



# The News-Review

SERVING THE KEOKUK COUNTY AREA SINCE 1860

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 7, 2026  
NUMBER 1, 165<sup>TH</sup> YEAR

\$150

## Community CALENDAR

### BINGO Nights Keokuk County Expo

1/7, 1/21, 2/4, 2/18, 3/4,  
3/18

### 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.

### 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.

Keokuk 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.

### 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,



In this issue

Agri-View..... 4B

Church Calendar..... 5

Classifieds ..... 6

Local ..... 2-3, 7

Records ..... 2B

The Sun Spot..... 8

Sports ..... 9-10



8 0 4 8 7 9 3 2 8 6 7 4

## YEAR IN REVIEW 2025



### Fair/Expo Royalty Crowned

By Casey Jarmes | The News-Review

KEOKUK COUNTY – "If I had to sell the Keokuk County Expo Fair to somebody for 30 seconds, I would like to talk about the community we have around here, and talk about the fact that, when I walk into the fair, I know anybody I see in that exhibit hall or in the exten-

JULY  
pg. 7

### Former Sigourney Wrestler To Head New Coe College Women's Wrestling Program

By Casey Jarmes | The News-Review

CEDER RAPIDS – On July 30, Coe College announced the founding of a new NCAA women's wrestling program, to be headed by Sigourney native Kaleb Reeves. "It's been a long time coming," said Reeves. "I've known for a couple months now, but they were waiting for the right



AUGUST  
pg. 7

### Old Time Capsule Missing, New Time Capsule Buried

By Casey Jarmes | The News-Review

DELTA – In July, 1975, during the hundredth anniversary celebration for the town of Delta, the centennial committee buried a time capsule. On Sept. 5, 2025, as part of the town's sesquicentennial celebration, the people of Delta attempted to dig up the time capsule.

SEPTEMBER  
pg. 7



### KCED Holds Casino Themed Ten Grand Gala

By Casey Jarmes | The News-Review

SIGOURNEY – The annual Keokuk County Economic Development Ten Grand Gala was held on Nov. 14. The event, given the "Casino Night" theme featured a dinner, a costume contest won by Matt and Christel Ives, door prizes, and a \$10,000 raffle that was won by Amy and

Jessie Wilcox. Amy Wilcox, who works at Fidelity Savings Bank, stated "I have no idea. Hadn't even thought about it," when asked what she'd do with the

NOVEMBER  
pg. 7



October



### Ribbon Cut for New Sigourney Pavilion

By Casey Jarmes | The News-Review

SIGOURNEY – After more than five years of fundraising, the new Kiwanis pavilion on the southeast corner of the Sigourney Square was dedicated on Oct. 4. The pavilion, which was constructed over the summer, is intended to be used for concerts and during the city's Fourth of July and Christmas festivities. Work to build the pavilion started with discussion of adding a roof to the bandstand in the southwest corner; after learning a roof would have to be built to the side of the

OCTOBER  
pg. 7

### Sigourney Superintendent Announces Retirement

By Casey Jarmes | The News-Review

SIGOURNEY – Sigourney Superintendent Kevin Hatfield has announced that he attends to retire in June, at the end of the current school year. This will bring an end to Hatfield's five years at Sigourney and 38-year-long career in education.

"In all sincerity, it's probably been one of the best five year chapters of my professional life. It's certainly been rewarding to see things we've been able to do with students, working with our school board, that have been great. Our administration team here at in Sigourney, outstanding. Our staff's been really great," said Hatfield. "I'll probably miss the kids more than anything, seeing their faces and things. Even though it's hard for a superintendent to know every single student, you know their faces and their smiles, and it's just always wonderful, and that's something I know I'll probably miss as I complete my 38th year in public schools."

Hatfield began his education career at Pleasant Valley, where he worked as a teacher and coach for 15 years.

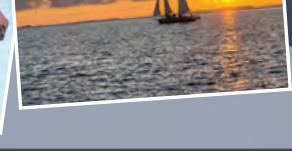
He was also the athletic director for one year. Next, he worked as the elementary

DECEMBER  
pg. 7

November

December

## 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.

# Supervisors Approve 3% Salary Increases

By Casey Jarmes |  
The News-Review

SIGOURNEY — On Jan. 5, the Keokuk County Board of Supervisors approved 3% pay increase for elected officials to go into effect in 2027. Supervisor Mike Hadley explained that the Consumer Price Index stated that there had been 2.8% inflation in the past year. He stated that the 3% increase was not really a raise, just a continuation of the level officials are currently paid.

"I feel like we can make that work, hopefully, til it don't. That's my opinion," Hadley said.

Hadley stated that he used to always recommend 1% more than inflation, to increase salaries over time, because Keokuk County salaries used to be low. However, he stated that, due to restraints put on the county by the state legislature, he didn't feel that was possible. Supervisor Kevin Weber stated that, based on what they're allowed to levy, he can't see them being able to go above 3% at

this point in time. Hadley stated that he believed that Washington County and Jefferson County had both approved raises of 2.8%. Supervisor Daryl Wood stated that the county had received roughly \$100,000 in its general fund this year and that the 3% raises would total to around \$77,000. He stated there was a little extra in the general fund for increases to line item expenses in different departments, but not much.

In accordance with Iowa law, the Supervisors looked over the salaries other Iowa counties give elected officials before making their decision. County Assessor Drew Sanders asked what data they were using for the comparison, giving population and property tax evaluations as examples. Hadley stated that there wasn't a direct line in how much counties pay, noting that some smaller counties pay officials more; he stated that the info from the Iowa State Association of Counties was unclear on specific duties of officials, noting for example

that Sanders also does GIS work, something not all assessors do.

Prior to 2025, the supervisors were required to meet with a compensation board prior to deciding on wage increases. Following changes in state law, the Keokuk County Board of Supervisors opted to dissolve the board. They did not reinstate it this year. Hadley stated during the Jan. 5 meeting that the compensation board had become redundant, due to the state "taking the teeth" out of compensation boards and making it so the supervisors no longer had to follow their recommendations. Hadley stated it was simpler to get rid of the middle-man and discuss things between the supervisors and employees. Wood stated that a few members of the compensation board had come to him and stated they had no clue what the financial means of the county were anymore and asked why they were making recommendations if they didn't know the county could afford them.

## USPS says mail-in ballots might not get postmark on same day they're dropped off

By Jonathan Shorman,  
States Newsroom

The U.S. Postal Service has adopted a new rule that could create doubt about whether some ballots mailed by voters by Election Day will receive postmarks in time to be counted.

A USPS rule that took effect on Dec. 24 says mail might not receive a postmark on the same day the agency takes possession of it. The postal service says it isn't changing its existing postmark practices and is merely clarifying its policy, but some election officials have looked to postmarks as a guarantee that mail ballots were cast before polls closed.

The new rule holds implications for 14 states and Washington, D.C., that count ballots arriving after Election Day if they are postmarked on or before that day — commonly called a "ballot grace period." In these states, ballots placed in the mail by voters before the deadline may not be counted if the postal service applies a postmark after Election Day.

The USPS rule says that "the postmark date does not necessarily indicate the first day that the Postal Service had possession of the mailpiece."

The USPS rule comes as the

U.S. Supreme Court prepares to consider a case that could eliminate ballot grace periods nationwide. The court's decision, expected late this spring or next summer, could render the issues raised by the postmark rule moot.

Mail-in voting surged in 2020's general election amid the COVID-19 pandemic, when 43% of voters cast their votes by mail. The percentage of voters mailing their ballots has fallen from that peak but remains above pre-pandemic levels. About 30% of voters cast mail ballots in 2024, according to data gathered by the U.S. Election Assistance Commission.

While the vast majority of mail ballots were successfully cast last year, hundreds of thousands weren't counted. During the 2024 election, 584,463 mail ballots returned by voters were rejected by election officials — 1.2% of returned mail ballots. About 18% of those ballots were rejected because they didn't arrive on time.

The USPS defended the change in a lengthy response to criticisms published in the Federal Register. The agency emphasized that it does not administer elections and doesn't advocate for or against voting by mail.

The postal service repeated its advice that voters mail their completed ballots at least a week before Election Day. And it noted that voters may request a manual postmark at their local post office free of charge.

"If customers are aware that the postmark date may not align with the date on which the Postal Service first accepted possession of a mailpiece, they will be better equipped to adjust their plans accordingly," the response reads.

"And if policymakers or other entities that create rules utilizing the postmark date are aware of what the postmark date signifies, they are better equipped to determine whether their rules adequately serve their purposes."

Stateline reporter Jonathan Shorman can be reached at [jshorman@stateline.org](mailto:jshorman@stateline.org).

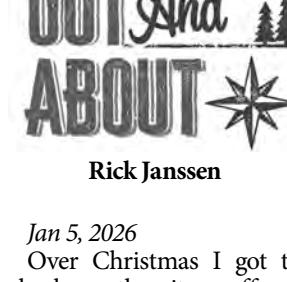
*This story was originally produced by Stateline, which is part of States Newsroom, a nonprofit news network which includes Iowa Capital Dispatch, and is supported by grants and a coalition of donors as a 501c(3) public charity.*

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Copper Lantern in Sigourney held a Masquerade Party on New Year's Eve.

## Mexico Part 1



Rick Janssen

Jan 5, 2026

Over Christmas I got to check another item off my bucket list. I was able to travel to a resort in the Mayan Rivera section of Mexico with my entire family. This is something I have been dreaming and planning for many years, and this year we made it all happen.

My wife and I have traveled to this area three times previously with various friends and family members. I talked to my family about this area and told them that SOME YEAR we were all going to go together. The only time that I could get them all free from their schedules was at Christmas. We knew it would be a busy time at the resort, but we took what we could get.

My Iowa family flew very early on Christmas Eve out of Des Moines. We had a short lay over in Dallas and then on to Cancun Mexico. My son and his wife flew out of Greenville SC and were about an hour behind us. Once we cleared customs we boarded our bus for the hour ride south to our resort.

The resort was very beautiful, and all decked out for Christmas. It is a little funny to see the Christmas

lights on palm trees instead of the traditional trees we use here, but there was still a huge "pine tree" all decorated in the lobby. The entire resort is set in a jungle area, and we were able to see many types of wildlife that are not common in Iowa. Monkeys were very abundant along with the Mexican version of a racoon.

Once my entire family was checked into their rooms, we wandered the resort trying to find food. Every time I visit a resort like this it takes me a day or two to find my way around to all the restaurants and beach areas. After a quick snack we wandered down to the beach area for our first view of the ocean. The colors of the water never cease to amaze me. The wind was blowing in some large waves as we walked along the coast. We finally made it to the sheltered beach area where some of our family went in for a quick dip.

We then made our way back to our rooms to clean up and head to the giant buffet area for supper. Since it was Christmas Eve, the buffet went all out with all kinds of food and more desserts than I had ever seen. My granddaughter tried to eat an entire lobster by herself but couldn't get it done. Everyone was very tired from the long trav-

el day, so we turned in early.

The next day was Christmas, and we knew we just wanted to relax around the beach, so after breakfast we headed in that direction. The beach is in a secluded area, so the waves are never a problem. The sand on the beach was perfect for building sandcastles and most of the family helped with the buildings. I wanted to check out the area for snorkeling, but the wind blowing in made the ocean too rough, so I went back to the beach.

There was a snack bar at the beach so we could just walk up and enjoy a quick snack and get some ice cream. We basically just chilled the entire day at the beach and then went to a Mexican restaurant back in the lobby area. The resort had 5 sit down restaurants that we needed to make reservations for, along with the buffet and other a la carte restaurants. Way too much food.

Our resort was next to a huge park called Xcaret. I have visited this park three times in the past and knew that my family would enjoy the park. It has so many interesting things to see and do that we decided to purchase

JANSSEN  
pg. 3



## The News-Review

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### The News-Review

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# Community CALENDAR

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](http://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 5:00 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

## Letter to the Editor

### By Chad M. Greiner

As we begin the year 2026, it is time for an honest public discussion about the future of Keokuk County.

What is that future? With continued farm ground and livestock consolidation and little to no economic growth, we must ask ourselves where we are headed and whether we are prepared for the consequences of inaction.

I have lived in Keokuk County nearly my entire life, and I care deeply about this place. I have worked in and around all of our towns and know firsthand the pride people take in their communities. But pride alone will not sustain us.

Rising costs—especially property taxes and the increasing expense of operating multiple school districts—are placing a growing strain on taxpayers and local governments alike. Ignoring these realities will not make them go away.

I would much rather live here than be a nameless face in a large city.

That sense of community is worth protecting. But protecting it requires difficult conversations and long-term planning—not silence.

Last year, voters rejected the \$10 million bond is-

sue for Sigourney schools.

Taxpayers made it clear: they feel overburdened, and I don't blame them. However, refusing to invest in infrastructure comes with real consequences.

When school buildings deteriorate to the point of frequent closures or emergency repairs, families will look elsewhere. Open enrollment to larger districts will increase, enrollment will decline, and the cycle will only accelerate.

At some point, we must ask the hard question: can Keokuk County realistically continue to support three separate school districts, or would a single consolidated district—supported by the tax base of the entire county—provide greater stability, efficiency, and opportunity for our students?

This is not an attack on any town or any school.

Every community in Keokuk County matters. But avoiding this discussion does not protect our towns—it weakens them.

If we want a future where families choose to stay, invest, and raise their children here, we must be willing to talk openly about where we are going and how we plan to get there. The future of Keokuk County depends on it.

## JANSSEN from pg. 2

unlimited passes that would allow us to go back and forth from our resort which was only a short walk or boat ride away. This turned out to be a great idea.

For our first morning in the park, we wanted to do a float down a river that flows through underground caverns and cenotes. We all got our life jackets on and started down the river.

It was very crowded and took a bit of work. Some of our group stopped part way through the trip and others made it the entire route. After the float it was back to our resort for lunch and a nap. We ate

supper at the buffet and then headed back to the park for an evening show.

The evening show is a huge production that tells the entire story of Mexico from the Mayan culture to the coming of the Spaniards up to the current times. The show is remarkable, and I knew my family would enjoy it.

My son said that there were over 100 participants in the show that included all kinds of Mayan games, dancing and singing. After the show it was back to the resort for the night.

I will continue with the rest of our trip next week.

## MILESTONES

### Milestones

#### (Sigourney & Delta)

Jan. 8th

Cook's Choice with Dessert.

Jan. 9th

Roasted Turkey, Gravy, Mashed Sweet Potatoes, Cauliflower w/ parsley, Pumpkin Bar, Wheat Roll.

Jan. 12th

Country Fried Steak, Mashed Potatoes, Gravy, Pickled Beets, Applesauce, Wheat Roll.

Jan. 13th

Tater Tot Casserole, Green Peas, Ambrosia, WW Bread.

Jan. 14th

Herbed Pork Loin, Gravy, Rice Pilaf, Four Way Mixed Veggies, Chilled Pineapple.

### Pekin

Jan. 8th

Breakfast: Sausage, Toast, Fruit, Juice.

Lunch: Mini Corn Dogs, WG Goldfish, Ham & Cheese Hoagie, Raisles, Diced Peas, Corn, Sliced Cucumbers, Milk.

Jan. 9th

Breakfast: WG Long John, Sting Cheese, Fruit, Juice.

Lunch: Pizza, Hamburger on Bun, Fruit, Baked Beans, Baby Carrots w/ Ranch, Milk.

Jan. 12th

Breakfast: Mini Cini's Yogurt, Fruit, Juice.

Lunch: Walking Tacos, Grilled Cheese, Peaches, Apple Slices, Refried Beans, California Blend, Milk.

Jan. 13th

Breakfast: Cereal Bar, GoGurt, Fruit, Juice.

Lunch: Lasagna, Bosco Stick, Egg Patty, Sausage Patty, Cinnamon Apples, Orange Slices, Romaine Lettuce, Baby Carrots w/ Ranch, Milk.

Jan. 14th

Breakfast: Tortilla Omelet, Fruit, Juice.

Lunch: Chicken Patty on Bun, Uncrustable, Mixed Fruit, Raisels, Potato Wedges, Pepper Slices, Milk.

### Sigourney

Jan. 8th

Breakfast: Scrambled Eggs, Assorted Cereal w/ Cinnamon Toast, Donut, Fruit, Juice, Milk.

Lunch: Chedda- Toni w/ Focaccia Bread, Pig in a Blanket, Seasoned French Fries, Pizza Bar, Sub Bar, Salad Bar w/ Focaccia Bread, Garden Salad, Glazed Carrots, Fruit, Milk.

Jan. 9th

No School

Jan. 12th

Breakfast: Breakfast Pizza, Tropical Fruit, Juice, Milk.

Lunch: Taco Soup, Fresh Broccoli, Salsa, Pears, Chips, Snickerdoodle, Milk.

Jan. 13th

Lunch: Pancakes w/ Syrup, Peaches, Juice, Milk.

Lunch: WG Mini Corn Dog, Tossed Salad, Yellow Peppers, Apple, Pumpkin, Chocolate Chip Muffin.

Jan. 14th

Breakfast: Egg Bites, Toast & Jelly, Orange, Juice, Milk.

Lunch: Sausage Patty, Cheese Stick, Green Beans, Fresh Baby Carrots, Pineapple, French Toast, Milk.

### Keota

Jan. 8th

Breakfast: Pancake Sausage Sandwich, Peaches, Juice, Milk.

Lunch: Stromboli, Garden Spinach Salad, Green Beans, Pickle Beets, Fresh Strawberries, Milk.

Jan. 9th

No School

Jan. 12th

Breakfast: Breakfast Pizza, Tropical Fruit, Juice, Milk.

Lunch: Taco Soup, Fresh Broccoli, Salsa, Pears, Chips, Snickerdoodle, Milk.

Jan. 13th

Lunch: WG Mini Corn Dog, Tossed Salad, Yellow Peppers, Apple, Pumpkin, Chocolate Chip Muffin.

Jan. 14th

Breakfast: Pancakes w/ Syrup, Peaches, Juice, Milk.

Lunch: WG Mini Corn Dog, Tossed Salad, Yellow Peppers, Apple, Pumpkin, Chocolate Chip Muffin.

Jan. 15th

Lunch: Pancakes w/ Syrup, Peaches, Juice, Milk.

Lunch: WG Mini Corn Dog, Tossed Salad, Yellow Peppers, Apple, Pumpkin, Chocolate Chip Muffin.

&lt;p

This week's crossword, sponsored by:  
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## CROSSWORD



### CLUES ACROSS

1. Lakes
6. Electromotive force
9. Invests in little enterprises
13. Longtime Utah Jazz coach
14. Small sailboat
15. Actor Idris
16. Mild yellow Dutch cheese made in balls
17. System that detects objects under water
18. Harsh, grating noise
19. Steward
21. A fencing sword
22. Infections
23. Actress Ryan
24. Sodium
25. Swedish castle
28. A lump of slime
29. African antelope
31. Insurance providers
33. Choosy
36. Ringworm
38. Unpolished
39. Drenches
41. Pant style
44. Son of Noah
45. Spiritual being
46. Upton Sinclair novel
48. Journalist Tarbell
49. Popular sports highlight show
51. Born of
52. Rich tapestry
54. S. China seaport
56. State of being unclothed
60. Surrounded by
61. Residue
62. Away from wind
63. Dried-up
64. Visionary
65. A very large body of water
66. Garden tools
67. Screen type
68. Ancient Scandinavian poet

1. Millisecond
2. Spanish city
3. A sudden very loud sound
4. "The Indiana Jones of beer"
5. Tin
6. Sea eagles
7. Volcanic crater
8. Type of coat
9. Women's apartments in Ottoman palace
10. Divulge a secret
11. Norwegian playwright
12. "It's a Wonderful Life" director
14. Poisonous perennial plant
17. 18-year astronomical period
20. Clothes
21. Places to sit
23. Family of regulator genes
25. New York ball-player
26. Impressive in size or scope
27. Jacques \_\_\_, French biologist
29. One from the Big Apple
30. Genus of woolly lemurs
32. Songs to one's beloved
34. Indigenous person of N.E. Thailand
35. Supplemented with difficulty
37. Farewell
40. Investment account (abbr.)
42. One from Utah
43. Begets
47. A male child
49. Break apart
50. Brief appearance
52. Partner to "ooched"
53. A light informal meal
55. Fabric with smooth, shiny surface
56. One billionth of a second
57. Ancient Italian-Greek colony
58. Close tightly
59. Mail out
61. Language
65. Computer characteristic

### LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS



### CLUES DOWN

ENCOURAGE KINDNESS

TODAY

PUT A SMILE

IN SOMEONE'S DAY

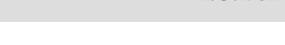
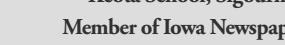
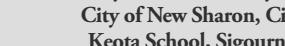
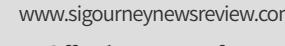
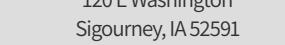
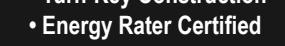
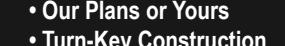
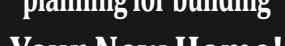
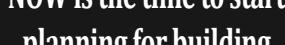
### English Valley Well and Pump Service

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# The News-Review

# Worship Guide

Wednesday, January 7, 2026 • 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.

## 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.

## 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 6-7:30 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.

Richland Methodist Church

Pastor Michael Elrod

106 W. South St., Richland

319-456-2251

Sunday Worship: 11 a.m. in

person or Facebook page.

Trinity Friends Church

Pastor Jerry Hoover

206 Main St,

641-919-8922

Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m.

Woolson Friends Church

Pastor Jerry Hoover

1005 Jasmine Ave,

641-919-8922

Sunday Worship 11:00 a.m.

Rose Hill Community Church

Pastor: Mike Bennett

2011 Main St.

Sunday School- 9 a.m.

Sunday Worship- 10:15 a.m.

Free Food Bank Distribution-

Every second Friday of the month.

SIGOURNEY

### Be the Light Ministry

200 Kramer St.

Sunday- 9 a.m. Traditional

11 a.m. Contemporary

Sunday School (PK-6) 10-10:45 a.m.

The Bethel Church

Pastor Nick Needham

319-329-6070

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New Sharon

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Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.

Worship, 10:30 a.m.

New Life Fellowship

New Sharon

Lead Pastor Rick Baarda

www.newlifefellowships.org

641-637-2561

newlifefellowships@gmail.com

Worship Service: Sunday,

9:15am (Church)

Children's Sunday School

during pastor's morning message.

(Church Basement)

Adult Small Group: Sunday,

10:30am (Church)

Adult Small Group:

Wednesday, 1:30pm (McVay FC)

G2C Youth Group (2-6th)-

Wednesday, 6:00 - 7:30pm

(Church)

PROS Youth Group (7-12th)

- Wednesday, 6:30 - 8:30pm

(McVay FC)

Union Mills

Christian Church

Pastor Josh Martin

1405 Parkin Ave, New Sharon,

IA 50207

641-637-2339

Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.

Worship, 10:35 a.m.

NORTH ENGLISH

St. Joseph's

221 N Knollridge St.

Rev. Fr. Robert Lathrop

319-664-3325

Mass Time: Saturdays 5:00pm

(Nov through Feb: 4:00pm)

Religious-Ed: Wednesdays

6:00-7:15pm

Christian Church

Pastor Luke Caster

131 N. Howard St.

Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m.

Ph. 319-664-3338

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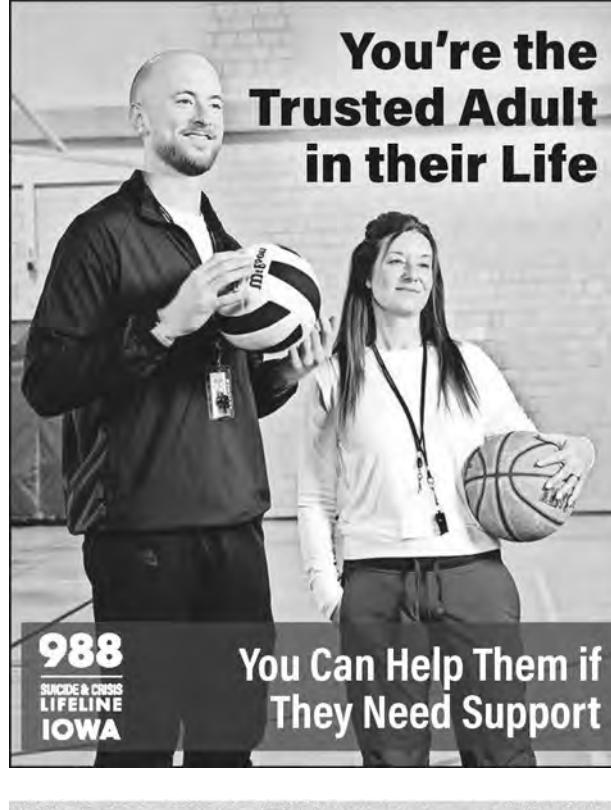
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Newton Marketing & Research, 2010

## JULY from pg. 1

sion office or in the barn, is a helping, willing hand. And that I know that every face I see when I walk in there, and I know I'm bound to have a good conversation and find somebody that I haven't talked to in a while. Every time I come to the Keokuk County Expo Fair, it is a blast, and I never want to leave," said Carley Claranahan during the Expo Queen Contest, after being asked how to sell the Expo Fair to someone.

Claranahan, a 16-year-old Pekin student from Martinsburg, was crowned Expo Queen on July 17. She is the daughter of Jennifer and Casey Claranahan. Claranahan is a member of Patriotic Panthers, Seamrippers United, the Pekin FFA, and the Keokuk County Council. She also participates in Volleyball, Football and Wrestling Cheer, Quiz Bowl, Band, and Competition Dance. Her hobbies include competition dance, sewing and reading.

"This means the absolute world to me. I've been dreaming about doing this since I was a little girl, and I came to every queen show and I loved every single one. I looked up to all the previous fair queens, like Brooklyn Hensley, Mason Claranahan... It meant everything to me and seeing that I got to be here tonight and be the queen makes my heart happy. I get to show everybody what Keokuk County can do... I'm absolutely ecstatic. It was such a hard competition. I had the best group of girls and I could not have asked for a

better group... (I am) a little nervous but mostly excited (about the State Fair). I heard from Mason that it's a whole lot of fun and she met a lot of new friends," said Claranahan after being crowned queen.

Competing against Claranahan were Ayla Banes of Hedrick, Makenzie Belvel of Sigourney, and Madelyn Sieren of Wellman. Sieren was the first runner up. Belvel was named Miss Congeniality.

The Expo in Sigourney is one of the county's two fairs, the other being the Keokuk County Fair held in What Cheer. The Keokuk County Fair also named its own queen, Hailey Brackelsberg of What Cheer, on July 10. She was the only contestant. Brackelsberg, who is set to be a Senior at Tri-County next year, is involved with the National Honor Society, SICL Art Show, and High School Play. Her interests include drums, clarinet, drawing, painting, debating, video games and fishing.

"My sister Tori ran in 2017, so I wanted to try it because she did... It's a little nerve-wracking. I'm not a very big social person, but it's something to break it. I'm really nervous (about the State Fair) but I think I've got it," said Brackelsberg.

Rounding out the crowns in the two fairs are Riley Wehr and Brexton Bruns, who were the Expo Little Miss and Little Mister, and Huxley Fobert and Rhea Price, who were the Fair Little Miss and Mister.

## AUGUST from pg. 1

time to launch it... We've always kinda had the idea of creating a women's program, it was more about timing. There's been a recent, pretty large uptick in terms of natural and national attention that's going into women's wrestling, with all of these schools sanctioning state tournaments and national tournaments for women getting increasingly popular. Coe felt like it was the right time to add a program to give women in college the opportunity to be able to compete in an awesome sport like the sport of wrestling. It's pretty crazy, not a lot of people think about the world level stage. A lot of our women are performing really, really well on the world stage, and this is women who grew up without the sanctioning of a tournament or a normal high school season. So, with that kind of development, I think as a country we'll be able to put women increasingly more on the world map as well."

The first official NCAA Women's Wrestling Championship is set for 2026. The Coe team is set to begin competing the following 2026/2027 season. Reeves stated that his goal was to have a full team recruited by October of next year.

"The goal is to be able to provide women the opportunity on all levels," said Reeves. "You know, women who are just wanting to wrestle in college, and then, eventually, the goal is to be able to provide opportunities to women that are willing to continue and potentially do world level competitions as well."

Reeves noted that the biggest hurdle for female wrestlers is the fact that, while male wrestlers wrestle Folkstyle in both high school and college, female wrestlers wrestle Folkstyle in high school then have to switch to Freestyle in college. He stated that Coe had great athletic facilities and was ready for women to begin wrestling.

"It's going to be a challenge, being a first year program and not having any real accolades for our program yet, versus other programs that have been competing for a while and have those kind of things. But, the biggest thing that I've thought about internally as I go to recruit is, you know, I'm personally not a person who likes to sit in the mediocrity. I don't want to just kind of build this program through years. My goal is to have this program, within the first year, really kicking off and going and competing at a high level," concluded Reeves.

As a Sigourney student, Reeves was a four-time state qualifier and three-time state place winner. During his five years at Coe, Reeves had an overall 103-22 record and earned NCAA All-American Heavyweight status three times. He was a career falls leader, with 87 career falls, setting the school's single-season record with 27 in 2021/2022. After graduating in 2023, he began working in the

Coe admissions office and volunteering as an assistant wrestling coach.

"When I did a lot of my training at the senior level, going to the World Championships in 2023 in Alba-

## SEPTEMBER from pg. 1

"We buried a time capsule for people to dig up fifty years later, and see what we did, but I didn't know I was going to be the only one who remembered burying it or where it was," said Delta mainstay Dixie Shipley.

Shipley buried the time capsule with the other members of the centennial group, all of whom have since passed away. She stated that she had been thinking about the time capsule off and on for years. Shipley recalls burying the time capsule in a tin can next to the old school's flagpole. Unfortunately, the time capsule could not be found. In the five decades since the time capsule was buried, the old school was torn down and replaced by community housing. The concrete base of the flagpole is still there, but it is likely that the time capsule was destroyed during construction, deteriorated over time, or went missing through some other means.

"I'm still glad that we didn't try sooner to dig it up and know it wasn't there. I like the crowd watching. And you know, it's just one of those things where you take whatever happens," said Shipley.

After digging several holes to try and find the time capsule, the gathered crowd moved onto the other half of the planned activities: burying a second time capsule. The new time capsule was

made out of a sealed piece of PVC pipe. Items put in the time capsule include 1995, 2005 and 2025 Delta Days fliers and a 2020 Delta Days shirt from Dixie Shipley; a 2025 Delta Days shirt from Delta Town and Country; a list of Delta residents, a page out of a telephone book, pennies and a Sacagawea dollar from June Rice; a kazoo and toy car from Kyson Mateer, a koozie from her parents from Nicki Leathers; origami dollar bill frogs and hearts from Linda Keasling; a koozie from Terry McNabb; money from Carter Kleinschmidt, spin art and a dime from Madilynn Behneman, a quarter from Evie Behneman; a dollar from Kimly Herman; a 1957 picture of the Delta 2nd and 3rd grades from Ellen Souer; a Delta Days button from Karen Goodman; the Sept. 3 issue of the News-Review from Casey Jarmes; an Elks membership card from Mickey Kerr; and a thank you gift card from Bob Stevens.

The new time capsule was buried next to the old school gym, which is currently used as a community center. The capsule was buried by the northeast corner of the bell next to the gym's southern entrance. It was buried eleven feet south of the gym's main wall, three feet east of the bell, and two feet down. The people of Delta intend to dig this time capsule up in 25 years.

## OCTOBER from pg. 1

bandstand and that it would be costly to fix up the band-

stand, Kiwanis opted to build a new pavilion instead. The dedication of the pavilion featured a bags tournament and performances from the bands Double Trouble and the Boys.

"We are delighted with tonight. All of us who have been involved in this project, are looking out around the square and seeing people over here watching, and a bunch of people over here watching, and a bunch of people over here watching," former Sigourney Kiwanis president Stuart Grossman said, gesturing to the gathered crowd. "And little kids to grandma and great grandpa. And this is exactly what we hoped this would be."

Grossman gave heavy thanks to the county, City of Sigourney, Matt Welter, the Renner family, Ross Yoder, Billy Tremmel, Kelly McDowell, Amber Thompson, Atwood Electric, and Mike Bishop for work they did on getting the pavilion built. He then handed the mic over to current Sigourney Kiwanis President Dave Peterson and Kiwanis member Jerry Wohler read off the names of people and organizations that donated to the project. Special thanks was given to the Order of the Eastern Star, who were the first donors to the project, and to David and Noreen Revier. Order of the Eastern Star members and the Revier family were invited into the pavilion for the ribbon cutting.

The list of donors, written on a plaque attached to the pavilion, includes:

DIAMOND DONORS

David and Noreen Revier.

## NOVEMBER from pg. 1

money.

KCED, formerly called SADC, has been hosting the Ten Grand Gala for around twenty years. The ticket cost for the night went towards the raffle prize, with the remaining money used to fund KCED's work helping out with businesses in Keokuk County. KCED gave out \$250,000 in start-up and expansion loans to local businesses in the past 18 months. The organization also works with the City of Sigourney and helped start the Keokuk County Childcare Network, which is set to open a daycare in Keota in January.

"It's a great evening for people to get together. The weather is in our favor; it's been really cold some of the nights we've all had this out here, and I'm feeling pretty good about it," said KCED Director Gary Iosbaker.

"The community is what makes it easy for us, because they support us so much" said Mike Bensmiller.

"We always have a good time. It's always well attended by our community. So I'm feeling really good about it," said KCED member Lucas Meier. "We had some good ticket sales, and we're just here to have a good time and just tell what KCED is about."

During the gala, the annual KCED Star Award, given to "community members who go above and beyond to make a difference – those who offer outstanding service and leadership," was awarded to Mike

## DECEMBER from pg. 1

principal at Armstrong Elementary in Bettendorf, then as a superintendent in West Branch for seven years, and finally as an administrative services coordinator at Grant Wood AEA. Hatfield then retired for the first time.

A few months later, area superintendents reached out to Hatfield, telling him that Sigourney and Pekin were looking for someone with his qualities. Hatfield, still wanting to work as a superintendent, applied and was hired as the shared Sigourney and Pekin superintendent in 2021.

When he spoke with the News-Review, Hatfield noted the accomplishments he'd made during his time as superintendent, most notably the \$6.4 million elementary school improvement project, which was completed on time and under budget.

He also noted that they had paid off the Career Academy building three years in advance, lowered the district tax rate for four straight years, passed the instructional support levy, added STEM and Work Based Learning programs, added the Construction Academy, completed various facility improvements, and added extracurriculars like soccer, eSports, and girls' wrestling. He stated he was particularly proud of the new safety features at the elementary school.

"When I started thinking about these things, it's been a lot of great work. It's been busy but a lot of great work," said Hatfield.

Hatfield stated that Sigourney was getting more attention from surrounding areas, noting that, in the past 5 years, they had had a 35 student increase in the number of students open enrolled in versus out. "That's

been a pretty good thing for our community and I think it speaks really about how good our staff is. Really, in all honesty, they're just good and they just know how to dig in for kids, and our reputation is other there with people, that we can really give you student a really meaningful education," said Hatfield.

Hatfield stated that the school board will take formal action about his resignation at the December board meeting. He plans to oversee the search for a new superintendent. Hatfield stated he plans to share more info at the December meeting, post the position in late December, and hopefully bring a candidate back to the board in March.

"I have a lot of mixed feelings, only because I really just connect well with people. And one thing in life is when you get older, you start to worry, well you know, will I stay active and thoughtful about work and continue to be active and pursue things that keep you alive, so to speak. So I feel like, you know, I feel good," said Hatfield, when asked how he felt about retiring. "I told a board member, when I'm all done here, I really want to know in my heart that, when I drive up the highway out of Sigourney on my last day, that I tried my best to leave it better than I found it. And I think for kids, in terms of programming, the type of teaching we're digging in on, and of course this goes with everybody, it's not a Kevin thing, it's the entire district, that we can really give you student a really meaningful education," said Hatfield.

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focuses on changes that "actually lower costs and put patients and their doctors back in charge, and back in the driver's seat."

The legislation contains multiple proposals that Miller-Meeks said would reduce premium costs, including providing funding for cost-sharing reduction payments under the ACA beginning in 2027. "Cost-sharing reductions" lower deductibles, copayments and out-of-pocket maximums for one of the ACA plans, depending on income. The bill also adds new requirements for pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs) to share information on prescription drug costs and other decisions.

Additionally, the legisla-

tion would allow more access to Association Health Plans, with Miller-Meeks saying the legislation would let more employers, including self-employed workers, "get the same benefits through the Obamacare that larger companies have."

It also makes changes to the definition of stop-loss insurance and copays and makes changes to CHOICE rules that allow employers to offer defined contributions for employees purchasing their own health coverage plans.

"Simply put, this bill puts patients and their doctors over the profits of insurance companies," Miller-Meeks said. "... We want to make (all) Americans — families and patients — the CEOs of

their own health care decisions, in concert with their providers or their doctors. It's smart, common-sense policy, it's long overdue, and it's the kind of health care reform that the American people have been waiting for, and actually gets to lowering premiums and lowering health care costs."

Miller-Meeks points finger at Democrats for tax credit expiration

The ACA tax credits, created in 2010 and extended from the Inflation Reduction Act during the Biden administration, were the focus of the 43-day government shutdown as Senate Democrats sought to

**MILLER-MEEKS**

**pg. 8**

focuses on changes that "actually lower costs and put patients and their doctors back in charge, and back in the driver's seat."

The legislation contains multiple proposals that Miller-Meeks said would reduce premium costs, including providing funding for cost-sharing reduction payments under the ACA beginning in 2027. "Cost-sharing reductions" lower deductibles, copayments and out-of-pocket maximums for one of the ACA plans, depending on income. The bill also adds new requirements for pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs) to share information on prescription drug costs and other decisions.

Additionally, the legisla-

tion would allow more access to Association Health Plans, with Miller-Meeks saying the legislation would let more employers, including self-employed workers, "get the same benefits through the Obamacare that larger companies have."

It also makes changes to the definition of stop-loss insurance and copays and makes changes to CHOICE rules that allow employers to offer defined contributions for employees purchasing their own health coverage plans.

"Simply put, this bill puts patients and their doctors over the profits of insurance companies," Miller-Meeks said. "... We want to make (all) Americans — families and patients — the CEOs of

their own health care decisions, in concert with their providers or their doctors. It's smart, common-sense policy, it's long overdue, and it's the kind of health care reform that the American people have been waiting for, and actually gets to lowering premiums and lowering health care costs."

Miller-Meeks points finger at Democrats for tax credit expiration

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**MILLER-MEEKS**

**pg. 8**

## COUNTRY GIRL'S CORNER

## Welcome 2026!

By Sheryl L. Carter

And here we are in a brand-new year! All fresh and tidy, and ready to be lived. This morning in Sunday school we talked about knowing the future and how that God most certainly does and we don't. I said that I didn't want to know the future. Why would you? I certainly prefer leaving it in God's able hands, as He really does know best, and what is best for us.

Winter is here in this part of Iowa with some very cold days and wind, such as last Monday, but it has gradually warmed up the remainder of the week. In fact, this morning, I wore a nice heavy sweater, and a shawl to church with no coat and got along fine. It's the layers.

Last Tuesday, as I write this on Sunday, January 4, Scottie, Dorothy, and I journeyed up to Sumner, Iowa, two and a half hours away, for the funeral of Loren and Gaylor's Aunt Mary Jane. She was the last member of the original Carter family to pass away, which she did at age 98, and on Christmas Day. Her life was a legacy of a life well-lived, as her family testified. We were so glad we could go and see even a few of the larger Carter family members. We were delighted to catch up with cousin John Tock and his wife, Allyn, and ate lunch with them. Later, we chatted briefly with Mary Jane's daughter, Barbara, who had brought her mother into

their home several years previous, which I am sure was a blessing to them both.

On Wednesday, December 31, New Year's Day Eve, it was 11:30 a.m. and I was just preparing to leave the house for Pella to pick up a few things for the week when the phone rang. "Where are you?" a familiar voice asked. "Right here," I said, only to be informed that a party was already forming at another friend's home in Grinnell, and why wasn't I there?

Later when I got home, I checked my emails and sure enough, the friendly invitation had come on Monday, but had been diverted to my spam emails. How or why that happened, I do not know, as I always receive her messages, but thankfully, the call came in time, and I quickly put on my jacket, and headed northeast instead of southwest, knowing I could pick up my few needs in that town just as well.

What a fun time we had! Our friend had made taco soup with all the trimmings in the way of veg and fruit munchies, little chocolates for dessert, and chai and coffee for sipping. A good old hot cup of coffee is always welcome, right? After lunch we played a few games and our hostess read off a number of jokes and funny stuff she had been saying. I guess this friend and I seem to have the most tickle spots when it comes to laughing, as it was

the two of us who had to keep wiping the tears.

Thursday was New Year's Day, and I watched part of the Rose Parade, but disliked how they kept breaking away for commercials. I remembered that HGTV never did that, but not sure I even have that on my new set, I will have to look. I especially love seeing the horses, but didn't see too many this time. It wasn't long though, before the sleepiness was taking over, and I was soon bundled in my lymph pump for a good solid nap whilst it did its thing.

Yesterday, Saturday, I bagged up the two little lighted trees, and hoisted them out to their storage place in the garage. The lighted wreath, and the glowing angel were also sacked up for storage in the basement. The other things can stay as they mostly depict winter, and we will still have that for awhile yet.

I spent most of yesterday morning glued to the TV set watching in amazement as President Trump spoke about the incredible capture of a wanted felon, fake president Maduro of Venezuela, just a few hours before. I sat transfixed wondering how all of this was going to play out, knowing those that are not for our country, but are in leadership and in the media were going to try to make mincemeat out of yet another decision he has acted on. But hey, no messing around with

this guy!

I've been doing some reading up on this whole story, and found we have 13 presidents going back to Harry Truman, who all took decisive action where they thought it was needed in the world, and all without the approval of Congress ahead of time. I also heard and read that Maduro was not elected to office in his country, and had interfered with previous elections and put himself in power each time against the will of the people, although he was not the elected choice. The drug running sending narcotics into our country, being in cohorts with nations that are dead set against us, plus more was finally enough, and the trap was sprung.

Time will tell how this all plays out, but Venezuelans in their country, as well as those that have fled abroad for safety are rejoicing their country has been freed from this monster, a feat their own people had not been able to pull off, and I expect there will be many who will want to return to their homeland.

Well, it looks by the clock on the wall that it is kitty feeding time, so I best get that can of wet kitty food opened, and deposited in their bowls.

Then I will crack the porch door open a bit, and close the kitchen door so they can hop outside for the night. See you in the morning, kitties!

Until next time!

## THE SUN SPOT

MAHASKA COUNTY NEWS

## OFF THE VINE

By Jackie Perkins

Monday, January 4, 2026. It is 3:00 a.m. and I have yet to catch any sleep. I decided to just get up and visit you and hopefully by the time I finish Mr. Sandman will arrive.

Happy 2026! We stayed home and enjoyed "pigs in blankets" for supper. Early in the evening we heard fireworks, and at bedtime, round two were set off. I don't know where this was happening and I didn't even get up to take a look. Nothing like we used to celebrate.

In the past couple weeks I have received notice that two of the magazines that I currently subscribe to are ceasing publication. That makes me sad! I love getting magazines...paper that you can hold, read, tear pages out and make notes on. I have saved every issue of Mary Janes Farm I have received. Periodically I pull a few issues out and enjoy looking through them. I have referred back to information and will miss it.

Monday was a difficult day. We received word that Greg's sister in law had passed. Mae was the wife of Greg's brother Bruce, who has lived in Flor-

ida for many years. We were not well acquainted with Mae due to the distance – she will be missed by her friends and family.

Later that same day, we learned that Judy Witt Walker had passed at her home in Arizona. The Witt family were Cedar Folks and Judy graduated from Fremont.

Her husband Larry Walker is Greg's stepbrother and we have not seen them for years as well. Families are getting spread out anymore. Not like when we grew up and most of your cousins were in a three county area.

This week continues to be busy with a few more holiday gatherings and events. I still have a couple gifts that I am working on, and then I need to concentrate on going through more boxes from the move – still!

I read today of the death of Eva Schloss at the age of 96. Eva was an Auschwitz survivor and became the step-daughter of Otto Frank when he and her mother married. Eva and Ann Frank were the same age.

Have a great week my friends – and good morning!

## Iowa officials showcase plans to celebrate America's 250th anniversary in 2026

By Robin Opsahl,

Iowa Capital Dispatch

Iowa state officials on Dec. 18 announced events and initiatives set for 2026 throughout Iowa as the state participates in national America 250 celebrations.

In addition to participation in national efforts, Iowa's America 250 Initiative co-chairs Lt. Gov. Chris Cournoyer and Agriculture Sec. Mike Naig said Iowa will be hosting several efforts throughout the next year that showcase the important role Iowa plays in the U.S. — especially in agriculture.

Thursday's event in the Iowa Capitol's rotunda was focused on unveiling Iowa's plans for the upcoming year. The Iowa Young Patriots' Club performed several songs at the event and a flag ceremony was conducted by the Civil Air Patrol Color Guard.

Each participating state is planning unique, signature events for the initiative — and Cournoyer said Iowa will be

"leaning into our DNA" with an signature event called "America's Harvest."

"Throughout 2026 we're going to lead the nation in celebrating how agriculture, gardening and horticulture have proven the very freedoms we enjoy as Americans," Cournoyer said. "We'll host webinars, share our agricultural journeys on social media, and then on about — stay tuned — Oct. 24 2026, we will gather for a massive harvest festival that celebrates Iowa's integral role in feeding and fueling the world for 250 years."

These are not the only events planned in 2026 to celebrate the nation's founding. Cournoyer highlighted other efforts like the Masons of Iowa decorating graves of Revolutionary War soldiers in Iowa, planned tea events with actors playing George and Martha Washington, and a State Historical Society program to "renew the historic John Brown trail through southern Iowa."

More on planned events can be found on the state's website for the America250 initiative.

"It's a celebration of the Iowans who built this country and the Iowans who are leading it into the next 250 years," Cournoyer said.

Iowa Secretary of State Paul Pate said his office will

also be hosting a "Ready, Set, Vote" initiative as part of the 250th anniversary celebration. Registering to vote is a way to celebrate the U.S. by connecting "Iowa's rich history with our collective civic future, empowering Iowans to take action today for a stronger tomorrow," he said.

"For the past 250 years, our nation has been at the forefront of civic engagement and the democratic process," Pate said. "We remain committed to championing those values, and one of the most impactful ways to do that is by registering to vote. It's the first step in making your voice heard at the ballot box and shaping the future of our

representative government."

Plans to celebrate the country's 250th anniversary have been in the works for several years, with Iowa beginning to work with the federal America250 effort in 2023. Iowa has also played a role already in some celebrations, with President Donald Trump holding an event July 3 this year at the Iowa State Fairgrounds, where he discussed events planned throughout the country leading up to July 4, 2026.

Naig said while there are

multiple events and efforts already launched, the state wanted to make sure America250 celebrations were open to all.

"This is hardly a top-down type of approach," Naig said. "I think maybe what I'm even most excited about is what will come up from across the state, opportunities for communities and organizations and schools and churches, businesses and families all across Iowa to take part in their own special and unique ways."

Read more from Robin Opsahl, online at [IowaCapitalDispatch.com](http://IowaCapitalDispatch.com)

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## MILLER-MEEKS from pg. 7

extend the subsidies again, warning health care premiums would spike if the expiration goes through.

The shutdown ended with no action taken on the issue. Two competing measures on lowering health care costs failed to advance last week in the Senate, as Democrats' plan to extend the ACA tax credits as well as Republicans' proposal to provide funding through Health Savings Accounts (HSAs) for some people who receive coverage through the ACA marketplace in 2026 and 2027 both failed to earn the 60 votes needed to advance.

Miller-Meeks and other Republicans who have argued against continuing the ACA subsidies said the tax credits are giving money to insurance companies using taxpayer dollars instead of finding means to decrease the costs of health coverage for consumers. She also said that the enhanced premium tax credits were approved and extended without Republican support — and that the expiration date was also approved during those votes.

"So to say to Republicans, 'We want you to do with a (small) majority what we could not do when we had all three branches of government,' I think, is a little bit of hypocrisy and a little bit of shifting blame," Miller-Meeks said.

"I think maybe what I'm even most excited about is what will come up from across the state, opportunities for communities and organizations and schools and churches, businesses and families all across Iowa to take part in their own special and unique ways."

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eryone, to get to those root causes that drive up costs."

She said the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office "has scored that this will lower premiums, and lower premiums for half of the people in exchanges, as well as lower premiums for other individuals."

Democrats say Miller-Meeks' plan won't stop cost increases

However, Democrats and other opponents say the measure would not effectively stop health care costs from rising as expected if subsidies end.

Katie Smith, a spokesperson for the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, said the legislation is the latest action this year by Miller-Meeks that would hurt Iowans' access to health care.

"Mariannette Miller-Meeks has spent her entire year attacking Iowans' health care, from voting for the largest Medicaid cuts in history that will decimate rural hospitals, to opposing plans to prevent Iowans' health care costs from skyrocketing," Smith said in a statement. "Now, Miller-Meeks has made herself the face of Washington Republicans' so-called 'plan' that does nothing to lower costs, and Iowans will hold her accountable for failing them next year."

The measure faces difficult odds of making it to the President Donald Trump's desk. Even if the measure passes in the House, it appears unlikely to clear the 60-vote threshold required in the Senate. Trump has also stated he continues to prefer a plan to give direct federal payments to Americans over Republican proposals making other changes.

Miller-Meeks said there are "bipartisan" components of the bill that she believes will gain traction with members of both parties.

"I think that it will get through the House, and I think it has an extremely good chance of getting through the Senate as well too," Miller-Meeks said. "As I said, Republicans are all focused on lowering health care costs for everyone. I do think we'll have some Democrats join this bill as well."

Read more from Robin Opsahl online at [IowaCapitalDispatch.com](http://IowaCapitalDispatch.com)

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## Sports year in review: November

**Glosser captures runner-up title at State cross country; area teams see success**

By Mark Schafer |  
The News-Review

FORT DODGE - At first it seemed her State experience was going to be lost on the final turn of her final race.

Everyone knew how muddy the course was. A recent rain had soaked the Lakeside Golf Courses ground, but just how slippery it was showed up as the runner rounded the final turn for the home stretch.

Pekin senior Chloe Glosser knew that she wasn't going to be able to catch up to eventual race winner, Lilli Denton. Glosser did know, however, she could still finish second if she ran a smart final portion of the meet.

Coming around the final turn Glosser lost her footing and fell in the damp grass. At that moment it seemed like Glosser wasn't going to be able to finish second, or even in the top-10 of the class 1A race.



Isaac Frazier (1021) leads a pack of runners during the early portions of the class 1A State cross country meet held in Fort Dodge. Frazier finished 68th overall.

That's when Glosser dug deep.

"I got up and I just knew I needed to find that final gear, find that gear from God and give it all to him, let him use the abilities in me to trust my training and my abilities," Glosser said. "I knew I had God's strength and power behind me and I just wanted to finish hard. I knew I had two more minutes left in the race and I was going to run as fast as I could."

Glosser would do just that. She re-passed the runner who had passed her on the

slip, and was able to finish second overall, her highest placing, ever at the State cross country meet.

Overall the State cross country meet was a successful one for the area teams. The Pekin boys cross country team qualified their whole team and they would finish 14th overall in the standings with a total of 294 points.

Cole Millikin led the way for the Panther boys with a time of 17:12.3, the 33rd fastest time.

Sigourney senior Troy Klett was able to finish 47th overall in the boys race. He finished with a time of 17:30.2 as he battled a pace that was a lot faster than he had been used to.

The English Valleys girls cross country team qualified their whole team to the State meet. They would finish eighth overall in the team standings with 207 total points. Anna Luers led the way with a 42nd place finish overall.

Isaac Fraizer qualified for his second-straight meet. The sophomore would finish 68th overall with a time of 17:49.5

Photos by Mark Schafer



Pekin senior Chloe Glosser (904) leads Martensdale-St. Mary's runner Karson Oberender (884) and Starmont's Lauren Krogmann (932) during the early portions of the State cross country race held at Lakeside Golf Course in Fort Dodge. Glosser finished second overall in the girls race.

## Panthers pummel Huskies in Des Moines

**Pekin uses 50-point second half in blowout win over Highland**

By Mark Schafer |  
The News-Review

DES MOINES - Stopping them seemed to be nearly impossible.

Especially in the second half. The Pekin boys basketball team took a bit to find their shot on Friday afternoon, but once they were, they made sure to prove that point over and over again.

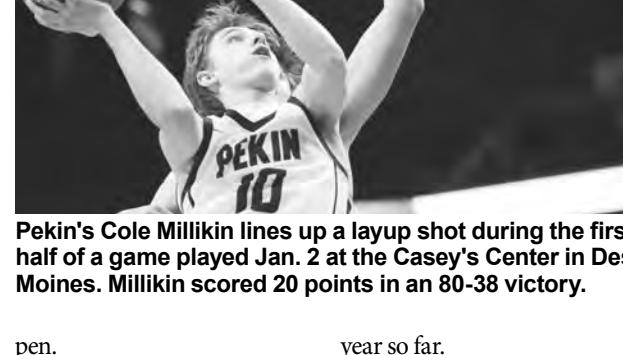
The repeated shots helped the Panthers down Highland, 80-38, in a game played at the Casey's Center.

While the Panthers roared to a comfortable win at the end of the game, it wasn't always that easy.

In the first half the Panthers led 30-17 over Highland as the grandiose stage of the Casey's Center seemed to slow down the Panther offense. After the first 16 minutes though, the bigger stage just started to feel like another game.

"It is so big and open," said Aliah Brock, a junior guard for the Panthers. "The court is so much bigger than what we are used to in high school. The shots weren't falling at first. Just a sick opportunity to play here. Especially to be able to get the win here is amazing."

Throughout the second half of the game, and especially in the third quarter the Panthers started to slow down their game and focus more on the little things. If they were able to take care of the little things then good things would happen.



Pekin's Cole Millikin lines up a layup shot during the first half of a game played Jan. 2 at the Casey's Center in Des Moines. Millikin scored 20 points in an 80-38 victory.

pen.

"We wanted to stay true to our fundamentals," senior guard Cole Millikin said after the game. "We really wanted to get ball pressure on these guys. We knew that was going to be something that was important to get into our offense that we wanted to run. We really wanted to do all of the little things right because we know that if the little things go right then the big things are going to go right as well.

One thing the Panthers did well in the third quarter was getting defensive pressure on the Huskies.

Throughout the third quarter the Huskies would struggle to get the ball even to half court before one of the Panther players seemed to swarm all over the Huskie ball handler.

When the steals started to stack up, so did the points on the scoreboard.

"Getting steals really is like an energy feeder for us," Millikin said.

"Once we are able to get one then that creates energy for us five out there on the court. If we get the steals going then it is easy to get going. Easy buckets really help us a lot."

The easy buckets started to stack up. Soon the lead started to soar for the Panthers as well. They were able to lead by 25 points after the third quarter.

Overall the Panthers were able to tie for third in the Southeast Iowa Superconference's north division with WACO, improving to 8-2 overall.

Photos by Mark Schafer



Aliah Brock (15) from Pekin lines up a second half layup attempt during a Jan. 2 game against Highland played at the Casey's Center in Des Moines.



Jessalyn Aller (with ball) from Keota prepares to take a shot over the defense of Sigourney's Ella Bruns. Aller finished with 16 points in the Dec. 12 game.



Cameron Hailey (front) from Keota splits Sigourney defenders Brynn Clarahan (back) and Addy Fineran (right) during a shot in the first half. Hailey scored 14 points in a 66-52 victory for the Eagles.

## Sports year in review: December

**Keota girls erase 11 years of history**

By Mark Schafer |  
The News-Review

KEOTA - For over a decade the end result was almost a foregone conclusion.

When the Keota girls played the Sigourney girls in basketball, the Sigourney girls were going to win.

And they did for 11 years. From January 2015-December 2025, a grand total of 22 games were played between Sigourney and Keota in girls basketball. All of that changed on Dec. 12 when the Keota girls were able to grab a

66-52 victory over Sigourney.

Keota and Sigourney had played each other close

throughout the first half of the game. At the break Keota was able to hold a slight lead, 35-20.

In the second half, that's when the Eagles started to spread their wings. Keota scored 21 points in the third quarter and added another 10 points in the final frame.

Sigourney battled back, scoring 32 total points in the second half but Keota was able to hold onto the lead.

"I am happy for the girls. It has been a long time," Keota Head Girls Basketball Coach, Jeff Sprague said. "This has been a huge mental block, because Sigourney always plays us tough. We were able to play one of our best games.

It feels good to get the win, and I'm not going to lie, it has been a long time coming."

Emily Conger and Jessalyn Aller were both able to score 16 total points in the victory. Cameron Hailey would score 14 points. Karley Greiner added 10 points. Another seven points came from Kennedy Jackson. Dakota Dodd would score three points.

Not only did the win help Keota reverse recent history with the Savages it also helped the Eagles start off the season 6-0. The momentum from the win didn't carry over through the rest of the month as Keota would fall in three-straight contests to end the month.

Photos by Mark Schafer

## Pekin girls fall to Highland 40-31 at Casey's Center

By Mark Schafer |  
The News-Review

DES MOINES - They were a renewed team in the second half.

Throughout the first half points had been at a premium, but the Panthers continued to work their way through the slow spots and were able to keep pace with Highland.

At first, it seemed as if the second half started with the Panthers breaking through. In the first minute of the second half the Panthers were able to stop the Huskies from getting into their game plan. At the same time the Panthers were making shots.

Suddenly the five point deficit had been trimmed to just one point and it seemed like the Panthers were on the

prowl for the lead.

Then it was as if something changed within the Panthers. Although they played with poise to get back into the game, when they were close to the lead, the points seemed to disappear. So did the crisp passing.

"We got within one a couple of times in the second half, and then we just seemed to get lost on where we wanted to go with the ball," said Pekin head coach, Neil Hartz. "We weren't taking the shots that we wanted to take. We just weren't taking the shots or doing the things that we wanted to do."

Throughout the third quarter the Panthers were able to rely heavily on Anna Hadley who dominated the inside lane. Highland started to adjust to that and they were able to start to guard Hadley more aggressively. Once the Huskies took away the open shots of Hadley, it seemed as if the energy from the Panthers started to disappear.

Highland was able to lead by four after three quarters.

The start of the fourth quar-

ter featured another surge for the Panthers as they scored the first three points of the quarter to once again pull within one point.

"The biggest thing that the girls need to understand is they need to have that killer instinct when you have the opponents down," Hartz said.

"You need to make them make the mistakes. I thought we were just a little hesitant and started to make too many of our own mistakes when we got close to the lead."

Nothing seemed to change too much for the Panthers once they were able to close within one point of the Huskies.

The only thing that did change was how well the passes connected with teammates.

When the Panthers were trailing their passes seemed to fall right into place with the basketball easily received by the Pekin teammates. When they were able to get close to the lead, the passes seemed to fly away from the teammates and either land in the hands of a Highland player, or sail too far and land out of bounds.

"The good news is we have a lot of games to continue to improve on," Hartz said.

"The bad news is we don't have a lot of time to change things because we have so many games. So we are going to have to be changing things on the fly. We just need to get better at rebounding in some situations."

Hartz grew the lead to as much as six in the middle stag-



Carli Gambell (left) attempts to dribble around the defense of Highland's Katelynn Thoman (33) during a play in the first half of a Jan. 2 game played at the Casey's Center. Photo by Mark Schafer

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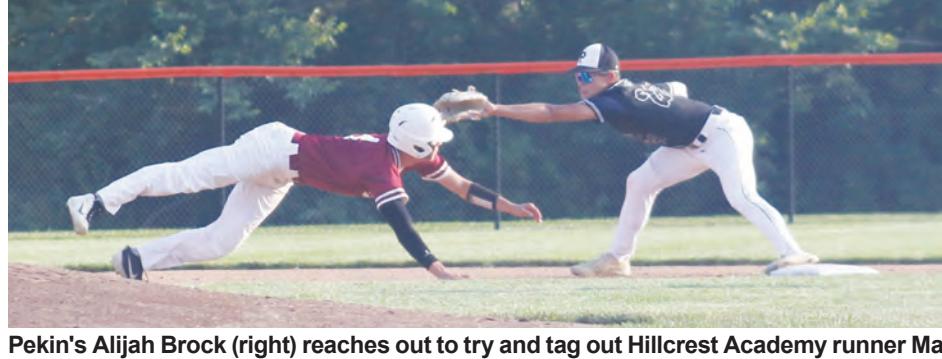
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Pekin's Aliah Brock (right) reaches out to try and tag out Hillcrest Academy runner Mason Bender (left) during a play in the July 15 class 1A substate five championship game.

## Sports year in review: July

### Pekin baseball runs all the way to substate finals

By Mark Schafer |  
The News-Review

FAIRFIELD - They weren't expected to be there.

In fact, many people didn't even expect them to make it out of the first round, let alone getting within a run of the class 1A State baseball tournament.

Pekin seemed to defy all the odds during the class 1A substate 5 tournament.

The regular season didn't quite go the way the Panthers wanted as they finished with a 9-9 overall record. Because of that they were forced to have a longer path to a potential State tournament berth.

Making things even harder, their first round opponent was one that had previously bested the Panthers.

On July 5 the Panthers were seeking revenge as they played a rematch against Van Buren County. A month earlier, on June 5, the Warriors had bested Pekin 14-3. The rematch would turn things around as the Panthers were able to win 12-1 and keep their post season hopes alive.

Sophomore Henry Adam would pick up the win after pitching for three and two-thirds innings, striking out seven batters and allowing just one run.

The win advanced the Panthers to play against top-seeded Moravia. Once again the Panthers showed up, winning

4-0 over a 20-5 Moravia team.

With that victory the Panthers moved to the substate semifinal played in Sigourney where they played New London. Like they had against Van Buren County, Pekin was searching for a revenge win.

On June 2 the Panthers had been bested 2-1 by New London. The rematch was another 2-1 game as Pekin plated a run in both the first and second inning and didn't allow a run until the bottom of the sixth.

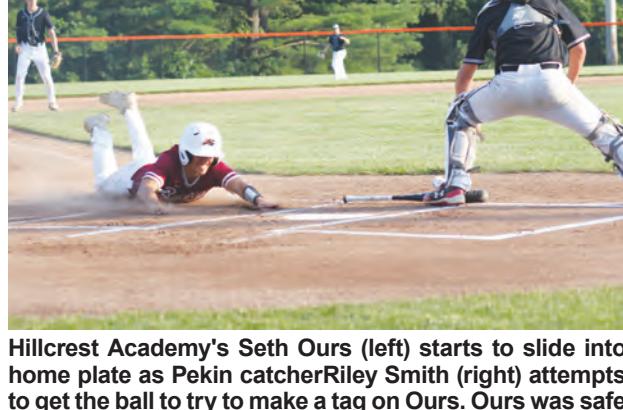
That win pushed the Panthers one win away from the State tournament.

On July 15 they played against Hillcrest Academy. The Ravens scored off an error in the bottom of the first inning.

Despite Pekin limiting the Ravens to just one hit the entire game, Pekin fell 1-0 and so came a close to their remarkable post season run.

"Baseball is one of those games where sometimes you have to get lucky and tonight we didn't have that luck," said Pekin head baseball coach James Lyman after the game. "We played hard, we had great defensive plays. We put the ball in play and made Hillcrest Academy work for every out. It just comes down to a little bit of luck, really."

Photos by Mark Schafer



Hillcrest Academy's Seth Ours (left) starts to slide into home plate as Pekin catcher Riley Smith (right) attempts to get the ball to try to make a tag on Ours. Ours was safe on the play.

## Sports year in review: August

### Pekin, English Valleys start football seasons with dominant wins

By Mark Schafer |  
The News-Review

The start of the football season is always one of hope, excitement and thrills.

For two of the three area schools their first week of the football season brought renewed hope and confidence to the teams.

English Valleys officially kicked off the football season with a rare Thursday night game on the road. Playing against North Tama the Bears were able to win 56-26, which would prove to be a sign of things to come.

Although neither team scored in the first quarter English Valleys would score twice in both the second and third quarters to lead 30-12 going into the final quarter. They were able to cap off the game with a 26-point fourth quarter to put the game away and start the season on the right foot.

Quarterback Drew Fisher was nearly un-

stoppable as he passed for 122 yards and two touchdowns. He also rushed for four touchdowns and 119 yards.

Braydon Anderson would gather up 205 yards off 23 carries and a touchdown.

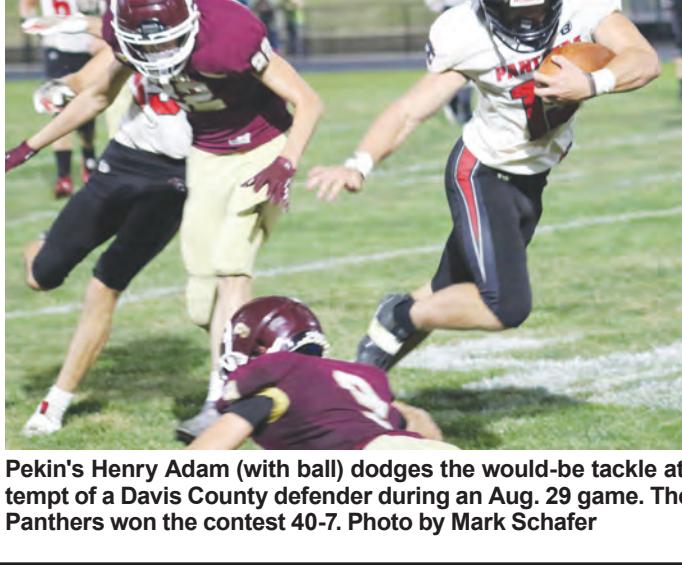
Everett Bender caught three passes for 79 yards including two that went for a touchdown.

The next day, on Aug. 29 the Pekin football team was able to start their season with a 40-7 win over Davis County.

Henry Adam was the star of that game as he hauled in two two touchdown receptions, he also returned an interception for a touchdown as well.

As if that wasn't enough the junior was also able to finish the game with 8.5 total tackles. That included him wrapping up the quarterback for three total sacks.

All of that made for a very memorable first week of the football season.



Pekin's Henry Adam (with ball) dodges the would-be tackle attempt of a Davis County defender during an Aug. 29 game. The Panthers won the contest 40-7. Photo by Mark Schafer

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**17 MONTH  
CD SPECIAL**

**3.55% APY\***

\*Annual Percentage Yield (APY) accurate as of January 1, 2026 and subject to change without notice. Minimum opening balance of \$500. Early withdrawal penalties may apply. Fees may reduce earnings. Contact an employee about fees and terms of the account. 9 and 17 Month also offered as IRA CD.

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## Sports year in review: September

### Klett defends home with cross country win

By Mark Schafer |  
The News-Review

SIGOURNEY - Everyone wants to do well at home.

Running at his last home meet ever, Sigourney senior Troy Klett was able to make sure his last run at the Sigourney cross country meet would be a memorable one.

As he started to round the final turn of the race it didn't look like Klett was going to be the winner of the Sigourney cross country race. He had two runners in front of him and a very large hill to maneuver.

That didn't bother the senior. In fact, it only seemed to play into his strategy.

"I knew it was my last time running here, and I was ready to do anything I could to get the win," Klett said after the Sept. 9 race. "I was able to catch up to the (first place runner) about midway down the hill."

Once Klett caught the runner in front of him he used the extensive knowledge of the grounds at the Sigourney golf course to his knowledge.

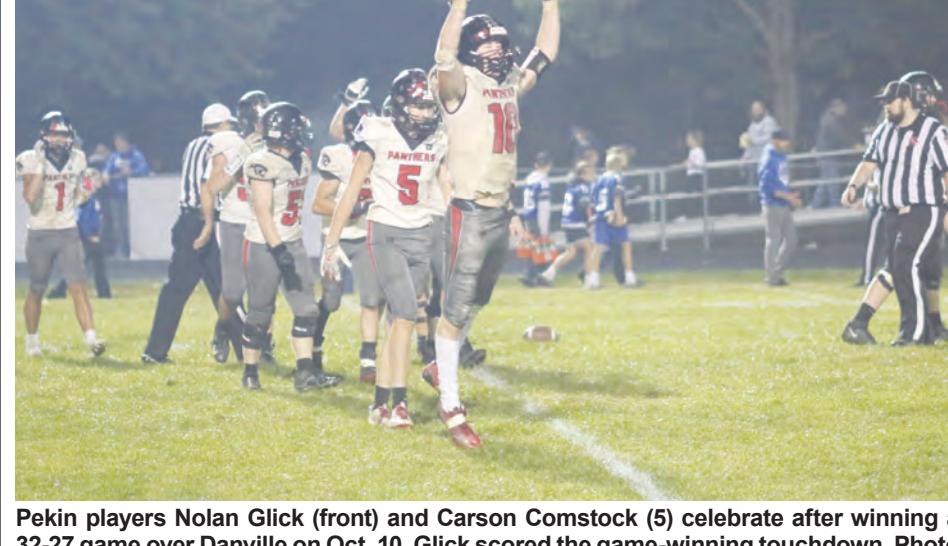
"I've had quite a bit of experience running here since it is our home course. I've known forever that my strength is in the downhills," Klett said.



Sigourney runner Troy Klett (769) sets his sights on the two runners in front of him during the running of the cross country meet held in Sigourney on Sept. 9. Klett would pass both runners for the win. Photo by Mark Schafer

sight of the finish line Klett was able to power his way past the WACO runner and finish just .33 seconds ahead of the WACO challenger.

It was the first time in over a decade that a Sigourney runner had been able to win the home cross country meet.



Pekin players Nolan Glick (front) and Carson Comstock (5) celebrate after winning a 32-27 game over Danville on Oct. 10. Glick scored the game-winning touchdown. Photo by Mark Schafer

## Sports year in review: October

### Pekin captures district title

By Mark Schafer |  
The News-Review

DANVILLE - For a little bit it seemed like everything was going.

Late in the third quarter of an Oct. 10 game Danville had scored a third quarter touchdown to take a 10-point advantage. For the first time all season, Pekin was facing an uphill battle.

That's when they answered the call and instead of rolling over the Panthers dug deep within themselves and fought back.

"We exemplify a never give up mentality," Pekin Head Football Coach, Klynt Weber said after an Oct. 10 game against Danville. "I'll be honest, in tonight's game we were beat three times. We weren't going to let them beat us a fourth time, and when that fourth time came, players made plays, and that mantra really rang true tonight. The

guys that needed to make plays, all of them made a play at some point or another. They are playmakers and all a reason why we won tonight."

The final 13 minutes of the game weren't easy, but they belonged to the Panthers, as Pekin rallied to an eventual 32-27 victory.

Although the Panthers had been struggling with the passing game in the second half they never abandoned it. It was a good thing they didn't either as the Panthers used a bit of trickery to move the ball. A lateral from quarterback Riley Smith to receiver Henry Adam opened up the passing lane and Adam was able to fire the ball down field to a wide open Aliah Brock who scored, bringing the Panthers within three points.

Late in the fourth quarter the Panthers seemed to be in trouble when Smith was intercepted again. However, the Danville player, who made

the interception, slipped coming out of the endzone and downed the ball at the three yard line. A few plays later Adam broke through the Danville offensive line and recorded a tackle in the endzone for a safety.

The next time Danville had the ball they attempted a pass, but Nolan Glick was able to intercept the pass and return it for a touchdown which gave the Panthers the lead, which they would never give up.

"Once I caught the ball I was just thinking I need to get to the endzone," Glick said. "I took off and I was untouched all the way to the endzone. Being able to cross the goal line to take the lead, that was the best feeling in the world. I wouldn't trade that feeling for anything else."

The Oct. 10 victory gave Pekin their first district championship under coach Weber, and assured them two home playoff games.

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# The News-Review

SERVING THE KEOKUK COUNTY AREA SINCE 1860

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 7, 2026  
SECTION B, NUMBER 1, 165<sup>th</sup> YEAR

## COURT RECORDS

### Civil

**Dec. 24th**

Defendants Casey Hinnah, Keokuk County, Adam Pence; Plaintiff Bryan L. Sutton; Petition Filed.

**Dec. 28th**

Obligator State of Iowa; Petitioners State of Iowa, Heather D. Young; Respondent Benjamin J. Baker; Modified Support Order.

**Dec. 31st**

Obligee State of Iowa; Petitioner State of Iowa Ex Relations; Respondents Ashley N. Cox, Tallon M. Schwantes; Motion for Continuance.

### Criminal

**Dec. 24th**

Defendant Nathan Allen

Draper; Payor Linda Marie Smith; Plaintiff State of Iowa; Criminal Complaint.

Defendant Tyler Joseph M. Ellis; Payee's Lisa Ann Hirsch, Keokuk County; Payor Lisa Ann Hirsch; Plaintiff

State of Iowa; Hearing for Initial Appearance.

**Dec. 26th**

Defendant Nathan Allen Draper; Payor Linda Marie Smith; Plaintiff State of Iowa; Hearing for Initial Appearance.

**Dec. 29th**

Defendant Passion Matia Collins; Payee Keokuk County; Plaintiff State of Iowa; Written Plea of Guilty

Defendant Michael James Stoner; Plaintiff State of Iowa;

Order for Arraignment, Trial Information.

Defendant Courtney Ann Jacob; Plaintiff State of Iowa; Hearing for Initial Appearance.

Defendant Sheffiney Shae Thomas; Plaintiff State of Iowa; Motion for Continuance.

**Dec. 30th**

Defendant Mason Jay Breeding; Plaintiff State of Iowa; Criminal Complaint.

### Small Claims

**Dec. 26th**

Defendant Cody Young; Plaintiff Portfolio Recovery Associates, LLC; Dismissed w/o Prejudice.

**Dec. 29th**

Defendants Cristy Lea Burdock, Kevin Lee Burdock;

Plaintiff Credit Bureau Services of IA INC; Order for Judgment.

**Dec. 30th**

Defendants Lankford Contracting LLC, Camron Lee Lankford; Plaintiff Underwood Family Farms LLC; Small Claims Original Notice.

**Dec. 31st**

Defendant Tara Olsen; Plaintiff LVNV Funding LLC; Small Claims Original Notice.

### Scheduled Traffic

**Dec. 26th**

Defendant Henry P. Miller; Restriction on Taking Game-Deer and Turkey.

Defendant Melvin W. Yoder; Restrictions on Taking Game-Deer and Turkey.

**Dec. 28th**

Defendant Sherri Lynn Greiner; No Valid Drivers License, Speeding 55 or Under Zone (11-15 Over).

**Dec. 30th**

Defendant Elizabeth Grace Powell; Speeding 55 or Under Zone (6-10 Over).

**Dec. 31st**

Defendant Jason Eugene Morgan; No Deer License or Tag.

Defendant Donald Gerard Boeck; Speeding 55 or Under Zone (6-10 Over).

### Non-Scheduled Traffic

**Dec. 29th**

Defendant Courtney Mykel Lockard; Payee Keokuk County; Plaintiff State of Iowa; Failure to Stop in Assured Clear Distance.

## PROPERTY TRANSFERS

**Dec. 22nd**

Deed Name Change: Maryclare Strobel to Maryclare Hogan; NW SW 31-75-11 Parcel: AUD PAR B, PLAT B279 P150.

Deed Quit Claim: Myron C. Greiner, Myron Greiner, Karen S. Greiner to Myron C. Greiner Trustee, Karen S. Greiner Trustee, Myron C and Karen S Greiner Trust, Myron C Greiner Trust, Karen S. Greiner; NE SE 21-74-11 Parcel: AUD PAR A, SE SE 21-74-11 Parcel: AUD PAR A, PLAT 2010-1047, SE SW 27-74-10 Parcel: AUD PAR A, PLAT 2007-0500, Lot: 10 SW SE 27-74-10, PLAT B4 P95, SD01 PT Lot: 11 SW SE 27-74-10, EXCEPT B419 P319, EXCEPT 2015-1565.

Affidavit of Death: Karen A. Weldon Life Estate, Karen A. Weldon Deceased to Kendra L. Heaton; SE NW 26-77-11, SW NW 26-77-11.

Deed Quit Claim: Kendra L. Heaton, Steven T. Heaton to Kendra L. Heaton, Steven T. Heaton; SE NW 26-77-11, SW NW 26-77-11.

Warranty Deed: Steven H. Pfeifer, Candace S. Pfeifer to Caryl D. Cavner Jr.; Lot: 06 SE

NW 27-74-10.

Warranty Deed: Ronnie E. Brubaker to Grice Family Farms LLC; NE NE 27-77-11, SE NE 27-77-11, NW NE 27-77-11, SW NE 27-77-11, PT NE NW 27-77-11, PT SE NW 27-77-11, PT NW SE 27-77-11, EXCEPT PLAT 2025-1632.

Deed Quit Claim: Michael C. Hadley, Pamela Hadley to Michael Hadley Revocable Trust, Michael Hadley 2025 Revocable Trust; NE SW 21-74-10, PT NW SE 21-74-10, EXCEPT PLAT 2025-1632.

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**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
**Keokuk Co Emergency Management Commission • Proposed Budget**

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING — PROPOSED BUDGET Fiscal Year July 1, 2026 - June 30, 2027  
Keokuk County Emergency Management Commission

The Emergency Management Commission of the above-named County will conduct a public hearing on the proposed fiscal year 2026/2027 budget as follows:  
Meeting Date: 1/21/2026 Meeting Time: 07:00 PM Meeting Location: Keokuk County Emergency Operations Center 1303 200th Ave Sigourney, IA 52591  
At the public hearing any resident or taxpayer may present objections to, or arguments in favor of, any part of the proposed budget. This notice represents a summary of the supporting detail of receipts and expenditures on file with the County Coordinator.

	Actual FYE June 30, 2025	Estimated FYE June 30, 2026	Proposed FYE June 30, 2027
<b>BEGINNING FUND BALANCE:</b>	1) 58,772	2) 37,545	3) 36,034
<b>REVENUES:</b>			
County Contribution	2) 40,210	3) 69,310	4) 94,660
Other Revenues	3) 12,826	17,920	18,500
Total Revenues (2+3)	4) 53,036	87,230	113,160
<b>EXPENDITURES:</b>			
Administration and Operations	5) 70,009	85,441	87,837
Capital Outlays	6) 4,254	3,300	4,000
Total Expenditures (5+6)	7) 74,263	88,741	91,837
<b>Total Ending Fund Balance</b>	8) 37,545	36,034	57,357

Published in The News-Review on January 7, 2026

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
**Notice of Petition • Case No. JVJ005988**

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 JVJ005988 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. 1<sup>st</sup> 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

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
**Keokuk Co BOS • Minutes and Claims 12.15.2025**

approval of December 15, 2025 claims listing as submitted. All ayes and motion carried.

**Manual Checks: December 4, 2025**

VISA (JAIL).....9,19  
VISA (KC EM MGMT).....530.71

VISA (PH).....424.83

VISA (RECODER).....300.00

TOTAL.....\$1,264.73

**CLAIM DATE: December 15, 2025**

ADKINS & SON.....8,153.00

AGRILAND FS.....20,862.03

AHLERS & COONEY.....800.00

ALL AM PEST CONTROL.....195.00

ALLIANT ENERGY.....994.24

ALTORFER MACHINERY.....6,216.83

AMAZON CAPITAL SERV.....326.93

ANDERSON LARKIN.....10,500.00

ARNOLD MOTOR SUPPLY.....1,844.93

ATWOOD ELECTRIC.....443.41

AXMEAR FABRICATING SERV.....50.00

BAILEY OFFICE.....546.64

BC INVESTMENTS.....500.00

BROTHERS MARKET.....1,213.38

BUCH, LAURA.....115.72

CALHOUN-BURNS & ASSOC.....6,724.80

CCL SUPPLY.....1,017.55

CLOUDBURST9.....604.45

CLUBB, BONNIE.....99.84

COX SANITATION & RECY.....7,108.60

DELTA, CITY OF.....2,434.39

DENISE'S ALTERATIONS.....30.00

DESIGN HOUSE PLUS.....439.00

DOUDS STONE.....11,730.89

ELLIOTT BULK SERV.....6,010.37  
ELLIOTT OIL CO.....18.95  
FARMERS COOP ASSOC.....3,045.00  
FORCE AMERICA.....1,597.60  
GALLS LLC.....101.49  
GIBSON, CITY OF.....1,016.44  
GREATAMERICA FINANCIAL SERV.....225.25  
GREENLEYS CORP.....195.60  
H & M FARM & HOME.....518.23  
HELMUTH, ALLIE.....26.00  
HICKENBOTTOM INC.....397.14  
HOLIDAY INN DM AIRPORT.....268.80  
I M W C A.....3,260.00  
IDEAL READY MIX.....2,293.75  
IA CO ATTY ASSOC.....370.00  
IA LAW ENFORCEMENT ACDMY.....300.00  
ISAC.....1,475.00  
JIM ELWOOD IMPLEMENT.....1,255.59  
KASEYA US.....4,047.38  
KEOKUK CO ATTY.....50.00  
KEOKUK CO HWY DEPT.....830.14  
KEOKUK CO RECORDER.....1.32  
KESWICK, CITY OF.....2,533.40  
KINROSS, CITY OF.....369.10  
L L PELLING.....12,533.40  
LIGHTEDGE SOLUTIONS.....5,093.29  
LISCO/LTDS.....393.49  
MAIL SERVICES.....438.08  
MARTINS FLAG CO.....741.55  
MARTINSBURG, CITY OF.....5,093.29  
NET2PHONE.....1,424.87  
NEXTRAN TRUCK CTRS.....2,580.76  
NO ENGLISH TELEPHONE.....1,650.64  
OLLIE, CITY OF.....1,315.20  
PHELPS AUTO SUPPLY.....364.00  
POMP'S TIRE SERV.....8,400.00  
RACOM CORP.....3,112.54  
RENNER CONSTRUCTION.....5,800.00  
RIVER PRODUCTS.....8,685.29  
SADLER POWER TRAIN.....259.64  
SANITY SOLUTIONS.....10.97  
SELLERS, MICHAEL.....326.00  
SIACC JUVENILE PROJECT.....586.18  
SIGOURNEY LUMBER CO.....1,541.38  
SIGOURNEY, CITY OF.....669.02  
SINCLAIR NAPA.....20.25  
STIVERS FORD LINCOLN.....50,570.07  
STOREY KENWORTHY.....100.18  
STREICHERS.....200.00  
STROBELS.....595.00  
T I P REC.....813.26

THE DEPT OF RADIOLOGY.....50.00  
THOMSON REUTERS-WEST.....352.51  
TIFCO INDUSTRIES.....930.30  
TRUCK CENTER INC.....29.35  
TUSING, STEPHANIE.....225.68  
US CELLULAR.....303.62  
USFIRST LLC.....15.00  
VERIZON WIRELESS.....374.88  
VISA (SEC RD).....13.00  
VISA (CONSERV).....365.93  
WAPELLO RURAL WATER.....184.21  
WASTE MANAGEMENT.....1,384.70  
WEBB, JESSICA.....450.00  
WEBSTER, CITY OF.....515.44  
WEW BANK.....68.69  
WINDSTREAM.....94.07  
TOTAL.....\$244,595.17  
Wood moved, Weber seconded approval of the CEO Shared Liability Agreement of the New Eastern Iowa Workforce Development Board as submitted. All ayes and motion carried. Weber sits on said board and informed of the verbiage additions, N. Withdrawal and P. Amendments, to the agreement as the reason for revision.

Various Board and Committee reports were held. Wood attended Pathfinders and RUSS meetings. Hadley attended an Emergency Management. All members attended the 5<sup>th</sup> District meeting last week.

Discussion of old/new business and public comment was held. Bates informed payment was received for half of Keokuk Coun-

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
**City of Keswick • Minute and Claims 10.13.2025**

**KESWICK CITY COUNCIL**

**OCTOBER 13, 2025 MAYOR**

The Keswick City Council met in a regularly scheduled meeting on Monday October 13, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.

The Mayor called the meeting to order. Roll Call: R. Leer, K. Leer, Schmidt. Watts Absent: Sieren. Approve the Agenda. Motion: Watts, 2<sup>nd</sup> K. Leer Previous months Minutes read, Motion to Approve . R. Leer 2<sup>nd</sup>, Watts. All Ayes. Financial Report: Will be presented at next meeting. Motion to Approve Financial: 2<sup>nd</sup> by , All Ayes Claims 2<sup>nd</sup> by , All Ayes.

Reports and Communication. Sigourney News Review, request to be the paper for the City for year 2026. Motion to accept the Sigourney Review as the City's paper by K. Leer, 2<sup>nd</sup> by R. Leer, All Ayes.

OLD BUSINESS. It was reported that the Keokuk Co. Endowment Grant stated we could not change our grant money and would need to be returned. We had designated it for a new siren project but could not obtain other grants and due to

the cost have tabled it for the future project.

NEW BUSINESS: Halloween Begger's Night will be on Friday October 31, 2025 from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm, Motion by R. Leer, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Watts, All Ayes. Elections will be held next month on Tuesday November 4, 2025, at the Thomas Hall - What Cheer Fairgrounds. Open at 7:00 am Close at 8:00 pm.

Motion to adjourn: R. Leer, 2<sup>nd</sup> Watts. All Ayes. Next meeting, November 3, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.

Committees are as follows: Fire Board: K. Leer, Zittergruen and Sieren; Sewer: Sieren and R. Leer; Sanitation: Watts, Sieren, and K. Leer; Streets: Schmidt; R. Leer, Zittergruen; Mayor Protem: R. Leer; Keokuk County Endowment: Schmidt, R. Leer; Emergency Management: Zittergruen and Watts.

**FINANCIAL REPORT SEPTEMBER**

DATE, CK#, DESCRIPTION, AMOUNT, FUND

09/04/2025, Residents, \$700.96....W/S/G

09/19/2025, Residents, \$120.00....W/S/G

09/19/2025, Residents, \$150.00....W/S/G

09/19/2025, Residents, \$280.00....W/S/G

09/19/2025, Residents, \$1,975.66....W/S/G

09/23/2025, Residents, \$2,057.69....W/S/G

09/23/2025, Residents, \$2,920.83....W/S/G

09/23/2025, Residents, \$1,975.66....W/S/G

09/23/2025, Residents, \$2,057.69....W/S/G

09/23/2025, Residents, \$2,235.94....W/S/G

09/30/2025, Residents, \$252.37....W/S/G

09/30/2025, Residents, \$252.37....W/S/G

09/30/2025, Residents, \$16,065.76....W/S/G

09/19/2025, Residents, \$120.00....W/S/G

09/19/2025, Residents, \$150.00....W/S/G

09/19/2025, Residents, \$280.00....W/S/G

09/19/2025, Residents, \$460.00....W/S/G

09/19/2025, Residents, \$1,975.66....W/S/G

09/23/2025, Residents, \$2,057.69....W/S/G

09/23/2025, Residents, \$2,235.94....W/S/G

09/23/2025, Residents, \$2,057.69....W/S/G

09/23/2025, Residents, \$2,235.94....W/S/G



# English Valleys Bearometer

January 7, 2026

[www.facebook.com/Bearometer](http://www.facebook.com/Bearometer)

Issue: XVIII

## English Valleys Christmas Concert Brings Music, Cheer, and Talent Together

By: Hunter Offerman

On December 18, English Valleys hosted its annual Christmas program in Gene's Gymatrouim, bringing holiday cheer to the community through an evening of music performed by students in grades 6-12. The concert showcased the talent and dedication of the EV Music Department and featured a wide variety of ensembles, including the junior high band, high school band, junior high jazz band, high school jazz band, junior high chorus, High School Mixed Choir, and High School Chamber Choir.

Each group performed a selection of traditional and modern Christmas music, as well as upbeat and jazzy holiday favorites. The following were highlights of the songs performed, as many of the groups played multiple other pieces throughout the evening. The junior high band performed *African Noel* and *Let It Go*, while the junior high chorus sang *Sweet Silent Night*. The junior high jazz band played *Swing We Now of Christmas*, marking the first time the junior high jazz band has ever performed at the Christmas Concert.

The high school band performed well-known pieces such as *Carol of the Bells* and *Greensleeves*, highlighting the students' hard work and musical growth throughout the season. Also performing for the first time at the Christmas Concert was the High School Chamber Choir, which sang *Mary Sat-A-Rockin*. The High School Mixed Choir performed *Tidings of Joy* and *Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas*, while the high school jazz band energized the crowd with *Swing Bells*.

One of the most memorable moments of the night was the crowd-favorite performance of *One Bright Star*, during which the combined 6-12 choirs lit candles, creating a powerful and meaningful holiday atmosphere.

The evening was a great success and a wonderful way to celebrate the Christmas season. The English Valleys Music Department once again delivered an outstanding concert. A special thank-you goes to the incredibly talented students and to Dr. Dusdieker (accompanist), Mr. Dusdieker (band director), and Mr. Cornelius (choir director) for providing an unforgettable night filled with music, joy, and Christmas spirit.



## Festive Fun and Tradition Return with the EV Christmas Tea



On Thursday, December 18, English Valleys proudly welcomed back a cherished tradition with the return of the Christmas Tea, hosted by FCCLA, Mr. Hain, and the Foods students. The event provided an opportunity for students to showcase meaningful learning, teamwork, and real-world skills, all while highlighting their impressive culinary talents.



Staff and faculty from both buildings, administration, and even school board members were invited to enjoy the event, which featured punch, friendship tea, cookies, and other small treats. The students also decorated the space to create a warm and festive environment, adding to the holiday spirit. Attendees were treated to a professional and memorable experience as students put their knowledge into practice in a setting that combined hands-on education with celebration.

The revival of the Christmas Tea not only honored a long-standing English Valleys tradition but also offered a chance for the school community to come together and celebrate the season. It was inspiring to see students embracing both the educational and celebratory aspects of the event, making this return of the Christmas Tea a highlight of the holiday season at English Valleys.

## What Is Your New Year's Resolution?

Cael Grove  
Senior



"My New Year's resolution is to grow closer to God and excel in sports."

Kane Axmear  
Junior



"I want to spend less time on my phone."

Brodey Flander  
Sophomore



"My goal for the new year is to focus on farming and spend more time outdoors."

Davis Burdick  
Freshman



"My goal is to run more and train harder for cross-country."

Aidan Grimm  
8th Grade



"I want to improve my grades in the new year."

Izabella Clark  
7th Grade



"This year, I want to improve at track."

Avery Offerman  
6th Grade



"This year, I want to do my work early instead of waiting."

## Upcoming Activities:

### January 8:

HS Girls Wrestling @ Pella - 5:00 pm  
HS Girls Basketball @ Albia - 5:00/6:15 pm  
HS Boys Wrestling @ Baxter - 6:00 pm  
HS Boys Basketball vs Valley Lutheran - 6:00 pm

### January 9:

HS Girls Wrestling @ Highland - 4:30 pm  
HS Basketball vs Colfax-Mingo - 6:00 pm

### January 10:

HS Boys Wrestling @ Highland - 10:00 am

### January 12:

JH Boys Basketball vs HLV - 4:15 pm

JV Boys Basketball @ Lone Tree - 4:15 pm

HS V Basketball @ Lone Tree - 6:00 pm

### January 13:

JV Boys Basketball @ Belle Plaine - 4:30 pm

HS V Basketball @ Belle Plaine - 6:00 pm



## Chronic Wasting Disease in Iowa (Part Four of 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.

Deer hunting is one of the events throughout the year that can bring together friends and family from across the state and around the country. For many, it is a tradition where experiences are shared and skills are passed on from one generation to the next.

"The true value of Iowa's deer is likely so much greater, especially if we could account for intangible benefits, like enjoying seeing deer on the landscape, and the positive impacts our deer population has on recreational property value," said Jace Elliott, state deer biologist with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

Other hard-to-quantify values include connecting with nature and the mental and physical benefits that come with time spent outdoors, as well as reducing screen time. Additionally, venison is a high quality, lean, locally sourced, delicious protein.



The progression of mealworms dining on food waste and agricultural residue, which is being used as feed for animal production and fertilizer. (Photos by Midwest Mealworms, LLC)

## The Value of Insect Droppings in Agriculture

YAYETTEVILLE, AR -- ARS researchers in Fayetteville, AR, are helping farmers by studying the value of insect droppings in agriculture. About 30 to 40% of food produced in agriculture is wasted in the U.S., which results in about \$161 billion in losses each year. Insect meal from insects fed waste is one solution to address agricultural waste.

Farmers raise and breed insects to be an alternative protein source for animal feed. The insect farming industry is projected to grow 28% annually and have an estimated market value of \$8 billion by 2030.

ARS researchers at the Poultry Production and Product Safety Research Unit in Fayetteville are helping insect farmers by studying the benefits of insects as well as their droppings, commonly known as insect "frass." Researchers found that insect meal produced from insects who feed on waste can serve as a high protein animal feed. Insects can also produce a high value manure, which can provide a valuable organic fertilizer and create a circular economy for rural U.S. Insect production and the associated products, including frass, may represent an underutilized opportunity for organic manure and contribute to improved soil health in agricultural production systems.

## Winter community trout stockings start Jan. 10

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) will release rainbow trout in nine locations across Iowa this winter in areas that would not support them during warmer months.

Winter trout stockings are a great place to take kids to catch their first fish. A family-friendly event is paired with some stockings to help anglers have success and fun while fishing.

The popular program is supported by the sales of the trout fee. Anglers need a valid fishing license and pay the trout fee to fish for or possess trout. The daily limit is five trout per licensed angler with a possession limit of 10.

Children age 15 or younger can fish for trout with a properly licensed adult, but together, they can only keep one daily limit. Children can pay the trout fee, allowing them to keep their own daily limit.

2026 Winter Community Trout Stocking Schedule

Jan. 10, Blue Pit, Mason City, at 11 a.m.

Jan. 22, Bacon Creek Lake, Sioux City, at 1 p.m.

Jan. 23, Big Lake, Council Bluffs, at 3 p.m.

Jan. 23, Moorland Pond, Fort Dodge, at Noon

Feb. 7, Scharnberg Pond, Spencer, at Noon

Ada Hayden Heritage Park Lake (Ames), Lake Petoca (Bondurant), and Triumph Park West and Triumph Park East (Waukee) will also be stocked this winter. These stocking dates will not be announced until ice conditions are suitable.

Winter trout stocking events are dependent on favorable weather and ice conditions. Check the DNR Trout Fishing website at [www.iowadnr.gov/trout-stocking](http://www.iowadnr.gov/trout-stocking) for possible changes to the schedule.

Trout will be stocked in several other locations later this spring. Dates and locations will be announced in February.

## New Resource Helps Farmers and Landowners Test Nitrate Levels

Nitrate test strips and kits are a practical way to determine nitrate concentration in water

By: Kay Stefanik, Alaina Friesleben

AMES -- To help farmers and landowners better understand and monitor nitrate levels in surface and tile drainage water, the Iowa State University Iowa Nutrient Research Center has released a new publication,

Guide to Water Quality Testing for Nitrate. The publication is available for download at no cost from the ISU Extension Store.

This practical resource outlines the importance of nitrate monitoring and provides basic instructions for testing water using nitrate test strips or test kits. The guide also explains how to interpret results, including the difference between nitrate and nitrate-nitrogen, and highlights average nitrate concentrations commonly observed in Iowa.

"Nitrate levels in Iowa's water can be influenced by a number of different factors, such as fertilizer and manure application in a watershed, conservation practices on the landscape and precipitation events," said Kay Stefanik, assistant director of the Iowa Nutrient Research Center

and co-author of the publication. "Testing for nitrate in water in agricultural areas can help farmers and landowners better understand how much, and potentially where, nitrate is lost from their farm operations. This knowledge can be used to make more informed decisions when choosing which conservation practices to adopt."

The publication also includes recommendations on when and how often to sample, tips for collecting accurate water samples and guidance on sending samples to a laboratory, such as the State Hygienic Laboratory, for precise analysis.

An additional publication, Iowa Water Monitoring Data Resources, supplements the guide by providing a list of federal, state and local agencies and organizations that can offer data on water quality and stream-flow conditions.

The new resources are now available through ISU Extension and Outreach and aim to support informed decision-making, promote environmental stewardship and safeguard Iowa's water resources.

For more information, review the Guide to Water Quality Testing for Nitrate publication or contact Stefanik at [kcstefan@iastate.edu](mailto:kcstefan@iastate.edu).

## Ice fishing not advised across much of Iowa

Iowa's stretch of unseasonably warm temperatures has deteriorated the quality of ice across much of the state south of Iowa Hwy. 3, to the point where any remaining ice is considered unsafe and ice fishing is discouraged.

"Ice fishing in central and southern Iowa, is not advised," said Colonel Craig Cutts, chief of law enforcement for the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR). "We will return to more seasonal weather next week and that should put down a fresh layer of ice, but we have to give it some time to

freeze.

"It's better for the quality of ice to restart from open water, than to grow ice thickness over bad ice conditions."

North of Iowa Hwy. 3, anglers are encouraged to check the ice as they go and to avoid any dark or discolored ice as these are signs of deteriorating conditions. The Iowa DNR recommends a minimum of four inches of quality ice for ice fishing. The weekly Iowa Fishing Report will have the latest information on ice conditions across the state.

## Iowa Biodiesel Board Welcomes California's Decision to Sunset Outdated Biodiesel Restrictions

Move expected to increase market access for B20, but federal uncertainty remains perilous

ANKENY -- The Iowa Biodiesel Board welcomed this past week's decision by the California Air Resources Board to sunset an outdated NOx mitigation requirement for biodiesel blends.

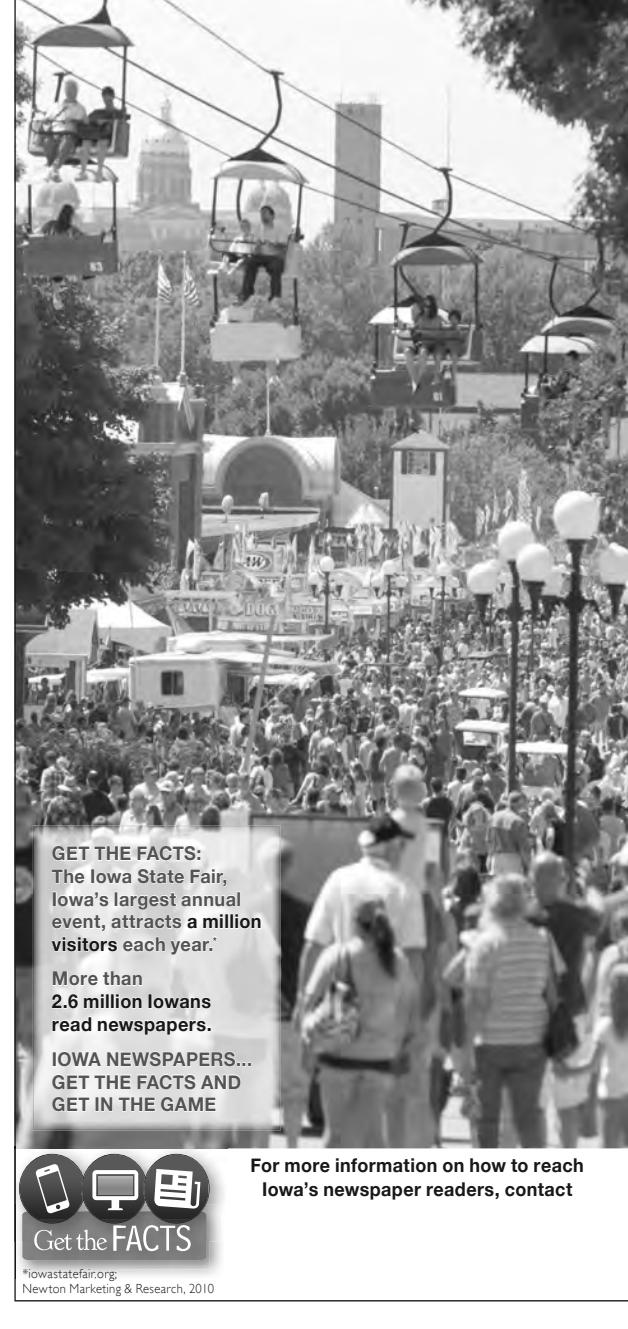
Grant Kimberley, executive director of the Iowa Biodiesel Board, said this ruling, based on CARB's own emissions data, removes an unnecessary regulatory barrier that has artificially suppressed biodiesel blend levels in California—the nation's largest diesel market. He issued the following statement:

"The state's decision to align its regulations with current science opens the door for increased biodiesel demand, particularly at least 20 percent biodiesel (B20), providing much-needed market access for Iowa's biodiesel industry and soybean farmers. This comes at a critical time

as we continue to face headwinds due to a challenging environment in both federal energy policy and trade.

"This move by CARB demonstrates what happens when regulators base decisions on current data rather than outdated assumptions. The evidence clearly supports biodiesel's role in helping the state achieve its climate objectives under the Low Carbon Fuel Standard, and this will open up more opportunities for B20 to become the gold standard in California, as it should be."

Kimberley reiterated that despite the positive development, the real key to market certainty remains the finalization of guidance on the 45Z federal tax incentive as well as volumes under the federal Renewable Fuel Standard. As noted in a recent statement on EPA's proposed RFS volumes, finalizing strong RFS standards by Jan. 31 is absolutely critical for Iowa's biodiesel industry and the farmers who depend on these markets, he said.



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