



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

McClellan. In reality, his last name is spelled McLennan.

Supervisors Approve County AI Policy

By Casey Jarmes |
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 ChatGPT 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. Hite stated that only a few things for a few departments would have the highest level restrictions.

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.

Hedrick Woman Prepares to Celebrate 100th Birthday

By Casey Jarmes |
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 minis-



Mary Paxton with her youngest great-grandchild

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

from first grade through high school. She made life-long 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.

"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

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3.75% APY* 18 MONTH CD

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NUMBER 25, 164th YEAR

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6 Chevelle Best in Show, 1980 Trans Am Spectator's Choice at Richland Car Show

Keswick Harvest Day

AgriView — 48
Church Calendar — 4
Classifieds — 4
Records — 2-3, 7
Obituaries — 28
The Sun Spot — 28

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Community CALENDAR

Wednesday of each month
At the Keswick American Legion Post

Richland Public Library

Tuesday/Wednesday/

Thursday: 2:30-6:00

Friday: Noon-5:00

Saturday: 10:00-1:00

Closed Sunday and

Monday. For more

information call 319-456-

6541

Wilson Memorial Library

Mondays 10-6pm

Tuesdays, Wednesday, and

Thursdays 10-5pm

Fridays 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Saturdays 8-12.

Sigourney Public Library

Monday/Tuesday/

Wednesday/Thursday 11

a.m. to 7 p.m.

Friday 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Saturday 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Hedrick Public Library

Monday/Thursday/Friday

2 - 6 p.m.

Tuesday 1 - 5 p.m.

Wednesday 12 - 4 p.m.

Saturday/Sunday Closed

What Cheer Public Library

Monday 12:00-6:00 p.m.

Wednesday 8:30 a.m. - 3:30

p.m.

Friday 12:00-5:00 p.m.

Saturday 9:00-11:00 a.m.

Sigourney Kiwanis

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

Free Grace Recovery

Wednesdays at 7 p.m. at

Free Grace United at 107 E

Broadway St. What Cheer.
For: All Addictions: any hurt, habit or hang up. Come as you are.

Childcare provided. Everyone is welcome. freegrace.tv/recovery

Old Keota Business

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

Keota Food Pantry

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

Richland Community Food Bank

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

City of Keota Public Meeting

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

Keota School Board

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

Keota VFW Auxiliary

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

Keokuk County Historical Society

Open Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

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

Keokuk County Supervisors

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

Alcoholics Anonymous Sigourney

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

Narcotics Anonymous-Sigourney

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

Food Pantry-Sigourney

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

Keokuk County Public Health

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

3575.

Alcoholics Anonymous-Keota

AA every Monday at 7 p.m. at the Good Neighbor Fellowship Church on Broadway.

Alzheimer's Support

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

Take Off Pounds Sensibly

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

Grief Share

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

Fiddle Dee Dee

3rd Wednesday of every month, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Junk Journal Workday. Bring your own junk journals to build and work on. You can collaborate, share supplies, or ideas.

Keokuk County Democrats Open Meeting

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

Webb Masonic Lodge #182

A.F. & A.M. Meets first Tuesday every month

Dinner 6:30 p.m.; Stated meeting 7:30 p.m.

For more information call 641-660-4605

BIRTHDAY from pg. 2

up during the early morning hours while the babies slept in the back room. And then we did it all over again that night. We gave that job up in short order."

Mary and Phil raised five children: Marilyn (Anton), Judy (Grooms), Allen, Stan and Denny. She stated that children were better behaved back then, although her kids were good at finding the noisiest toys in the house and running around the table when she was on the phone.

She spent a lot of time making and altering clothes for the kids, so she could pass them down from the older kids to the younger ones. She liked to had ruffles and other fancy touches to the girls' dresses. In 1970, the Paxtons built their home in rural Keokuk County, just three miles east of where Mary had been born. They farmed and worked to improve their land over the years while working other jobs and raising a family.

"Hedrick had five churches and two grocery stores in my childhood," said Paxton, when asked how the world had changed over her life. "Our lives centered mostly around people who were born and raised around Hedrick, Martinsburg, Richland, Ollie, Sigourney and Fremont. We played basketball against Fremont. A picture of me in my basketball uniform was on the barbershop wall for many years, even though I didn't live in Fremont. You just knew everybody back then... (The biggest change has...) the roads! I watched them go from mud to gravel and eventually to paving... We eventually had a car, but going from mud to gravel was just easier by horse and buggy."

Paxton made several bridesmaid dresses over the years and at least three wedding cakes. She could always be seen with colorful yarn and crochet hooks. She made countless afghans for members of her family, with colors and patterns carefully chosen to match the taste of each person who was lucky enough to receive one. Very late in her life, Paxton took lessons in painting; her paintings can be seen in the halls around her current home at Penn Place. Paxton loves big family dinners, where she most often was the host, making homemade pies, chocolate desserts, ham balls and party potatoes for her family and visitors.

Phil Paxton passed away

in 2013, after 60 years with Mary. When asked how many grandchildren and great grandchildren she has, Mary Paxton replied "too many to count," because she includes step-relatives, in-laws, and babies who passed away too early. She estimated that she has approximately 13 grandchildren, 17 great-grandchildren, and 20 great-great grandchildren.

When asked if she was excited to be turning 100, Paxton said "Not really. A birthday is just a birthday. Mom would make me an angel food cake from the whites of the cracked eggs from The Produce. It was just Mom and Dad and my brother Gene and me."

"Hedrick had five churches and two grocery stores in my childhood," said Paxton, when asked how the world had changed over her life. "Our lives centered mostly around people who were born and raised around Hedrick, Martinsburg, Richland, Ollie, Sigourney and Fremont. We played basketball against Fremont. A picture of me in my basketball uniform was on the barbershop wall for many years, even though I didn't live in Fremont. You just knew everybody back then... (The biggest change has...) the roads! I watched them go from mud to gravel and eventually to paving... We eventually had a car, but going from mud to gravel was just easier by horse and buggy."

Paxton currently lives at Pennsylvania Place, an assisted living center in Ottumwa. When asked what she had learned, over 100 years, Paxton said "Work day by day, and do what you have to do to take care of family and work."

When asked her secret to living so long, Paxton said "No secret, really. Just live life as it is. Eat healthy as you can. Avoid too much alcohol—no carousing around. Have God at your side, and say little prayers all day long."

Cards for can be sent to 2 Pennsylvania Place B-35, Ottumwa IA, 52501.

Local Students Graduate from Colleges

The following local students recently graduated from college.

Buena Vista University

Keota

Dulaney Clubb

Hedrick

Brooke Norris

Iowa State University

Delta

Paul Alan Montgomery (Bachelor of Science, Kinesiology and Health)

Koester

Sage R Becker (Doctor of Philosophy, Immunobiology)

Sigourney

Emma M Gilliland (Bachelor of Science, Elementary Education)

Justin J Graff (Bachelor of Science, Agricultural Systems Technology, Magna Cum Laude)

South English

Isabel Elizabeth Coffman (Master of Engineering, Mechanical Engineering)

Mount Mercy University

South English

Ella Coffman (Master of Science in Nursing)

Local Students Make Deans' Lists

The following local students made the Dean's Lists of various colleges.

Buena Vista University

Fall 2025 Dean's List

To be eligible, students must receive a GPA of at least 3.5.

Hedrick

Nikole Arendt

Keota

Duaney Clubb

DEAN'S LIST pg. 5

PROFESSIONAL DIRECTORY

MEDICAL SERVICES

KEOKUK COUNTY HOSPITAL AND CLINICS

SIGOURNEY CLINIC

641-622-1170

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

641-622-1170

HEDRICK CLINIC

641-653-2437

SPECIALTY CLINICS:

CARDIOLOGY

641-672-3360

DERMATOLOGY

515-348-6383

ORTHOPEDICS

641-621-2376

PODIATRY

641-622-1180

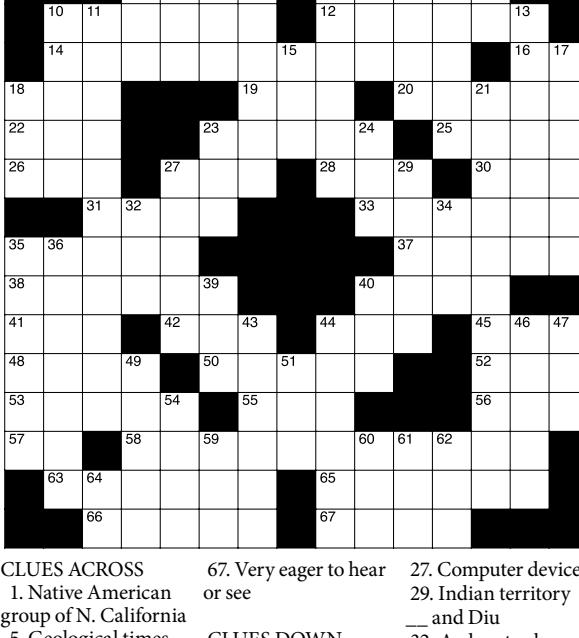
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ABSTRACTING SERVICES

This week's crossword, sponsored by:
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CROSSWORD



CLUES ACROSS
 1. Native American group of N. California
 5. Geological times (Brit. sp.)
 10. Tool to remove
 12. Rods
 14. One who renews
 16. They precece C
 18. Chatter incessantly
 19. King Cole, musician
 20. Insect parts
 22. One from Utah
 23. The world of the dead
 25. Singer Redding
 26. NBA legend 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
 27. Computer device
 29. Indian territory
 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
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P	G	M	S	K	H	O	A	S	A	F	F	E	C	T	I	O	N	E	G
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K	E	O	P	M	T	E	T	N	E	M	I	T	N	N	E	S	C	S	A
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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.

I think it is unlikely that this news would have been shocking to the people of What Cheer, in 1890. Because, as I learned while reading through old newspapers last week, horrible mining accidents were routine in the late 19th Century. That article that described Matson and Hoff's injuries even noted how similar Hoff's injuries were to that of John Keister, a miner injured when a large piece of slate landed on him the previous February.

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-

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 a year and a half earlier, after his wife died in childbirth. Glassell had moved to What Cheer with his ten-year-old son and infant daughter, who were left orphaned by the mines.

On January 20, 1890, Peter Frank, a day laborer employed at the What Cheer Coal Company's shaft No. 1, was shoveling coal when a huge piece of slate fell from the roof, striking him in the back and crushing him to the floor. Six men were drawn to Frank by his screams and were able to, with extreme difficulty, pull him out from beneath the slate. Frank died of his injuries eight hours later.

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

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. These are far from the only accidents to happen at What Cheer's mines. This is two years worth of tragedies, out of the decades the mines were open for. I could certainly revisit the topic of mine accidents, in the future. But, for now, I will end this with the saddest mine accident story I found.

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

eventually pulled him 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.

Correction and Retraction Policy

The News-Review strives for accurate and complete news reporting but occasionally we get it wrong. In cases where an error has been made we will run a correction, clarification, retraction or editor's note in the next edition. Our goal in any event is to inform readers of corrections clearly and quickly, citing the incorrect information and updating with the correct information.

All corrections will be printed on page 2A in the next issue published. The correction will denote the issue, article and incorrect information along with the correction. Digital corrections will also be made and an editor's note will be added to the bottom of the article in question noting what was inaccurate and noting when the article was amended. If the article was posted on Facebook, Twitter or any other online medium controlled by The News-Review, a post will be made linking to the corrected article, noting the correction.

Letter to the Editor Policy

The News-Review welcomes the opinions of our readers in the form of letters to the editor, as long as the submissions are not in bad taste and refrain from attacking individuals without supporting documentation or a rational and legally defensible justification. In any event the newspaper reserves the sole discretion to decide whether or not a reader submission will be published. If your letter is selected it will be run on a single occasion and you agree to give us the right to publish it in print and digital form. The News-Review will not accept letters that are duplicated, reprinted, copied, or otherwise reproduced. Letters should be original, typewritten or neatly handwritten. Letters should not exceed 300 words. Letters exceeding this length could be subject to editing and may not be published in their entirety.

The News-Review does not as a general rule print form letters or letters which are also submitted to other newspapers. We are most interested in sincere personal views as opposed to canned publicity releases or talking points for

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

Worship Guide

Wednesday, February 4, 2026 • 5

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

DELTA

Delta Christian Church

108 W 3rd St.

Worship: Sunday at 9:00 a.m.

Delta Methodist Church

Pastor Vince Homan

Worship: 9 a.m.

Sunday School for Elementary age children is at 9:30-10:15 a.m.

FREMONT

Fremont Community Church

Sunday Worship 9 a.m.

Children's Sunday School 9:30 a.m.

Adult Sunday School 10:15 a.m.

First Baptist Church of Fremont

Pastor Robb Bruns

Sunday School, 9 a.m.

Sunday Worship, 10 a.m.

Communion on the third Sunday of the month.

GIBSON

Gibson Presbyterian Church

Pastors Amy McGriff and

Robert Elgin

Worship, 10 a.m.

Communion on the third Sunday of the month.

HEDRICK

The Church Of Living Water

Pastor Shane Jarr

13 North Main St., Hedrick

Sunday School - 9:30 a.m.

Sunday Worship - 10:40 a.m.

Evening Services - 7 p.m.

Bible Study Wednesdays - 6 p.m.

Worship 10 a.m.

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

Thursday: Prayer Connect 5:50-6:20 p.m.

KEOTA

Good Neighbor Fellowship

126 E Broadway

Sunday: 9 a.m. Sunday School,

10 a.m. Service

Holy Trinity Parish

109 N Lincoln St.

Rev. Fr. Robert Lathrop

Office Phone: 641-636-3883

Sunday Mass: 8:30am

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

United Church of Faith

201 North Ellis Street, PO Box

208

Keota, IA 52248

(641) 636-3825

keotaucf@cloudburst9.net

www.keotaucf.org

Sunday Worship Service 9:00 a.m.

KESWICK

Keswick and Webster UMC

Pastor Brandi Meyer

319-430-7299

Keswick United Methodist

Church

Service: 9:00 a.m.

Webster United Methodist

Church Worship service: 10:00 a.m.

Communion is on the 1st Sunday of the month for both

churches

New Life Fellowship

Hwy. 22 South, Keswick

319-738-3851

Pastor John Stringfellow

Service Sunday at 10 a.m. and

Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.

Teaching Tuesday is Tuesday at

6:30 p.m.

Evening of Praise: every third

Saturday of the month at 7 p.m.

NEW SHARON

The Lighthouse Church

641-637-2251

www.nsfc.org

Pastor Eric Sned

Sunday: Sunday School 9 a.m.;

Worship 10 a.m.

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

Thursday: Prayer Connect 5:50-6:20 p.m.

New Sharon Assembly of God

www.newsharonag.org

Pastor Shane Farnum

Youth Group: Wednesday:

6:30-7:30 p.m.

Sunday: 9 a.m. Sunday School

10:30 a.m. Worship Service

New Sharon Friends Church

Sunday Worship, 9:30 a.m.

Sunday School, 10:45 a.m.

New Sharon Harvest Community Church

Pastor David Pinkerton

2083 Hwy. 102

641-295-0109

Sunday School 8:45 a.m.

Fellowship 9:30 a.m.

Worship 10 a.m.

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

OLIE

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.

RocKnowledge 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 Bennett

2011 Main St.

Sunday School- 9 a.m.

Sunday Worship- 10:15 a.m.

Free Food Bank Distribution-

Every second Friday of the month.

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Be the Light Ministry

200 Kramer St.

Sunday- 9 a.m. Traditional

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

The Bethel Church

Pastor Nick Needham

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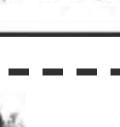
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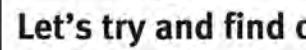
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Local government officials raise concerns about revenue cap in property tax bills

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 Hoye 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," Hoye 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.



Laurel Amelia (Rice) Streigle

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 McKenna

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 Bellefontaine 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

Obituaries

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

THE SUN SPOT

MAHASKA COUNTY NEWS

SENATE from pg. 7

"enhances" it by making certain verification processes required instead of optional. He said that enacting the bill could mean the BOE 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 on-line 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 household 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 sur-

prised 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 Claranhan 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.

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/Quikstats 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.

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 Xtream 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 Larramandy. 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.

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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 Mallory 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.



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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.

Photos submitted

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 Aliah 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 Aliah Brock finished with 13 points. Glick scored six points and Riley Smith added four points. Brogan Spray finished with eight points. Mason Dahlstrom

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 quarterfinals 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. Heisdorffer was able to win 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 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.

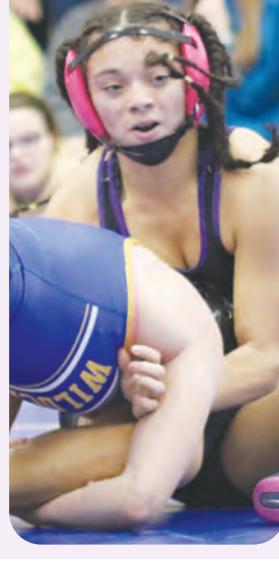
Kylee Draker was able to place fourth in the heavyweight division. Draker was pinned in the first period of both of her matches.

Athletes of the Week

By Mark Schafer

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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

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.



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

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 Claranan stamps first ticket to State

By Mark Schafer | The News-Review

WAPELLO - Nothing is easy in wrestling.

Just ask Sigourney-Keota's Sadie Claranan 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



Sigourney-Keota's Kia Montgomery (back) tries to gain an advantage on her opponent during the first place match of the class 1A regional tournament held in Wapello on Jan. 30. Montgomery finished second and qualified to state.

semifinals though as Claranan was pinned in just 49 seconds. That defeat didn't set Claranan back. She came out determined in the consolation semifinals, pinning a Cardinal opponent in just 1:47.

That sent Claranan to the third place match. There, she would need 3:40 to pin a Du-Rant opponent and keep her hopes of the State tournament alive.

There was bad news awaiting Claranan 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 Claranan 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," Claranan 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 Claranan. Losing the lead only seemed to motivate Claranan more.

"I like to learn from my losses, so I remembered what I had done wrong in the other two matches," Claranan 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."

Claranan 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, Claranan 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," Claranan 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, Claranan was able to trap the shoulders of Kriegel and earn the pin. That gave her second place overall.

With the win Claranan earned her ticket to the State



Sadie Claranan (top) completes a pin over Iowa Valley's Eva Kriegel (bottom) during their second place match. Claranan 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 Claranan in the semifinals at Wapello.

"Words can't even describe what I'm feeling right now," Claranan 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 wrestle 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.

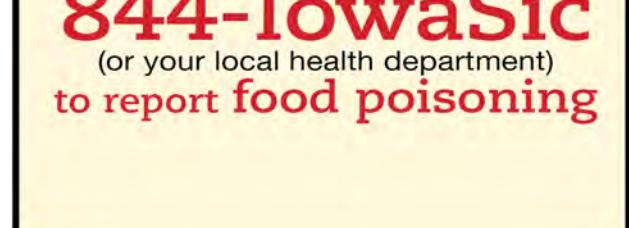
She was then able to win the consolation semifinals before winning the third place match with a third period pin.

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. Anoth-

er 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 McCullough 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 Birk (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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Grant Ranch Grub & Pub
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Keokuk County Hospital & Clinics
Ray-Man
Vitteetoe, Inc.
Lyle Insurance
The News-Review

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, Jillis 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 215.1(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
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 INVEST-
MENTS, LLC, GNB BANK, & UN-
KNOWN PARTIES IN POSSES-
SION

X Special Execution
General Execution

Other

As a result of the judgment ren-
dered in the above referenced
court case, an execution was is-
sued by the court to the Sheriff of
this county. The execution ordered
the sale of defendant(s)

X Real Estate

Personal Property

X Described Below

On attached sheet:

To satisfy the judgment. The Prop-
erty 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, TOWNS-
HIP 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 of-
fered 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 ad-
vised that if the described real es-
tate 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 Re-
demption.

Property exemption: Certain mon-
ey 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 Hinnah

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

Published in The News-Review on

February 4, 2026

Approved

Disapproved

Michael C. Hadley, Daryl Wood,

Kevin Weber

Published in The News-Review on

February 4, 2026

Various Board and Committee

PUBLIC NOTICE

Keokuk Co BOS • Minutes 12.22.2025

**KEOKUK COUNTY BOARD
PROCEEDINGS**

DECEMBER 22, 2025

The Keokuk County Board of Su-
pervisors met in regular session,
Monday, December 22, 2025,
in the Board Room of the Court-
house. 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 Jarmes,
News-Review.

Wood moved, Weber seconded
to approve the minutes of Decem-
ber 15, 2025, as submitted. All ayes
and motion carried.

Weber moved, Wood seconded
approval of Tyler Bramschreiber
and Mark Sulentic personnel re-
ports for Keokuk County Highway
Department spraying applicator li-
cense salary increase of 25¢ per
hour as submitted. All ayes and
motion carried. Both individuals
passed the mandatory course.

Wood moved, Weber seconded
approval of resolution appointing
Michelle Herman to the Ke-
okuk 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 attend-
ed Pathfinders, 1015 Transit and
Crime Commission meetings. We-
ber attended Early Childhood De-
velopment (ECD), 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. No-
tice was received regarding the
upcoming Statewide Supervisors
meeting on January 29, 2026.

Bates shared the IPAC equip-
ment quote for windows 11 up-
graded laptops and printers to be
used for elections in the amount of

\$16,104.48. Kevin Weber noted the
proposed upcoming union negotia-
tions date of January 20, 2026.

On vote and motion Hadley ad-
journed the meeting at 9:30 a.m.

The above and foregoing informa-
tion is a summary of the minutes
taken at the above indicated meet-
ing. The full and complete set of
minutes is available at the Keokuk
County Auditor's Office and www.
keokukcounty.iowa.gov.

Wood moved, Weber seconded
the IPAC equipment quote for
windows 11 upgraded laptops and
printers to be used for elections in
the amount of \$16,104.48. Kevin We-
ber noted the proposed upcoming
union negotiations date of Jan-
uary 20, 2026.

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, Re-
spondent

Case no. CDCV006184

Original Notice by Publication

If you need assistance to partici-
pate in court due to a disability, call
the disability coordinator (informa-
tion 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 Mo-
tion 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 Mo-
tion 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 Peti-
tioner 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 at-
torney represent you in this matter,
go to the Iowa Judicial Branch web-
site for self-represented litigant in-
formation and free guided interac-
tive interview court forms or free
fillable .pdf court forms under Di-
vorce.

• 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 re-
ceive service and notices from the
court.

• For general rules and informa-
tion on electronic filing, refer to the
Iowa Rules of Electronic Pro-
cedure in Chapter 16 of the Iowa
Court Rules.

• For court rules on the Protec-
tion of Personal Privacy in court
filings, refer to Division VI of the
Iowa Rules of Electronic Pro-
cedure in Chapter 16 of the Iowa
Court Rules.

Published in The News-Review on

January 21 and 28, and February

4, 2026

Published in The News-Review on

January 21 and 28, and February

4, 2026

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice of Petition • Case No. EQEQ041609

**IN THE IOWA DISTRICT COURT
FOR KEOKUK COUNTY**

FREEDOM MORTGAGE COR-
PORATION, PLAINTIFF

vs.

STEPHEN ELWOOD, JR.,

SPOUSE OF STEPHEN EL-
WOOD, JR., IF ANY, AUTOVEST,

LLC, DISCOVER BANK AND

HAUGE ASSOCIATES, INC., DE-
FENDANTS

EQUITY NO. EQEQ041609

**ORIGINAL NOTICE FOR PUBLI-
CATION**

TO THE ABOVE NAMED DEFEN-
DANTS:

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 re-
maining 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 execut-
ed by Stephen Elwood, Jr., a single

man and mortgage executed by

Stephen Elwood, Jr., a single man

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 programming 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, Pack-

wood, 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

Board members present: Dan

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

JD Olinger moved to approve the agenda. Seconded by Sherry Bemis. 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

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

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

ALBRA MEDIA, LLC.....500.00

AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES....

.....465.01

CHROMEBOOK PARTS.COM....

.....179.40

COLUMN SOFTWARE PBC.....

.....155.39

GRAINGER.....152.20

NALCO WATER.....571.94

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 DIS-

TRICT.....66,389.20

GREAT PRAIRIE AREA EDUCA-

TION.....22,178.25

INDIAN HILLS COMM. COLLEGE

.....2,118.92

IOWA ASSOCIATION OF

SCHOOL BOARDS.....350.00

IOWA COMMUNICATIONS NET-

WORK.....1,034.60

IOWA HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC

DIRECTORS' ASSOC.....350.00

JAYMAR BUSINESS FORMS.....

.....179.89

JEFFERSON COUNTY SHERIFF

.....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

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.....240.74

KEVIN PEDERSEN.....107.11

JOSH SCHAEFER.....168.31

JOHN SIMMONS.....110.62

MARK TEATER.....229.63

LOGAN VENEGA.....269.10

JOHN WOODWARD.....169.19

BEN OBERMANN.....167.04

RED LION RENEWABLES.....667.33

SAFE DRIVER SOLUTIONS.....

.....400.00

SCHOOL BUS SALES.....224.43

SHETTLER MEDIA INC.....300.00



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 Ambrynn 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 Peyten 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



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"

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.

By: Forrest Bonebrake



"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, Adysen Miller, Jessalyn Aller, Dacin Redlinger, Rowen Horning, Will Greiner, & Grayson Sprouse



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

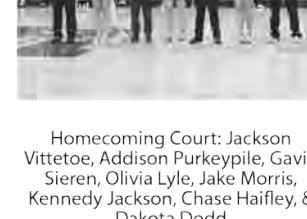


"Brothers Grimm" One-Act Play: Luke Moeller, Jake Morris, Gavin Sieren, Reese Conrad, Chase Hailey, Garrett Greiner, Aubrey Galindo, Jackson Vittetoe, Emily Mahan, Brynn Conrad, Ella Greiner, Cameron Hailey, Marlee Greiner, Kennedy Jackson, Olivia Lyle, Addison Purkeypile, Elyse Lyle, & Emily Conger

HOMECOMING COURT



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

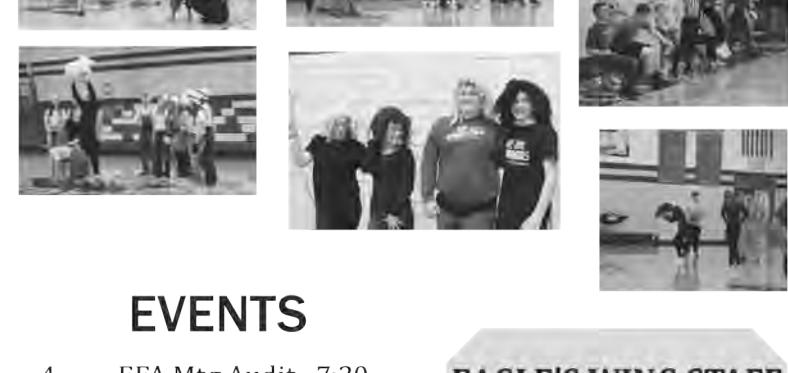


Homecoming Court: Jackson Vittetoe, Addison Purkeypile, Gavin Sieren, Olivia Lyle, Jake Morris, Kennedy Jackson, Chase Hailey, & Dakota Dodd



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-Prairie
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.



WHO'S YOUR PICK TO WIN THE

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"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 deicer 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 fol-

lowing 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...

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

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-

censes age 16 and older

315 furharvester annual li-

censes age 15 and younger

410 furharvester and habitat

annual combination licenses

423 lifetime furharvester li-

censes

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 gen-

eral deer, 1,096 antlerless deer

licenses

40,253 first shotgun general

deer, 16,369 antlerless deer

licenses

42,010 second shotgun gen-

eral deer, 17,084 antlerless deer

licenses

16,723 late muzzleloader gen-

eral deer, 8,023 antlerless deer

licenses

Turkey

5,161 spring bow licenses

18,917 spring gun/bow licens-

es seasons 1-3

17,890 spring gun/bow licens-

es 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

In 2025, nonresidents pur-

chased...

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

6,348 annual licenses age 18

and older

15,203 hunting and habitat an-

nual 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 li-

censes

47 furharvester and habitat

annual combination licenses

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 agri-tourism 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.

Naig has also proposed a bill that would offer certain agricultural tax reliefs, further expand Choose Iowa, create agri-tourism 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.

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 of 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 2023, 70% of the year in 2024, 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.