

The News-Review

SERVING THE KEOKUK COUNTY AREA SINCE 1860

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 4, 2026
NUMBER 5, 165TH YEAR

Community CALENDAR

KCHC Auxiliary Purse Sale

Thursday, Feb 12th; 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. -Hospital Lobby, Gift basket drawings, Proceeds go to the Auxiliary scholarships.

Shrove Pancake Supper

Tuesday, Feb 17, starting at 5 p.m. Christian Community Church - Free Will Offering

BINGO Nights Keokuk County Expo

2/4, 2/18, 3/4, 3/18

Knights of Columbus Harper Pepper Tournament

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

Bingo at Keokuk County Fairgrounds

Thomas Hall
Sundays, Jan. 4 - March 22, 1-4 p.m.

Pre-Valentines Soup Supper

Thursday Feb. 5th, 4:30 to 6:30 p. M. Delta Town and Country Center Free Will Offering All proceeds go toward the remodeling Chili, Vegetable Beef, Oyster and Cheeseburger-Chowder, Relish Tray, Desserts, and Drinks For To Go Orders call 641-660-7848

4-H Valentine's Dinner

Friday, Feb. 13, 5:00-8:00 p.m. Keokuk County Expo Hall

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



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Rose Hill Man Shot To Death Following Argument at Fremont Casey's

By Casey Jarmes | The News-Review

FREMONT – 45-year-old Michael Joseph Lee of Fremont was arrested and charged with First Degree Murder just before 3:00 a.m. on Feb. 2, over a shooting that had happened earlier that night. According to the criminal complaint, on the

evening of Feb. 1, Lee entered the Fremont Casey's General Store and got into a verbal altercation with 45-year-old Rose Hill man David Michael Dyke. Dyke exited the store and sat in his vehicle which was parked in front of the Casey's. A short time later, Lee exited the store and re-engaged Dyke. Dyke exited his vehicle and a verbal and

physical altercation occurred between the two. During this altercation, Lee fired several shots from his concealed .38 caliber revolver, striking Dyke at least once. Dyke died in the parking lot from at least one gunshot wound. At least one round fired by Lee entered the Casey's. Lee then called 911, stating that he had shot someone.

After law enforcement arrived, Lee claimed that Dyke had been on top of him when he reached into his pocket and fired several shots from the .38 revolver, striking Dyke and causing his death. The criminal complaint states that the evidence, crime scene processing, and witnesses contradicted this account. Witnesses reported hear-

ing multiple gunshots, then seeing Dyke on the ground. Dyke's body has been taken to the State Medical Examiner's Office in Ankeny for an autopsy.

Lee's bond has been set at \$500,000. A preliminary hearing has been set for Feb. 11 at the Mahaska County Courthouse. The case is still under investigation.

Endowment Awards \$25,000 to Update Richland Ballfields

By Casey Jarmes | The News-Review

RICHLAND – The Keokuk County Community Endowment Foundation (KCEEF) awarded a \$25,000 check to the City of Richland on Jan. 26, to go towards revitalizing the city's ballfields. According to Mayor Pro Tem Steve Pfeifer, the funds will go towards putting red dirt on the field, lime on the practice field, installing new bleachers and new bases, and upgrading the bathrooms. Work is planned to begin early in the spring.

"We had a study done, and there's 100 kids within walking distance, here in Richland, of the town square, so that's quite a few, and they need those activities to play outside instead of inside, on our computers. So we're trying to create a little bit of activity there to get the kids some fresh air, and it's well supervised with volunteers. There's three or four teams, boys and girls and different ages. They have some adult tournaments there too," said Pfeifer.

Pfeifer also mentioned plans to work with the Commercial Club to put up pickleball courts near the ballfields,



L to R: Richland Maintenance Supervisor Calder Bender, KCEEF Grant Chair Sylvia Hadley, KCEEF Community Director Connie McLaughlin, Richland Mayor Pro Tem Steve Pfeifer, City Administrator Sarah Claeys, KCEEF Chair Laurie Luetjtjohann

possibly using extra funds from the endowment grant.

"We've got lots of plans there and we want to make the park more inviting, bring more kids there...We want Richland to have all the activities that other towns have... We made some improvements last year, and I hope to do some more now with this money. We're very fortunate to receive the grant," said Pfeifer.

KCEEF, a non-prof-

it that gives grants to local non-profits and municipalities, normally awards only a single \$25,000 Major Grant each year, in addition to dozens of smaller \$5,000 or less grants. However, last fall, the KCEEF board voted to award two Major Grants this year. The other grant went towards the Little Eagles Child-care Center in Keota, which opened in January.

"Obviously, it's always a hard decision, honestly, be-

cause we go through this process, we get multiple applications, and they're all good things," said KCEEF Chair Laurie Luetjtjohann. "And normally we give out one, this year we decided to give out two \$25,000 ones because we couldn't make the decision of which one was better than the other. So it takes a little bit out of our funds for the smaller grants, but sometimes I think you can do more with a chunk like

this than you can with a lot of \$5,000 ones. Hopefully this is something that does enough to get the job done and make kind of a lasting impact. That's our goal. We're trying to keep all of the little communities all together. I mean, we're Keokuk County, we're all doing our own things, but we're all together. And everything that we have, I think, in every community, benefits not only that community, but other people."

Pfeifer stated that there were a lot of good things going on in Richland, with the town having two restaurants, a doctor's office, a dental clinic, a couple of good churches, a food pantry, a new daycare, a gymnasium, work to bring in new houses and clean up abandoned ones, a wonderful fire department, a garbage route, a nice library, and a good commercial club with good community support. "There's a lot of things going on here. We want it to be the Mayberry of the Midwest... We have almost everything the big towns have, except the crime, and we don't want that," said Pfeifer.

The annual KCEEF Grant Award Ceremony will be held at the EXPO on April 8.

Tri-County Speech Students Perform at Home, Receive I Ratings

By Casey Jarmes | The News-Review

THORNBURG – Tri-County High School's speech performances, originally scheduled for Jan. 24 at Pella, were pushed back due to the extreme cold weather, with students instead competing at Tri-County on the afternoon of Jan. 27. Speech Coach Vince Hrasky stated

that he had agonized over the decision to push back the speech performance, but ultimately decided that, worst case scenario, Tri-County would have a home game.

Three acts were shown: "Cronus and Zeus," a Choral Reading retelling of the Greek legend of Cronus, a monstrous, baby-eating titan who is overthrown by

his son Zeus, after his wife Rhea tricks Cronus into eating a rock instead of Zeus. Featured Nathan McDonald, Alyssa Hadsell, Imara Colbert, Grace Lindley, Drayvon Dennis, Cooper Vermillion, Lily McDonald, Annie Balvin, Memphis Hawkins and Sloane McKain.

"Learn to Do It" from "Anastasia," a Musical Theatre song where two comen teach the title character how to pretend to be a lost Russian princess. Featured Grace Lindley, Imara Colbert and Alyssa Hadsell.

"KGAD," a TV News Broadcast set during the Trojan War, ending with the Trojans discovering that



Learn to Do It

their Greek rivals have left a mysterious wooden horse behind. Hrasky stated that this performance began as a classroom project, after his Freshman class finished reading the Odyssey. Featured Lily McDonald, Sloane McKain, Cole Hughes, Brylee Thomp-

son, Aiyla Ray, Bristol Ward, Leah Triplett, Octavia Van Patten, Kayden McDonald and Amy Terwilliger

All three performances received I ratings and will move onto the State competition on Feb. 7.



Cronus and Zeus

Print your favorite memories



The News-Review

120 E Washington St.,
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M-F 9 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.



Tri-County Homecoming Royalty

Other members of the Homecoming Court include Hailey Brackelsberg, Tuesday Davis, Jessica Kridelbaugh, Emma Lindley, Marley Van Patten, Hunter Brackelsberg, Keagan MacCready, Nathan McDonald, and Boston Roorda.

Davian Thompson and Ava Brackelsberg were crowned the 2026 Tri-County Homecoming King and Queen at Boom Night on Jan. 28.

Harrison Weber and Serenity Keyes were the Homecoming Prince and Princess.

CORRECTION

In the story Sigourney and Pekin Receive I Ratings at Speech Districts, published in the Jan. 28 issue of The News-Review, we referred to one Sigourney speech student as being named Chris McClennan. In reality, his last name is spelled McLennan.

Hedrick Woman Prepares to Celebrate 100th Birthday

By Casey James | The News-Review

OTTUMWA – Mary Louise Paxton, formerly of Hedrick, will celebrate her 100th birthday on February 7. Paxton was born Mary Williams in 1926, at the farm house of her Uncle Ben and Aunt Tillie Williams on Highway 21. She shared with the News-Review memories of riding by horse and wagon to a watermelon patch by her aunt and uncle's home to fill the wagon with picked melons. Paxton had fun camping by the wagon as a child. She mentioned that Tillie didn't have kids of her own, but kept a large basket of dolls and toys at her house; Mary would make mud pies in old jar lids using her aunt's mini-stove.

Paxton's father, Howard, ran Williams Produce on Main Street in Hedrick. He and his wife Myrtle began the business in their basement and had a route through the Keokuk County countryside where they would go farm to farm and pick up eggs and cream. Paxton would go with her father on his route and help candle the eggs. "By candling the eggs—putting them next to candle light—we could determine if any were rotten or cracked. Rotten ones were worthless, and Mom was able to salvage the cracked eggs to make noodles," said Mary.

Eventually, Paxton, her parents, and her brother Gene outgrew the basement, moving to a space behind Williams Produce. They started a mill for grain where they made and sold their own special pancake mix. Paxton attended Hedrick School



Mary Paxton with her youngest great-great-grandchild

Supervisors Approve County AI Policy

By Casey James | The News-Review

SIGOURNEY – During the Feb. 2 meeting of the Keokuk County Board of Supervisors, the board approved rules for county employee AI usage. IT Director Darin Hite stated that, with manufacturers putting AI into almost everything, for example Microsoft adding Copilot to Microsoft Office, these policies needed to be

passed sooner than latter. He explained that AI programs like ChatHPT use information entered into them for training purposes, which is a problem if things like security information, HR information, HIPAA covered medical information, or CJIS criminal data was entered into an AI program. Hite stated that there are offline models that do not train on entered data, which would be fine to use. The new pol-

icy defines information into three security levels, with only the lowest level, which is information that is to be released to the public, allowed to be entered into an online AI tool like ChatGPT. Other levels of information can only be used in offline programs that do not train on entered data. Hite stated that only a few things for a few departments would have the highest level restrictions.

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from first grade through high school. She made lifelong friends, enjoyed school sports, and was a member of the Campfire Girls. She attended multiple class reunions at the Hedrick school with other members of the class of 1943 over the years, but now believes that she is the last surviving member of her 28 kid class.

Her eventual husband, Phil Paxton, moved to Ollie in 1939. Mary met Phil when they were both Freshman. They both played basketball and had dates in Hedrick, where you could go to a movie for ten cents at the time. After high school, Phil was drafted, fighting in WWII,

where he worked on large equipment and tanks. He retired a Master Sergeant

Mary Paxton worked various jobs over the years, in addition to being a homemaker, working at AAA Motor Club, Credit Bureau, Standard Kollsman, and running a donut shop in Marshalltown with her husband.

"We made large quantities of donuts all night long. Mornings, Phil loaded up and delivered the donuts around town while I cleaned up the kitchen mess," said Paxton. "We had several kids by then and I cleaned

BIRTHDAY
pg. 3



The News-Review

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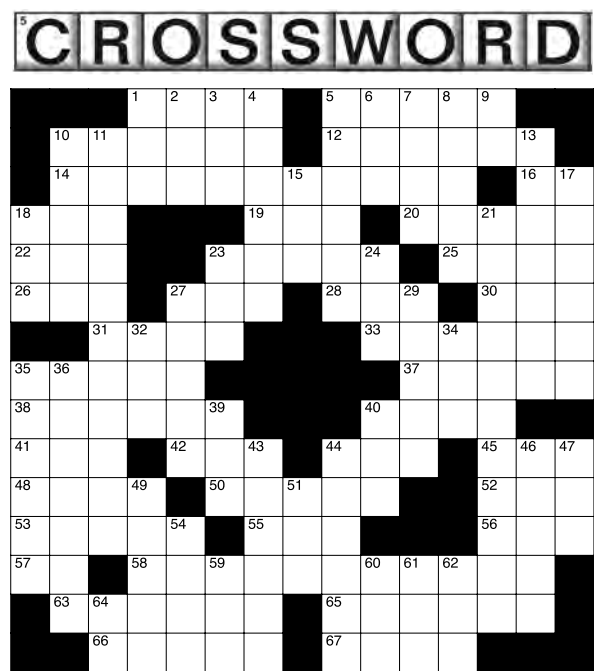
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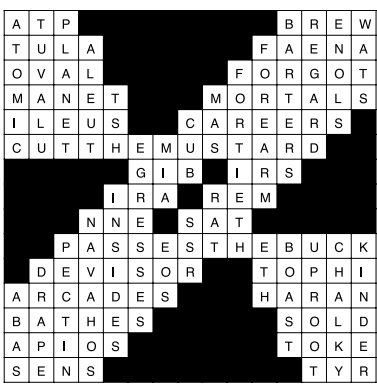
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This week's crossword, sponsored by:
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- CLUES ACROSS**
- 1. Native American group of N. California (Brit. sp.)
 - 5. Geological times
 - 10. Tool to remove
 - 12. Rods
 - 14. One who renews
 - 16. They precede C
 - 18. Chatter incessantly
 - 19. ___ King Cole, musician
 - 20. Insect parts
 - 22. One from Utah
 - 23. The world of the dead
 - 25. Singer Redding Nelson
 - 27. Indicates wrongly
 - 28. Unhappy
 - 30. Anger
 - 31. Dark brown
 - 33. Some are in kitchens
 - 35. Made a mistake
 - 37. Damp
 - 38. Type of fuel
 - 40. Actor Damon
 - 41. What thespians do
 - 42. One's mother
 - 44. Disallow
 - 45. Swiss river
 - 48. A banana has one
 - 50. Philippines lake and volcano are two
 - 52. Relative biological effectiveness (abbr.)
 - 53. Agave
 - 55. Journalist Tarbell
 - 56. One-time tech giant
 - 57. Indicates upon
 - 58. Intestinal bacteria
 - 63. Loose sheaths around the spinal cord
 - 65. It goes with nook
 - 66. A fashion
- CLUES DOWN**
- 1. Witch
 - 2. Utilize
 - 3. Writing utensil
 - 4. Where rockers go to work
 - 5. Subsides
 - 6. Consume
 - 7. Greek mythological figures
 - 8. California mountain town
 - 9. Tin
 - 10. Muse of lyric and love poetry
 - 11. Animates anew
 - 13. Humorous criticisms
 - 15. Cool!
 - 17. Worst
 - 18. Wet dirt
 - 21. Designed to be useful
 - 23. Hebrew unit of liquid capacity
 - 24. High schoolers' test
- CLUES DOWN**
- 27. Computer device
 - 29. Indian territory ___ and Diu
 - 32. A place to sleep
 - 34. AI tool
 - 35. Pass or go by
 - 36. Indicates a purchase
 - 39. A digital tape recording of sound
 - 40. More (Spanish)
 - 43. Disfigured
 - 44. White (Spanish)
 - 46. Church building
 - 47. Georgia rockers
 - 49. Type of surgery
 - 51. Much ___ about nothing
 - 54. Make by braiding
 - 59. Local area network
 - 60. Unit of work or energy
 - 61. Member of indigenous people of Thailand
 - 62. Liquefied natural gas
 - 64. Distance to top

LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS



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VALENTINE'S WORD SEARCH

C H E R I S H U R Q A D O R A T I O N C
Q L C P O N R E P W Q P K M H D Q D T L
A W W H F T C L R M T E U Q U O B A H G
D R A C W A H S O F V E L V E T P S G V
W B U G R R O O P H I F D I P U C E I V
N T M B O L C F O Q N L N W A M V K L T
P G M S K H O A S A F F E C T I O N E G
P E E E E B L O A L M D G V L M Q G L N
A S I H L M A L L T T I L V F L V B D T
S T R A E H T E E W S R P N W O R U N E
K E O P M T E T N E M I T N E S C S A A
M A K R A W M C M T A U F N M K H O C R
S S F A V S B Q U M N O I T O V E D T O
C O K L S H S G F T R I L F O A V U P M
E A U O H P W I L S T R A E H V L P V A
G O E L H T E F O B M H A D M I R E R N
O H P U M I D E M N W F A H G E V O L C
G E N R T A C V K I B N G W B G N W P E
N O E M H G T I M Q T N D H C E G T O K
L E T T E R S E I G H U W W I T W W V W

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

WORDS

- ADMIRER
- ADORATION
- AFFECTION
- BOUQUET
- CANDLELIGHT
- CARD
- CHERISH
- CHOCOLATE
- CUPID
- DEVOTION
- EMBRACE
- FLIRT
- HEART
- KEEPSAKE
- LETTERS
- LOVE
- PASSION
- PROPOSAL
- ROMANCE
- ROSES
- SENTIMENT
- SOULMATE
- SWEETHEART
- VELVET

THE HISTORICAL VIEWPOINT

What Cheer Coal Mines and Blackdamp

By Casey Jarmes | The News-Review

It was March 29, 1890. Five Swedish miners were sitting in the What Cheer Coal Co's shaft No. 2, waiting for the mine cars to arrive. Without warning, a huge piece of slate broke loose above their heads, falling on two men by the name of Peter Matson and John Hoff. Matson suffered a severe scalp wound that "laid bare some five or six square inches of his cranium," to quote the What Cheer Reporter. All things considered, he was lucky. He was able to return to work, with a few stitches. Hoff's spine was broken by the crumbling mine, leaving him paralyzed from the waist down with no hope of recovery.

as Glassell was digging out pillars in the mine with another man. His partner operated the mining machine, cutting under the face of the coal, while Glassell was down scraping out the cuttings with a shovel. Unfortunately, there was a water seam in the middle of the coal vein, slanting towards the face. The pressure from the water seam forced out a large, triangular block of coal, which landed on top of Glassell. As his partner and other miners tried to extract him from beneath the massive piece of coal, Glassell said that he was "done for." He died thirty minutes later. Glassell had only moved to What Cheer with his ten-year-old son and infant daughter, who were left orphaned by the mines.

so violently he was pushed out of danger. Smith was laid up for a few days. Finally, on Feb. 5, Thomas "Kerosene Tom" Capel, a driver at shaft No. 1, had his arm broken after being kicked by a mule. On May 16, the tower and dump-room at shaft No. 1 caught fire, when 300 men were down in the mine. Fortunately, all of the miners were able to evacuate through the air-shaft, with none of them being injured. It took just 22 minutes from the alarm being sounded for the fire company to stretch out the 1,000 feet of hose needed to reach the fire. The fire company, as well as a bucket brigade who had kept the fire under control while waiting for the firefighters, put out the blaze. This fire also almost caused a train crash, after train cars were moved onto a side track, to get them away from the flames. An approaching freight engine nearly crashed into these cars, forcing both engines to reverse to avoid a collision. The trains stopped only seven feet away from each other.

ran for help. Fred Armstrong, a man who had been delivering milk in town, saw the commotion and sprinted towards the mineshaft. He climbed down the ladder to rescue Roy Hawk. But, as he reached the boy and attempted to unhook him from the ladder, Armstrong too fainted, falling off of the ladder, into the mine. By then, several men had arrived. They realized with horror, as they watched Armstrong fall, what had knocked him out: Blackdamp, a deadly mix of nitrogen, carbon dioxide and water vapor that builds up in mines. Coal, when exposed to air, absorbs oxygen and released CO2 and water vapor, filling mines with the invisible, odorless gas that asphyxiated Roy Hawk and Fred Armstrong.

I could not find any of the original reporting on Keister's accident, just his mention in the 1890 story and another mention, in a 1929 What Cheer Chronicle Paper, which listed out the big events of 1889, including Keister's accident; 18-year-old John Trammel being crushed to death under a 13,000 pound of slate the same month; Robert Wyper being severely injured by falling slate in March; and Sam Crawford being killed while blasting at a mine in May. Another accident happened at shaft No. 2 on Aug. 30, 1890. 42-year-old Thom-

Three more minor miner accidents came within a few days, not long after Frank's death. On Jan. 30, Job Dyer, a young man employed as a driver at the Vulcan mine, "suddenly came in contact with the business end of a mule," to quote the What Cheer Reporter. The mule kicked out three of Dyer's teeth, forcing him to wear his face in a sling. On Feb. 1, John Smith narrowly avoided being caught under a falling piece of slate at shaft No. 1, after the falling slate hit him

On the afternoon of July 9, 1890, a group of children were playing around the open air shaft at the old Chew mine in What Cheer. Eight-year-old Roy Hawk began climbing down the fifty-foot ladder going down the mineshaft. Then, when he was halfway to the bottom, the other children watched as Hawk relaxed his hold and fell backwards. His foot caught on the ladder, leaving him dangling, unconscious. The children

A rope was tied around another volunteer, George Baldwin, who climbed down the ladder and unhooked Hawk's leg. Then, he too fainted, dropping the boy's body to the bottom of the shaft. Baldwin was hastily pulled to the surface and resuscitated by the others. According to the Sigourney News, several more people volunteered to go down the mine shaft, but were talked out of it, because going down would have been certain death. Eventually, they were able to pull Hawk and Armstrong's bodies out using grappling hooks. Hawk had been down in the blackdamp for an hour and Armstrong had been down there for 45 minutes; both were long dead by the time they were brought out of the mines. The What Cheer Reporter wrote that Armstrong, aged twenty, "was a young man of generous and noble impulses, and the possessor of many sterling qualities." He left behind a wife and a young son.

Letter to the Editor Policy

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an individual or a cause, therefore if a writer cannot assure us that their submission is individual and personal, it may be rejected. Your Letter to the Editor must include:

- Your full name with signature
- Your complete address
- Your telephone number

Your address and telephone number will not be printed in the newspaper, but will be used for verification by newspaper editorial staff. Unsigned letters and letters containing personal attacks the newspaper deems to be of a libelous nature will not be published. *The News-Review* reserves the right to end debate on a topic after both sides have had ample chance to express their views. *The News-Review* reserves the right to edit or refuse all letters. All columns and letters on the opinion page are the views of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of *The News-Review*.

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

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The News-Review

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Deadlines

Legal Notices Noon, Friday
Classified Ads Noon, Friday
Display Ads Noon, Friday
Submitted News Noon, Friday
Obituaries Noon, Monday
Event coverage requests 24 hours



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Worship Guide

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



“ Let your eyes look straight ahead, fix your gaze directly before you.”
Proverbs 4:25 (NIV)

Decluttering for Clarity

People often talk about “spring cleaning,” though winter can often be a great time for decluttering as well. In a season with days of poor weather when we may find ourselves stuck inside, there are a few forms of decluttering which we may undertake. We might find ourselves desiring to declutter, spiritually. This can be done by examining our conscience and thinking about how we can have a refreshed approach to the coming days, weeks, and months. We may also find the time to declutter our to-do lists, which can certainly provide a beneficial jolt in productivity or motivation. Finally, we might declutter in the most basic form, that is, our homes, office or anywhere else that needs organization. This often seems to help in decreasing our stress and worries, and taking time to do so this winter can certainly bring about these feelings earlier.

—James Stone

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641-637-2561
newlifefellowships@gmail.com
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Children's Sunday School during pastor's morning message. (Church Basement)
Adult Small Group: Sunday, 10:30am (Church)
Adult Small Group: Wednesday, 1:30pm (McVay FC)
G2C Youth Group (2-6th)- Wednesday, 6:00 -7:30pm (Church)
PROS Youth Group (7-12th) - Wednesday, 6:30 - 8:30pm (McVay FC)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Bethel Church
Pastor Nick Needham
319-329-6070

6 miles East of Sigourney on Highway 92.
Website: thebethelumc.org
Sunday School at 9:30 a.m.
Worship at 10:30 a.m.
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First Baptist Church
Pastor Joe Hohenshell
308 N. Jefferson St. 319-450-8333
Sunday School, 9 a.m.; Worship Service, 10 a.m.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

DEAN'S LIST from pg. 3

Clarke University Fall 2025 Dean's List
To be eligible, students must receive a GPA of at least 3.65.

Ollie
Quinnlyn Baker
Iowa State University Fall 2025 Dean's List
To be eligible, students must receive a GPA of at least 3.5.

Harper
McKinley Chittick
Keota
Anna J Flynn, Thomas Joseph Flynn, Ava Kathryn Greiner
Keswick
Tessa LouAnn Fisher, Chloe Elizabeth Zittergruen
Richland

Levi Gaines
Sigourney
Erroll Barker, Reagan Clarahan, Emma M Gilliland, Abigail Marie Gingerich, Justin J Graff, Zoe Webb, Alex Marie Webster
South English
Jackson Robert Droz, Cyrus Lee Ni Morrison
What Cheer
Macy Karen Moore
Wartburg College 2025 Fall Term Dean's List
North English
Keegan Burdick, Gage Heyne, Gwen Mews
Ollie
Ian Silvers



11 English Valleys 5th and 6th Grade students participated in the East Central Iowa Choral Directors Association 5-6 Grade Honor Choir, hosted at Coe College on Jan. 30. Students participating included: 6th Grade: Karlee Frazier, Tenley Gent, Mariah Knapp, Avery Offerman. 5th Grade: Kellan Render, Kale Walker, Kai Holetson, Ansley Montross, Raegan Banes, Maeson Bouslog, Avery Cornelius.



Syndey Miller & Deb Draper

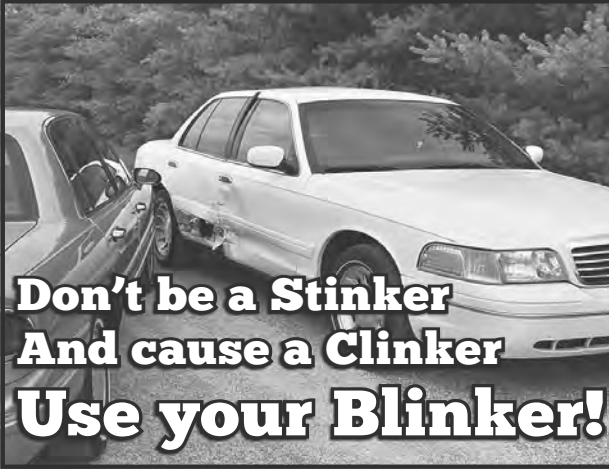
Mahaska County Extension Honors New Master Gardener Volunteers

The Mahaska County Master Gardeners recently elevated three interns to certification as Iowa Master Gardeners: Sara Aguilar, Deb Draper, and Syndey Miller. They took over 40 hours of instruction in the Master Gardener training and recently completed the 40 hour volunteer service requirement and were presented with certificate and permanent name badge.

Iowa Master Gardener is a job title, describing a volunteer who has been trained to educate the public about horticulture and gardening. To achieve Master Gardener Certification, candidates complete 40 hours of educational training and 40 hours of volunteer time in their

inaugural year. In ensuing years, a Master Gardener must complete 20 hours of volunteer time plus 10 hours of approved advanced training, to maintain their certification.

Iowa Master Gardener training switched to online in 2020 and continues to be hybrid (meaning both online and in person). Persons interested in the Master Gardener Program can learn more by contacting Suzette Striegel at the Mahaska County Extension office by email striegel@iastate.edu, phone 641-673-5841or by visiting the website Garden Academy | Iowa State University Extension and Outreach Master Gardener. Winter 2026 training registration is due January 30.



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Local government officials raise concerns about revenue cap in property tax bills

Advocates of tax relief praise 2% revenue limit in House GOP’s and governor’s plans

By Robin Opsahl, Iowa Capital Dispatch

Though lawmakers at the Iowa Capitol are still far from reaching a consensus on property tax legislation, House lawmakers heard from lobbyists for local governments and advocacy groups about the House Republicans’ and governor’s proposals on Jan. 29.

House Study Bill 596, the House GOP bill, and House Study Bill 563, the bill from Gov. Kim Reynolds, were the subjects of back-to-back subcommittee meetings. The two measures share several similarities, such as a 2% revenue cap for local governments with certain exemptions, as well as provisions related to reducing local entities’ spending by finding efficiencies. Many of the comments at the meetings about the two bills came from the same lobbyists who shared similar praise — or concerns — about the limits on local government revenue.

Lucas Beenken, representing the Iowa State Association of Counties and Iowa State Association of County Supervisors, warned that a 2% cap on revenue would not necessarily lower tax costs for Iowans in the way lawmakers are intending.

If a county’s general fund is maxed out, Beenken said counties have a supplemental fund that is “limited by use,” but is not limited by a levy rate or dollar amount. The uses counties are required to pay for are itemized in Iowa Code, he said, which include services like in-patient and out-patient substance abuse treatment programs and county courts.

“What I’m suggesting to you is to look at the list, as it’s a lot of things that are required of counties by the

state,” Beenken said. “... All these sorts of things that counties are forced to pay for, they would then be under this 2% cap competing against the services at the county level that the citizens desire to depend on.”

He said a “one size fits all” doesn’t fit for regulating Iowa communities, which have largely differing income, business and spending needs.

But groups advocating for tax cuts said they are strongly in favor of the 2% revenue cap. Chris Hagenow, president of Iowans for Tax Relief, said his organization has been in favor of the revenue limit for many years, and believes this approach is “the best way to begin bending the cost curve down for Iowans.”

However, Hagenow warned that lawmakers need to ensure there are not “carveouts” included in this limit, saying previous laws signed in Iowa intended to lower property taxes were not effective because they contained “loopholes” and “back doors” that allowed local governments to not abide by the limits set by the state.

“We’ve seen in well-intentioned property tax reform for the past, is that if there are escape hatches, that they will be found and used,” Hagenow said.

House File 718, signed into law in 2023, included caps on levy rates for local governments. Rep. Larry McBurney, D-Urbandale, said the 2023 law’s precedent shows the new proposed revenue cap would not “accomplish what this Legislature is looking for at all” in lowering property taxes, and said adding mechanism for local governments to go above the cap when inflation surpasses 2% is an “absolute must” if these proposals move forward.

While the two bills have some overlapping ideas, there are many distinct dif-

ferences. The governor’s bill contains measures limiting the use of Tax Increment Financing (TIF) districts, requiring property tax assessments to be conducted every three years instead of every two years, and moving up the timeline for using Secure an Advanced Vision for Education (SAVE) funds for property tax relief.

Local officials criticize governor’s election changes Reynolds’ proposal would also eliminate election mandates for county treasurers, auditors and recorders — a measure that advocates for these elected officials said could create conflicts in county governments. Warren County Recorder Jordyn Hill told lawmakers the measure “eliminates the voters’ voice and choice in selecting their local government representatives.”

“It erodes the separation of power and, we think, checks and balances within county government,” Hill said. “The Board of Supervisors already have control over our budget, it removes voters’ response of real-time, hands-on leadership, directly impacting service levels and responsiveness.”

In contrast, the House bill has language upping the requirements to approve bonds payable through property taxes — stating a 60% vote of approval at the ballot box is necessary. Chelsea Hoyer with the Iowa League of Cities said the local government organization was concerned about this provision, saying if enacted, it would “fundamentally change how cities finance essential projects like roads, water, sewer systems, public safety equipment and disaster recovery.”

“In practice, this would increase costs, slow projects and make it harder to respond to urgent infrastructure needs or compete for economic development opportunities where timing

matters,” Hoyer said. “Cities will often include clearly identified projects in a single bond issue as a cost-saving measure, so voters and residents can see the full scope of planned investments while avoiding the added expense of issuing multiple separate bonds. Turning those routine decisions into repeated special elections would be costly and inefficient, and risky for public safety and economic growth.”

Advocates from several groups praised the House bill for including language adding more requirements on information sent to property taxpayers explaining how these funds are used by their local governments.

Both of the House bills move next to the full Ways and Means Committee.

Senate Republicans also have introduced a property tax proposal that differs significantly from the House and governor’s bills, which includes changes to Iowa’s “rollback” system for calculating property taxes and would eliminate property taxes entirely for older Iowa homeowners.

Rep. Carter Nordman, R-Adel, said discussions are still ongoing on all three of these proposals, and said leaders would “continue to work with everybody, all stakeholders, on these issues.”

“I think it’s important that all three of these plans are out,” Nordman said “We’re talking about them. We’re going to eventually find a place where we are doing something good for the taxpayer.”

Read more from Opsahl online at IowaCapitalDispatch.com

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Obituaries

Laurel Amelia Streigle

1937-2026

Laurel Amelia (Rice) Streigle, loving wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, and faithful servant of Christ, passed away peacefully on January 24, 2026, at the age of 88, surrounded by her family.

She was born April 15, 1937, in her family home in Daytonville, Iowa (present-day Wellman), to Quincy and Gertrude (Merryfield) Rice, and was

raised in a home grounded in faith and strong family values. Laurel attended Pleasant Ridge country school located on what was the Davenport farm outside Delta, and later Delta Public School, graduating in 1955. On March 5, 1955, she married Leon Streigle in her family home, beginning a marriage marked by devotion and love.

Together they were blessed with seven children and also welcomed a foreign exchange student, Bjorn Almgren, into their home. Laurel endured the heartbreaking loss of two sons, Lyle and David, yet remained steadfast in her faith.

A devoted member of Delta Christian Church for over 75 years, Laurel served as a Sunday School teacher, pianist and organist, Deaconess, Elder, and Church Board Chairman. She was also active in the Delta Ruritan Club and later worked for Ahrens Construction and Indian Hills Community College.

She was preceded in death by her parents; sons Lyle and David; sisters Jane Ann and Loretta; brothers-in-law Bill Stanley and Doc Dawson; and granddaughter Angel Streigle.

Laurel is survived by her husband Leon; children Melanie (Randy) Conrad, Jon Streigle, Frosty (Shelly) Streigle, Brian (Anjoo) Streigle, and Amy (Scott) Falletta; many grandchildren, great-grandchildren, siblings, and extended family.

Visitation will be held February 6 from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. at Holm Funeral Home. Funeral services will be held February 7 at 1:30 p.m. at Delta Christian Church, with interment at Garrett Cemetery. A memorial fund has been established in her name.

“I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.” — 2 Timothy 4:7

Services: Feb. 7, 1:30 p.m.
Visitation: Feb. 6, 4–7 p.m.
HOLM FUNERAL HOME
SIGOURNEY

Obituaries

Mary Ann McKenna

1940-2026

NORTH ENGLISH – Mary Ann McKenna, 85, of North English, passed away on Sunday, January 25, 2026, at the English Valley Care Center in North English.

Mary Ann was born on March 3, 1940, in Armah, near North English, Iowa, the oldest daughter of Francis and Agnes (Greene) O’Rourke. She graduated from English Valleys High School with the Class of 1958. Following high school, she attended cosmetology school and went on to enjoy a long and dedicated career as a hairdresser in North English for 52 years, serving generations of families in the community.

On February 24, 1962, Mary Ann was united in marriage to Thomas “Pat” McKenna at Armah Catholic Church near North English. She was a devoted member of St. Joseph Catholic Church in North English, where she served on the Altar & Rosary Society and the parish council. Mary Ann was also a founding member of the North English JCettes.

In her free time, Mary Ann treasured spending time with her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She enjoyed gardening, especially flowers, and was a loyal fan of the Iowa Hawkeyes, as well as the English Valleys girls basketball teams throughout the years. She looked forward to changing her holiday decorations with each season, paying close attention to Christmas and St. Patrick’s Day.

Mary Ann is survived by her son, Marek McKenna of North Carolina; son-in-law, Randy (Cindy Albert) Weber of Harper; two grandchildren, Kelsey (Jay) DeWeese of Deep River and Ryan (Emily) Weber of Harper; six great-grandchildren, Ava DeWeese, Riley Weber, Bryer DeWeese, Ella Weber, Karlie Weber, and Maycie Weber; two sisters, Eileen (Tom) Rieger and Sheila (Rich) Souder; two sisters-in-law, Dianne O’Rourke and Jan O’Rourke; two brothers-in-law, Hugh McKenna and John Phillip; as well as several others she loved dearly.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Pat; her daughter, Karla Weber; two sisters, Rita McKenna and Geri Phillip; and two brothers, Pat O’Rourke and James O’Rourke.

A Memorial Mass was held at 10:30 a.m. on Monday February 2, 2026, at St. Joseph Catholic Church in North English. Burial will follow in the North English Cemetery. Visitation will be from 9:00 a.m. until service time. There will be a Rosary Service at 8:45 a.m. Memorials may be given to the North English QRS and the English Valley Care Center. Messages and tributes may be left at www.powellfuneralhomes.com.

Services: Feb. 2, 10:30 a.m.
Visitation: Feb. 2, 9 a.m.
POWELL FUNERAL HOME
NORTH ENGLISH

MAKE TIME

HELP A NEIGHBOR.

Obituaries

Naoma Fern Houser

1934-2026

KEOTA—Naoma Fern Houser was born July 15, 1934, near North English, Iowa. She was a daughter of Cecil Ray and Naoma Fern (Moore) Greenlee. She attended Berry Country School and later North English High School. On April 9, 1955, Naoma was united in marriage to Robert Merrill Houser at the Methodist Church in Mercer, Missouri. They lived all over while Robert was in the service including England, Florida and Iowa- Marengo, North English and Keota. She worked for the US Government as a secretary and in the accounting department. Naoma was a member of the Methodist Church. She enjoyed anything with the US Navy, reading, traveling with Robert and spending time with friends. Naoma died on Friday, January 30, 2026, at the English Valley Care Center, at the age of 91 years.

She is survived by great nieces & nephews Mariea Greenlee, Michael Greenlee, Angel Martinson and Brian Fischer; and numerous great, great nieces and nephews. She was preceded by her parents; husband; brothers Harold Greenlee and Glenn Greenlee; an infant sister Opal Louise Greenlee; two nephews Mark (Charline) Greenlee and Alan (Kathy) Greenlee; a great nephew Richard Greenlee; and a great niece Patricia Moxley.

A memorial visitation will be held on Thursday, February 5, 2026, from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m., at the Powell Funeral Home in North English. Burial will be held at a later date in the Belle-fontaine Cemetery in Tracy, Iowa. A general memorial fund has been established. Messages and tributes may be left at www.powellfuneralhomes.com.

Services: held at later date
Visitation: Feb. 5, 2–4 p.m.
POWELL FUNERAL HOME
NORTH ENGLISH

Jeremy Wilcox

†2026

Jeremy Wilcox, 51, died January 28, 2026, at the Keokuk County Health Center in Sigourney. Celebration of Life at a later date. Arrangements Holm Funeral Home.

Celebration of Life: held at later date
HOLM FUNERAL HOME
SIGOURNEY

Iowa Senate bill requires citizenship, work eligibility verification for educators

By Robin Opsahl, Iowa Capital Dispatch

Months after the federal immigration arrest of former Des Moines Public Schools Superintendent Ian Roberts, an Iowa Senate subcommittee advanced legislation on Jan. 28 to bolster verification steps in educational credentialing and hiring processes to ensure a person is lawfully eligible to work and live in the U.S.

Senate Study Bill 3015 would require the Iowa Board of Educational Examiners to require all applicants for new and renewing licenses to provide information about their lawful presence in the country. Education professionals who do not have license renewal requirements are required to submit evidence of their ability to stay and work in the U.S. to the BOEE every five years in order to remain licensed.

Additionally, public school boards, those overseeing charter schools and innovation zone schools and authorities in charge of nonpublic schools would be required to verify the identity and employment eligibility of all individuals who accept a job offer at their institution.

The measure is responding to the immigration arrest of former DMPS superintendent Ian Roberts. Roberts, a citizen of Guyana according to court records, was detained by Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers in September during a “targeted enforcement operation.” He had been given

an order of removal by an immigration judge in May 2024 and faced previous criminal charges, according to U.S. Department of Homeland Security reports.

Both the Des Moines school district and Iowa state government have faced criticism for failing to identify Roberts’ immigration status and employment eligibility. The superintendent was hired by DMPS in 2023, and had his administrator license approved by the state regulatory agency in July 2023.

The Des Moines school board is suing JG Consulting, the firm contracted in its superintendent search, which led to Roberts’ hire, as his immigration status and previous criminal charges were not flagged. Iowa Auditor Rob Sand also received a request in October to audit the Iowa Department of Education and state BOEE in relation to Roberts’ licensing.

Gov. Kim Reynolds issued an executive order in October requiring state government departments to use the federal E-Verify and Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements (SAVE) database to verify immigration and work statuses of people seeking state jobs as well as state occupational and professional licenses.

The bill discussed on Jan. 28 would not codify this executive order, Sen. Lynn Evans, R-Aurelia, said, but takes language already existing in Iowa Code and

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“enhances” it by making certain verification processes required instead of optional. He said that enacting the bill could mean the BOEE and school districts use services like E-Verify and SAVE for verification processes, but other systems could be used in the future.

“When working on drafting this bill, we intentionally did not name a product ... as either potentially better products or better data systems become available, we want Iowa Code to be prepared to allow for those as well,” Evans said.

Sen. Cindy Winckler, D-Davenport, said she had questions on the use of E-Verify in this process, as the system has resulted in “false positives,” incorrectly labeling some people as being in the country unlawfully.

“That concerns me because there’s no appeal process in the bill if in fact they are misidentified,” Winckler said.

Emily Piper, representing the Iowa Association of School Boards, said the organization is concerned about the specific language used in the bill, saying “there is a distinct difference between ‘lawfully present’ and ‘authorized to work.’” Refugees, for example, may be legally present in the U.S. but not have a work authorization. At the same time, there are foreign teachers who are not “lawfully present” in the U.S. but are authorized to work through state partnerships, Piper said, pointing to an Iowa Department of Education partnership with some universities in Spain that allows teachers from Spain to teach Spanish in Iowa schools through an exchange program.

She said the group’s recommendation would be to change the language to focus on work authorization, which she said was the issue at hand.

“You can’t be authorized to work if you aren’t legal to be here, but we do have out-of-country folks who do have that authorization,” Piper said.

Other lobbyists with education organizations echoed

Piper’s comments, calling for clarification of the language. Evans told reporters it is “worth looking into” this language change to ensure the bill has its intended effect. Separate immigration bills advance

There were two other measures related to immigration that advanced through subcommittee meetings on Jan. 28. Immigrants and advocates with the Iowa Migrant Movement for Justice spoke against House Study Bill 552, a bill that would ban cities and counties from issuing local identification cards to residents. The measure includes exceptions that allow local governments to issue employee IDs, and also allow authorized counties to issue forms of ID like driver’s licenses, nonoperator’s identification cards and identification devices for persons with disabilities.

Johnson County’s community ID program is one of the main initiatives in Iowa that would be affected by this measure. The community identification card cannot be used to vote, get a driver’s license, board an airplane or purchase alcohol or tobacco. But supporters of the Johnson County program said it plays an important role in many people’s lives, as they use the local ID when interacting with schools, law enforcement and local government agencies.

Another Iowa Senate subcommittee advanced Senate Study Bill 3045, a bill requiring county auditors to use the SAVE database to verify the U.S. citizenship and voter eligibility of people registering to vote. If a person’s citizenship status cannot be confirmed, the individual cannot be registered to vote — but they are allowed to appeal the decision to the district court.

Read more from Opsahl online at IowaCapitalDispatch.com

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COUNTRY GIRL’S CORNER

February Frolics

By Sheryl L. Carter

Well, well, the big month of January 2026, with its’ 31 days, is gone, and today, as I write this on February 1, we begin the shorter month of February, with only 28. The big holidays are past us, and the next one coming up is Valentine’s Day, a fun day to celebrate with its joyful colors of red and pink, visions of pink and red roses, boxes of chocolates, and anything else you can think of to gift your sweetheart.

My husband and I celebrated Valentine’s Day every year with lavish cards, and sometimes flowers. He never forgot and neither did I. And hey, you can always save your money, tie a red ribbon around your neck, and say, “Here I am! Happy Valentine’s Day!” How fun would that be? I know not everyone may have a sweetheart, but you can always still decorate your house up a little with some red candles, and treat yourself to some chocolates!

This week began on Monday with a celebration of life of one of our long-time church members, who was the wife of a loving husband of 70 years, and mother of six beautiful daughters. She was well-loved and well-cared for, and knew Christ as her Saviour for many years, so it truly was a celebration, besides being an excellent witness to the rest of us of a life well-lived.

It was mighty cold Tuesday morning when I got in Jazzy and drove the few blocks uptown to AllyCuts to get

my haircut. Six weeks, and already I looked like Froofy the Dog.

Wednesday, I did the laundry, studied our lesson for our Bible study that night, and made up a nice batch of cream of broccoli soup, so I could tuck into it after I got home, which I did and enjoyed every bite. Our study was well-led with lots of good participation, a real blessing.

Thursday was another cold one, where I did some mending, plus other householdy tasks and worked on a winter project.

Friday was my day to get out of the house, and over to Pella for the weekly grocery shopping. It was cold, so bundled up in my warmest corduroy slacks, several top layers, and my lovely feather coat, in which you don’t feel a bit of cold. I was like a warm piece of toast, let me tell you. I saw several friends as I was shopping here and there, got some lunch at Culver’s to go, and took it over to my sweet friend’s house where we were meeting with another friend, after a long time not together.

Such a nice catch-up, seeing her two sweet little kids, enjoying her lovely home, which is an old house she and her husband have made into a cozy home. This young mom is about a week away from delivering baby number three, and the other young mom is also pregnant. We have babies all over these days! I can count at least nine in the oven, and found out about another one just today! How wonderful! We exchanged some prayer

requests, mine being for better sleep. I was doing so good, but it all went south again lately.

I got home and changed my bed, putting on a clean set of flannel sheets. I had been using a heavy polyester blanket in between the quilt layers, and thought maybe I should take that off, and get a natural blend instead. So off it came, and I put a wool blanket in its place. Polyester and my body don’t mix well, for some reason. It’s much better if I stay with cotton, and the natural real fabrics, like wool, linen, modal, etc. Guess what? I crawled in bed, read awhile, then snuggled down, and slept so good! I do wake up in the night, but was able to go back to sleep just fine. What a relief! Thank you, Lord!

Yesterday, Saturday, I was busy most of the day washing up my bedding, and the couch throws and blankets. It’s always good to refresh things. I took the couch apart and vacuumed it all good, along with the area rug and wood floors, took out the trash, cleaned out the frig, and mended a quilt. It was a lovely full day, just like I like, and my little FitBit, which I know almost nothing about, stated I had walked just in here over 3,000 steps. Hey, good to know.

That night I made up a delicious pepperoni pizza, had a couple of slices with a big salad of greens and seeds with a dressing of olive oil, all of which made for a good Saturday night supper.

Today, we celebrated our Pastor Jerry Morningstar’s

25th anniversary of his coming to our church, and the Elder Board did a wonderful job of having quite a good program while photos of the Pastor and his family of wife and five children kept running along on the overheads. Pastor Jerry is well known of having a huge love for Mtn Dew, so at one point, one of the high school students came up to where Jerry was seated in the front row with his wife, and presented him with a liter of the pop. Then the call was given, and every little kid in church came up with a can of Mtn Dew to bless him with! It was so much fun and everybody laughed and clapped.

Lots of reminiscing from various people, and it was all so good. The counts were given of well over 2,000 sermons preached, plus many baptisms, weddings, and funerals conducted over the 25 years.

Our morning worship was well led by one of our former pastors, who finished up his message with a charge to us in the flock:

How should you respond to your pastor who has served you faithfully for 25 years?

1. Follow his example of faithfulness by putting his sermons into practice.
 2. Obey the Gospel he preaches.
 3. Care for him as he cares for you.
 4. Evaluate yourself more than you evaluate him.
- Such good advice that I hope we will all put into practice. Have a wonderful week!

Back on the Ice



By Rick Janssen

Feb 2, 2026

After two weeks of sub-zero temperatures, it finally warmed up to 14 degrees, and I decided it was time to get back on the ice. I had been sitting around too much and I needed to fish. Is it possible to get fishing withdrawals?

I got permission from a friend to fish the pond at his house. I had never fished this pond before and did not know anything about it. The pond is pretty small, and it is spring fed. This means that you need to be very careful about the thickness of the ice. Also, the fish tend to grow slower because the clear spring water will hold less natural food for the fish.

When I arrived at the pond I noticed there was open water on the south end. That told me I better stay on the north end of the pond just to be safe. As my loyal readers know, when I go ice fishing, the first thing I do is drill 8-10 holes. I had heard that the ice at Beeds Lake was now about two feet thick, so I was prepared for that effort. On my first hole I was surprised to only drill through about nine inches of ice. Good thing I started on the north end.

After drilling the holes, I grabbed my depth finder to check the holes for fish. Again, I was surprised to find that the depth of the pond was about nine feet. I did not expect that. My depth finder showed some fish holding close to the bottom in a number of holes so I set up my fish shelter on the first hole I had drilled.

As soon as I dropped my jig down into the water my depth finder lit up with fish. I don’t think I have ever seen that many fish on my depth finder in all my years ice fishing. It did not take long, and I had my first fish. It was a very small bluegill. As soon as I could get my line down, I had another bluegill on. Also very small.

This pattern continued for another 15 tiny fish. I needed to try something else. I grabbed my tackle box and put on a bigger jig. Again, another small fish. I went to a big rattle lure and managed to hook my biggest fish of the



day. Big is relative. This bluegill might have been 4 inches long, but it was the biggest fish I had caught. Maybe I was onto something.

I tried the big rattle lure for another 5 mins and could not catch another fish. I could feel the fish hitting the lure, but I am sure they were just too small to get the lure in their mouth. Whenever I switched back to my small jig, I could catch fish as fast as I could get the bait down to them.

I did get out of my icehouse and try some of the other holes, but the results were the same. Small fish after small fish. While this is fun for a short time I did not want to just catch tiny fish. I noticed that if I shut all the windows

in my hut and make it dark, I could see down into the clear water about five feet. I would drop my jig down and I could look into the hole and watch the fish go after it. All those fish look huge in the water. I could see the fish grab at the bait and try to swim off with it, but some of the fish were just too small.

I stopped counting after 30 fish, and I had only been there for just over an hour. After checking a few of the other holes I decided it was time to head home. I really like exploring new areas and this pond is set in a beautiful area. Hopefully those fish can find enough food to grow up, and I can try to catch them some other time.

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Becca Gretter (left) from Sigourney challenges Lynnville-Sully's Isabelle Vos (right) during a shot in their Jan. 27 game played in Sigourney. Photo by Mark Schafer

Sigourney girls pick up wins over Belle Plaine, Keota

By Mark Schafer |
The News-Review

SIGOURNEY - They have had the rematch circled on their calendar since the 12th of December.

Whenever a team breaks an 11-year streak, it is hard not to be motivated for the rematch. Although it was a busy week for the Sigourney girls, their main focus was on the Friday night game against Keota.

After Keota bested Sigourney 66-52 earlier in the season, the Savages went into Friday night's game determined to get some revenge.

They would with a 60-54 victory over the Eagles.

Sigourney led 32-23 at halftime, but Keota answered back with a 20-point third quarter to close up the con-

test.

In the final eight minutes both teams traded the lead, but Sigourney used the home court advantage to gain the extra boost that they would eventually use to gain a 60-54 victory.

Brynn Clarahan finished with a team-high 25 points in the game. She also had nine rebounds. Bailey Gretter added 14 points while Becca Gretter added eight points. Carli Smothers finished with six points in the win.

Keota was led by Cameron Haifley who added 20 points. Kennedy Jackson added 12 points and Emily Conger finished with nine points in the game.

Earlier in the week Sigourney had picked up a 56-23 win over Belle Plaine. By

halftime in that contest the Savages led 34-10.

The start of the week wasn't what the Savages were looking for as they fell 64-34 on Tuesday night to undefeated and No. 5 ranked Lynnville-Sully. The Savages trailed 28-15 at halftime, but a 36 second half helped the Hawks pull away with the win.

Saturday night the Savages were bested 71-56 by Highland. The Savages held pace with Highland through most of the game, but a 17-9 run by Highland in the second quarter proved to be the difference.

Overall the Savages stand at 12-6 on the season. They host HLV-TC on Tuesday night and then will play against Moravia on Thursday night.

Iowa PBS presents the 2026 IGHSAU Girls Wrestling Championships

JOHNSTON - From regional battles to the big stage, Iowa girls are chasing championship dreams! Don't miss a moment - Iowa PBS will be there live as champions are crowned.

The statewide network's commitment to girls high school sports coverage continues as wrestlers from across the state compete in the 2026 IGHSAU Girls Wrestling Championships. Coverage will take place Friday, February 6 at Xstream Arena in Coralville.

Each dual will be broadcast on statewide Iowa PBS and livestreamed on iowapbs.org and YouTube.

On the call will be Kyle Klingman and University of Iowa wrestler Reese Laramendy. Live coverage will begin on Friday, February 6 at 6:30 p.m. *Coverage and start time subject to change.

Stay tuned to Iowa PBS throughout the rest of the year for live coverage of state championships for girls basketball, softball and volleyball.

Programming support for the 2026 IGHSAU Girls State Wrestling Championships is provided by Fareway, Musco Lighting and Pella Rolscreen Foundation.

In addition to our statewide broadcasts, Iowa PBS, WORLD and Create are available to livestream on iowapbs.org/live, pbs.org/livestream, and the PBS app. Iowa PBS KIDS is available to livestream on iowapbs.org/live or the PBS KIDS app. Iowa PBS programs are also available on most popular platforms. See all the ways you can watch by visiting iowapbs.org/watch.

Learn more at iowapbs.org.

For more information about Iowa PBS, please contact Hayley Schaefer at 515.776.0406 or hayley.schaefer@iowapbs.org.



English Valleys junior Aubrey Achenbach (20) lines up a shot against the defense of Pekin's Carlie Gambell (3) during a Jan. 29 game. Photo by Mark Schafer

English Valleys picks up wins over Pekin, Montezuma

By Mark Schafer |
The News-Review

PACKWOOD - For some of the other teams it might feel like a nightmare.

For the English Valleys girls basketball team, their season has been like a dream. Last week the Bears picked up wins No. 13 and 14 on the season.

On Jan. 29 the Bears were able to pick up their 13th win of the season when they downed Pekin on the road, 52-36.

Throughout the first quarter the English Valleys girls had to figure out the feisty defense of Pekin. The Panthers had set up a full-court trap and seemed to lure the Bears into trap after trap. That allowed the Panthers to get early steals.

While the Panthers were forcing turnovers, they weren't able to create points. Instead, the quick passes of English Valleys helped the Bears gain an 8-2 early advantage.

Eventually Pekin would start to get their offense

rolling, as they closed within three points. That was as close as the Panthers would get for the rest of the game though, as English Valleys led by three after the first quarter.

A cold shooting second quarter by both teams didn't help, but English Valleys would lead by eight, 23-15 at halftime.

The difference in the game came in the third quarter. Although Pekin started with all the momentum, closing within five points early on, English Valleys broke the press and broke open the scoreboard. English Valleys would eventually use their quick pace and quick passes to help them build an 18-point lead at the end of the third quarter.

The Bears would lead by as much as 20 throughout the fourth quarter, but they started to rest some of their players which allowed Pekin to close in at the end of the game.

Still, the Bears, and their seven-member team had the

win.

Kaylynn Caster led the scoring for the Bears with 18 points. Another 16 points came from Anna Luers. Aubrey Achenbach scored seven points. Addison Achenbach added six points and Mallo-ry Koehn finished with five points.

They seemed to use the momentum from the Thursday night victory to grab a 39-38 road win against No. 14 ranked Montezuma on Friday night.

At first it didn't seem like the Bears had any momentum at all. In the first half the Bears scored only 13 points, as Montezuma led 22-13.

Offense returned to the Bears in the second half as they scored 13 points in the third and fourth quarters. Meanwhile the Bravettes were limited to just 16 points in the second half, which allowed the Bears to take the narrow 39-38 win.

This week the Bears will be tested as they go on the road to play North Mahaska and No. 5 ranked Lynnville-Sully.

Sigourney boys pick up three wins in busy week

By Mark Schafer |
The News-Review

SIGOURNEY - The only thing that seemed to keep them down was one slow second quarter.

The Sigourney boys had a busy, but successful, week last week as they won three of the four games they played in.

The week started on Monday when they were able to pick up a lopsided, 88-39 victory over Highland. In that game the Savages scored 53 points in the first half while limiting the Huskies to just 16.

The same dose of offense didn't follow the Savages into their Tuesday night game against No. 9 ranked, Lynnville-Sully.

Although the Savages were able to stay within three points of the Hawks after the first quarter, Lynnville-Sully went on a 9-0 run to start the second quarter and eventually Sigourney would fall 74-52.

Thursday night the offense returned to Sigourney as they hit the road to play Belle Plaine. The Savages won that game 88-40, as they scored 51 points in the first half.

The week closed with a bit of bragging rights for the Savages. They were able to secure a 77-64 win over Keota. The win was the third-consecutive victory for Sigourney over Keota. That hasn't happened since Bound/Qukstats Iowa started keeping track of scores in the 2006-07 school year. Sigourney last won two



Sigourney senior John Berg takes a shot during a Jan. 27 game against Lynnville-Sully. Berg helped guide Sigourney to a 3-1 record last week. Photo by Mark Schafer

games in a row in 2014/15 when they won a game on Dec. 16 and Jan. 30.

Ike Molyneux and Brayden Wood both scored 23 points each in the victory. John Berg and Solon Yates both scored eight points each for the Savages in the win over Keota.

The Eagles were led by Jackson Vittetoe who had 21 points. Chase Haifley added 16 points and Ayden Galindo finished with 15 points.

The Savages move to 13-4 overall on the season. Keota stands at 12-5 on the year.

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SPORTS

S-K bowling comes home with conference honors

Special to the News-Review

SIGOURNEY - Both the boys and girls SK bowling teams headed into conference competition last week. After their season openers in late November (girls) and early December (boys), both the girls and the boys teams have experienced highs and lows.

Having experienced an early season heartbreaker to Knoxville by 23 pins, and another close defeat by 40 pins to Oskaloosa, the girls regular season ended in a 2-5 overall record in match play. Over their season, the SK girls tallied an 1,852 to 1,182 pin win over Pella Christian on Dec. 8. Then, on Jan. 19, the girls bested Norwalk with a 328-pin advantage with Sophie Young claiming the high single game score of 214 while Kaylie Montgomery rolled the high two-game series of 376.

Currently, SK's Sophie Young ranks second in total pin count for State Class 1A juniors as well as second in the state Class 1A junior class averages with a 183 per game average.

The SK varsity girls competed in Two Rivers conference play on Jan. 26 in Newton. SK's team placed third overall. Sophie Young placed third and Kaylie Montgomery placed fifth overall in the individual competition.

Sophie Young and Kaylie Montgomery were honored



Sophie Young (left) - Kaylie Montgomery (right) pose after bringing home All-Conference honors from the Two Rivers Conference meet held Jan. 26 in Newton.

as each was named to the All-Conference first team. The young SK girls varsity team is comprised of freshman Makayla Clark, sophomore Kaylie Montgomery, juniors Sophie Young, Brianna Belvel, Calli McCoid, Caylee Corbin, and senior Gracie Gillam.

The SK girls traveled to the Region 8 sub-state qualifying meet in West Burlington on Feb. 2 to compete against Central Lee, Fairfield, Isaac Newton, Louisa-Muscatine, and West Burlington.

Cobra boys place second at conference meet

The SK varsity boys headed into their conference tournament on Jan. 26 with a 4-1 match play record, with two additional matches scheduled after conference play concludes. The SK boys have won their regular season

matches to date with scores of 2,715-2,593 over Newton; 2,840-1,991 over Pella Christian; 2,838-2,612 over Pella; and 2,702-2,650 over Norwalk. The team suffered its only match loss on Saturday, Jan. 24 to a talented Oskaloosa team in a 3,043 to 3,073 battle. During that match senior Wells Clark threw 258 and 251 games for a 509 series, besting all bowlers at the meet.

During their conference meet, the SK Varsity boys placed second as a team and had two of the top ten-bowlers named. Liam VanVoltenburg claimed third place and Wells Clark placed eighth.

Senior Wells Clark was named to the All-Conference First Team while both Liam VanVoltenburg and Owen Clark were named to the All-Conference Second Team and sophomore Aidan Greiner was named All-Conference Honorable Mention. Additional varsity bowlers contributing to SK's success this year are freshmen Easton Olson and Bentley Ingle, and Junior Caden Meyer.

The SK varsity boys will complete two additional regular season matches before heading to Keokuk on Feb. 16th for their sub-state qualifying meet facing Louisa-Muscatine, Centerville, Central Lee, Davis County, Lamon, Southeast Warren, and West Burlington.

Photos submitted



SK bowlers (from l to r) Liam VanVoltenburg, Owen Clark, Wells Clark and Aidan Greiner hold up their conference certificates after the Two Rivers Conference meet.

Panthers grab revenge, finish week undefeated

By Mark Schafer | The News-Review

PACKWOOD - A little bit of revenge is always nice.

Especially this time of year, and especially when the revenge comes over a conference opponent that had been perfect in conference play so far.

Prior to the Jan. 27 rematch against Hillcrest Academy the Panthers had been dwelling on the earlier meeting between the two teams. Just before Christmas break, on Dec. 19, the Panthers had been bested by Hillcrest Academy, 57-49.

When the Ravens came to Packwood on Jan. 27, Pekin made sure that the Ravens would have a sour flight home. Pekin was able to take control of the rematch and eventually won 54-42, handing the Ravens just their second defeat of the season, and the first defeat at the hands of a conference foe.

Pekin trailed by two after the first quarter, but would storm back in the second quarter to take a 27-23 lead into halftime.

That lead was only strengthened throughout the second half as the Panther defense held Hillcrest Academy to just 19 points, meanwhile the Panthers scored 26 points to grab the win.

Cole Millikin led the Panthers with 19 points in the victory. Henry Adam scored eight points. Both Alijah Brock and Nolan Glick finished with six points each. Riley Smith scored five points. Another five points came from Carson Comstock.

Thursday night the Panthers returned to the court where they played English Valleys in an out of conference game.

From the start of that game, Pekin seemed to be the

dominant team. Eventually they were able to grab an 81-52 victory over the Bears.

Fueling the Panthers in that win was their transition offense as they caused several English Valleys turnovers to be converted into points.

By the end of the first quarter the Panthers led 21-6. Offense just continued to grow for the Panthers throughout the game, as they would score another 24 points in the fourth quarter.

English Valleys never gave in. They scored 19 points in the second quarter and added 27 points in the second half, but their pace of play was just not enough to keep up with the Panthers.

Millikin scored 22 points in the victory. Adam added 15 points and Alijah Brock finished with 13 points. Glick scored six points and Riley Smith added four points. Brogan Spray finished with eight points. Mason Dahl-

strom finished with five points.

Offense continued on Friday night as the Panthers were able to earn a 76-32 victory on the road against Highland.

Like they did in the Thursday night game, the Panthers were able to grab the lead early on. A 46-point first half gave the Panthers a comfortable 46-15 lead at halftime. The Panthers scored 30 points in the second half, limiting the Huskies to just 17.

Millikin scored another 17 points to lead the team. Brock had 14 points. Adam and Glick both scored 10 points each. Smith added eight points. Another eight points came from Mason Dahlstrom. Henry Eubanks finished with five points.

Overall the Panthers stand at 16-3 on the season. They played at Columbus on Tuesday night.



Pekin junior Mason Dahlstrom goes up for a layup during a Jan. 29 game against English Valleys played in Packwood. Photo by Mark Schafer



Pekin state qualifiers from l to r: Lexa Nelson, Lila Miller and Hailey Pedrick. Photo courtesy of Pekin Schools Facebook

Pekin girls sending three wrestlers to State

By Mark Schafer | The News-Review

WILLIAMSBURG - The stage is familiar to them.

Last year Pekin was able to gain experience wrestling at the State tournament. So, when it came time to stamp their tickets to the State tournament, there was no shock that the best wrestlers were able to stamp their return tickets.

Last season Lexa Nelson was one of the best wrestlers at the State tournament for Pekin as she would eventually place at the meet. This year, she made sure to work her way back to the State meet with very little trouble.

The 110-pound senior started off her tournament by earning a 21-5 tech fall win, in the second period.

In the semifinals Nelson squared off against a Williamsburg opponent, but won again by tech fall, 15-0 in the second period again.

In the championship match Nelson faced a Don Bosco opponent who had only been defeated four times all year. That didn't bother Nelson

as she won by tech fall, 15-0 once again, winning in the second period.

Overall Nelson is 34-4 on the season. At the State tournament Nelson is the sixth seeded wrestler. She will take on a Osage wrestler who is the 11th seeded wrestler in her weight class.

In the 120-pound bracket Lila Miller had a longer route to the State tournament. Miller started off by pinning her first opponent in just 10 seconds. In the semifinals Miller pinned her Centerville opponent in 2:55.

In the championship match Miller was pinned in the first period by a Don Bosco opponent.

Miller would finish second in the meet because the winner of the third place match was the Centerville opponent she had already bested.

At the State meet Miller is the 11th seeded wrestler. She will battle against a sixth-seeded wrestler from Waukon in the first round of the 120-pound tournament.

Hailey Pedrick was able to win the 145-pound bracket

and stamp her ticket to the State meet. In the quarter-finals Pedrick needed just a minute and 16 seconds to pin her opponent. In the semifinals Pedrick needed 1:44 to earn the win.

In the championship match Pedrick pinned her Pleasantville opponent in 2:41 to stamp her ticket to the State meet.

At the State tournament Pedrick is the fourth-seeded wrestler. She will take on a wrestler from Kuemper Catholic in the first round.

Rylee Frye was also going for her second-straight State tournament appearance. She would place fourth overall in the 190-pound weight class. Frye won her first round, pinning her opponent in the first period.

In the semifinals Frye was pinned in the second period. Frye won the consolation semifinals with a first period pin.

In the third place match Frye was pinned late in the second period. Her season ended with a 30-15 overall record.



Members of the 2025-26 Sigourney-Keota girls wrestling team celebrate after winning the 2026 SICL girls wrestling tournament. Photo submitted

Sigourney-Keota claims SICL title

By Mark Schafer | The News-Review

BELLE PLAINE - Although it didn't happen overnight, it sure seemed to.

Three years ago Sigourney-Keota barely had a girls wrestling team. Even then, there was just one girl wrestler that anyone would talk about.

Now, the Sigourney-Keota girls wrestling team seems to be exponentially expanding, and their success has only started to grow.

Their latest success came last week when the Cobras were able to win the South Iowa Cedar League championship. In the final standings the Cobras had 187 total points. Iowa Valley finished second with 171 points.

Aubrey Utterback was able to start the Cobras off with a strong showing at the conference meet. Utterback won the 110-pound bracket. In the semifinals she pinned a BGM opponent in just 54 seconds.

In the championship she won 15-7 over a North Mahaska opponent.

Kia Montgomery added

another championship to the Cobras as she was able to win the 125-pound bracket. Montgomery won the semifinals with a pin in 49 seconds over her English Valleys opponent. In the championship Montgomery pinned her Iowa Valley opponent in the second period.

Karley Greiner was able to win the 155-pound bracket. Greiner was able to pin her Iowa Valley opponent in the championship, late in the third period to gain the conference title.

Amelia Phillips was second in the 115-pound bracket. Phillips was able to win the semifinals with a first period pin. She was pinned in the championship in the first period.

Nevaeh Beinhart was second in the 130-pound bracket. She won her first match with a pin in 1:35. In the championship she was pinned in the first round.

Abyl McCulley was second in the 135-pound bracket. She won her first match with a pin in the second period. In the championship she was pinned late in the first period.

Izzy Heisdorffer was second in the 140-pound bracket. Heisdorffer was able to win the semifinals with a pin in the second period. She was pinned late in the first period in the championship.

Another second place finish came from Melanie Woodsmall who was able to finish second in the 170-pound bracket. Woodsmall won her semifinal match in just 37 seconds. She was pinned in the first period of the first place match.

Sadie Clarahan was third in the 120-pound bracket. After being bested by Eva Kriegel in a 7-5 decision in the semifinals, Clarahan was able to win the third place match with a first period pin.

Madison Clarahan was third in the 190-pound bracket. Clarahan was pinned late in the second period in the semifinals, but was able to recover to finish third overall.


Kylee Draker was able to place fourth in the heavy-weight division. Draker was pinned in the first period of both of her matches.

Athletes of the Week

By Mark Schafer


Sponsored by

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Kia Montgomery

For most of the week she seemed almost unstoppable. As one of the most experienced wrestlers on her team, Kia Montgomery went out and proved just how much she had grown through the years. Last Monday night at the South Iowa Cedar League girls wrestling tournament Montgomery was able to win her weight class with back-to-back pins. That gave the junior her first conference title, but the best was yet to come. At the class 1A regional meet in Wapello on Friday night Montgomery was able



Lexa Nelson

If the last week was any indication, then the wrestlers in Coralville might want to watch out. Last week Pekin senior, Lexa Nelson seemed to be on a mission. That mission seemed to work well for her too as she was able to claim a SEISC championship, and earn a return trip to the class 1A State wrestling meet. At the conference tournament Nelson won her weight class. In both of her matches she was able to gain first period pins. Wrestling at the 110-pound

to earn a 44 second pin to start the night. She would pin her next opponent in the third period to set up a chance to win yet another tournament. Even though Montgomery was pinned in the championship match, she still finished second, and was able to qualify for a second-straight State tournament appearance. The News-Review would like to congratulate Kia Montgomery on her State qualification and SICL championship, and for being named this week's Athlete of the Week.

to earn a 44 second pin to start the night. She would pin her next opponent in the third period to set up a chance to win yet another tournament. Even though Montgomery was pinned in the championship match, she still finished second, and was able to qualify for a second-straight State tournament appearance. The News-Review would like to congratulate Kia Montgomery on her State qualification and SICL championship, and for being named this week's Athlete of the Week.

bracket at the Williamsburg regional meet, the senior made quick, and dominant work of her opponents. She started off with a second period tech fall win. In the semifinals she once again won by a tech fall, winning 15-0. The championship was another tech fall win for Nelson as she surrendered just five points the entire tournament. The News-Review would like to congratulate Nelson on winning the SEISC championship and qualifying for the State meet for a second year in a row.

Regional champions: S-K claims team title

Kia Montgomery returns to State, Sadie Clarahan stamps first ticket to State

By Mark Schafer | The News-Review

WAPELLO - Nothing is easy in wrestling. Just ask Sigourney-Keota's Sadie Clarahan who had to survive multiple twists and turns during her regional qualifying meet at Wapello on Friday night. At times it seemed like everything was lining up against to work against the junior, who was going for her first-ever State meet. The 120-pound wrestler started off her tournament on the right foot as she was able to pin a WACO opponent early in the second period to get a win. Things went awry in the

semifinals though as Clarahan was pinned in just 49 seconds. That defeat didn't set Clarahan back. She came out determined in the consolation semifinals, pinning a Cardinal opponent in just 1:47. That sent Clarahan to the third place match. There, she would need 3:40 to pin a Durant opponent and keep her hopes of the State tournament alive. There was bad news awaiting Clarahan though. The wrestler she would have to beat to go to the State tournament was Eva Kriegel, an Iowa Valley wrestler that had already bested Clarahan at the South Iowa Cedar League wrestling tournament just four days earlier. "I wrestled her twice in the last week and she was able to beat me both times," Clarahan said. "I knew that she is a good

wrestler on the top, so I tried not to get stuck on the bottom too many times. There were times when I thought I was going to get trapped on the bottom, but I just shook my head and fought out of that." Things went even more sour early in the match when Kriegel was able to take a slight lead on Clarahan. Losing the lead only seemed to motivate Clarahan more. "I like to learn from my losses, so I remembered what I had done wrong in the other two matches," Clarahan said. "I just knew that I needed to have the confidence in myself to do what I needed to do to make the right moves." Clarahan was able to quickly gain the offense, and didn't allow herself to get trapped on the bottom. Soon, she had the lead again. As the third period began, Clarahan was racking up the points, but soon she was going to make sure that there was no doubt who was going to the State meet. "I had a lot of adrenaline going into the third period, that helped a lot," Clarahan said. "I looked up at the score and then I looked at my teammates and my support people near the mat, that really helped me a lot. I realized in my heart that I had a pretty good lead, and I knew that I wasn't going to give up." With the energy from the adrenaline and her crowd cheering her on, Clarahan was able to trap the shoulders of Kriegel and earn the pin. That gave her second place overall. With the win Clarahan earned her ticket to the State



Sadie Clarahan (top) completes a pin over Iowa Valley's Eva Kriegel (bottom) during their second place match. Clarahan was able to qualify for the State tournament with her pin over Kriegel.

tournament. There, she will wrestle as the 13th-seeded wrestler. She will have a familiar opponent in the first round, as she has a rematch against Assumption's Valentina West, who pinned Clarahan in the semifinals at Wapello. "Words can't even describe what I'm feeling right now," Clarahan said about qualifying to the State meet. "It is an unreal feeling, an absolute unreal feeling." Kia Montgomery was able to make the State meet last year, and she seemed more than motivated to get back to the Xtreme Arena. In her first match the 125-pound wrestler needed just 26 seconds to gain a pin. In the semifinals she would pin her opponent in 4:44. Although she was pinned in the second period of the championship match, Montgomery had previously beaten the third place finisher, allowing Montgomery to qualify for the State tournament. "It was really great to wres-

tle some of these girls who I have never wrestled against," Montgomery said about her run at the regional tournament. "I can't wait until next week and I am really excited I get to return to the State meet. Montgomery is seeded 10th at the State meet and will wrestle a Missouri Valley wrestler in the first round at State. "Last year I learned that this is going to be one of the toughest tournaments I have ever faced," Montgomery said. "I am going to take what I learned last year. I am going to let the nerves settle down and then my goal is to place this year." Aubrey Utterback finished fourth in the 110-pound division, winning her first match and her consolation semifinal match. In the 130-pound bracket Nevaeh Beinhart finished fourth. Beinhart won two of her four matches with pins. Izzy Heisdorffer was fourth in the 145-pound bracket. She won the quarterfinal match, but was pinned in the semifinals. After pinning her consolation semifinal opponent, Heisdorffer was defeated 3-1 in the third place match. Karley Greiner was third in the 155-pound bracket. Greiner was able to pin her first opponent, but was defeated 13-8 in the semifinals. She was then able to win the consolation semifinals before winning the third place match with a third period pin. Melanie Woodsmall was fourth in the 170-pound bracket. She was able to win the quarterfinal match. In the third place match she was pinned in 2:49. The Cobras won the regional meet with 134 total points. Albia was second with 128 total points. "To be able to win the regional tournament is big for us," Montgomery said. "I know we don't have anyone at the top of the podium, but to have two people going to State, that is really good." Photos by Mark Schafer

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Cash Hawkins (back) from HLV-TC puts up a shot over the defense of Hillcrest Academy's Charles Hughes (14) during the second half of the Jan. 31 game.



Bryndal Jack (right) from HLV-TC goes up for a shot against the defense of Hillcrest Academy's Claire Withrow (left) during the homecoming game played on Saturday.

HLV-TC's homecoming games spoiled by Ravens

By Mark Schafer |
The News-Review

THORNBURG - Early in the second quarter of the girls homecoming game it seemed the Warriors had righted the ship.

Playing to a full homecoming crowd at the Tri-County gym, the Warriors seemed to gain momentum. They started the second quarter on a four point run to tie Hillcrest Academy at 10.

Things seemed to get better from there. The Warriors were able to get a steal and zoom down the court for a shot to take the lead.

However, pressure from behind seemed to scare the shot out of the rim. For the next several minutes

both Hillcrest Academy and HLV-TC were locked in a battle to take control of the game. Control eventually swung back to the Ravens as they used a three pointer and a few rebounds to secure the lead and grow it.

Trailing by eight at halftime the HLV-TC girls seemed to be rejuvenated at halftime. Especially Aubrey Zittergruen who was able to make back-to-back three pointers. However, outside of Zittergruen's shots, the Warriors weren't able to generate too much offense throughout the third quarter.

Hillcrest Academy led by 20, 46-26 after three quarters.

The game slowed down in the final frame. Hill-

crest Academy locked down on defense and seemed to refuse to let HLV-TC gain any traction inside of the lane. The Warriors did their best to get past the Hillcrest defense, but it resulted in more and more missed shots, that led to the Ravens getting rebounds and turnovers.

Both teams saw their offense grow stale in the final eight minutes. Hillcrest Academy was able to preserve their lead and gain a 53-34 victory over the Warriors.

Emery Hall led the Warriors with nine points on Saturday. Another nine points came from Zittergruen.

Erilea Kupka finished with six points. Another

six points came from Bryndal Jack. Brenna Hawkins and Sloane McKain both scored two points each for the Warriors.

This season the HLV-TC girls stand at 6-11 overall. They will play Sigourney, Montezuma and Seymour this week.

In the boys game, offense was a luxury that the Warriors couldn't afford against Hillcrest Academy.

The Ravens flew away with the 69-28 victory with most of the second half of the game being played under a continuous clock.

The game started off pretty competitive as both teams struggled to shoot the ball early on. For the

Warriors their early star was sophomore Cash Hawkins, who seemed to be willing to go shot-for-shot with the entire Ravens team.

Hawkins proved his range as he first continued to charge inside of the lane for several layups. Early on Hawkins learned that whenever he charged inside the lane, he was likely to get fouled by the taller Raven defenders.

With Hawkins shooting the ball well, and getting free throws the Warriors were able to stay within reach of the Ravens for most of the first quarter. Hillcrest Academy led by nine after the first eight minutes.

Soon, the Ravens were able to adjust their defense

and take the hot-shooting ability of Hawkins away. By halftime the Ravens led 41-19.

The third quarter featured Hillcrest Academy running away on offense as they scored 19 points, and holding HLV-TC to just three points.

By the time the fourth quarter rolled around the clock rarely stopped, and Hillcrest Academy rolled to the eventual 41-point victory.

Hawkins finished with 15 points to lead his team. Sean McCullouch added nine points. Drew Thys and Lance Milton both scored two points each.

Overall the Warriors stand at 4-13 on the season.

Photos by Mark Schafer



Sean McCulloch of HLV-TC (right) rushes past the defense of Hillcrest Academy's Isaac Birky (right) during the first half of the Jan. 31 game.



HLV-TC guard Emery Hall (back) challenges Hillcrest Academy defender Claire Withrow (11) for a shot during the Jan. 31 homecoming game.



Lance Milton (24) from HLV-TC bumps Hillcrest Academy's Rowan Miller (3) out of the way as he moves into the lane during a second half play.



Erilea Kupka (left) from HLV-TC goes up for a shot after beating Hillcrest Academy defender Marryn Boshart (right) during a first half play.

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SERVING THE KEOKUK COUNTY AREA SINCE 1860

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2026
SECTION B, NUMBER 5, 165th YEAR

COURT RECORDS

Civil

Jan. 26th

Defendants David M Johnson, Toshia Johnson; Plaintiff Hauge Associates INC; Petition Filed.

Criminal

Jan. 23rd

Defendant Michael Maschmann; Payees Jasper County Sheriff, Keokuk County, Wapello County Sheriff's Office; Plaintiff State of Iowa; Motion for Continuance.

Defendant Michael James Stoner, Payee Keokuk County, Plaintiff State of Iowa; Motion for Continuance.

Defendant Nathan Allen Draper; Payor Linda Marie Smith; Plaintiff State of Iowa; Order of Arraignment.

Defendant Jason Ryan Ruggles, Plaintiff State of Iowa; Order of Arraignment.

Defendant Jason Ryan

Ruggles, Plaintiff State of Iowa; Order of Arraignment.

Defendant Stephanie Ellen Shilling; Payee Keokuk County; Plaintiff State of Iowa; Motion for Continuance.

Defendant Matt Robert O'Rourke; Payee Keokuk County, Plaintiff State of Iowa; Order of Disposition.

Defendant Clifford Fritz; Payee Keokuk County; Plaintiff State of Iowa; Order of Disposition.

Defendant Passion Matia Collins; Plaintiff State of Iowa; Order of Disposition.

Defendant Michael James Stoner; Payee Keokuk County; Payor Beatrice L. Mango; Plaintiff State of Iowa; Motion for Continuance.

Defendant Dallas James Clubb; Plaintiff State of Iowa; Written Plea of Guilty.

Jan. 27th

Defendant George Emory Snakenberg; Plaintiff State of Iowa; Criminal Complaint.

Defendant Matthew Lee Lanman; Payee Keokuk County Sheriff; Plaintiff State of Iowa; Written Plea of Guilty.

Jan. 28th
Defendant Vance Edward Ellis; Payee Keokuk County; Payor Megan Jo Wickenkamp; Plaintiff State of Iowa; Motion for Continuance.

Defendant Dallas James Clubb; Plaintiff State of Iowa; Order of Disposition.

Defendant Joshua Lynn Shaull, Plaintiff State of Iowa; Order of Disposition.

Non-Scheduled Traffic

Jan. 26th

Defendant Shannon Dean Fritz; Payee Keokuk County; Plaintiff State of Iowa; Driving While License Denied, Suspended, Canceled.

Defendant Shannon Dean Fritz; Payee Keokuk County; Plaintiff State of Iowa; Driving While License Denied, Suspended, Canceled.

OVI

Jan. 23rd

Defendant Joseph L. Winn; Plaintiff State of Iowa; Order of Disposition.

Jan. 26th

Defendant: Tucker John McDonald; Payee Keokuk County; Payor Andrew McDonald; Plaintiff State of Iowa; Order of Disposition.

Tucker John McDonald; Plaintiff State of Iowa; Order of Disposition.

Scheduled Traffic

Jan. 23rd

Defendant Passion Matia Collins; Person Under 21 Using Tobacco/ Vapor Product 1st Offense, Dark Window or Windshield.

Defendant Joseph L. Winn;

Speeding 55 or Under Zone (1-5 Over).

Defendant Corbin Dallas Burgess; Operation without Registration Card or Plate, Failure to Display Registration Plate.

Jan. 24th

Defendant Luke Alexander Deridder; Speeding 55 or Under Zone (11-15 Over).

Jan. 25th

Defendant Christopher Clubb; Dark Window or Windshield.

Defendant Craig Joseph Berg; Speeding 55 or Under Zone (6-10 Over).

Defendant Kyle Richard Boyd; Dark Window or Windshield.

Defendant Todd E. McCoid; Shoot Firearm over Water, Highway or Railroad.

Defendant Hayden Roy Bensmiller; Registration Violation.

Jan. 26th

Defendant Jose Antonio Orellana Chacon; Dark Window or Windshield.

Defendant Jayse Dalton Yoder; Speeding 55 or Under Zone (6-10 Over).

Jan. 28th

Defendant Dennis Eckley; Leave scene of Accident-Property Damage Only.

Small Claims

Jan. 26th

Defendant Mandy Marie Fineran; Plaintiff Capital One, NA; Small Claims Original Notice.

Jan. 27th

Defendant Joanna Rose McKim; Plaintiff Capital One, NA Successor By Merger to Discover.

Defendant Heather D. Clemens; Plaintiff Hauge Associates Inc; Small Claims Original Notice.

PROPERTY TRANSFERS

Jan. 20th

Deed Quit Claim; Donald Lee Northup, Donald L. Northup, Tammy Star Northup, Tammy S. Northup to Donald L. Northup Trustee, Tammy S. Northup Trustee, Donald L. Northup Revocable Trust, Tammy S. Northup Revocable Trust; SD03 L03 Lot: SD02 NE SE 02-75-12, SD03 L04 Lot: SD02 NE SE 02-75-12, PLAT B2 P271, PT SIGOURNEY ORIGINAL PLAT SIGOURNEY Lot: 01 Block: 29, SD03 L04 PT Lot: SD02 NE SE 02-75-12, PT Lot: 07 NE SE 02-75-12.

Deed Quit Claim; Susan K. Vos Larry A. Vos Power of Attorney; Larry A. Vos to Christopher A. Vos; SE 36-77-10.

Deed Quit Claim; David D. Thompson, Jenny Marie Thompson to David D. Thompson, Jenny Marie Thompson;

SIGOURNEY ORIGINAL PLAT SIGOURNEY Lot: 05 Block: 32, SIGOURNEY ORIGINAL PLAT SIGOURNEY Lot: 08 Block: 32, PT ALLEY SIGOURNEY ORIGINAL PLAT SIGOURNEY Block: 32.

Jan. 21st

Court Officer Deed; Pauline Johnson Administrator, Yahron Gene Mills Estate to Pauline Johnson; THORNBURG BARNES 1ST ADDITION (THORNBURG) Lot: 01 Block: 20, THORNBURG BARNES 1ST ADDITION (THORNBURG) Lot: 02 Block: 20, THORNBURG BARNES 1ST ADDITION (THORNBURG) Lot: 03 Block: 20, THORNBURG BARNES 1ST ADDITION (THORNBURG) Lot: 04 Block: 20, THORNBURG BARNES 1ST ADDITION (THORNBURG) Lot:

05 Block: 20, THORNBURG BARNES 1ST ADDITION (THORNBURG) Lot: 06 Block: 20.

Warranty Deed; Jonathan W. Irwin, John Irwin, Nicole Irwin to Kayden Donovan; HEDRICK ORIGINAL PLAT HEDRICK Lot: 06 Block: 55, HEDRICK ORIGINAL PLAT HEDRICK Lot: 07 Block: 55, HEDRICK ORIGINAL PLAT HEDRICK Lot: 08 Block: 55.

Trustee Warranty Deed; William J. Wonderlich Co Trustee, Jane A. Wonderlich Co. Trustee, Bill and Jane Wonderlich Family Trust, William Wonderlich Family Trust, Jane Wonderlich Family Trust; Joseph A. Weber. NW NW 13-74-11 Parcel: AUD PAR A, SW NW 13-74-11 Parcel: AUD PAR A, PLAT 2025-1793, NW NW 13-74-11 Parcel: AUD PAR B, SW NW

13-74-11 Parcel: AUD PAR B.

Jan. 22nd

Warranty Deed; Drew M. Bahlmann, Danielle Bahlmann to Tracy Hamilton Grove; PT SIGOURNEY ORIGINAL PLAT SIGOURNEY Lot: 01 Block: 22, PT SIGOURNEY ORIGINAL PLAT SIGOURNEY Lot: 02 Block: 22.

Jan. 23rd

Warranty Deed; Macy E. Marek Sieren, Macy Marek Sieren, Macy E. Marek, Nathaniel A. Sieren to John O. Bontrager, Willard J. Bontrager; KESWICK ORIGINAL PLAT KESWICK Lot: 10 Block: 08, KESWICK ORIGINAL PLAT KESWICK Lot: 11 Block: 08.

Warranty Deed; Thomas A. Bates, Kathleen A. Bates to Thomas A. Bates Revocable Trust, Kathleen A. Bates

Revocable Trust; UNDIVIDED ONE HALF INTEREST KATHLEEN A BATES REVOCABLE TRUST, UNDIVIDED ONE HALF INTEREST THOMAS A BATES REVOCABLE TRUST, UNIT102B SIGOURNEY PRAIRIE VIEW SUBDIVISION Lot: 01, PLAT 2006-2685.

Warranty Deed; James E. Linder, Arlene J. Linder to James E. Linder Co Trustee, Arlene J. Linder Co Trustee, James E. Linder and Arlene J. Linder Revocable Trust, James E. Linder Revocable Trust, Arlene J. Linder Revocable Trust; NE SE 21-76-11, SW SW 23-76-11, NE SW 23-76-11, PT NW SW 23-76-11, PT NW SW 23-76-11, PT SW NW 23-76-11, PT NE SE 22-76-11, PT SW NW 23-76-11, NE SE 23-76-11, NW SE 23-76-11, SW SW 22-76-11, PT

SW NW 23-76-11, PT NW SE 21-76-11, PT SW SE 21-76-11, EXCEPT PLAT B276 P305.

Deed Quit Claim; David J. Gentry, Adrian L. Gentry to Auston Tuecke, Brandy Tuecke; PT OLLIE ORIGINAL PLAT OLLIE Lot: 05 Block: 03, ALLEY PT OLLIE ORIGINAL PLAT OLLIE Block: 03.

Warranty Deed; Kenneth M. Sieren to Jacob DeKleine, Amy DeKleine; SIGOURNEY SHAFERS ADDITION Lot: 06 Block: 02.

Deed; Nancy M. Reighard, Nancy M. Winegarden, Anthony B. Winegarden; Numa Property management LLC; PT SOUTH ENGLISH J F WHITES ADDITION (SOUTH ENGLISH) Lot: 12 Block: 13, PT SOUTH ENGLISH J F WHITES ADDITION (SOUTH ENGLISH) Lot: 12 Block: 13.

PUBLIC NOTICE

City of Keswick • Minutes and Claims 12.1.2025

**KESWICK CITY COUNCIL
DECEMBER 1, 2025 MAYOR**

The Keswick City Council met in a regularly scheduled meeting on Monday December 1, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.

The Mayor called the meeting to order. Roll Call: R. Leer, K. Leer, Watts Absent: Schmidt, Sieren. Approve the Agenda. Motion: R. Leer, 2nd K. Leer. Previous months Minutes read, Motion to Approve: K. Leer 2nd, Watts. All Ayes. Financial Report: Motion to Approve: Watts, 2nd by K. Leer. All Ayes. Claims: Motion to Approve . R. Leer, 2nd by Watts, All Ayes.

Reports and Communication.

None. OLD BUSINESS. None.

NEW BUSINESS: Blake reported that the blade had broken and will need repaired. Motion to adjourn: R. Leer, Watts. All Ayes.

Next meeting, January 5, , 2026, 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 Man-

agement: Zittergruen and Watts.

FINANCIAL REPORT NOVEMBER

DATE, CK#, DESCRIPTION, AMOUNT, FUND

11/07/2025, Deposit, \$1,150.80 W/G

SUB-TOTAL, \$1,150.80 W/G

11/10/2025, EFT, Keokuk County Treasurer (Oct.), \$2,641.32

.....General

11/17/2021, EFT, State of Iowa (DOT Reimbursement), \$39,695.11

11/18/2025, EFT, State of Iowa (Road Use), \$1,997.17

SUB-TOTAL, \$44,333.80 G/R

11/26/2025, EFT, Interest, \$27.28 .

.....General

SUB-TOTAL, \$27.28General

TOTAL\$45,511.68

DISTRIBUTION NOVEMBER

DATE, CK#, DESCRIPTION, AMOUNT, FUND

11/03/2025, EFT, IA Dept of Revenue, \$267.44 Water

11/03/2025, EFT, IA Dept of Revenue, \$269.12 Water

11/03/2025, EFT, IA Dept of Revenue, \$277.66 Water

11/03/2025, EFT, IA Dept of Revenue, \$283.01 Water

11/12/2025, EFT, IA Dept of Revenue, \$269.78 Water

SUB-TOTAL, \$1,367.01 WATER

11/03/2025, 3370, Denie Fry (Salary), \$144.15

Water

11/03/2025, 3465, Tim Garrett (Salary), \$215.15

Water

11/03/2025, 3466, Denise Fry (Salary), \$144.15

Water

11/12/2025, 3475, Column Software PBC, \$372.86

General

11/07/2025, 3480, RUSS, \$7617.90

Sewer

11/12/2025, 3481, Wapello Rural Water, \$1,799.22

Water

11/07/2025, 3482, Joy Denison (Salary), \$602.42

General

11/12/2025, 3483, Tim Garrett (Salary), \$215.15

Water

11/07/2025, 3485, Garden & Associates, \$1,688.00

Road

11/06/2025, 3486, Brooke Zittergruen (Aubrey Mowing), \$200.00

General

11/07/2025, 3487, Heuer Construction, \$9,506.99

Road

SUB-TOTAL, \$22,505.99 ... G/W/R

TOTAL\$23,873.00

Beginning Balance\$353,801.24

Credits\$45,511.68

Debits\$23,873.00

Ending Balance\$375,439.92

Published in The News-Review on February 4, 2026

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PUBLIC NOTICE
English Valleys CSD • Special Meeting 1.21.2026

ENGLISH VALLEYS COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING HELD 1.21.2026
Attendees:
Voting Members:
Steve Axmear
Tom Voss
Susan Schaefer
Members absent: Trent Forrest, Katie Taukei
Non-Voting Members:
Mrs. Wendy Ayers, Board Secretary
Others present: Tim Grieves, Bobbi Miller, Dan Slaymaker, Ellen O'Rourke, Tiffany Kriegel, Jillisa Chvala
Call to Order
President Schaefer called the meeting to order at 6:17pm
Approval of Agenda
Motion made by Voss,
Motion seconded by Axmear to approve the agenda.
Voting: Unanimously Approved.
3-0 Motion carried.

The board entered into a Joint Board Meeting with the Iowa Valley Board of Directors.
The board introduced themselves and Mr. Grieves discussed the Shared Superintendent Hiring process.
A motion was made by Voss, seconded by Axmear to enter into closed session under Chapter 21.5(1)(i) of the Iowa Code to Evaluate the Professional Competency of an individual Whose Appointment is Being Considered at 7:26pm. Roll call vote. Voss aye, Axmear aye, Schaefer aye. Motion carried.
A motion was made by Axmear, seconded by Voss to return to open session at 7:43pm.
A motion was made by Axmear, seconded by Voss to adjourn at 7:44pm. Unanimously approved. Motion carried.
Wendy Ayers, Board Secretary
Published in The News-Review on February 4, 2026

PUBLIC NOTICE
Sheriff's Levy and Sale EQEQ041582

NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S LEVY AND SALE IN THE IOWA DISTRICT COURT IN AND FOR KEOKUK COUNTY STATE OF IOWA KEOKUK COUNTY
Iowa District Court Keokuk County Case #: EQEQ041582
Civil #: 26-000016
HARDIN COUNTY SAVINGS BANK VS
JAMES DOUGLAS INVESTMENTS, LLC, GNB BANK, & UNKNOWN PARTIES IN POSSESSION
X Special Execution
General Execution
Other
As a result of the judgment rendered in the above referenced court case, an execution was issued by the court to the Sheriff of this county. The execution ordered the sale of defendant(s)
X Real Estate
Personal Property
X Described Blow
On attached sheet:
To satisfy the judgment. The Property to be sold is
THE EAST 113 FEET OF THE NORTH 100 FEET OF LOT SIX OF THE IRREGULAR SURVEY OF THE SOUTHEAST QUARTER OF THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER OF SECTION TWENTY-TWO, TOWNSHIP SEVENTY-SEVEN NORTH, RANGE TWELVE WEST OF THE FIFTH PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN IN KEOKUK COUNTY, IOWA, AS SHOWN BY PLAT THEREOF IN PLAT BOOK 2, PAGE 93, IN THE OFFICE OF THE RECORDER OF KEOKUK COUNTY, IOWA
Property Address: 317 E CHUR-

CHILL ST., KESWICK, IA 50136
The described property will be offered for sale at public auction for cash only as follows:
Sale Date 03/17/2026
Sale Time 10:00
Place of Sale KEOKUK COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE LOBBY, 204 S STONE ST, SIGOURNEY IA 52591
X Homestead: Defendant is advised that if the described real estate includes the homestead (which must not exceed 1/2 acre if within a city or town plat, or , if rural must not exceed 40 acres), defendant must file a homestead plat with the Sheriff within ten (10) days after service of this notice, or the sheriff will have it platted and charge the costs to this case.
Redemption: After the sale of real estate, defendant may redeem the property within _
X This sale not subject to Redemption.
Property exemption: Certain money or property may be exempt. Contact your attorney promptly to review specific provisions of the law and file appropriate notice, if acceptable.
Judgment Amount \$39,473.81
Costs \$5,206.46
Accruing Costs PLUS Interest \$1,202.44
Sheriff's Fees Pending
Date 01/26/2026
Casey J Hinna
KEOKUK COUNTY SHERIFF Attorney
LAWRENCE B CUTLER
1305 12TH ST BOX 431
ELDORA, IA 50627
(641)939-5475
Published in The News-Review on February 4 and 11, 2026

PUBLIC NOTICE
Keokuk Co BOS • Minutes 12.22.2025

KEOKUK COUNTY BOARD PROCEEDINGS DECEMBER 22, 2025
The Keokuk County Board of Supervisors met in regular session, Monday, December 22, 2025, in the Board Room of the Courthouse. Present were Michael C. Hadley, Daryl Wood, Kevin Weber and Christy Bates, County Auditor.
Weber moved, Wood seconded to approve the agenda as submitted. All ayes and motion carried. Also present was Casey James, News-Review.
Wood moved, Weber seconded to approve the minutes of December 15, 2025, as submitted. All ayes and motion carried.
Weber moved, Wood seconded approval of Tyler Bramschreiber and Mark Sulentich personnel reports for Keokuk County Highway Department spraying applicator license salary increase of 25¢ per hour as submitted. All ayes and motion carried. Both individuals passed the mandated course.
Wood moved, Weber seconded approval of resolution appointing Michelle Herman to the Keokuk County Board of Health for a three-year term beginning January 1, 2026 as submitted. All ayes and motion carried.
Various Board and Committee reports were held. Wood attended Pathfinders, 1015 Transit and Crime Commission meetings. Weber attended Early Childhood Development (ECI), Keokuk County Economic Development (KCED) and Keokuk County department head meetings. Hadley attended a Semco meeting last week.
Discussion of old/new business and public comment was held. Notice was received regarding the upcoming Statewide Supervisors meeting on January 29, 2026. Bates shared the IPAC equipment quote for windows 11 upgraded laptops and printers to be used for elections in the amount of \$16,104.48. Kevin Weber noted the proposed upcoming union negotiations date of January 20, 2026.
On vote and motion Hadley adjourned the meeting at 9:30 a.m.
The above and foregoing information is a summary of the minutes taken at the above indicated meeting. The full and complete set of minutes is available at the Keokuk County Auditor's Office and www.keokukcounty.iowa.gov.
Approved _
Disapproved _
Michael C. Hadley, Daryl Wood, Kevin Weber
Published in The News-Review on February 4, 2026

PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice of Petition • Case No. CDCV006184

IN THE IOWA DISTRICT COURT FOR KEOKUK COUNTY
Upon the Petition of Shayna Kate Fullilove, Petitioner and concerning Justin Jermaine Fullilove, Respondent
Case no. CDCV006184
Original Notice by Publication
If you need assistance to participate in court due to a disability, call the disability coordinator (information at www.iowacourts.gov/for-the-public/ada). Persons who are hearing or speech impaired may call Relay Iowa TTY (1-800-735-2942).
Disability coordinators cannot provide legal advice.
1. Information for Respondent
• Petitioner (your spouse) has filed a divorce lawsuit naming you as Respondent.
• Petitioner's contact information during the divorce case: Shayna Kate Fullilove 300 North St. Ollie, IA 52576 Keokuk County (641) 541-0692 Skerue@gmail.com
2. Respondent's deadline for filing a Response
You must file an Answer or a Motion with the clerk of court in the above county within 20 days after February 4, 2026.
3. Instructions to Respondent
You must file an Answer or a Motion with the clerk of court in the

above county within 20 days after the date provided above. If you do not respond, the court may enter a judgment against you giving Petitioner what he or she asked for in the Petition.
Notice to Respondent
• You should talk to an attorney at once to protect your interests.
• If you choose not to have an attorney represent you in this matter, go to the Iowa Judicial Branch website for self-represented litigant information and free guided interactive interview court forms or free fillable .pdf court forms under Divorce.
• You must register through the Iowa Judicial Branch website at www.iowacourts.state.ia.us/Efile/ and obtain a log in and password to electronically file and view court documents in your case and to receive service and notices from the court.
• For general rules and information on electronic filing, refer to the Iowa Rules of Electronic Procedure in Chapter 16 of the Iowa Court Rules.
• For court rules on the Protection of Personal Privacy in court filings, refer to Division VI of the Iowa Rules of Electronic Procedure in Chapter 16 of the Iowa Court Rules.
Published in The News-Review on January 21 and 28, and February 4, 2026

PUBLIC NOTICE
Keokuk Co BOS • Minutes and Claims 1.19.2026

KEOKUK COUNTY BOARD PROCEEDINGS JANUARY 19, 2026
The Keokuk County Board of Supervisors met in regular session, Monday, January 19, 2026 in the Board Room of the Courthouse. Present were Daryl Wood, Kevin Weber and Christy Bates, County Auditor. Michael C. Hadley was absent.
Wood moved, Weber seconded to approve the agenda as submitted. All ayes and motion carried. Also present was Casey James, News-Review.
Weber moved, Wood seconded to approve the minutes of January 12, 2026, as submitted. All ayes and motion carried.
Met with Engineer McGuire regarding the Keokuk County Highway Department. Crews are cutting brush east on Hwy 149 and west and south of South English. No trucks were out on Saturday, cleared pavements on Sunday and again this morning to clean drifts off across the pavements. Andy spoke of the Transportation Research Board meeting he attended in Washington D.C. last week. National Academy of Resource individuals presented on all topics related to transportation. The Engineer's Executive Board discussed how counties were interpreting the big beautiful bill regarding overtime reporting.
Weber moved, Wood seconded approval of updated personnel reports for David Brooks and James Olinger regarding spraying license endorsement and receipt of a 25¢ per hour salary increase for said endorsement. All ayes and motion carried. There is now a total of eleven employees with spraying endorsements.
Wood moved, Weber seconded approval of the January 19, 2026 claims listing as submitted. All ayes and motion carried.
Manual Check: January 6, 2026
VISA (SEC RD)764.04
TOTAL\$764.04
Manual Checks: January 7, 2026
VISA (ASSESSOR)380.70
VISA (CONSERV)150.68
VISA (JAIL)73.79
VISA (KC EM MGMT)397.54
VISA (PH)285.00
WEX BANK58.20

TOTAL\$1,345.91
CLAIM DATE: January 19, 2026
ACME TOOLS1,463.94
AED BRANDS100.00
AGRI LAND FS1,283.18
ALL AM PEST CONTROL ..170.00
ALLIANT ENERGY2,634.61
ALTORFER MACHINERY1,694.34
ALTUS16,500.00
AMAZON CAPITAL SERV.553.99
AMERICAN HEART ASSOC.207.89
ANDERSON LARKIN & CO11,500.00
ARMSTRONG HTG & AC1,990.00
ARNOLD MOTOR SUPPLY1,719.98
ASCENDANCE TRUCK MIDWEST893.60
ATTY GENERAL'S OFC28.00
BAILEY OFFICE831.58
BAIRD, TOM300.00
BOND, RICHARD36.53
BOND, STRATTON87.76
BROTHERS MARKET1,924.58
BRUBAKER, CONNIE300.00
BUSINESS RADIO SALES ..61.22
CENTRAL IA DIST22.00
CENTRAL IA DETENTION752.25
CLAWSON, TYLER74.89
COX SAN & RECYCLING7,131.70
DAKOTA SUPPLY GROUP690.00
ELLIOTT BULK SERV2,852.23
FARMERS COOP ASSOC3,481.76
FORCE AMERICA681.26
GALLS LLC1,598.84
GREATAMERICA FIN SERV225.25
H & M FARM & HOME1,329.24
HCPRO LLC DECISION HLTH313.25
HELMUTH, CLINTON D289.95
HENDERSON PRODUCTS2,120.57
HESLINGA LAW FIRM1,375.00
HICKENBOTTOM INC723.21
HY-VEE ACCOUNTING ..2,865.00
IA EM MGMT ASSOC225.00
IDALS60.00
INST OF IA CERT ASSESSORS ..150.00
IA DEPT OF NAT RESOURCES ...50.00
IA HLTH CARE ASSOC875.00
IA LAW ENFORCEMENT ADCMY125.00
IA PRISON IND560.18

ISAC640.00
JACK'S CORNER DRUG ...129.14
JOHNSON CO MED EXAM DEPT703.40
KASEYA US4,047.38
KEOKUK CO HWY DEPT ...25.45
LENOVO (UNITES STATES)2,561.56
LIGHTEDGE SOLUTIONS5,093.29
LINDER ELECTRIC1,566.49
LISCO/LTDS526.49
MAHASKA CO ENVIRON3,975.00
MCGUIRE, ANDREW26.74
MID STATES ORG CRIME ..100.00
MID-AMERICA PUBLISHING264.83
MIDWEST WHEEL105.99
MOD COOP TELEPHONE ..351.80
MULTI-COUNTY OIL7,003.70
MUSCATINE CO SHERIFF2,038.15
NBS/WAHLTEK-PYMT PROC CTR1,760.03
NEAPOLITAN LABS9,000.00
NET2PHONE1,141.79
NETSMART TECH35.36
NEXTRAN TRUCK CTRS5,388.28
NO ENGLISH TELEPHONE1,650.64
NOVUS GLASS - CENTRAL IA1,409.12
PHELPS AUTO SUPPLY262.00
POLICE LEGAL SCIENCES2,384.00
POWELL FUNERAL HOME975.00
RENDER, JUSTIN100.00
SADLER POWER TRAIN ...723.80
SCEARCY, BOB288.89
SCHMIDT, BARB142.00
SHETTLER MEDIA100.00
SIGOURNEY LUMBER CO1,791.77
SIGOURNEY, CITY OF342.36
SINCLAIR TRACTOR39.20
SMITH, TOMMY36.30
STATE HYGIENIC LAB43.00
T I P REC1,199.90
THOMSON REUTERS-WEST352.51
TRIER, CAROL300.00
TRUCK CENTER230.64
US CELLULAR303.62
VERIZON WIRELESS374.88
VISA (SEC RD)29.76
VISA (KC EM MGMT)29.76
WAPELLO RURAL WATER162.05
WASHINGTON LAW OFC4,594.40

WASTE MANAGEMENT ..1,375.40
WELLINGTON TOOL SALES897.50
WHITEHURST, JERRY37.67
WINDSTREAM84.89
WINDSTREAM LAKE DALE809.92
TOTAL\$141,154.86
Weber moved, Wood seconded approval of quarterly report of fees collected by the County Auditor and Sheriff, and monthly report of fees collected by the County Recorder and Clerk of Court as submitted. All ayes and motion carried.
Wood moved, Weber seconded approval of resolution providing financial support of the Area 15 Regional Planning Commission in the amount of \$2,087.25 as submitted. All ayes and motion carried.
Weber moved, Wood seconded approval of resolution providing financial support of the Regional Planning Affiliation (RPA 15) in the amount of \$3,697 as submitted. All ayes and motion carried.
Weber moved, Wood seconded approval of resolution of financial commitment for the AHEAD Regional Housing Trust Fund (RHTF) in the amount of \$2,007 as submitted. All ayes and motion carried.
Various Board and Committee reports were held. Wood attended HIPAA and RUSS meetings. Weber had scheduled meetings last week.
Discussion of old/new business and public comment was held. Sanders, Assessor/GIS, was present to discuss February 19, 2026 as the Conference Board meeting date, with February 26th as a backup plan in case of inclement weather and also distributed the Assessor's affiliation summary on the Senate and Governor proposals.
On vote and motion Wood adjourned the meeting at 9:35 a.m.
The above and foregoing information is a summary of the minutes taken at the above indicated meeting. The full and complete set of minutes is available at the Keokuk County Auditor's Office and www.keokukcounty.iowa.gov.
Approved _
Disapproved _
absent Michael C. Hadley
Daryl Wood, Kevin Weber
Published in The News-Review on February 4, 2026

PUBLIC NOTICE
City of Richland • PH Amendment of Current Budget

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING - AMENDMENT OF CURRENT BUDGET				
City of RICHLAND				
Fiscal Year July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026				
The City of RICHLAND will conduct a public hearing for the purpose of amending the current budget for fiscal year ending June 30, 2026				
Meeting Date/Time: 2/9/2026 06:40 PM		Contact: Sarah Claeys		Phone: (319) 456-2511
Meeting Location: City Hall				
There will be no increase in taxes. Any residents or taxpayers will be heard for or against the proposed amendment at the time and place specified above. A detailed statement of additional receipts, cash balances on hand at the close of the preceding fiscal year, and proposed disbursements, both past and anticipated, will be available at the hearing. Budget amendments are subject to protest. If protest petition requirements are met, the State Appeal Board will hold a local hearing. For more information, consult https://dom.iowa.gov/local-gov-appeals .				
REVENUES & OTHER FINANCING SOURCES		Total Budget as Certified or Last Amended	Current Amendment	Total Budget After Current Amendment
Taxes Levied on Property	1	176,115	0	176,115
Less: Uncollected Delinquent Taxes - Levy Year	2	0	0	0
Net Current Property Tax	3	176,115	0	176,115
Delinquent Property Tax Revenue	4	0	0	0
TIF Revenues	5	0	0	0
Other City Taxes	6	52,029	0	52,029
Licenses & Permits	7	855	0	855
Use of Money & Property	8	1,600	0	1,600
Intergovernmental	9	75,000	0	75,000
Charges for Service	10	210,190	0	210,190
Special Assessments	11	0	0	0
Miscellaneous	12	1,000	0	1,000
Other Financing Sources	13	0	0	0
Transfers In	14	0	0	0
Total Revenues & Other Sources	15	516,789	0	516,789
EXPENDITURES & OTHER FINANCING USES				
Public Safety	16	27,450	-12,500	14,950
Public Works	17	114,000	0	114,000
Health and Social Services	18	0	0	0
Culture and Recreation	19	74,550	25,300	99,850
Community and Economic Development	20	76,000	0	76,000
General Government	21	127,600	11,500	139,100
Debt Service	22	0	0	0
Capital Projects	23	0	0	0
Total Government Activities Expenditures	24	419,600	24,300	443,900
Business Type/Enterprise	25	221,150	0	221,150
Total Gov Activities & Business Expenditures	26	640,750	24,300	665,050
Transfers Out	27	0	0	0
Total Expenditures/Transfers Out	28	640,750	24,300	665,050
Excess Revenues & Other Sources Over (Under) Expenditures/Transfers Out	29	-123,961	-24,300	-148,261
Beginning Fund Balance July 1, 2025	30	736,796	0	736,796
Ending Fund Balance June 30, 2026	31	612,835	-24,300	588,535
Explanation of Changes: KCCEF grant for the parks. Increased legal fees and technology fees.				

Published in The News-Review on February 4, 2026

PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice of Petition • EQEQ041609

IN THE IOWA DISTRICT COURT FOR KEOKUK COUNTY FREEDOM MORTGAGE CORPORATION, PLAINTIFF vs. STEPHEN ELWOOD, JR., SPOUSE OF STEPHEN ELWOOD, JR., IF ANY, AUTOVEST, LLC , DISCOVER BANK AND HAUGE ASSOCIATES, INC., DEFENDANTS
EQUITY NO. EQEQ041609
ORIGINAL NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION
TO THE ABOVE NAMED DEFENDANTS:
You are hereby notified that there is a petition on file in the office of the clerk of the above court which petition prays for a judgment in rem against the property involved in this action for the sum of \$147,205.66 with interest at 3.625% per annum from and including June 1, 2025, on the promissory note executed by Stephen Elwood, Jr., a single man and mortgage executed by Stephen Elwood, Jr., a single man to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. as mortgagee, as nominee for Cardinal Financial Company, Limited Partnership, its successors and assigns and assigned to Plaintiff, who is the sole and absolute owner thereof.
Said note, together with the mortgage given to secure the same are due and payable by reason of the failure of the Defendants Stephen Elwood, Jr., a single man to pay the installments of principal when due. Plaintiff also prays in said Petition for the foreclosure of said mortgage dated June 1, 2021 recorded in Document 2021-1080 in the Recorder's Office of Keokuk County, Iowa, with said note dated June 1, 2021 on the following described property, to-wit:
The North Half (N 1/2) of Lot Nine (9), all of Lot Ten (10), and the South Twenty-two (22) feet in equal width of Lot Eleven (11), in Block Three (3), in the City of Harper; in Keokuk County, Iowa
and also asking that said mortgage be declared a prior and superior lien to that of each of the above named Defendants; for appointment of a receiver; for the amount paid by Plaintiff for attorneys' fees, abstract expense, costs and accruing costs of this action; that special execution issue for the sale of said real estate to satisfy said judgment, interest, attorneys' fees and costs and for such other and further relief as may be just and equitable.
FOR FURTHER PARTICULARS, SEE COPY OF PETITION NOW ON FILE.
THE PLAINTIFF HAS ELECTED FORECLOSURE WITHOUT REDEMPTION. THIS MEANS THAT THE SALE OF THE MORTGAGED PROPERTY WILL OCCUR PROMPTLY AFTER ENTRY OF JUDGMENT UNLESS YOU FILE WITH THE COURT A WRITTEN DEMAND TO DELAY THE SALE. IF YOU FILE A WRITTEN DEMAND, THE SALE WILL BE DELAYED UNTIL THREE MONTHS FROM ENTRY OF JUDGMENT IF THE MORTGAGED PROPERTY IS YOUR RESIDENCE AND IS A ONE-FAMILY OR TWO-FAMILY DWELLING OR UNTIL TWO MONTHS FROM ENTRY OF JUDGMENT IF THE MORTGAGED PROPERTY IS NOT YOUR RESIDENCE OR IS RESIDENCE BUT NOT A ONE-FAMILY OR TWO-FAMILY DWELLING. YOU WILL HAVE NO RIGHT OF REDEMPTION AFTER THE SALE. THE PURCHASER AT THE SALE WILL BE ENTITLED TO IMMEDIATE POSSESSION OF THE MORTGAGED PROPERTY. YOU MAY PURCHASE AT THE SALE.
The Plaintiff's attorneys are Peto's Law LLP by Benjamin W. Hopkins, whose address is 1350 NW 138th Street, Suite 100, Clive, IA 50325, telephone number 515-222-9400, facsimile number 515-222-9121.
You must serve a motion or answer on or before the 24th day of February, 2026, and within a reasonable time thereafter file your motion or answer in the Iowa District Court of Keokuk County, at the Courthouse in Sigourney, Iowa. If you do not, judgment by default may be rendered against you for the relief demanded in the Petition.
This case has been filed in a county that utilizes electronic filing. You should refer to (i) Iowa Court Rules Chapter 16 for general rules and information on electronic filing; and (ii) Iowa Court Rules Chapter 16, division VI regarding the protection of personal information in court filings.
If you require assistance of auxiliary aids or services to participate in court because of a disability, immediately call your district ADA coordinator at (641) 684-6502. (If you are hearing impaired, call Relay Iowa TTY at 1-800-735-2942).
YOU ARE ADVISED TO SEEK LEGAL ADVICE AT ONCE TO PROTECT YOUR INTERESTS.
Published in The News-Review on January 21 and 28, and February 4, 2026

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...so your subscription isn't interrupted.

PUBLIC NOTICE
Keota CSD • Work Session 1.28.2026

KEOTA SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION WORK SESSION
Keota Elementary School Media Center
Keota, Iowa 52248
Thursday January 28, 2026
6:00 PM
President Billie Kindred called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM
Board members present: Dan

Redlinger, Andy Conrad, Pat Hammen, Nathan Greiner
Also present: Superintendent Dave Harper,, Board Secretary Gina Bennett, Elementary Principal Seth Milledge, High School Principal Heather Rosewall, Business Manager Amy Greiner
Board members discussed the 2026-2027 District goals and staff and programing plans were out-

lined and reviewed. The 5 year model was also presented and discussed.
The work session ended at 6:59 PM.
Board President Date
Board Secretary Date
Published in The News-Review on February 4, 2026

PUBLIC NOTICE
Pekin CSD • Work Session 1.26.2026

PEKIN SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
Work Session
Pekin School Media Center, Packwood, IA 52580
January 26, 2026 6:00 P.M.
Board members present:
Josh Arendt, Kortney Baumberger, Sherry Bemis, Linda Brock, Mike Davis, JD Olinger
Board members absent: Ray Fear

Also present: Dave Harper, Kaye Gilbert, Shawn Dorman, Aaron Deutsch
I. Opening
A. President Mike Davis called the meeting to order and acknowledged a quorum and then led the board in the Pledge of Allegiance.
B. Adoption/Approval of Agenda
Sherry Bemis moved to approve the agenda. Seconded by Kortney Baumberger. Motion carried 7-0.

I. Non Action Item
Dave Harper gave a presentation of Staffing, Programming, UAB, Facilities.
I. Adjournment
Sherry Bemis moved to adjourn the work-session. Seconded by Ray Fear. Motion carried 7-0. The adjournment time was 6:55 p.m.
Published in The News-Review on February 4, 2026

PUBLIC NOTICE
Pekin CSD • Minutes and Claims 1.12.2026

PEKIN SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

Regular Meeting
Pekin School Media Center, Packwood, IA 52580
January 12, 2026 6:00 P.M.
Board members present:
Josh Arendt, Kortney Baumberger, Sherry Bemis, Linda Brock, Mike Davis, JD Olinger
Board members absent: Ray Fear
Also present: Dave Harper, Kaye Gilbert, Shawn Dorman, Aaron Deutsch, Klynt Weber, Johannah Neff
I. Opening
A. President Mike Davis called the meeting to order and acknowledged a quorum and then led the board in the Pledge of Allegiance.
B. Adoption/Approval of Agenda
JD Olinger moved to approve the agenda. Seconded by Sherry Beamis. Motion carried 6-0.
I. Public Forum
No public forum.
I. Consent Agenda
A. Minutes
The minutes of the December 8, 2025 regular meeting and the December 10, 2025 special meeting.
B. Finance Report
Business Manager Gilbert submitted a current financial report of the district.
C. Payment of Bills and Credit Card
General Fund January bills-\$338,096.90; General Fund December Prepaid Bills - \$882.40; General Fund Mastercard - \$920.30; Management bills - \$0; Day Care bills - \$196.00; PPEL bills - \$47,884.34; SAVE bills - \$0; Debt bills - \$300; Scholarship bills - \$0; Activity bills - \$20,788.12; Activity Prepaid - \$9,205.41; Hot Lunch bills - \$12,024.71.
D. Open Enrollment Requests
OE-In:
K. Allison (7th) from Fairfield, O.
Agan (K) from Fairfield.
OE-Out:
S Lanman (K) to Clayton Ridge

Online.
E. Personnel Report
Resignations
Brianna Brown Assistant HS Volleyball and Head JH Softball; Dustin Coleman Head JH Baseball; Al Chapman Head HS Girls Wrestling; Andy Conger Bus Driver
New Hires
Davos Eidahl Head HS Girls and Boys Track; Michelle Glosser Assistant HS Boys Track; Bill Rex Assistant HS Boys Track and Head HS Girls Wrestling; Lisa Crabtree Assistant HS Girls Track; Nicole Meacham Assistant JH Softball; Steve Rohach Head JH Boys Track; Luanne Swanson Assistant JH Boys Track; Trevor Northrup Assistant JH Girls Track; Aaron Ledger Head HS Softball; Jared Schulz Assistant HS Softball; Kennedy Carey Assistant HS Softball; Nathan Wiggins HS Trap; JJ Greiner Bus Driver; Jessica Carlson Assistant HS Speech; Tommy Ellis Custodian; Lane Aguilar Custodian; Jessica Hervey Secondary Special Ed Teacher
Transfers/Volunteers
None at this time
Linda Brock moved to approve the following consent items. Seconded by Kortney Baumberger. Motion carried 6-0.
IV. Non Action Items
A. Special Guests
Johannah Neff presented information to the board regarding a drone certification program through the FFA.
V. Non Action Discussion Items
A. 2026-2027 School Calendar
Mr. Harper discussed information for two (2) options regarding the 2026-2027 school calendar.
VI. Action Items
A. At Risk Dropout Prevention Application
Linda Brock moved to approve the SBRC request for MSA for \$205,611.00 to fund the Dropout Prevention Program for the 2026-2027 school year. Seconded by Sherry Beamis. Motion carried 6-0.

B. At Risk Dropout Prevention Plan
JD Olinger moved to approve the At-Risk Dropout Prevention Plan. Seconded by Josh Arendt. Motion carried 6-0.
C. 2026-2027 Pekin Course Offerings
JD Olinger moved to approve the 2026-2027 Pekin Course Offerings. Seconded by Linda Brock. Motion carried 6-0.
VII. Administrative Reports
The Superintendent, Secondary Principal, Elementary Principal, Business Manager, Athletic Director, Tech Director, Transportation Director, and Maintenance Director presented their administrative reports to the board.
VIII. Items for the Next Board Meeting
• A work session will be held on Monday, January 26th in the High School Media Center at 6:00 pm.
• The next regular School Board Meeting will be held on Monday, February 8 in the High School Media Center at 6:00 p.m.
• Public Hearings will be held for the ISL and the School Calendar on Monday, February 8.
• Closed session for Superintendent 1/4 review.
IX. Adjournment
Josh Arendt moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:52 pm. Seconded by Kortney Baumberger. Motion carried 6-0.
GENERAL
DEN HARTOG LISA 202.72
KIEFER ANDREA 379.68
MT VERNON HIGH SCHOOL 300.00
MASTERCARD 863.75
MASTERCARD 56.55
AGRILAND FS, INC. 9,498.53
AIRGAS USA, LLC 883.95
ALPHA MEDIA, LLC 500.00
AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES 465.01
CHROMEBOOK PARTS.COM 179.40
COLUMN SOFTWARE PBC 155.39

GRAINGER 152.20
NALCO WATER 215.00
OTTUMWA RADIO 1,797.20
PURCHASE POWER - PITNEY BOWES 214.99
SIMPLIFASTER 608.00
ACE FUNDRAISING 625.00
AHLERS & COONEY P.C. 1,130.50
ALL AMERICAN TERMITE & PEST CO 190.00
AMAZON.COM CREDIT 16.98
ARNOLD MOTORS SUPPLY 725.89
CARDINAL COMM. SCHOOL 51,485.13
CENTRAL IOWA DISTRIBUTING, PTN 972.00
CITY OF OTTUMWA 222.00
CONNELLY SANITATION, INC. 757.55
CRESCENT ELECTRIC 57.97
LISA DEN HARTOG 101.36
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.. 50.00
EDDYVILLE - BLAKESBURG COMMUNITY SCHOOLS 46,943.88
ELLIOTT BULK SERVICES LLC..... 9,063.42
FAIRFIELD COMM SCHOOL DISTRICT 66,389.20
GREAT PRAIRIE AREA EDUCATION 22,178.25
INDIAN HILLS COMM. COLLEGE 2,118.92
IOWA ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL BOARDS 350.00
IOWA COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK 1,034.60
IOWA HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC DIRECTORS' ASSOC. 350.00
JAYMAR BUSINESS FORMS 179.89
JEFFERSON COUNTY SHERIFF 19,074.97
JOHNSON CONTROLS, INC. 7,524.75
KALONA COOPERATIVE TECHNOLOGY CO 357.33
KEOTA COMMUNITY SCHOOLS 8,523.18
ANDREA KIEFER 237.30
MARK'S PLUMBING PARTS 206.79

MEDICAL ENTERPRISES, INC. 215.00
MIDWEST BUS PARTS INC 37.95
MIKE'S PARTS & SERVICE 102.66
OTTUMWA CHIROPRACTIC CLINIC 100.00
PEPPER J.W. & SONS 240.79
RED LION RENEWABLES.. 667.33
SAFE DRIVER SOLUTIONS 400.00
SCHOOL BUS SALES 224.43
SHETTLE MEDIA INC 300.00
SIGOURNEY COMMUNITY SCHOOL 61,295.93
SINCLAIR TRACTOR 333.25
ROBERT SOBASKI 100.00
SOFTCHOICE 2,460.00
TEACHER'S DISCOVERY 14.99
VAN BUREN COMMUNITY SCHOOLS 12,376.08
SARAH VAUGHN 150.00
VETTER'S INC-CULLIGAN WATER 347.49
WAPELLO RURAL WATER 509.45
WASHINGTON COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT 167.75
WASHINGTON COUNTY AUDITOR 166.94
DALE WICKENKAMP 226.38
ACT 1,332.00
RELAY HUB LLC 275.01
S.E. IOWA FOOTBALL 160.00
DAYCARE 339,899.60
STEEN MARY 196.00
PPEL
MARCO 621.32
AERCOR INC 10,387.30
COPELAND AUTO BODY INC 5,396.96
GREAT PRAIRIE AREA EDUCATION 9,800.00
IOWA PUMP WORKS 14,294.29
SCHOOL BUS SALES 6,305.01
PIGOTT 1,079.46
DEBT
UMB BANK NA 300.00
ACTIVITIES
BRIAN BAKER 217.16
BRIAN BAKER 215.00
BRIAN BAKER 150.00

CHRIS BECKER 127.31
BRENT BLAKELY 122.91
KEVIN CALDWELL 106.96
CHRIS CHICCHELLY 215.00
CODY CRAFF 99.22
MIRANDA LEONARD 183.38
SHAD LITTLE 269.10
BEN OBERMANN 167.04
KEVIN PEDERSEN 107.11
JOSH SCHAEFER 168.31
JOHN SIMMONS 110.62
MARK TEATER 229.63
LOGAN VENENGA 269.10
JOHN WOODWARD 169.19
MEDIC BATTERIES 6278.37
WALMART BUSINESS 18.26
AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES 68.09
THE BARN LLC 1,019.85
MASTERCARD 1,763.77
CADE BEMIS 80.00
BGM HIGH SCHOOL 150.00
JENNIFER CLARAHAN 195.91
DECKER SPORTING GOODS 1,758.00
EASTERN IOWA WRESTLING OFFICIALS ASSOC 110.00
ELITE SPORTS 1,175.00
FOUR SEASONS FUND RAISING 10,669.05
FRESH START DISTRIBUTORS LLC 431.15
THE GARDEN GATE 121.00
HYVEE, INC 84.74
IMO HUTS, INC. 104.99
IOWA HIGH SCHOOL SPEECH ASSN 144.00
TREVIER NORTHP 80.00
NUTRIEN AG SOLUTIONS, INC 893.93
SHANNON WRESTLING AND TIMING, LLC 650.00
SOLON CSD 225.00
TRUE TIME RACING SERVICES. 900.00
WEST MUSIC CO 145.38
29,993.53
NUTRITION
ANDERSON ERICKSON DAIRY CO 2,037.62
MARTIN BROTHERS DISTRIBUTING 9,987.09
12,024.71
Published in The News-Review on February 4, 2026

PUBLIC NOTICE
Sigourney CSD • Claims 1.14.2026

SIGOURNEY CSD JANUARY 14, 2026 GENERAL FUND

AGRILAND FS, INC..... 1,499.11
AHLERS & COONEY, P.C. 856.00
ALL AMERICAN PEST CONTROL 180.00
ALLIANT ENERGY 6,877.00
AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES..... 39.99
ANDERSON, LARKIN, & CO, P.C. 9,500.00
ATKINSON, AMANDA 2,130.00
ATWOOD ELECTRIC, INC. 600.00
BROTHERS MARKET 570.24
CARDMEMBER SERVICE.. 454.43
CENTRAL IOWA DISTRIBUTING, INC. 2,753.00
CITY OF SIGOURNEY 2,820.28
COMMERCIAL TURF SERVICES 2,312.00
COX SANITATION & RECYCLING, INC. 150.00
CULLIGAN WATER TECH 69.24

DES MOINES STAMP MFG COMPANY 34.00
FAIRFIELD CSD 4,267.58
GREAT PRAIRIE AEA. 10,163.85
GREAT PRAIRIE AEA. 31,850.00
H & M FARM & HOME SUPPLY CO 55.92
HOGLUND BUS COMPANY 130.57
INDIAN HILLS COMMUNITY COLLEGE 1,169.07
IOWA ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL BOARDS 125.00
IOWA FBLA 450.00
ISOLVED BENEFIT SERVICES 271.10
J.W. PEPPER & SON, INC. 134.94
JAYMAR BUSINESS FORMS, INC. 179.87
JOHNSON CONTROLS BUILDING SOLUTIONS LLC..... 1,060.58
KEOKUK COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPT 600.96
KEOKUK COUNTY HOSPITAL & CLINICS 132.00
KEOTA CSD 17,054.36

MAHASKA COMMUNICATION GROUP 1,967.85
MATH LEARNING CENTER, THE 225.00
MID-AMERICAN RESEARCH CHEMICAL 2,747.57
MID-PRAIRIE CSD 18,664.50
QUADIANT FINANCE USA, INC. 500.00
QUADIANT LEASING USA, INC. 216.42
RED LION RENEWABLES, LLC 1,556.36
SIGOURNEY NUTRITION FUND. 325.50
SIGOURNEY TREE CARE 6,650.00
SINCLAIR NAPA 120.08
STROBEL'S INC. 644.85
TREMEL BACKHOE SERVICE 550.00
TRI-CITY ELECTRIC CO 1,357.50
TRI-COUNTY CSD 72,541.66
U.S. CELLULAR 263.82
UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN

IOWA 75.00
VIKING SEWING CENTER 171.46
VISA 647.89
WALSH SECURITY, LLC. 210.00
WEST MUSIC CO 40.74
WILLIAMSBURG CSD 4,267.63
Fund Number 10 212,234.92
ACTIVITY
4 SEASONS FUNDRAISING 20,105.71
AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES 781.74
BROTHERS MARKET 330.25
BUTLER, TERRY 90.00
CAMPBELL, WYNDELL 160.00
CARDMEMBER SERVICE.. 407.66
CLEAR CREEK AMANA CSD 150.00
DECKER SPORTING GOODS 956.00
DESIGN HOUSE, THE 150.00
ELITE SPORTS 971.45
ENGLISH VALLEYS CSD. 125.00
FAIRPLAY CORPORATION 300.00

FRESH START DISTRIBUTORS LLC 741.25
GILLIAM, JOSH 125.00
H & M FARM & HOME SUPPLY CO 530.20
IOWA HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL COACHES ASSOCIATION 163.00
IOWA HIGH SCHOOL SPEECH ASSOCIATION 49.00
IOWA SPORTS SUPPLY 950.00
KEOKUK COUNTY BOWL 3,500.00
LEBAHN, LANE 275.00
LINDLEY, MIKE 125.00
MAHASKA BOTTLING 3,133.05
MAY, ANDREW 150.00
MCLENDON, ANTHONY..... 100.00
METZ, SCOTT 100.00
NATIONAL FFA ORGANIZATION 1,078.00
NELSON, JON 160.00
REIF, JEFF 160.00
RUDIS 1,412.40
SYLVESTER, BRENT 125.00
TOWN & COUNTRY WHOLE-

SALE 1,599.06
Fund Number 21 39,003.77
PPEL
ACCESS SYSTEMS LEASING 1,914.60
RANDY'S FLOORING 3,000.37
SOFTWARE UNLIMITED, INC 1,769.00
WINGER CONTRACTING COMPANY 16,741.28
Fund Number 36 23,425.25
DEBT SERVICE
UMB BANK, N.A. 300.00
Fund Number 40 300.00
NUTRITION
CARDMEMBER SERVICE.. 273.98
OPAA! FOOD MANAGEMENT, INC. 36,811.63
Fund Number 61 37,085.61
TOTAL ALL FUNDS 312,049.55
Published in The News-Review on February 4, 2026

PUBLIC NOTICE
Sigourney CSD • Minutes 1.14.2026

SIGOURNEY COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14, 2026

The Board of Directors of the Sigourney Community School District met in regular session on Wednesday, January 14, 2026 in the Sigourney Jr/Sr High Library. Board members present included: Adam Sellers, Mike Bensmiller, Cody Branstad, Amy Wilcox, Tim Bruns, Steven Seeley and Adam Clark. Also present were Kevin Hatfield, Angie Lamberson, Shannon Webb, Deanna Spence, Jenny Bell, Missy Sellers, Jessica Meier, Pat Westby, and Casey James.
Call to Order/Determination of Quorum: President Bensmiller called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM, and acknowledged a quorum of the board.
Approve/Amend Agenda: Director Clark moved to approve the agenda minus VI.B. Seconded by Director Branstad. Motion carried 7-0.
Welcome Visitors: None
Non-Action Items: Pat Westby

from SiteLogIQ gave a post referendum communication; It was shared that the IA Department of Education has designated Sigourney CSD as High Performing on the 2025 achievement report; Kevin gave a Superintendent search update and gave Jan 26th as the interview date; Sigourney was selected for the 2026-2027 STEM BEST award for \$50,000; An update was given on the District Healthcare Insurance engagement contract that is being reviewed; A KIIC Thunder Country Display Board contract update was discussed; The shared Extracurricular programming agreement with Keota CSD was discussed; Mrs. Meier and Mr. Hatfield updated the Board on the District 5-Year Financial Projections; An update was given on the 2026-2027 Calendar; The Iowa's Purple Star School Military Family Support Program was discussed.
Administrative Reports: Spence reported that the FAST math and reading assessments and the IG-DIs assessment for the PK will be happening in January; Webb reported the National Honor Society

raised \$421.57 for the Ronald McDonald House; The AD reported on the numbers for the Winter sports teams and upcoming events; Maintenance finished many projects over Christmas break including painting the stage floor and putting carpet in the Band room. Tom Watson reported they overturned an insurance claim denial for Chromebook repairs and they are now done with major hardware hurdles and moving to maintenance phase; The Transportation Department reported everything is running smoothly; Nutrition reported the Opaa! Holiday Fest was a wonderful way to celebrate together before Christmas break and there will be a recipe contest in January.
Consent Agenda: Director Seeley moved to approve the following consent agenda items as presented:
Minutes from December 10, 2025 Regular Meeting.
Financial Reports from December 2025.
Payment of Bills: General \$212,234.92; Activity \$39,003.77; PPEL \$23,425.25, Debt Service

Fund \$300; Nutrition \$37,085.61
Open Enrollment:
OUT to CAM CSD-Iowa Connections Academy - S Burk
OUT to Mid-Prairie - C Geromini
Personnel:
Resignations: NONE
New Hires: NONE
Volunteers: NONE
Fundraisers: NONE
Seconded by Director Wilcox. Motion carried 7-0.
Board will Focus on Student Learning and School Improvement:
1. Moved by Director Bruns to approve the updates to 2026-2027 School Calendar as reviewed by the District's Teacher Quality Committee. Seconded by Director Wilcox. Motion carried 7-0.
Board Will Focus on Finance, Business, and Policy:
1. Moved by Director Seeley to approve the first reading of the contractual agreement for the establishment of a formally recognized shared extracurricular programming agreement between the Sigourney CSD and Keota CSD. Seconded by Director Bruns. Motion carried 7-0.

2. Removed
3. Moved by Director Clark to approve the attorney reviewed contract between SCSD and Thunder Country Radio to provide a large digital display advertising / score board for the Jr. Sr. High (big) Gym for the 2026-2027 school year. Seconded by Director Bruns. Motion carried 7-0.
4. Moved by Director Wilcox to approve the SBRC Modified Supplemental Amount as presented. Seconded by Director Seeley. Motion carried 7-0.
5. Moved by Director Bruns to approve the first reading of 900s policies as reviewed and presented by the Board Policy Review Committee. Seconded by Director Wilcox. Motion carried 7-0.
6. Moved by Director Wilcox to approve the first reading of the 100s policies as reviewed and presented by the Board Policy Review Committee. Seconded by Director Bruns. Motion carried 7-0.
7. Moved by Director Bruns to approve the first reading of the 200s policies as reviewed and presented by the Board Policy Review Committee. Seconded by Director Bruns. Motion carried 7-0.

mittee. Seconded by Director Wilcox. Motion carried 7-0.
8. Moved by Director Seeley to approve the first reading of student activity program policy with updates regarding extracurricular programming. Seconded by Director Bruns. Motion carried 7-0.
Announcements/Suggestions for Next Meeting: Budget Workshop/ ISFLC Conference; AEA Funding Plan and Agreement; Board Facilities Committee Report; Superintendent Search and Hiring Process Updates; Staff Handbook Committee Meetings/Handbooks Due; School FY25 Audit; Shared Extracurricular Programming - 2nd Reading; Board Negotiations and Finance Committee - Set Meetings.
Adjournment: Director Clark moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 PM. Seconded by Director Bruns. Motion carried 7-0.
Mike Bensmiller, Board President
Angie Lamberson, Board Secretary
Published in The News-Review on February 4, 2026

PUBLIC NOTICE
City of Keota • Minutes and Claims 1.20.2026

KEOTA CITY COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, JANUARY 20, 2026 – 7:00 PM

Minutes
1. Call to Order
Mayor Carr called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
Roll Call – Present:
Mayor Carr; Council Members M. Greiner, H. McDonald, C. Greiner, J. Mather; Clerk Bruns; Assistant Clerk Clarke; Public Works Director Harmsen.
Public Present:
Patty Tinnes; Casey James (The News Review); Janie Westendorf; Brandon and Danielle Imhoff.
2. Consent Agenda
Conrad made a motion to amend the agenda to add Bridget Greiner payroll under New Business. Seconded by McDonald. C. Greiner abstained. Motion carried.
Motion by Conrad, seconded by McDonald, to approve the agenda, minutes from the previous meeting, and bills. Motion carried.
3. Department Reports
Public Works – Harmsen
• Tremmel jetted the sewer main at the meat locker on January 15 to clear buildup; line is shared with nearby homes and requires regu-

lar maintenance. All is functioning properly.
• Staff has been busy working on the budget and FY 2027 project lists.
• Salt delivery has been received.
• All snow equipment is operating properly.
• Micah will be gone Wednesday, January 21, and Friday, January 23.
ION – Water Plant:
• Issues with a pump coupling were repaired.
• Next project will be fixing leaky plumbing.
• Waiting on new motors from Hupp.
Lagoons:
• Filters for the blowers have been ordered from Delta.
Library
• Coffee and quilting programs continue to be well attended.
• Fun Fridays are a success.
4. Resolutions & Ordinances
Resolution No. 2026-3 – Authorizing the Renewal and Reinvestment of a Certificate of Deposit of Public Funds for 30 Months with Libertyville Savings Bank
Motion by M. Greiner, seconded by McDonald, to approve. Motion carried.

Resolution No. 2026-4 – Proposing to Dispose of Real Property and Publishing Notice of Public Hearing
Motion by M. Greiner, seconded by Mather, to approve. Motion carried.
5. New Business
a. Minimal Property Standards
Conrad shared that this is a good time to remind the community about city ordinances regarding lawn maintenance, weeds, and trash with spring approaching. Suggestion made to send friendly reminder letters to residents.
Janie Westendorf suggested creating a spring newsletter including upcoming community events to help make the town welcoming for visitors.
Motion by M. Greiner, seconded by Conrad, to send out a spring newsletter. Motion carried.
b. Pool Hiring Advertisements for 2026 Season
Motion by Conrad, seconded by McDonald, to place advertisements to hire Pool Manager, Assistant Manager, Water Aerobics Instructor, Concession Stand Workers, and Lifeguards for the 2026 season. Motion carried.
c. Set Pool Board Meeting
Motion by Conrad, seconded by

M. Greiner, to set the Pool Board meeting for Monday, January 26, 2026, at noon. Motion carried.
d. Patty Tinnes – Keota School Topic
Patty Tinnes shared statistics comparing Keota schools to a boarding school and expressed the importance of keeping the school in Keota.
e. Public Hearing – 506 N. Ellis St.
Motion by M. Greiner, seconded by McDonald, to set the public hearing for February 2, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. Motion carried.
f. SafeServe Training
Discussion only regarding sending Kristen to SafeServe training.
g. Past Due Utility Bill
Council discussed a past-due utility bill involving a Keota resident and how to handle the situation.
Motion by C. Greiner, seconded by Mather, to table the matter. Motion carried.
h. Bridget Greiner Payroll
Motion by K. Conrad, seconded by H. McDonald, to approve Bridget Greiner payroll. C. Greiner abstained.
Motion carried.
6. Council Comments
• Chad: Presented a 28E agreement from the Keokuk County

Sheriff's Office.
• Keith: Shared that the City is wrapping up the sale of the Ellis Street property and the purchase of the Green Street property.
• John Mather: Stated it is a good idea to begin discussions on property standards early.
• M. Greiner: No comments.
• McDonald: No comments.
7. Public Forum
Casey James from The News Review asked questions regarding the 28E agreement.
8. Mayor's Comments
Mayor Carr stated that a recent school newspaper article has been addressed and does not represent the City Council. He encouraged the public to remain open with the school board and stay informed about what is happening with the school.
9. Adjournment
Motion by Conrad, seconded by McDonald, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 7:58 p.m.
Mayor Ryan Carr
Hunter Bruns- City Clerk
Minutes Prepared by City Clerk Hunter Bruns
Payroll 1/15/26
Bruns, Hunter S 1,604.77
Clarke, Kristen 917.95

GREINER, ASHLEY 123.23
GREINER, TONIA 1,279.63
HARMSEN, MICAH 1,863.22
Phillips, Myra 86.34
SLAUBAUGH, KEVIN L. 1,870.01
Greiner, Bridget 8,642.77
Bills Pd
CARGILL, INC, 01/20/26 56,305.93
Cloudburst 9, 01/20/26 \$331.93
COX SANITATION & RECYCLING, 01/20/26 \$7,883.00
Dakota Supply Group, 01/20/26 \$392.00
DELTA INDUSTRIES INC., 01/20/26 \$442.45
FARMERS CO-OP ASSN, 01/20/26 \$721.74
GFC LEASING - INC, 01/20/26 \$121.35
MID-AMERICA PUBLISHING CORP., 01/20/26 \$337.07
TREASURER STATE OF IOWA, 01/20/26 \$9,069.68
UNITED STATES POST OFFICE, 01/20/26 \$480.00
WATER SOLUTIONS UNLIMITED, 01/20/26 \$729.46
WELLMARK, 01/20/26 \$2,680.98
Total Check # \$29,495.23
Published in The News-Review on February 4, 2026



English Valleys Bearometer

February 4, 2026

www.facebook.com/Bearometer

Issue: XXII

Cold Trip, Hot Performances: EV Speech Team Advances Five Groups to State

By: Phoenix Sorden

The English Valleys (EV) Speech Team braved cold temperatures and traveled to Pella on Saturday, January 24, to compete in the District Large Group Speech Contest, delivering an outstanding performance. All six groups earned a Division II rating or higher, with Division I being the highest rating and Division II the second-highest possible. The success was undeniable, as five of the six EV groups earned Division I ratings and proudly advanced to the State Large Group Speech Contest.

The day's performances opened with the freshman Radio News team of Davis Burdick, Drake Offerman, Joana Martinez, Bella Schott, and Meika Spies, who set the tone early by earning a Division I rating as the youngest group of the day. That momentum continued with the senior Short Film group—Kaylee Frazier, Tyler Wiseman, and Phoenix Sorden—the oldest competitors for EV, who also received a Division I rating.

Strong showings followed with two more impressive Radio News performances. The 64.1 FAITH team of Ambryn Hoylman, Ellie Patterson, Kaylynne Hoylman, and Pantera Spies, along with the 80.08 Radio News group of Betsy Wells, Lydia Smith, McKenna Rugg, Olivia Debevec, and Zola Voss, both punched their tickets to State with Division I ratings. The freshman Improv team of Davis Burdick, Sage Scheibe, and Drake Offerman was also competitive, earning a solid Division II rating.

The day concluded with EV's only Musical Theatre entry, performed by Miley Clubb and Peyton Conrad, who sang their way to a Division I rating.

Speech coach Mrs. Burdick praised the team's performance, saying, "I am incredibly proud of how hard these students worked and the professionalism they showed. From our freshmen to our seniors, they supported each other and represented English Valleys with confidence and pride."

The EV Speech Team will compete at the State Large Group Speech Contest on February 7 at Clear Creek Amana. Congratulations to all who participated. Great job, Bears!



EV Students Make Music at The 2026 Meistersinger Honor Choir



English Valleys was honored to have four students selected to participate in the prestigious 2026 Meistersinger Honor Choir Festival. Representing English Valleys were Kaylynne Hoylman, Betsy Wells, Kaylee Frazier, and Helen Owen, who were accompanied by EV Choir Director Noah Cornelius.

Betsy Wells and Kaylee Frazier were selected for the Mixed Honor Choir, while Helen Owen and Kaylynne Hoylman earned spots in the Treble Honor Choir. Selection for Meistersinger is highly competitive, making this achievement a true testament to the students' dedication, talent, and hard work.

The two-day festival was a celebration of choral music and collaboration, featuring voice lessons, spotlight performances, full rehearsals, sectionals, educator sessions, and a Director's Chorus. Students also participated in virtual sessions with renowned composer Dan Forrest. Due to severe weather affecting the southern and eastern regions of the country, Forrest was unable to attend in person, but he joined rehearsals virtually and shared his insights and music with participants.

The final concert showcased an impressive lineup of ensembles, including the Treble and Mixed Honor Choirs, guest choir the Valley Singers, the renowned Wartburg Choir, and Wartburg's St. Elizabeth Chorale. The St. Elizabeth Chorale also featured English Valleys graduate Keegan Burdick. The concert concluded with a powerful Mass Choir performance, bringing together more than 500 students from across the region in a moving display of musical excellence and unity.

English Valleys is proud of Kaylynne, Betsy, Kaylee, and Helen for representing their school with excellence and enthusiasm. Their participation in this transformative experience reflects the strength of the EV music program and the lasting impact of choral music and community.



Upcoming Activities:

February 5:

JH Boys Basketball @ Sigourney - 4:15 pm

February 6:

HS Basketball @ Lynnville-Sully - 6:00 pm

February 7:

State Large Group Speech @ Clear Creek Amana

February 9:

JH Boys Basketball vs Keota - 4:15 pm

HS Basketball @ HLV - 6:00 pm

February 27:

JH Girls Wrestling @ Sigourney - 4:15 pm





THE EAGLE'S WING

Issue No. 10

Keota Jr./Sr. High School Student Newspaper



Senior Spotlight JACKSON VITTETOE

This week's senior spotlight belongs to Jackson Vittetoe. Jackson has been involved in various high school activities including FBLA, FFA, student council, soccer, CYM, speech Baseball, Basket ball, Class officer, and NHS. Jackson says that the three words to describe him are kind, caring, and fun. Jackson's biggest pet peeve is slow internet. Jackson plans to attend the University of Iowa after graduation to receive a degree in sport and recreation management. Jackson plans to use this degree to pursue a career as a sports analyst for collegiate level football or basketball teams.



Jackson is the son of Brooke and Todd Vittetoe. Brooke is a graduate of Washington High School and currently is a substitute teacher at Keota Elementary School. Todd is a graduate of Keota High School and currently is employed by Vittetoe Inc. and a major contributor to his family farm. Jackson also has a brother, Evan, who is 19 and currently attends Kirkwood.

Jackson has greatly enjoyed his time at Keota. Jackson says that his favorite class by far is Mr. Jamison's Ag classes. Jackson also has stated that the 2026 homecoming week is his most memorable and cherished memory of his high school career. TP-ing the school and other parts of town is one of Jackson's most favorite activities to participate in, and he has said this is why he enjoys homecoming week so much. Jackson says that when he graduates, he will miss the sense of belonging and community that Keota High School has given him. Jackson also has said he will miss walking the halls, and wherever you look, there was always someone there to joke around with him or talk to him about something. Jackson wants to be remembered as the kind and friendly person in the high school that anyone could go up to and start a conversation with, as he enjoys the camaraderie amongst his fellow classmates and peers at the high school. A piece of advice Jackson wants to share is that you need to make the most of everyday.



By: Jack Greiner

KHS CELEBRATES HOMECOMING

Keota High School celebrated its 2026 homecoming week last week starting on January 20th and concluding with the homecoming basketball games against HLV and dance that followed on January 22. Some highlights of homecoming week included dress up days, Eagle Olympics, Pep Rally, Homecoming game, Homecoming Dance, and many more activities.

The boys and girls basketball teams both were victorious against HLV on Thursday with the girls game to start winning 47 to 33. The boys game followed directly after the girls game. At halftime of the boys game, the official homecoming king and queen coronation program took place. The boys ended the game with a score of 63 to 47

By: Jack Greiner



KEOTA SPEECH HOME PRESENTATIONS

On January 21, Speech held their home presentations, and let me tell you, they were phenomenal. They made the audience laugh and enjoy the shows since all the acts were so creative and brought a spark to it. On the following Saturday, the groups performed at districts in Wapello, and most will be advancing to state.



"Stick & Move," 9th Ensemble: Grayson Sprouse, Dacin Redlinger, Zoey Sieren, & Emma Greiner



"Breaking Badly," Ensemble: Kaylee Kindred, Jaylah Redlinger, Brennan McGuire, Ayden Galindo, Jack Greiner, Maya Dalton not pictured due to illness



Improv: Brennan McGuire, Jack Greiner, & Ayden Galindo



"Ditzies," 9th Ensemble: Peyton Baughman & Addyson Chapman



"With a Hammer in His Hand," 9th Choral Reading: Peyton Baughman, Addyson Chapman, Emma Greiner, Zoey Sieren, Adyson Miller, Jessalyn Aller, Dacin Redlinger, Rowen Horning, Will Greiner, & Grayson Sprouse



"Angel," Reader's Theater: Luke Moeller, Gavin Sieren, Chase Haifley, Jake Morris, & Jackson Vittetoe



"Brothers Grimm" One-Act Play: Luke Moeller, Jake Morris, Gavin Sieren, Reese Conrad, Chase Haifley, Garrett Greiner, Aubrey Galindo, Jackson Vittetoe, Emily Mahan, Brynn Conrad, Ella Greiner, Cameron Haifley, Marlee Greiner, Kennedy Jackson, Olivia Lyle, Addison Purkeypille, Elyse Lyle, & Emily Conger

HOMECOMING COURT



Eagle Escorts: Garrett Greiner & Reese Conrad escort #1 Eagle fan Carson McDonald



Homecoming Court: Jackson Vittetoe, Addison Purkeypille, Gavin Sieren, Olivia Lyle, Jake Morris, Kennedy Jackson, Chase Haifley, & Dakota Dodd



Homecoming King: Jackson Vittetoe & Queen: Kennedy Jackson

EAGLE OLYMPICS FUN



EVENTS

- 4 FFA Mtg Audit. 7:30
- 10th to Kirkwood 9
- 5 JH B BB @ HLV 4:15
- G State Wrestling
- 6 No School (PD)
- V BB @ Belle Plaine
- 6:00 G State Wrestling
- 7 State Large Group
- Speech B Wrestling @ Mid-Prarie
- 9 JH B BB @ EV 4:15
- State Show Choir @
- Washington HS 4:00
- 10 NHS Members Mtg
- JH G Wrestling @
- Sigourney 4:00
- 10-11 G State Bowling

EAGLE'S WING STAFF

2025-2026

JACK GREINER
DAVID SHERMAN
FORREST BONEBRAKE

ADVISER: Dr CULLETT

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

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

WHO'S YOUR PICK TO WIN THE SUPER BOWL?

MR.MCCOMBS
STAFF



'Seahawks'

CHASE HAIFLEY
12TH



"Seahawks"

WYATT STEWART
11TH



"Seahawks"

HUNTER GRANDSTAFF
10TH



"Patriots"

MEMPHIS JAEGER
9TH



"Seahawks"

BRENDAN LAWSON
8TH



"Patriots"

KAHLAN CARL
7TH



"Seahawks"



Salt on sidewalk. (Photo courtesy of Metro Creative Connection)

Smart Salt Use: Simple changes homeowners can use to clear ice and improve water quality

Using salt effectively can protect both your property and the environment.

Between heavy snowfall and plummeting temperatures, Iowans spend a lot of time battling ice. While salt is a staple for home safety, over-applying it doesn't just waste money - it's tough on your property and the environment.

Just one teaspoon of salt is enough to pollute five gallons of water to toxic levels. When the spring thaw comes, that salt doesn't just disappear; it flows into your soil and local streams. By using a "less is more" approach, you can protect your home, the environment, and save money.

4 Steps to a Safer, Salt-Smart Property

- * Prioritize the Shovel The most effective de-icer is manual labor. By shoveling or snow blowing as soon as the flakes stop falling, you prevent snow from being packed down into ice. If a surface is clear and dry, it needs zero salt
- * Master the "Scatter" Pattern

Think of salt as a way to break the bond between ice and pavement, not as a way to melt every inch of snow. Spread grains so there is visible space between them. You want just enough salt to loosen the ice so it can be easily shoveled away.

* Check the Temperature Standard rock salt (sodium chloride) effectively stops working once the temperature drops below 15°F. Salt is essentially useless and just sits on top of the ice. Switch to sand for immediate traction or a specialized de-icer rated for extreme cold.

Mixing a little salt into your sand can help the sand grains "nestle" into the ice so they don't just blow away.

* The "Post-Storm" Sweep Once the ice has melted and the pavement is dry, take two minutes to sweep up any leftover salt crystals. Salt left on dry pavement does nothing but wash into the storm drain during the next rain. Collect the excess and put it back in the bag for the next freeze.

Iowa Biodiesel Industry to Trump: Don't Leave Us Behind

As president champions ethanol, state's independent biodiesel plants urgently need end to regulatory limbo

ANKENY – President Trump held a rally in Clive, Iowa yesterday where he told attendees that Congress is “very close” to getting year-round approval for 15% ethanol. Grant Kimberley, executive director of the Iowa Biodiesel Board, issued the following statement:

“We thank President Trump for visiting Iowa, and we were encouraged to hear his strong support for ethanol, but we want to share the message that Iowa's biodiesel producers need that same level of commitment right now.

“While the President recognizes the importance of renewable fuels to Iowa's economy, ongoing delays on the Renewable Fuel Standard volumes and 45Z

guidance on tax incentives are forcing our independent, locally owned biodiesel plants to shut down or pause operations—and once they close, they may never reopen. These aren't just facilities; they represent local jobs, critical markets for Iowa soybean farmers, and energy independence built with rural capital and Iowa ingenuity. We need the Trump administration to finalize these rules immediately so our plants can survive, our farmers can thrive, and rural Iowa doesn't get left behind in America's energy future.

“We thank the president for his attention to these important issues for the biofuel and agriculture sectors.”

Kimberley noted that the president visited at a local restaurant before the rally and heard directly from attendees about the importance of domestic demand for soybeans and corn, including biodiesel and ethanol.

2025 hunting, fishing license sales

In 2025, Iowa residents purchased...	In 2025, nonresidents purchased...
Fishing: 198,202 annual licenses 8,794 lifetime fishing licenses 17,405 three-year licenses 1,098 seven-day license 3,586 one-day license 41,850 trout fees 166 paddlefish licenses 19,513 third line licenses (resident and nonresident combined) 30,344 fishing, hunting and habitat combination licenses	Fishing 28,076 annual licenses 2,816 seven-day licenses 13,411 three-day licenses 17,261 one-day licenses 7,595 trout fees 37 paddlefish licenses
Hunting: 42,868 annual licenses 47,185 hunting and habitat annual combination licenses 3,466 lifetime hunting licenses 6,477 hunting and habitat three-year licenses 803 apprentice (hunting and habitat) licenses 25,004 migratory game bird licenses 42,789 habitat fees 13,929 furharvester annual li-	Hunting 6,348 annual licenses age 18 and older 15,203 hunting and habitat annual combination licenses age 18 and older 4,984 five-day licenses 2,163 five-day hunting and habitat combination 13,290 habitat fees 3,840 migratory game bird fees 380 apprentice (hunting and habitat) licenses 142 furharvester annual licenses 47 furharvester and habitat annual combination licenses
Large Game: Deer 14,507 youth general deer, 1,510 antlerless deer licenses 245 disabled hunter general deer, 31 antlerless deer licenses 52,232 archery general deer, 20,369 antlerless deer licenses 5,088 early muzzleloader general deer, 1,096 antlerless deer licenses 40,253 first shotgun general deer, 16,369 antlerless deer licenses 42,010 second shotgun general deer, 17,084 antlerless deer licenses 16,723 late muzzleloader general deer, 8,023 antlerless deer licenses	Turkey 5,161 spring bow licenses 18,917 spring gun/bow licenses seasons 1-3 17,890 spring gun/bow licenses season 4 6,837 spring youth gun/bow licenses 2,022 fall gun/bow 1,527 fall bow Landowner-Tenant Deer 48 antlerless deer licenses 30,406 free general deer, 20,261 free antlerless 1,895 antlerless deer licenses 421 antlerless deer licenses 5,603 antlerless deer licenses 1,439 antlerless deer licenses Turkey 2,458 spring gun/bow season 1-3 2,233 spring gun/bow season 4 900 bow licenses 30 youth licenses 3,317 free general fall turkey

Iowa Ag department asks for budget increase to expand Choose Iowa

Secretary of Ag talks about bird flu and water quality priorities

By: Cami Koons

The Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship asked lawmakers for a \$1.3 million increase to its total operating fund, with a bulk of the requested funding to cover operational costs and expansions to the Choose Iowa program.

Secretary of Agriculture Mike Naig spoke to a House appropriations subcommittee Thursday about the state's local food marketing program, the department's ongoing work to combat foreign animal diseases and water quality.

Naig has also proposed a comprehensive bill that would offer certain agricultural tax reliefs, further expand Choose Iowa, create agritourism definitions and enhance biosecurity responses. This "Iowa Farm Act" as it is nicknamed, advanced from a subcommittee Wednesday with broad support from agriculture industry groups.

Choose Iowa

The majority of the department's 1.6% budget increase request, slightly over \$1 million, will go to operational costs and \$300,000 of the request is slated to expand Choose Iowa.

Naig said the operational costs cover a 2% across-the-board salary increase, a rise in health insurance costs, workers compensation and association fees.

"These are all things that we don't control," Naig said.

The \$300,000 request for the Choose Iowa program would help develop a retail and distribution system within the program, which Naig said would help growers sell larger quantities of their products "on a more predictive basis." He said part of this funding would also pay for a staff member who could facilitate retail and distribution infrastructure with members.

Choose Iowa is a state-run marketing program for local food producers to help promote Iowa-raised products. Choose Iowa also offers grants to these producers to help them expand their businesses.

Naig asked legislators to maintain funding for the rest of the program, the majority of which goes to grants for dairy innovation, butchery innovation, value added products and the farm to food bank program.

According to the 2025 Choose Iowa report, every \$1 in state-funded grants had a \$1.97 private investment match. In total, 97 Choose Iowa members benefitted from the grant programs in 2025.

The report shows Choose Iowa has more than 300 members across 86 counties. Naig said the program, which started in 2023, saw 113% growth in membership in 2025.

"What we're finding is there's a real opportunity here for beginning, small, young farmers," Naig said. "A lot of rural impact here as well, it's growing an economy, it's creating more market opportunities for folks, and it's giving Iowans something they're looking for."

House Study Bill 588, Naig's

proposed farm act for the state, would additionally expand the Choose Iowa program and establish a Choose Iowa school purchasing program to help schools purchase Iowa-grown protein, dairy, grain, produce, honey and eggs.

The department has conducted a pilot version of the school program, but it is not part the department's funding request for the fiscal year. Specialty and small-sized farm operators have advocated for permanent funding for the program, especially after a similar federal program was canceled at the beginning of 2025.

The farm act would also prioritize young and beginning farmers for Choose Iowa grants.

Foreign animal disease

Naig did not ask for an increase related to the department's responses to foreign animal diseases, but he said it is a constant threat.

Since 2022, IDALS has responded to ongoing outbreaks of the highly pathogenic avian influenza, which has affected more than 187 million domestic birds across the country since the start of the outbreak.

Naig said the department responded to foreign animal disease pressures, including the bird flu, for 80% of the year in 2022, 70% of the year in 2023, 60% of the year in 2024 and for almost 90% of 2025.

"This used to be something that you might deal with from time to time," Naig said. "It is something that we're dealing with – if we're not actively in a response, we are preparing for a response."

IDALS has already responded to two outbreaks of bird flu, both in Kossuth County, in 2026.

The fiscal year 2026 appropriations bill for the department, approved by lawmakers during the 2025 legislative session, created an Iowa Animal Disease Prevention fund, largely because of the threat of the highly pathogenic avian influenza.

Naig said IDALS was able to hire an additional assistant state veterinarian, a foreign animal disease response manager and acquire the equipment necessary to respond to outbreaks.

Many HPAI outbreaks in Iowa require the culling and disposing of thousands of birds at a time.

In addition to highly pathogenic avian influenza, there are new threats that Naig said "aren't theoretical" like African swine fever, foot-and-mouth disease and the new world screwworm.

"Any one of those issues, even if it arrives in the United States somewhere other than Iowa, or even far away from Iowa, has an impact on us, because we're so connected to the country when it comes to livestock production," Naig said. "...It's a real threat, and we have to constantly be prepared for it."

HSB 588, the Iowa farm act, would authorize the department to lease facilities to store the equipment used to respond to these outbreaks and give producers confidentiality when they report a foreign animal disease.

The bill also calls for a loan repayment program for Iowa veterinarians to help respond to what Naig said is a growing need for veterinarians in rural areas and across the state.

Water quality

According to IDALS' annual report on soil conservation and water quality, the department supported more than \$34.3 million in soil and water cost-share programs in 2025.

Naig said these programs continue to expand under the department as nutrient reduction strategies become more understood by Iowans.

The report notes that to date, the state has completed 147 wetland projects, with 94 more in development and has completed nearly 500 saturated buffers and bioreactors, with another 200 in development.

Naig said these projects leverage state, federal and private resources.

Rep. Adam Zabner, D-Iowa City, asked Naig how the department measures the outcomes of water quality initiatives and more pointedly, if he believes water quality is improving in Iowa.

Naig said progress is shown in the number of acres planted with cover crops or covered with wetlands, and in the change in producer attitude toward adopting the programs. He also pointed to stream and lake monitoring from the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, which shows water quality data information over time.

"It's improving," Naig said the monitoring shows.

Naig said the state has "nearly achieved" its phosphorus reduction goals under the Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy, but nitrate reduction goals have been "tougher."

Part of the difficulty, he explained, is that prior to the onset of the Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy, nitrate was not a priority in soil and water conservation. Things like water quality wetlands, bioreactors and saturated buffers are now a focus of the department, but they haven't always been, according to Naig.

"We have, honestly in the past, and historically, said 'We've got to get rid of water as fast as we can,'" Naig said. "And now we're saying, we really need to filter water, we need to denitrify water, and those are different concepts."

Naig said data points around project implementation are "good indicators" because each point shows a new person that adopted these practices. Plus, according to the department's report for 2025, the number of projects it is able to help facilitate continues to increase.

"Clean water is non-negotiable," Naig said. "It is an absolute essential ... We need an approach that modernizes that whole system, from the farm to the faucet."

Ag secretary race:

Iowa Secretary of Agriculture Mike Naig is running for reelection in 2026. Naig, a Republican, has served in the role since 2018. Wade Dooley, a farmer from Marshalltown and Chris Jones, a researcher and water quality advocate from Iowa City have launched campaigns for the Democratic nomination.

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Iowa Secretary of Agriculture Mike Naig presents to a House appropriations subcommittee Jan. 29, 2026. (Photo by Cami Koons/Iowa Capital Dispatch)