Supplies	\$49.06
Windstream, Services	\$5.99
Total	\$19,042.46
Published in The News-Review on December 24, 2025	
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	
L & 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	
Johnson Controls Fire Projection Lp, services	\$800.00
Jostens Inc, graduation supplies	\$253.75
Keith Molyneux, snow remov	
Keokuk County Auditor, 2025 elect	\$4,506.25
Keokuk County Auditor, 2025 elect	\$1,105.13
Martin Bros Distributing Co Inc, food supplies	\$7,308.30
Mid-American Publishing Corp.,	
Published in The News-Review on December 24, 2025	

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

Thornburg, 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 Ed-

mundson was absent.

Also Present: Superintendent,

Chad Straight; Principal, Jenni-

fer Berg; Athletic Director, Aman-

da 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 car-

ried 4/0. Approval of Consent

Agenda Items: Schmidt moved,

seconded by Molyneux, to approve

the consent agenda items, includ-

ing the approval of the minutes

from the November 19, 2025, Regu-

lar Board Meeting. Motion car-

ried 4/0. Accept Abstract of Elec-

tion: Schmidt moved, seconded

by Molyneux, to approve and ac-

cept the abstract of the 2025 elec-

tion 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 acknowled-

ged a quorum of the board by roll

call.

Board members present: Der-

ek Hall, Heather Schmidt, Chad

McKain, and Ben Molyneux. Board

member absent: Jacob Edmund-

son

Swearing in of Board Members:

The newly elected school board

members, Ben Molyneux and Der-

ek Hall, were formally sworn in, af-

firming 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 Presi-

dent and Oath of Office: Appleget

opened nominations for board

president and vice president. McK-

ain was nominated for board pres-

ident; there were no other nomi-

nations. Hall moved, seconded by

Molyneux, to elect Chad McKain

as Board President. Motion car-

ried 4/0. Applegate administered the

oath of office to McKain. Election

of Board Vice President and Oath

of Office: Schmidt was nominat-

ed for board vice president; there

were no other nominations. Moly-

neux moved, seconded by Hall, to

elect Heather Schmidt as Board

Vice President. Motion carried 4/0.

Applegate administered the oath of

office to Schmidt.

Approval of Consent Agenda

Items

Amend/Approve Agenda: Moly-

neux 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 Meet-

ings will be the 3rd Wednesday of

each month at 5:30 p.m., with Rob-

ert's Rules for Conducting Board

Meetings. Brett Nitzschke from

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 agen-

das and minutes. The Nondiscrimi-

nation Notice was approved as pre-

sented.

Approval of Financial Reports:

SBO Stacey Kolars provided finan-

cial reports to the board. Approval

of Summary List of Bills: General-

PPEL/SAVE/Nutrition Funds bills

totaling: \$126,182.98, and Activi-

ty Funds bills totaling \$12,300.96.

Resignations: None

Communications and Reports

Student Reports/Programs/Cel-

ebraitions: Ms. Berg recognized the

students of the month recipi-

ents. PK3: Ensley Edmundson.

PK4: Harrison Weber. Kindergar-

ten: Carter Seyb-Jones. 1st Grade:

Jillian McCullough. 2nd Grade: Jax-

son Singleman. 3rd Grade: Oaklyn

Van Patten. 4th Grade: Emersyn

Schmidt. 5th Grade: Grant Sowers.

6th Grade: Grayson Purdy. Sec-

ondary: Gracen MacCready and

Grace Lindley. The Winter Con-

cert was rescheduled due to the

weather to December 18th. The el-

ementary students will be going to

the Capri Theatre for their hol-

iday celebration, and secondary

students who were proficient on</



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.evstars.com/sbg.html

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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



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

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE CHRISTMAS ACTIVITY?



'Filling house with decorations'

"Baking cookies"

"Opening presents"

"Reading by the fire"

"Building snowman"

"Making ginger-breads"

"Poker"

"Poker"

"Poker"



Fall manure application

Dry Manure Applicator Certification Workshops Offered in February 2026

By: Daniel Andersen, Rachel Kennedy, Melissa McEnany

AMES – Iowa State University Extension and Outreach, in cooperation with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, will offer manure applicator certification workshops for dry/solid manure operators on five different dates and locations in February. These workshops meet manure applicator certification requirements for confinement site and commercial manure applicators who primarily apply dry or solid manure.

"The information in this workshop will benefit not only those needing certification but anyone using dry or solid sources of manure as a nutrient resource," said Dan Andersen, associate professor of agricultural and biosystems engineering and extension agriculture engineering specialist at Iowa State University and coordinator of the manure applicator certification program.

The workshops are available to attend at no cost and are open to all. Applicators will be required to submit

certification forms and fees to the Iowa Department of Natural Resources in order to meet the manure applicator certification requirements.

Pre-registration is required and walk-ins are not allowed. To register for a workshop, please call the county office for the specific location at least one week prior to the workshop. All workshops will begin at 1 p.m.

Feb. 9, Sioux County, Sioux County Extension Office, 400 Central Ave NW, Suite 700, Orange City; 712-737-4230.

Feb. 10, Washington County, Washington County Extension Office, 2223 250th St., Washington; 319-653-4811.

Feb. 12, Adair County, Greenfield City Hall, 202 S 1st St., Greenfield; 641-743-8412.

Feb. 18, Wright County, Wright County Extension Office, 2302 Madison Ave, Clarion; 515-532-3453.

Feb. 19, Buena Vista County, Buena Vista County Extension Office, 701 Seneca St., Suite 1, Storm Lake; 712-732-5056.

For more information, call a county from the list above or contact Rachel Kennedy at rakenned@iastate.edu.



Pigs behind a fence

IPIC to offer three PQA Advisor certification sessions in 2026

By: Ella Peterson |
IPIC student
communications assistant

AMES – The Iowa Pork Industry Center has announced the PQA Plus Advisor certification sessions for the 2026 year. With Pork Quality Assurance version 6.0 now in effect, training is required to maintain certification.

IPIC associate director Chris Rademacher organizes PQA advisor certification sessions provided by IPIC.

"Advisors with an expired certification and people wanting to become certified for the first time are required to attend a face-to-face training like this," he said. "Interested and qualified people should complete and return the application form soon."

The sessions are scheduled to be on:

Wednesday, January 28, 2026. This will be virtual via Zoom, and the application deadline will be Wednesday, January 21.

Tuesday, July 7, 2026. This

will be virtual via Zoom, and the application deadline will be Tuesday, June 30.

Monday, October 5, 2026. This will be virtual via Zoom, and the application deadline will be September 28.

For all sessions, registration will start at 8:30 a.m. Central time and the session begins at 9 a.m.

Rademacher, who is also the Iowa State University extension swine veterinarian, leads the sessions and said it takes approximately six hours, including the exam at the end. No spot is guaranteed until the application is approved, and payment is accepted by IPIC. The cost is \$100 and includes all materials and lunch. Veterinary CEUs will be requested for the sessions.

Qualification requirements are listed on the two-page application form, available as both a fillable PDF document and a Word document from the PQA Page on the IPIC website. Applicants may use either version.

The sessions are scheduled to be on:

Wednesday, January 28, 2026. This will be virtual via Zoom, and the application deadline will be Wednesday, January 21.

Tuesday, July 7, 2026. This

Chronic Wasting Disease in Iowa (Part Three of Four)

Deer Management

During public meetings, the question seems to always get asked - If you can't stop chronic wasting disease (CWD), what's the point of doing anything?

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources' (DNR) chronic wasting disease management objective is simple: to document the spread of the disease while balancing deer herd health with quality hunting opportunities, for as long as possible, while preparing Iowans for a future with chronic wasting disease.

"We're trying to mitigate increased transmission and high prevalence rates by keeping deer numbers at a balanced level—in other words, avoiding overabundance," Elliott said. "We're not doing aggressive, targeted deer removals; all of our harvest and surveillance is voluntary."

Iowa's response to the disease has been measured, guided by current research and reliant upon public participation and support.

The importance of collecting samples is understanding local disease dynamics and openly sharing that information with the public, he said.

The CWD Response Plan provides a clear and structured blueprint to assess potential management options when appropriate, gives a nuanced approach to harvest-based management that takes into account local deer population, recent trends, current harvest levels and public tolerance. It also helps with internal consistency and keeps staff up to date.

"Hunting plays a huge role in slowing the spread of the disease. We encourage hunters to continue hunting in Iowa and managing the

herd for future generations," Harms said.

Iowa is in its 24th year of monitoring for chronic wasting disease and Iowa's deer hunters have provided more than 110,000 tissue samples for testing, and by increasing harvest surrounding positive test results, when appropriate.

Iowa has been tracking the presence of chronic wasting disease since the first positive deer was found in Allamakee County in 2013.

"We need to continue the strong partnership we've built with our hunters and maintain public support for our deer management, and that goes beyond chronic wasting disease," Elliott said.

"The key word in our response plan is 'voluntary.' Iowa's hunters are invaluable for making our surveillance program work every year – without them, we would not

be able to maintain the program."

Iowa's emphasis on 'voluntary' is somewhat unique, many states have some type of mandatory sample submission or intense culling efforts.

"Hunters care, they're passionate, it's important to them, they want to do what they can to slow the spread of the disease," said Tyler Harms, biometrician with the Iowa DNR. "The passion is there, they want to help and you can't get any better than that in my opinion."

Up next...Part Four:

Importance of Deer Hunting

Iowa's deer resource is estimated to generate nearly \$200 million in annual economic activity, much of which is spent on gas, hotels, meals, gear, supplies and more in rural communities.

Commercial Manure Applicator Training Scheduled for Jan. 8

By: Daniel Andersen, Rachel Kennedy, Melissa McEnany

AMES – Commercial manure applicators can attend annual training to meet commercial manure applicator certification requirements on Thursday, Jan. 8, 2026. Iowa State University Extension and Outreach and the Iowa Department of Natural Resources will conduct Commercial Manure Applicator Certification training from 9 a.m. to noon at 72 locations across Iowa.

There is no fee for the workshop; however, pre-registration is required and walk-ins are not allowed. Applicators must register by Dec. 30, 2025, with the ISU Extension and Outreach County office where they plan to attend. A complete list of workshop locations can be found online.

Dates will open at 8:30 a.m.

Live workshop trainings

Eight locations will host live workshops for Commercial Manure Applicator Certification as part of the Confinement Site Manure Applicator Training. Those seeking the Confinement Site certification will be excused after the two-hour session. To obtain the Commercial certification, participants must remain for the additional hour to fulfill

requirement.

The dates, counties, workshop locations, and phone numbers for the locations hosting a live manure application Commercial Manure Applicator Workshop are provided at the following link:

<https://iastate.app.box.com/s/py2vmjhoktsj98ow-3fzrmt4hy2w0fdj>

Jan. 30, Keokuk County, 9:30 a.m. Keokuk County Extension Office, Sigourney; 641-622-2680.

Feb. 1, Jefferson County, 1:30 p.m. Jefferson County Extension Office, Fairfield; 641-472-4166.

Feb. 20, Mahaska County, 1:30 p.m. Mahaska County Extension Office, Oskaloosa; 641-673-5841.

A live workshop location is available for Commercial Manure Applicator Certification only:

Jan. 6, Washington County, 1 p.m., Washington County Extension Office, Washington; 319-653-5056.

Commercial manure applicators who need to recertify and those seeking certification for the first time should attend the statewide showing or one of the live workshops in their area. All certified commercial manure applicator licenses will expire on

March 1, 2026. To avoid pay-

ing late fees, individuals wishing to renew must complete the required training and submit the necessary forms and fees to the Iowa Department of Natural Resources by March 1. The law requires all commercial manure applicators to attend three hours of training annually to meet certification requirements.

Businesses that primarily truck or haul manure of any type or from any source are also required to meet certification requirements.

Those unable to attend the program on Jan. 8 or one of the other live workshop locations need to schedule time with their ISU Extension and Outreach county office to watch the training videos. Due to scheduling conflicts, extension offices will no longer accept walk-in appointments to watch these videos, but do offer scheduled dates and times to provide this training.

If applicators cannot attend training during one of the scheduled reshow dates at their county extension office, they will be charged a \$10 fee to view the training at their convenience. If attending the workshops or watching the three-hour video is not convenient, commercial applicators may contact their local DNR field office to schedule

an appointment to take the certification exam. In addition to scheduling an appointment to take the exam, applicators must bring a pencil and a photo ID and should plan to bring a calculator.

Another option for commercial manure applicators is to take their training online at the Iowa DNR MAC Workday site (see "Manure Applicators Certification" > "Certification" > "Online"). Applicators will need to sign in and register for a Workday account.

In addition to the Commercial Manure Applicator training offered on Jan. 8, ISU Extension and Outreach will also offer five dry/solid manure workshops for commercial manure applicators in February 2026. Information regarding these workshops and locations is available on the online brochure. Program requirements are the same as the regular commercial training program, but this training program is geared toward dry/solid manure issues.

For more information about the commercial manure applicator certification program, contact your ISU Extension and Outreach County office or review the Iowa State manure resources online.

Lake Restoration Program draft 2025 Report and 2026 Plan available for public comment

DES MOINES - The Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Lake Restoration Program (LRP) will accept public comments on the newly released draft 2026 Lake Restoration Report and 2025 Plan, beginning Dec. 5.

The report is available for review at www.iowadnr.gov/Lake-Restoration. It highlights restoration projects completed around the state in State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2025 and outlines plans for upcoming restoration projects.

The Lake Restoration Program works with communities and stakeholders across Iowa to improve water quality and recreational opportunities at publicly-owned lakes.

Since the program's creation in 2006, the Iowa legislature has invested over \$176 million in the lake restoration program, with investments at 72 lakes in 55 counties statewide.

The program averaged a 37 percent cost share to match LRP funds

by other project partners in SFY2025 (local, federal, and other state funds).

Lakes are an important part of Iowa's economy, accounting for \$1.32 billion in annual spending. In 2024, Iowa's lakes had more than \$13.7 million visits statewide. More than 60 percent of Iowans visit a lake at least once per year, and on average, visitors spend an average of \$36 on single day trips. Visitors consistently rank proximity to their work or home, quality of facilities, and water quality as their top reasons when choosing a lake to visit.

Accomplishments since the program's inception include:

40 miles of shoreline protection to minimize erosion

7.7 million cubic yards of excess sediment removed (equivalent to over 513,000 dump trucks of material)

44 projects enhancing 14,000 acres of wetlands and shallow lakes

Over 250 watershed best management practices

(BMPs; e.g. ponds, grade stabilization structures, urban stormwater BMPs, and upland/stream restoration) implemented with program funds on public lands.

Over 700 BMPs constructed in priority watershed in concert with project partners (e.g. NRCS, SWCDs, US EPA Section 319, IDALS, Municipalities) to protect downstream lakes

60 infrastructure improvement projects (e.g. dam/spillway repairs, lake outlet water control structures, fish barriers) to preserve Iowa's lakes for the next generation

Major projects completed in 2025 include a \$3.52 million investment in Three Mile Lake, (Union County), a \$2.92 million investment at Casey Lake (located within Hickory Hills Park, Black Hawk County), a \$987k investment at the Iowa Great Lakes to address flood damage from the 2024 floods, and a \$1.8 million investment at Prairie Rose Lake (Shelby County) and Green Valley Lake (Union County) for phosphorus inactivation

treatments.

Major projects planned for 2026 include completion of the projects at Lake Keomah (Mahaska County), and McKinley Lake (Union County), shoreline stabilization projects at the Iowa Great Lakes to address flood damage, and beach restoration projects at Brushy Creek Lake (Webster County), Big Creek Lake (Polk County), and Hickory Grove Lake (Story County), to reduce bacteria concentrations at each of these beaches. Several large-scale shallow lake/wetland restoration projects are underway, including projects at East Twin Lake (Hancock County) and Little Storm Lake (Buena Vista County).

The DNR is accepting comments from Dec. 5 through Dec. 17. Comments may be submitted via email to michelle.balmer@dnr.iowa.gov or sent via mail to Michelle Balmer, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, 6200 Park Avenue, Suite 200, Des Moines, Iowa 50321.

The DNR is accepting comments from Dec. 5 through Dec. 17. Comments may be submitted via email to michelle.balmer@dnr.iowa.gov or sent via mail to Michelle Balmer, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, 6200 Park Avenue, Suite 200, Des Moines, Iowa 50321.

The News-Review

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