

The News-Review

\$1.50

SERVING THE KEOKUK COUNTY AREA SINCE 1860

WEDNESDAY, MAR. 11, 2026
NUMBER 10, 165TH YEAR

Community CALENDAR

BINGO Nights Keokuk County Expo
3/18

Knights of Columbus Harper Pepper Tournament
3/21. 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm.

Bingo at Keokuk County Fairgrounds
Thomas Hall on Sundays, Jan. 4 - March 22, 1-4 p.m.

Harper Knights of Columbus Weekly Fish Fry
Every Friday during Lent, 5-7:30 p.m. at Knights of Columbus Hall/Windhorst Club of Harper. Catfish, Tilapia, Shrimp, Au Gratin and baked potatoes, cole slaw, green beans, roll and drink. For information and carryout orders, contact Mic Berg at (319) 461-3281

Sigourney Spring Play: Charlotte's Web
March 13 and 14, 7:00 p.m.

July 4th Planning Meeting
March 19th @6:00pm
Sigourney City Hall

Sigourney Fire Hot Beef Sundae Dinner
Saturday, March 14th, 4 to 7 p.m. Sigourney Fire Department, 219 South Main St, Sigourney. All you can eat! Free will donation! To go orders available

English Valleys Spring Play: Game of Tiaras
March 20 and 21

Keota Spring Play
March 28 and 29, 7:30 p.m. at Keota High School Auditorium

Ham and Beans Supper
Thursday April 8, 4:30-6:30 p.m. at Delta Town and Country Center- Delta, Iowa. Free will offering. All Proceeds go to towards the remodeling!! Ham and Beans, Potato Soup, cornbread, Relish Tray, Desserts, and Drinks. Dine in or call 641-660-7848 for to go orders.



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Derek Philips Hired as New English Valleys/Iowa Valley Superintendent

By Casey Jarmes | The News-Review
NORTH ENGLISH – On March 6, the English Valleys and Iowa Valley School Boards announced that they had selected Derek Philips as the new shared superintendent for the two districts. “It’s just a very humbling experience,” said Philips. “I’m just so lucky. I spent a lot of time talking to people there, and getting tours and meeting people, and I’ve interviewed a lot of different places, and it was one of those feelings where I finally understood why I got told no for these other jobs, because I really feel like this is where I’m supposed to be. The people were great and I felt there’s mutual excitement. I think they are excited to have me and I’m excited to be there. And when there’s that feeling of that mutual excitement, I think we’re going to be able to

continue the great things that they’re doing.” Philips began his teaching career with a year and a half at the Van Buren School District, but considers his career to have really begun with the years he spent as a fifth grade teacher at Fairfield. He later worked as an assistant principal at Ottumwa, principal at a Pre-K-2 school in Sheridan, and spent two years as the superintendent at Pekin. Philips currently works as the principal of Davis County High School in Bloomfield. He stated that he had worked just about every role in public education and that this experience would bode well at English Valleys and Iowa Valley. Philips stated that he had wanted to return to being a superintendent, but also wanted to go to a community where the boards trusted their superintendent as a lead-

er that was also a good place to bring his wife and four children. “I like the smaller schools,” said Philips. “I think that both schools have a small town feel, but, you know, big school opportunities, and so it was super exciting for me, because it’s not just about me wanting to get the job and be a superintendent, it’s about wanting to be a superintendent but also being in a place where it’s good for my family.” In a press release from the school boards, they noted that Philips had, in one year, moved Davis County’s Iowa School Performance Profile rating from “Needs Improvement” to “Acceptable.” They also noted the one, five, and ten-year facilities plans he had made at Pekin and that Philips had led board workshops and a community cleanup day after a tornado severely

damaged his district in 2023. “The English Valleys CSD is looking forward to working with Mr. Derek Philips as our next Superintendent,” said EV Board President Susan Schaefer. “Mr. Philips has experience in PK-12 as a teacher and principal and as a superintendent. He will be present in the schools and community, so stop by and say, ‘Hi.’ Please join us in welcoming Mr. Philips and his family to the English Valleys and Iowa Valley districts.” In an interview with the News-Review, Philips stated he was excited about Iowa Valley’s esports team, athletic programs, drama department, and academic growth. He was similarly excited about EV’s Multi-Tiered System of Supports at the elementary and recent facility upgrades. He stated that the culture at both districts was “everybody pulling on the rope in the same direction,” something not all districts have. “I’ve been places where some people are fighting the direction the district wants to go, and I’ve been places where they’re all going in the same direction, like English Valleys and Iowa Valley, and that’s really exciting, how quick you can make academic and athletic gains and activity gains,” said Philips. “I really felt everybody’s in it for the right reason, they believe in what they’re doing, and that simple belief in what you’re doing, it goes a long way.” Philips will take over on July 1. He will split his time 50/50 between English Valleys and Iowa Valley, but has not decided a schedule yet.



Derek Philips



Louis Stanley Fitzner II (Photo credit Jefferson County Correctional Facility)

Tattoo Artist Arrested for Sex Abuse

By Casey Jarmes | The News-Review
FAIRFIELD – Louis Stanley Fitzner II, a 49-year-old tattoo artist from Ollie, was arrested on March 2 for a charge of Third Degree Sexual Abuse. According to the criminal complaint, on Feb. 10, a female victim went to Fitzner’s shop, Ink Therapy Studios to receive a tattoo on her left thigh from the defendant. While tattooing the victim, Fitzner allegedly engaged in nonconsensual sexual contact, according to court records. The victim reported Fitzner to the Fairfield Police Department. Fitzner is now currently out on \$10,000 cash bond.

Iowa House Candidate Speaks with Supervisors

By Casey Jarmes | The News-Review
SIGOURNEY – During the March 9 meeting of the Keokuk County Board of Supervisors, the board spoke with Aaron Hinnah, a candidate running for Iowa House District 88, which includes Keokuk County and parts of Mahaska and Jefferson Counties. Supervisor Daryl Wood stated that his biggest concern was that the legislature was moving away from local control. As an example, he brought up bill being discussed by the Iowa House which would put limits on the ability of county governments to regulate the building of wind turbines. The bill would prevent counties from putting setback limits on wind turbines any more than three times the height of a

SUPERVISORS
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Print your favorite memories



The News-Review
120 E Washington St.,
Sigourney, Iowa
(641) 622-3110
M-F 9 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.



Brennan McGuire. Photo credit: Keota FFA Facebook page



Braydon Wood. Photo credit: Sigourney FFA Facebook page

FFA Students Advance to State

By Casey Jarmes | The News-Review
CEDAR RAPIDS – At the Southeast FFA District Competition on March 7, several local students moved onto the state competition, which will be held in Ames from April 19-21.
Sigourney
 Brayden Wood placed second in Ag Broadcasting and will move onto state.
Keota
 Jack Greiner was elected as

the Southwest Sub-District Vice President. Brennan McGuire received a Gold Rating and placed 2nd in Reporter's Scrapbook; he will move on to state. Grayson Sprouse received a Silver Rating in Creed Speaking. Ayden Galindo, Garrett Greiner, Jack Greiner, Gavin Sieren and Jackson Vittetoe earned a Bronze Rating in Parliamentary Procedures. Jessalyn Aller, Drew Dodd, Emma Greiner, Will Greiner, Rowen

Horning, Dacin Redlinger and Zoey Sieren earned a Bronze Rating in Conduct of Meetings. Jackson Vittetoe received a Bronze Rating in Secretary's Book.
Tri-County
 Eva Domenech received a Gold Rating and will move on to state in Spanish Creed Speaking. Ella Edmondson, Eeve Kempf, Braxton Krumm and Carther Thomas received a Silver Rating in Ag Impact.

Harper Man Arrested Again for Forgery

By Casey Jarmes | The News-Review
JEFFERSON – 35-year-old Ryan Schulte of Harper was arrested on March 4 for a 2025 incident where he allegedly wrote a bad check. According to the criminal complaint, on July 28, 2025, Schulte entered Bomgaars in Jefferson and purchased a tool pack-out organizer, a lithium battery, a five tool combo kit, and several pieces of clothing, which cost \$1,136.27. He paid for these

items using a check written out of a closed account owned by Nicholas Wayne and Amber Johnson of Des Moines. Schulte was charged with Forgery, Identity Theft Under \$1,500, and Theft 3rd Degree. Schulte had previously been arrested for similar crimes carried out across Iowa. For example, on July 22 of last year, Schulte made a \$903.92 purchase at a Polk County Menards using a checkbook belonging to a

deceased man name Scott Mickels; the checkbook had been stolen in a burglary in 2024. In that case, Schulte was arrested for Forger and Theft 3rd Degree. On July 27 of last year, Schulte wrote a fraudulent check from Wayne Johnson's account at the Boone Bomgaars for \$1,161.89; he was charged for Forgery and Theft 3rd Degree. Schulte pled guilty for the July 27 incident on March 2.



Emily Moeller, Emily Mahan, Dakota Dodd at West Deleware. Photo credit: Jane Edwards.



Luke Moeller and Dakota Dodd at Central Lee. Photo credit: Jane Edwards.

Keota council advances trail planning and approves demolition

By: Katie Phillips | The News-Review
KEOTA — Plans for a community trail system in Keota took a step forward Monday as the City Council approved engineering work and authorized a grant application for the project.
 Two trail-related resolutions passed unanimously by roll call vote. One approved an engineering services agreement with French-Reneker-Associates Inc. for conceptual trail planning and updated cost

estimates, while the other authorized the city to apply for Iowa Transportation Alternatives Program, or TAP, funding.
 The engineering agreement includes a \$4,700 lump-sum fee for sketches and cost estimates needed to support the grant application. City officials said the expense would be paid by the city even if outside funding is not awarded.
 Engineer Steven Pedrick of French-Reneker said the work will update estimates originally developed in 2013

and prepare materials for the TAP grant application due April 1.
 The project is divided into three phases, including a trail segment near the school, improved pedestrian connections between the Kewash Trailhead, school, and park area, and trail improvements around the ball fields and pool.
 Levi Lyle, who has been helping move the project for-

KEOTA COUNCIL
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EagleRock! Ends Season Strong

By Casey Jarmes | The News-Review
DONNELLSON/MANCHESTER – EagleRock!, the Keota show choir team, ended their 2026 season with a pair of excellent performances. On Feb. 28, the team competed at the Central Lee Connections Invi-

tational, where they moved on to the finals for the first time in approximately 20 years. Halle Heisdorffer and Dakota Dodd were named Outstanding Performers. In the finals round, the team was the fifth runner-up, with Emily Mahan and Rowen Horning named Outstanding Performers.

On March 7, the team closed out their season with a First Place Class 1A finish at the West Deleware Red Carpet Gala. Despite having the flu, Luke Moeller was selected as an Outstanding Performer.
 EagleRock!'s annual spring concert will be held on April 29, at 7:30 p.m.

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We can stop HIV, Iowa—
by making sure women
are part of the HIV conversation.

In 2022, **19%** of new HIV diagnoses in the U.S. were among women and **23%** of all people living with HIV were women.

Women are less likely to think they are at risk for HIV. Often, they don't get the information they need about HIV or HIV prevention.

Thankfully, there are steps all women can take to protect their health:

- Get tested for HIV at least once in your lifetime.
- Request HIV testing any time you get tested for other sexually transmitted infections (STIs).
- Learn about and access the best HIV prevention tools for you!
- If you're living with HIV, connect to care and services to protect you and your partners' health.

STOP HIV IOWA

Learn more & find free testing near you at stophiwiowa.org

Community CALENDAR

Richland Women's Club Paint Party

Monday, April 13th 6-9PM. \$65 Deadline to Register is Monday March 16th. Call Sandy Eidahl at 641-919-9835 or Candy Pfeifer at 641-919-8384

Sigourney American Legion Post #19

Meets 7:00 p.m., Third Tuesday of every month at Memorial Hall

Keswick American Legion Post #319

Meets Monthly @ 5:30 p.m. on the first Wednesday of each month at the Keswick American Legion Post

Richland Public Library

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

Wilson Memorial Library

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

Sigourney Public Library

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

Hedrick Public Library

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

What Cheer Public Library

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

Sigourney Kiwanis

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

Free Grace Recovery

Wednesdays at 7 p.m. at Free Grace United at 107 E Broadway St. What Cheer. For: All Addictions: any hurt, habit or hang up. Come as you are. Childcare provided. Everyone is welcome. freegrace.tv/recovery

Old Keota Business

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

Keota Food Pantry

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

Richland Community Food Bank

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

City of Keota Public Meeting

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

Keota School Board

The Keota School Board

meets the second Thursday of each month, typically at 6 p.m.

Keota VFW Auxiliary

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

Keokuk County Historical Society

Open Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. KCHS will be closed the weeks of Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Years. During winter, when school is cancelled, KCHS will be closed.

Keokuk County Supervisors

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

Alcoholics Anonymous Sigourney

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

Narcotics Anonymous-Sigourney

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

Food Pantry-Sigourney

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

Keokuk County Public Health

Keokuk County Public Health is here to serve you. We offer an array of services such as: home health services, immunizations, education, diabetic care, foot care,

partner's program, etc. We have walkers, wheelchairs, shower chairs, canes, etc. to loan out free of cost. Please call us if you or a loved one is in need. For more information, call (641) 622-3575.

Alcoholics Anonymous-Keota

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

Alzheimer's Support

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

Take Off Pounds Sensibly

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

Grief Share

Sigourney Christian Church, 308 S Jefferson St on 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

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turbine. This is significantly shorter than the half-mile setback the Keokuk County Board of Supervisors implemented in 2024. Supervisor Mike Hadley noted that, in 2024, the anti-wind turbine people were much more vocal, while the pro-wind turbine people didn't show up to meetings. Wood noted that he had asked the company planning to build a wind farm for a blank copy of the lease they were signing with landowners, so the board would know what was being built, but that he had never got it.

Hinnah asked the board their thoughts on carbon sequestration pipelines. Wood stated he was not in favor, but that it was the safest way to move CO2. Hinnah stated that he could see both sides, but was worried about pipelines breaking. Wood brought up a farmer he knew, who had a different pipeline go below his corn field ten years ago, and still had stalks several feet shorter over the pipeline. Wood stated the farmer felt he wasn't paid enough and that another farmer he knew still had lower yields near a pipeline 50 years later. Hadley stated that the first question they needed to ask was if they believed we need to sequester CO2, and that scientific evidence says yes. He noted that half of Iowa's corn goes into the ethanol industry that the pipeline is being built for. Hinnah noted that some politicians he had spoken to say Iowa needs the pipeline, because Nebraska's pipelines give them better markets for corn. Hinnah stated that the problem was the lack of agency farmers have over market costs and noted how expensive gasoline was, despite them growing corn for ethanol. He stated that farmers work "a hell of a lot" for no return.

Supervisor Kevin Weber brought up limits the state had placed on the county's growth. Wood stated that, between increasing costs and the Back the Blue Act, which requires they increase sheriff salaries, the county will eventually have to cut services. County Auditor Christy

Bates noted that the funding sources they relied on were changing and that the state was cutting tax credits. Hinnah, who is vice president of the Oskaloosa School Board, compared the funding struggles the supervisors are facing to how the state government cut funding for schools, then created Education Savings Account vouchers, which move taxpayer money from public schools to private ones. He stated that the state was planning more restrictions on public schools and asked how that makes sense.

Wood stated that a senator he'd spoken to in December said they wouldn't be able to rock roads every three years. Weber noted that some roads need new rock yearly. Wood stated that the state wanted to control everything they did at the local level. Hinnah stated that the legislature wouldn't say this, but that they wanted to consolidate the little counties, because they don't matter. Wood asked how they could make decisions affecting 99 counties with different levels of industrialization.

Hinnah stated that they needed someone to have conversations with boards of supervisors and ask them what was important. He brought up his opponent Helena Hayes's focus on banning books, pointing to it as something being done instead of focussing on the issues that matter more locally, like farming and education. He said that he didn't want his kid reading an inappropriate book, but that they weren't getting them from libraries, and said he was more concerned about his kid's phone. He stated that District 88 is 96% public schools, but that Hayes had called the implementation of Education Savings Accounts a "triumph." He called this "blasphemy" in Keokuk County.

Also at the Monday morning meeting, County Engineer Andy McGuire stated that he had submitted an application for federal funding to resurface the Keswick road, which had received more than thirty letters of support from community members.

Births, Engagements, Weddings, Anniversaries

- story (no photos) runs for FREE
- story with black and white photo- \$12
- story with color photo- \$24
- * Some restrictions may apply.

If the story is an invitation to a celebration or request for cards, it must run as an ad.

Share your story!

Contact us at 641-622-3110

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MENUS

Sigourney

March 12th
Breakfast: Maple Bacon Sweet Roll, Assorted Cereal with Colby Jack Cheese, Donut, Chilled Fruit, Assorted Fruit Juice, Milk.

Lunch: Pepperoni Pizza Pinwheel, Triple Jalapeño Chicken Sandwich, Garden Fresh Salad Bar, Pizza Bar, Sub Bar, Fresh Garden Salad, Roasted Potato Wedges, Fresh Fruit, Chilled Fruit, Focaccia Bread, Milk.

March 13th
Breakfast: Fruit Biscuit, Assorted Cereal with Cinnamon Toast or Pancakes, Chilled Fruit, Assorted Fruit Juice, Milk.

Lunch: Chicken Alfredo Flatbread, Cheeseburger, Garden Fresh Salad Bar, Pizza Bar, Sub Bar, Fresh Garden Salad, Glazed Carrots, Seasoned Fries, Fresh Fruit, Chilled Fruit, Focaccia Bread, Milk.

March 16th
Breakfast: Sausage Pancake on a Stick, Assorted Cereal with Toast with Margarine, or Funnel Cake, Fresh Fruit, Assorted Fruit Juice, Milk.

Lunch: Crispito with Nachos, BBW Pork on a Bun, Garden Fresh Salad Bar, Pizza Bar, Sub Bar, Fresh Garden Salad, Corn, Seasoned Fries, Fresh Fruit, Chilled Fruit, Italian Bread, Milk.

March 17th:
Breakfast: Tot n Egg Casserole with Fruit Muffin, Assorted Cereal with Fruit Muffin, or Donut, Chilled Fruit, Assorted Fruit Juice, Milk.

Lunch: Chicken Nachos with White Queso, Loaded Baked Potato, Garden Fresh Salad Bar, Pizza Bar, Sub Bar, Fresh Garden Salad, Cowboy Beans, Fresh Fruit, Chilled Fruit, Focaccia Bread, Milk.

March 18th
Breakfast: Strawberry Shortcake Biscuit, Assorted Cereal with Cinnamon Toast or Waffles, Chilled Fruit, Assorted Fruit Juice, Milk.

Lunch: Chicken Patty, Grilled Ham & Cheese Sandwich, Garden Fresh Salad Bar, Pizza Bar, Sub Bar, Mashed Potatoes, Parmesan Roasted Carrots, Seasoned Fries, Fresh Fruit, Chilled Fruit, Hot Roll, Milk.

Goodwin Senior Dining Center (Wellman)

March 13th
Salmon Loaf, Creamed Potatoes & Peas, Chocolate Cake.

March 16th
Hot Dog, Baked Beans, Macaroni Salad, Shamrock Cookie.

March 18th
Chicken Breast, Mashed Potatoes and Gravy, Green Bean Casserole, Cup Cakes.

English Valleys

March 12th
No School, Spring Break.

March 13th
No School, Spring Break.

March 16th
Breakfast: Sausage Pancake on a Stick, Assorted Cereal, Toast with Margarine, Fresh Fruit, Assorted Fruit Juice, Milk.

Lunch: Crispito with Nachos, BBQ Pork on a Bun with Seasoned Fries, Pizza Bar, Sub Bar, Fresh Garden Salad, Corn, Fresh Fruit, Chilled Fruit, Milk.

March 17th
Breakfast: Tot N Egg Casserole, Assorted Cereal with Fruit Muffin, Chilled Fruit, Assorted Fruit Juice, Milk.

Lunch: Loaded Baed Potato with Focaccia Bread, Chicken Nachos with White Queso, Pizza Bar, Sub Bar, Fresh Garden Salad, Cowboy Beans, Fresh Fruit, Chilled Fruit, Milk.

March 18th
Breakfast: Waffles, Assorted Cereal, Cinnamon Toast, Chilled Fruit, Assorted Fruit Juice, Milk.

Lunch: Chicken Patty with Hot Roll, Grilled Ham & Cheese Sandwich with Seasoned Fries, Pizza Bar, Sub Bar, Mashed Potatoes, Parmesan Roasted Carrots, Fresh Fruit, Chilled Fruit, Milk.

Milestones (Sigourney & Delta)

March 12th
Chili Soup, Carrots, Mixed Fruit, Corn Bread.

March 13th
Liver and Onions, Mashed Potatoes, Gravy, Green Beans with Onions, Fruited Gelatin, Wheat Roll.

March 16th
BBQ Pulled Chicken on Bun, Broccoli, Cinnamon Baked Pears.

March 17th
Tuna Noodle Casserole, Buttered Carrots, Fruit, WW Bread.

March 18th
Cook's Choice with Dessert

Pekin

March 12th
Breakfast: Sausage, SG Toast, Fruit Choice, Juice Choice.

Lunch: Orange Chicken, Chicken Strips, Diced Carrots, Strawberries/Apple Slices, Egg Roll, Fortune Cookie.

March 13th
Breakfast: Donut Holes, GoGurt, Fruit Choice/Juice Choice.

Lunch: Pizza, Popcorn Shrimp, Broccoli/Pepper Slices, Peaches/Bananas.

March 16th
Breakfast: Apple Strudel, String Cheese, Fruit Choice/Juice Choice.

Lunch: Hot Ham & Cheese, Burrito, California Blend/BabyCarrots, Cinnamon Apples/Strawberries.

March 17th
Breakfast: WG Cereal, Yogurt Cup, Fruit Choice/Juice Choice.

Lunch: Totchos, Unrustable, Green Beans/Romaine, Mandarin Oranges/Juice, WG Rice Krispie Treat.

March 18th
Breakfast: Egg Patty, WG Toast, Fruit Choice/Juice Choice

Lunch: Chicken Patty, Egg & Sausage, Tri Tater/BabyCarrots, Pineapple/Blueberries, WG Goldfish.

Keota

March 12th
Breakfast: Pancake Sausage Sandwich, Peaches, Juice Choice, Milk Choice.

Lunch: Chicken Tetrazzini, Iceberg Lettuce Blend, Steamed Carrots, Fresh Strawberries, French Garlic Bread, Milk.

March 13th
No School.

March 16th
Breakfast: Breakfast Pizza, Tropical Fruit, Juice Choice, Milk Choice.

Lunch: Pizza, Garden Spinach Salad, Cauliflower, Marinara Sauce, Applesauce, Bread stick, Milk.

March 17th
Breakfast: Pancakes with Syrup, Peaches, Juice Choice, Milk Choice.

Lunch: Chicken Nuggets, Mashed Potatoes ad Gravy, Fresh Broccoli, Grape Juice, Wheat Roll & Jelly, Milk.

March 18th
Breakfast: Egg Bites, Toast and Jelly, Orange, Juice Choice, Milk Choice.

Lunch: Cheddarwurst on a Bun, Baked Beans, Fresh Baby Carrots, Grapes, Chips, Milk.

Tri-County

March 12th
Breakfast: Pancake Bites

Lunch: Corn Dog, Sweet Potato FF, Baked Beans, Strawberry cup.

March 13th
Breakfast: Breakfast Pizza

Lunch: Chicken Sandwich, Mixed Vegetables, Peaches.

March 16th
Breakfast: Cereal & Poptart.

Lunch: Chicken Wrap, Lettuce, Cheese, Ranch, Pear, Goldfish.

March 17th
Breakfast: Bagels.

Lunch: Grilled Cheese, Tomato Soup, Corn, Applesauce.

March 18th
Breakfast: Yogurt Parfait.

Lunch: Trojan Burger, Potato Smiles, Peaches.

Keota Voters Approve Revenue Purpose Statement

By Casey Jarmes | The News-Review

KEOTA — On March 3, Keota voters approved updating the school district's Revenue Purpose Statement, with 107 Yes votes compared to just 2 No votes. This vote will allow the district to continue using Iowa's Secure an Advanced Vision for Education (SAVE) one-cent sales tax for various school projects. According to a district press release, this will keep local control

over how Keota uses SAVE funds for school infrastructure, technology, safety, and facility improvements; extend the district's ability to plan long-term, aligning with the statewide SAVE law that runs through 2050; and support essential projects such as technology for students, building repairs, safety upgrades, and learning environments that meet today's expectations. The RPS approval will not raise taxes, create new funding, or change the sales tax rate.

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PROFESSIONAL DIRECTORY

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BEHAVIORAL HEALTH 641-622-1170

HEDRICK CLINIC 641-653-2437

SPECIALTY CLINICS: CARDIOLOGY 641-672-3360

DERMATOLOGY 515-348-6383

ORTHOPEDICS 641-621-2376

PODIATRY 641-622-1180

WOUND CARE 641-684-8448

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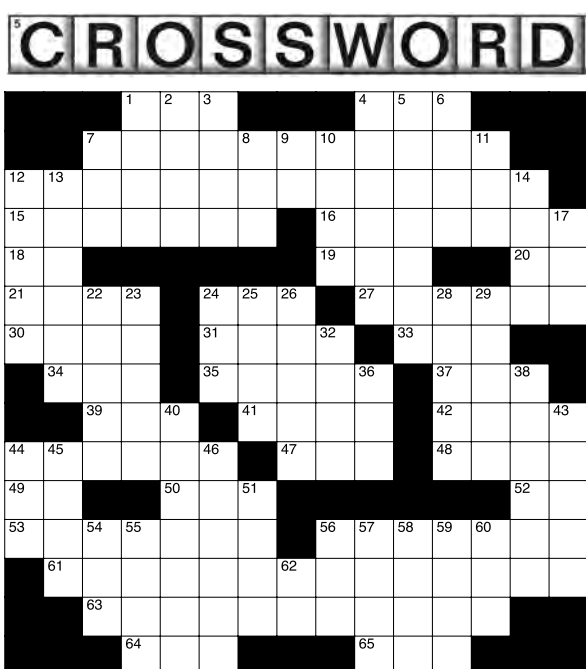
2013 Award Winning Business

ENCOURAGE KINDNESS TODAY

WHAT ARE YOU GRATEFUL FOR?

IT'S THE LITTLE THINGS THAT MATTER MOST

This week's crossword, sponsored by:
Atwood Electric, Inc.
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CLUES ACROSS

1. Blockchain-based entity
4. A woolen cap of Scottish origin
7. Painted with glue
12. Legendary crooner
15. Structure made with strips of wood
16. Tropical fruits
18. Commercial
19. Comedienne
20. The Ocean State
21. Ancient Scot
24. Basics
27. Stated propositions
30. Scottish island group
31. Expression of annoyance
33. Large tree
34. Engine additive
35. Conspiracy
37. Drunkard
39. Someone who is morally reprehensible
41. Ancient Syrian city
42. Mild yellow Dutch cheese made in balls
44. Carry (slang)
47. Sweet potato
48. European river
49. The Golden State
50. Windy City ballplayer
52. New Testament
53. Possess spiritually
56. A treeless grassy plain
61. Popular historical novel
63. In a law-abiding way
64. A place to sleep
65. Criticize

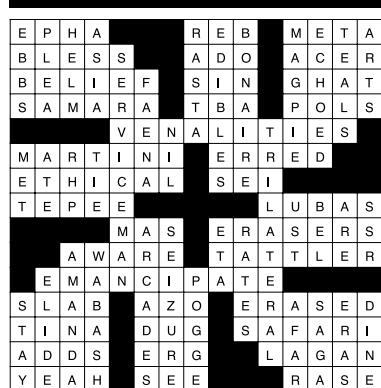
CLUES DOWN

1. Impression in a surface
2. Computer language
3. Relating to the ear
4. Occupant
5. Member of Great Plains people
6. Social media firm
7. Digital audiotape
8. Midway between east and southeast
9. Chronic, progressive disease
10. Chinese lute
11. Not wet
12. Moves wings up and down
13. Communication devices
14. Swiss river
17. Female sibling
22. Receive
23. Relating to a type
24. General's assistant (abbr.)
25. Steep bank
26. Taxi driver

CLUES ACROSS

28. Moves into without difficulty
29. Bicycle manufacturer
32. Traditional rhythmic pattern
36. Fugitives are on it
38. Bitter-tasting organic substance
40. Die
43. Matched
44. Literary genre
45. Cannot
46. Pounded
51. British rock group
54. Debt relief order
55. 2006 NL Cy Young winner
56. Green vegetable
57. Tough outer skin of fruit
58. ___ Spumante (Italian wine)
59. Ailments
60. Famed singer
62. Camper

LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS



HOME REPAIR WORD SEARCH

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

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

WORDS

- BACKSPLASH
- BUILDING
- CASING
- CIRCUIT
- CONTRACTOR
- CURB APPEAL
- DRAIN
- FLASHING
- GROUT
- JOIST
- LOAD
- MOLDING
- OUTLET
- PERMIT
- PIPES
- ROUGH-IN
- SHIM
- SIDING
- SILL
- SOFFIT
- SUBFLOOR
- VALVE
- VENEER
- WALLS

THE HISTORICAL VIEWPOINT

Velna's World and Christmas

By Casey Jarmes |
The News-Review

Last week, I began my retelling of local woman Velna Utterback's memoirs, recounting her memories from growing up on her grandparents' farm near Hayesville. I'm continuing that story this week, with more stories from Velna's youth and time as a teacher, many of which took place around Christmastime.

One Christmas, there was a program at the Hayesville Spiritualist Hall, where there was a tree covered in Christmas presents. Teenagers took the presents off the tree and handed them to Santa, who passed them out to the children. Velna received a doll with eyes that closed when it was laid down. "I'm sure that I was the happiest little girl there," she wrote, decades later.

Before that Christmas, she had played with "Old Beansie," a cotton stuffed doll her Grandmother Susan had made for her out of a flour sack. Unfortunately, after a few weeks of playing with the doll, its eyes dropped back into its head. Velna couldn't stand to look at the eyeless doll and hid it in the closet, under a huge stack of quilts and comforters. When her grandparents asked what she'd done with the doll, Velna said that the doll had died and she had buried her.

One Christmas, when Velna was 10 or 11, she walked home from school during a blizzard. When she arrived home that evening, her Grandfather Isaac had her ride out and bring the cows back while riding on their sorrel horse, Old Tony. Velna rode out, a blanket wrapped around her legs to keep warm, but the cows were nowhere to be seen.

She followed tracks down to the river, a mile away, and found the cows hiding on an island in the middle of a frozen pond. As she lead the cows back, it was so dark she could scarcely see the outlines of buildings and was sure she was going the wrong way. But, she remembered what her grandfather had told her, that if she ever got lost, to let the horse have his way and bring her home. Old Tony led Velna home and her grandmother gave her a hot bath and a bowl of hot potato soup.

1913 was a hot, dry year, with temperatures over 100 degrees for several days. Grass burned brown and many wells failed. During these hot days, Velna and her cousin Edgar were tasked with riding the horses down to the river to drink. One day, while doing this, the horses ran through the cattle, scattering them in all directions in the thick brush. The frightened cattle upset an old tree stump full of bumblebees, which stung Old Tony. Tony bolted through the brush, but Velna managed to stay on his back, even as the weeds and brush scraped the skin of her feet and legs. Another time, they rode the horses through a pasture owned by Velna's Uncle Hughie, which contained a big Hereford bull. The bull stayed along the fence, as Velna and Edgar rounded up the cattle. Then, she heard the sound of brush cracking. The bull charged at Velna, so fast she had no time to flee. But, Old Tony whirled around and kicked the bull, leaving hoofprints on the side of his head. After that, Hughie sold the bull.

In 1917, there was heavy rationing as part of WWI, limiting the use of sugar and

flour. Velna wrote that her grandmother was excellent at making substitutions, using rice flour in bread, oatmeal in muffins, and bran in corn bread. They used corn syrup and molasses as sugar substitutes, saving their sugar allotment for canning fruits and special occasions.

Velna worked as a teacher, spending one year at the Chastine Country school and then four years at Hayesville. One morning, during her first year teaching, one of her students, Tommy Glandon, came in one morning, not feeling well. By recess, his face was flushed, with a high fever. A few days later, he passed away, from diphtheria. Velna frantically asked the school board to have the school fumigated, but they didn't think it was necessary. For the next thirty days, Velna checked every child's throat every morning; none of them came in with a sore throat.

One day, in the early 1920s, Velna and her cousin Irvin went to a dance in Ottumwa, driving back to Hayesville on the then-unpaved Highway 149 at around 2:00 a.m. That night, they were followed by a car with only one headlight. Arriving in town, they parked the car across the street from the post office. The next morning, Velna learned that the post office had been robbed. Later that day, there was a knock on the school door. She opened it to find the sheriff with two angry bloodhounds, that had tracked her scent there from the post office. Velna was accused of theft, but the sheriff dropped her as a suspect because Irving told the same story. No one was ever caught for the

post office robbery.

In 1922, on the last day before Christmas Vacation, right after school ended, there was a knock on the school door. She opened it to find a poorly dressed man, the father of her students, who lived a squalid life selling popcorn from an old wagon on the square in Sigourney. The father handed Velna a beautiful box of stationery, a gift his children had asked he give her, as a thanks for being so good to them. Velna wondered if the man had gone without meals to save enough money to buy the gift. On another Christmas, either in 1922 or 1923, Velna had Edgar dress as Santa Claus and drive to the school in a horse-pulled bobsled. He got out, asked the children if they had been good little boys and girls, and gave them bags containing candy, gum and oranges from his sack. They explained to the kids that the reindeer were tired and resting, so Santa had borrowed the sled and horses.

On Christmas Eve, 1923, Leo Adams proposed to Velna. There was a dance that night, at the Hayesville Spiritualist Hall, where Velna refused to answer the countless questions about her new diamond ring. The pair were married on Christmas night, the next year, and moved to a farm owned by Leo's grandmother two miles southeast of Hayesville. Velna finished her last year of teaching the following spring.

1925 was a very cold winter, with lots of snow and no mail for several days at a time. Every day, Leo and Lloyd and Ira Holling-

VIEWPOINT
pg. 8

ENCOURAGE KINDNESS
TODAY

PUT A SMILE
IN SOMEONE'S DAY

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

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

an individual or a cause, therefore if a writer cannot assure us that their submission is individual and personal, it may be rejected.

Your Letter to the Editor must include:

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

Your address and telephone number will not be printed in the newspaper, but will be used for verification by newspaper editorial staff.

Unsigned letters and letters containing personal attacks the newspaper deems to be of a libelous nature will not be published. The News-Review reserves the right to end debate on a topic after both sides have had ample chance to express their views. The News-Review reserves the right to edit or refuse all letters. All columns and letters on the opinion page are the views of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of The News-Review.

Correction and Retraction Policy

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

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

The News-Review | 120 E Washington St, PO Box 285, Sigourney, IA 52591 | 641-622-3110 | news@sigourneynewsreview.com

The News-Review

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Sigourney, IA 52591
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Sports Editor: Mark Schafer sports@sigourneynewsreview.com

News Editor: Casey Jarmes news@sigourneynewsreview.com

Deadlines

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



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

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

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

Worship Guide

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Holy Trinity Parish
 109 N Lincoln St.
 Rev. Fr. Robert Lathrop
 Office Phone: 641-636-3883
 Sunday Mass: 8:30am
 Religious-Ed Sundays 9:30-10:45am

United Church of Faith
 201 North Ellis Street, PO Box 208
 Keota, IA 52248
 (641) 636-3825

keotaucf@cloudburst9.net
 www.keotaucf.org
 Sunday Worship Service 9:00 a.m.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

New Life Fellowship New Sharon
 Lead Pastor Rick Baarda
 www.newlifefellowshippns.org
 641-637-2561
 newlifefellowshippns@gmail.com
 Worship Service: Sunday, 9:15am (Church)
 Children's Sunday School during pastor's morning message. (Church Basement)

Adult Small Group: Sunday, 10:30am (Church)
 Adult Small Group: Wednesday, 1:30pm (McVay FC)
 G2C Youth Group (2-6th)- Wednesday, 6:00 -7:30pm (Church)
 PROS Youth Group (7-12th) - Wednesday, 6:30 - 8:30pm (McVay FC)

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

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

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

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

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

Prairie View Church, A Global Methodist Church
 Pastor: Steven Lamb
 641-667-2502
 27131 Hwy 78, Ollie
 Sunday: 9:00 a.m. Worship,
 Followed by Fellowship; 10:30 a.m. Sunday School
 Sundays and Wednesdays: 5 p.m. Book Study
 Sunday, Mar. 15: 9 a.m. Sunday Worship w/Chosen People Ministries, followed by fellowship; 10:30 a.m. Sunday School; 5 p.m. Book Study at the parsonage
 Monday, Mar. 16: 8 a.m. Prayer Group at parsonage
 Tuesday, Mar. 17: 10 a.m. Bible Study; 5 p.m. SPRC
 Wednesday, Mar. 18: 6 p.m. Family Fun Night; 6 p.m. Youth Group
 Sunday, Mar. 22: 9 a.m. Sunday Worship, followed by fellowship

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Bethel Church
 Pastor Nick Needham
 319-329-6070

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

To the Editor,

In many Iowa communities, including ours, fire protection is provided not by full-time paid crews, but by dedicated volunteers who leave their jobs and families at a moment's notice to respond to emergencies. Understanding how our community's ISO fire rating works helps explain why continued investment in our volunteer fire department matters.

The Public Protection Classification (PPC) score is issued by Insurance Services Office (ISO). Communities are rated on a scale from 1 to 10, with 1 representing the highest level of fire protection capability. Insurance companies use this rating as one factor in setting property insurance premiums. The Sigourney Fire/Rescue has progressively moved up the scale. These ISO surveys are generally completed every 5 years. In the last 20 years, we are proud to boast that we have moved up from an 8 rating to currently a 4 rating, which should affect commercial and residential property insurance rates in the City of Sigourney.

ISO evaluates three primary areas: fire department staffing, training, and equipment (50%); water supply systems, including hydrants or rural tanker operations (40%); and emergency communications and dispatch services (10%).

For volunteer departments, maintaining or

improving this rating can be especially challenging. Volunteers must meet ongoing training standards. Equipment such as tankers, pumpers, radios, and protective gear must be kept current and properly maintained. In rural areas without hydrants, departments must demonstrate the ability to transport and deliver large volumes of water quickly and efficiently.

All of this requires funding.

When budgets are tight, it can be tempting to delay truck replacements, reduce training opportunities, or postpone equipment upgrades. However, doing so can negatively impact a community's ISO rating — which may ultimately affect homeowners' insurance costs and, more importantly, emergency response capability.

Investing in our volunteer fire department is not simply an expense. It is a commitment to public safety, property protection, and financial stability for residents. Every dollar spent on training, equipment, and infrastructure strengthens our ability to respond when lives and property are at risk.

Our volunteers stand ready to serve. With continued community and municipal support, they can continue to meet the standards that protect us all.

Sincerely,
 Bill Halleran- Fire Chief

Obituaries

Alice J. Greiner

1939-2026

KEOTA—Alice J. Greiner, age 86, of Keota, died Wednesday, March 4, 2026, at Briarwood Healthcare Center in Iowa City.

Alice was born August 1, 1939, in Sigourney, the daughter of Raymond "John" and Thelmae (Priest) Martin. She graduated from Sigourney High School and attended Wartburg College in Waverly. On December 4, 1965, she married John "Alex" Greiner at the Sigourney Christian Church. They lived and farmed in the Keota area following marriage. Alice was an active member of the United Church of Faith, where she helped with Kid's Club and other church activities. She enjoyed her bridge club, gardening, antiquing and going on walks.

Survivors include three sons: Brian (Kristina) Greiner of Coralville, Jason (Andrea) Greiner of North Liberty and Chad (Angela Pickren) Greiner of Riverview, Florida; four grandchildren: Alexandra Greiner, Charles Greiner, John Greiner and Nicholas Greiner; two brothers: Gerald Martin and Donald Martin; two sisters: Pat Steinhart and Martha (Gary) Weber; brother-in-law: Ed Hubbell and sister-in-law: Holly Martin. She was preceded in death by her parents; husband in 2001; two brothers: Charles and Jerry Martin; sister: Sara Hubbell; brother-in-law: Duane Steinhart and sister-in-law: Janet Martin.

Funeral service will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, March 14, 2026, at the United Church of Faith in Keota, with Pastor Brandi Meyer officiating. Burial will be at Keota Cemetery. Visitation will be from 4:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. on Friday, March 13, 2026, at Powell Funeral Home in Keota.

A memorial fund has been established for cancer research at the University of Iowa. Powell Funeral Home and Cremation Service in Keota is caring for Alice and her family. Tributes may be made at www.powellfuneralhomes.com.

Services: Mar. 14, 10:30 a.m.

Visitation: Mar. 13, 4-7 p.m.

POWELL FUNERAL HOME

KEOTA

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“ You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast, because they trust in you. ”
 Isaiah 26:3 (NIV)

The Foundation of Trust

Trust can sometimes be a difficult thing to navigate within our relationships. While we certainly acknowledge the different levels of trust that we assign on an individual basis, a deeper point for reflection is thinking about where this trust comes from. Notably, we may trust someone based on feelings of love or comfortability, and we may tend to distrust based on feelings of distance or resentment. As we reflect upon these matters, we should consider ways in which we can become more trusting people. While this does not have to entail the reveal of any extra personal information, it does mean becoming a trusting presence in the lives of others, allowing them to confide in us as we consider the very reasons that we confide in our most trusted friends and loved ones.

-James Stone

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Pekin Elementary to host kindergarten round-up March 25

PACKWOOD — Parents of children who will be entering kindergarten in the 2026-2027 school year are invited to attend Pekin Elementary's annual Kindergarten Round-Up on Wednesday, March 25. The event will begin at 6 p.m. in the elementary school cafeteria and is open to families with children who will be five years old by Sept. 15, 2026.

During the round-up, parents will learn about kindergarten expectations, the district's PowerSchool system and complete required enrollment paperwork for the upcoming school year. Students currently enrolled in Pekin Preschool will visit the kindergarten classrooms in early May as part of a transition activity to help prepare them for the upcoming school year.

Children who are not currently enrolled in Pekin Preschool but plan to attend kindergarten at Pekin Elementary in the fall are also encouraged to participate in the classroom visit day. Parents who would like more information about the visit day or kindergarten enrollment may contact the Pekin Elementary office at 319-695-3707.



L-R Hailey B, Aubrey Z, Mrs. Sierra Latcham, Nikki T, Andy T, Hunter B, and Sullivan S.

Sigourney Council Discusses New AEDs, Recycling Center Contract

By Casey Jarmes | The News-Review

SIGOURNEY — During the March 4 meeting of the Sigourney City Council, the council approved a contract with CINTAS for two new AEDs, one for the city and one for the pool. Mayor Pro-Tem Connie McLaughlin explained that both of the current AEDs were outdated, with one being obtained in 2008 and the other in 2012. The three-year contract will cost the city \$118 per month and have CINTAS come by monthly to check and maintain the AEDs. The containers that hold the AEDs will have alarms. McLaughlin explained that Fire Chief Bill Halleran would provide training in using the AEDs to city employees and pool staff. Councilman Randy Schultz recapped the Street and Sanitation meeting, explaining that Helmuth Ford had spoken to them about enlarging their building, something they had been required to do by Ford to keep their dealership. This expansion would

require building onto East North Street, a seldom-used city owned road that goes between the dealership and their gravel parking lot. Schultz stated that they could vacate a portion of the street to Helmuth and suggested having a public hearing on this during the April 15 meeting. Schultz also brought up the recycling center south of town, which the city currently pays \$1,900 a month to allow Sigourney residents to use. He explained that, if the city was going to terminate this contract, they needed to do so by May 30 at the latest. Schultz noted that there is a private recycling service in town now and stated that, if they discontinued the contract with the center, they may be able to wave the planned increase to sanitation rates. Councilman Jesse Hannam asked if it would be cheaper to have a private garbage company take over the city's garbage services, noting that other towns in the area got along well with private

garbage pickup. Schultz stated that they had discussed this in the past, but that the numbers never seemed to work out, and that they needed to maintain staff levels for plowing snow in the winter. Schultz suggested having a public hearing about the recycling center during the May 6 meeting. Jerry Wohler from Kiwanis asked the council for permission to place a metal and wire mesh picnic table, with a rubber top, at the pavilion on the square. He explained that Kiwanis thought this would lead to more people using the pavilion and give them a place to eat lunch. Schultz asked if the table would be tied down; Wohler stated it would weigh 120 pounds and that it wouldn't be the city's problem if someone tried to steal the table. The council set the time of a public hearing on the city's proposed tax rate for April 1, at 6:00 p.m. City Clerk Ashley Fry stated that the rate discussed would be \$15.20 per \$1,000 of taxable property.

The Tri-County Ag classes are buzzing!

By Andy Thomas, Owner of Thomas Hometown Harvest

Thomas Hometown Harvest recently partnered up with the Ag Mechanics class at Tri-County to help bridge the gap between life skills and business. Thomas Hometown Harvest is looking to expand the number of honey bee colonies that they raise. One way to do that is to catch local swarms. After discussing the building instructions

with Ag instructor, Sierra Latcham, it was decided that this would be an awesome opportunity for collaboration between a local business and students. The students were tasked with creating a prototype, creating a material list and pitching a cost analysis to Andy and Nikki Thomas, owners of THH. After taking several factors into consideration, a final building plan was created and the work began. Students measured, cut, assem-

bled and tested the products. When all was said and done, the students had created 9 honey bee swarm boxes and they are ready to be placed in the area this spring. Members of the Ag class include Hailey Brackelsberg, Aubrey Zittergruen, Hunter Brackelsberg and Sullivan Stanley. Thomas Hometown Harvest hopes this is the first of many projects coordinated between them and Mrs. Sierra Latcham's classes at Tri-County.

North English Signs 28e With Knoll Ridge For Pool

By Casey Jarmes | The News-Review

NORTH ENGLISH — During the March 4 meeting of the North English City Council, the council approved a 28e Agreement with Knoll Ridge Country Club which will allow the Knoll Ridge pool to receive grants and tax-deductible donations through the city. Under the agreement, the city and country club will form a committee in charge of administering these funds. Knoll Ridge will retain ownership of the pool and continue to handle employing staff and managing things day to day, but the city will have the responsibility of overseeing how the pool spends grant funds. Cassie O'Rourke from Friends of the Knoll Ridge Pool requested the city give \$10,000 to the pool this year, instead of the normal \$5,000, to help get them back on their

feet. She noted that the pool had \$20,000 in operational costs, which most grants would not cover. O'Rourke stated that the pool committee planned to continue fundraising as much as they could for the needed upgrades at the pool. Mayor Dan Strohm suggested giving \$5,000 and having a sit down meeting between the council and country club later in the year. The council brought up questions over whose account the grant money would sit in, what would happen to money in the account go if the 28e was cancelled, whose responsibility keep track of funds, and who would write grants. Strohm suggested tabling the agreement until next month, to give time to sort questions out, but O'Rourke stated that there were several important grant deadlines that would expire in March, leading the council to approve the agreement.

Also at the Wednesday meeting, the council approved giving \$12,000 to Trent Forrest, owner of Main Street Grub and Pub, as support for a Catalyst Grant; Forrest intends to expand his restaurant, doubling its capacity. The council approved giving \$5,000 in support of Iowa County Community Development. Strohm stated that there were three properties in town that they'd had no success in cleaning up, despite sending letters and talking to the property owners, and suggested having the city attorney send letters. City Clerk Tara Heyne stated that she had received a complaint from a resident about the number of food trucks in town, who asked if they had city permission and suggested raising the applicant fee for food trucks. Strohm stated he didn't think they should do anything about food trucks.



English Valleys held a Swing Concert on March 6. Photo credit: English Valleys Facebook page.

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THE SUN SPOT

MAHASKA COUNTY NEWS

OFF THE VINE

By Jackie Perkins
Monday, March 9, 2026...
What a crazy start to the new week! Surely the fact that I am up and writing at this hour is due to the time change. Many times, this is about the time I am finally getting to sleep! Yesterday (Sunday) was a really quick day. The weekend included watching a lot of basketball and now it is time to get some projects going.

I received a couple calls regarding last week's writing. Oh my goodness - I mistakenly called Omar Sieren, Owen! Thank you JoAnn, and we had such a wonderful visit. Such a happy and upbeat gal she is! I am grateful to having met more of my more distant relatives in the past few years, and hopefully there is going to be more of that coming up.

The first week of each month my calendar is normally full, and enjoyable. Sixty Plus was very well attended on Tuesday. The food table was covered with tasty dishes...and the deserts! Greg just couldn't stop talking about the cinnamon rolls, and wondered who had brought them. That mystery was solved when later in the week I talked to Lila Prell. There was also a beautiful pineapple upside down cake that was a hit for me! I am so happy to see this group continue with folks coming from not only Fremont, but Hedrick, Delta, Oskaloosa, Ottumwa, Cedar, Eddyville and other communities. I happened on an article, yes I save a lot of those, from the Ottumwa Courier twenty plus years ago, written by Judy Krier following her visit to Sixty Plus. She wrote that Virginia Dalbey had been organizing the monthly gatherings for twenty years at that. So that adds up to over forty years now! Judy mentioned the wonderful people making up that group and the tasty dishes shared. In the early years, there were very few males in attendance, but that has certainly changed! Reading that writing by Judy, took my thoughts back to some very special people. I could still see that first table inside the dining hall, surrounded

by Margie Holliman, Reba McWilliams, Edna Versteegh, Beverly Cruzen, Norma Fredrickson and others who were such a value to our community. Thanks to Virginia for realizing the importance of this social event and to all who continue to gather. Come join us!

On Wednesday the 4th, Greg's Aunt Martha Perkins observed her birthday...her 109th Birthday! I plan to deliver her gooseberry pie in the next couple days. I am sure she enjoyed many good wishes.

Thursday was the big day with a trip to Keokuk County for Sit 'n Stitch at Fiddle Dee Dee in Keota. I am always excited to see everyone there, and to have lunch with Lorie. I certainly do enjoy retirement, and I am so happy to have made that trip almost two years ago when I knew none of these ladies, and never felt like a stranger!

The way home took me to Hedrick for the meeting of the Auxiliary. There was a lot to discuss there with several activities to plan. Again a very enjoyable group!

But that wasn't all. In the evening, Dixie and I headed to Kirkville to be with Patchwork Peddlers. Greg and Larry spent the time we were gone playing cribbage, which they really enjoy. I'm thinking this group has been together for around twenty years now, beginning with Snowman of the month for the first year. A few of the charter members still display those embroidery projects each month. Thanks to Kris Kelderman who shares her home with us.

And then came garden club on Friday, of which I joined right after my retirement. And I have trouble believing that was almost eleven years ago! I am so blessed to have each group and to be able to enjoy the company of so many, doing the things I love. Aren't we lucky to have communities as we do?

Not as much, but plenty to do again this week. It's still dark out and I won't be surprised if a nap will be required before darkness returns this day. Wishing you a good week!

VIEWPOINT from pg. 4

sworth had to shovel snow drifts out of the road, leading as far as the schoolhouse. Every night, it either snowed again or the drifted in again. That winter, Velna was pregnant with her firstborn son, Beryl. One afternoon, she called Dr. Johnson to come over; temperatures sank far below zero, but Johnson stayed the night, and delivered her baby the next afternoon.

In December, 1926, there was a storm with heavy sleet, that covered everything in ice. One day, the mule Leo was riding, Jack, slipped on

this ice, landing on Leo's leg and breaking it. Jack the mule stood up with his head over Leo's face, as if to say "I'm sorry." Afterward, one of Leo's legs was shorter than the other.

Velna's memoirs contained one more story, about a memorable Christmas, one far less pleasant than the memories of receiving a doll or a proposal on Christmas Eve. Next week, I'll share the story of Velna's newborn son Paul, lying in the hospital on Christmas Eve, with the doctors only giving him a 50-50 shot of living.

COUNTRY GIRL'S CORNER

March Madness

By Sheryl L. Carter

I bet that rabbit that my big cat, Petey, brought up to the house this morning and deposited it right in front of the door thought it was madness, as his life had been quickly extinguished. Petey was jubilant! A mighty hunter is he! That was a big rabbit, too, as after Petey got what he wanted, I bagged it up and put it in the trash bin. I bet that thing weighed four to five pounds.

March has come in with bright, warm sun, and two nights of rains! We had puddles out in the driveway by the sidewalk, a joy to see as it has gotten very dry. I don't have my rain gauge out yet, but thinking it was a good bit.

I had planned to attend the CEF supper at the First Federated Church in Pella last Tuesday evening, as Scottie

and Dorothy are involved, but my plans changed when the pain in my left lower jaw worsened. That afternoon late, I was able to see my dentist at his Tuesday clinic uptown, and he ordered an antibiotic, so I immediately drove into Pella to pick it up. Also got in the week's grocery shopping, and ran Jazzy through the car wash. It was disappointing not to be able to attend, as I was also going to help out with the meal for our table, but they carried on without me.

On Thursday I was in Grinnell to the dentist's main office for an all-around x-ray which revealed a massive abscess in the lower left molar, plus the nerve is dying. Ouch. That is some real pain, and it took over two days for the meds to finally take effect. That afternoon, I felt enough

better to put my yearly taxes together.

Friday, I was in Newton for my tax appointment to meet the sweet young accountant from last year. She looked through all my figures, put them on her computer, then turned to me and said, "Because of the \$6,000 discount on income for seniors this year, plus your mileage, you don't have to file!" Yippee! Good news for sure. Back out in Jazzy, I called up a friend who lives in there, and spent a couple of hours at her house catching up.

Yesterday I got the week's wash cared for, the check book balanced, did a little housework, and made pizza for supper. This was a good pizza for sure. I had purchased one at the store on Tuesday, as it looked so good, and thought it would

be a little treat not requiring any prep on my part. It looked good, I said—well, it wasn't. They lied. It was actually awful. I guess when you are used to homemade food, your taste buds are simply spoiled, and this stuff did not measure up at all.

Last night it was time to set the clocks back. The bird clock here in my office has stayed on DST, as I didn't even bother to change it last spring. It's a big clock and tricky to hang back on its nail, so I just left it. At least it was light outside when I got up an hour earlier this morning.

Today has been a beautiful warm and sunny spring day as I went out to Sunday school and church this morning. I need to go out in it before the sun goes down.

Have a great week!

KEOTA COUNCIL from pg. 2

ward, said the idea developed after earlier discussions about improving the Eagle Trail behind the school and learning that transportation funding may be available through Rural Planning Area 15.

Pedrick said the TAP program offers up to \$280,000 and requires a 20% local match. During discussion, several possible funding sources were mentioned, including applying to the Keokuk County Endowment Fund to help cover part of the match.

Council members noted that even if the project is not immediately funded, the city would still have an updated trail plan ready for future grant opportunities.

In other business, the council approved demolition

of the property at 108 W. Keokuk Ave. without discussion. The matter returned to the council after the mayor vetoed action taken at the previous meeting.

The council also set public hearings for upcoming city financial matters. A hearing on the proposed fiscal year 2027 property tax levy will be held at 6:30 p.m. Monday, March 16, at City Hall. A hearing on the proposed fiscal year 2027 budget is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. Monday, April 6.

During department reports, public works staff said the city dump remains busy and spring maintenance has begun on seasonal equipment. Water flows remain slightly higher than expected following a recent water

main break, and staff plan to conduct leak detection next week to locate a possible underground leak.

Public Works also reported a leaking backflow preventer at the water plant and said they are exploring whether a standard backflow prevention device could be used instead of a more expensive reduced-pressure unit. Wastewater plant operations have run smoothly through the winter.

The Keota Public Library reported strong attendance, with more than 30 people participating in recent events. Library staff also said accreditation paperwork was submitted last week, securing state funding eligibility for another three years.

The council approved

payroll for Bridget Greiner, February timesheets and comp time, and set March 16 as the application deadline for two public works intern positions. The council also approved attendance for city staff at upcoming clerk training conferences in April.

Council members also discussed possible updates to the city's ordinance regulating peddlers, solicitors, transient merchants, and food truck operations, though no formal action was taken.

During council comments, officials also noted that spring cleanup and citywide garage sales will be held in the coming weeks and encouraged residents to begin preparing for the annual events.

Local Students Make Indian Hills Honor Roll

The following students made the Indian Hills Community College Winter 2025 Honor Roll. To be eligible, students must receive a GPA of at least 3.5.

Hedrick
Renae J. Eubanks, Kayla

Bunnell, Izabella H. Earnest, Ayla L. Banas

Keota
Luke B. Moeller

Keswick
Haley M. Thomas, Kenzi R. Van Den Heuvel, Levi A. Molyneux

North English

Garin M. Schaffner

Ollie
Sarah N. Berg, Katelynn G. Schultz

Packwood
Chloe L. Glosser, Logan M. Johnson

Sigourney

Dawson F. Meyer, Cloee J. Wilson, Ella G. Bahlmann, Josh R. Vermillion, Adalynne M. Tremmel, Wyatt R. Wehr, Krista N. Sellers



On March 2, the Pekin Varsity Quiz Bowl team placed second out of eight teams at the Waco Quiz Bowl tournament. On March 4, the Pekin JV Quiz Bowl team won the Van Buren Quiz Bowl tournament. The Varsity team came in fourth. Pictured: the teams at Van Buren. Photo credit: Pekin Facebook page

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Online Grant Writing 101 Workshop Set for April 1

By Esther Crompton

AMES - Representatives of nonprofits, government agencies and school districts can learn the essentials of developing strong grant proposals during an online Grant Writing 101 workshop on April 1, from 9-11 a.m. The session is offered by Iowa State University Extension and Outreach Community and Economic Development.

Grant Writing 101 provides foundational training

for individuals who want to identify funding opportunities and prepare clear, competitive applications. The workshop reviews common grant terminology, how to locate funding sources and practical strategies for planning and writing a successful proposal.

"Grant writing is easier to approach when you understand the process," said Lindsay Henderson, development specialist with ISU Extension and Outreach. "This

workshop breaks the work into practical steps, helping you move from identifying funders to writing a strong proposal."

Henderson emphasized that the workshop is designed for people at all levels of experience. "Some participants come in having never written a grant, while others want to refine their approach," she said. "No matter their background, they leave with tools they can immediately apply to improve their next appli-

cation."

The session also covers how to outline project goals, gather supporting information, avoid frequent pitfalls and strengthen budget and narrative components.

The registration fee is \$40 per participant, and advance enrollment is required.

For more information, visit the www.extension.iastate.edu/communities/contact-writing-workshops or contact Lindsay Henderson at lindsayh@iastate.edu.



Pekin senior Cole Millikin goes up for a shot during a game played this year at the Casey's Center in Des Moines. Millikin was named the SEISC-North basketball player of the year. Photo by Mark Schafer

Five Panthers named to All-Conference SEISC teams

By Mark Schafer | The News-Review

PACKWOOD - They had one of the best players in their conference on their team, and that propelled them throughout the winter.

However, every single member of the 2025-26 Pekin boys basketball team contributed in one way or another as the Panthers were able to finish the season with a 19-5 overall record.

Leading the way for the Panthers was senior Cole Millikin, who not only was named to the SEISC first team list, he was also named the SEISC North, player of the year.

Henry Adam was also named to the first team All-Conference list. Alijah Brock finished on the second team All-Conference list. Nolan Glick and Riley Smith were both named to the SEISC honorable mention list.

Millikin was a big factor in every single game that the Panthers played in this season. Because of his ability to control the game Millikin was honored as the SEISC North, player of the year.

He was able to finish the season with 465 total points scored. He shot 44 percent from the field, and was able to hit 37 percent of his three pointers this year. Additionally, Millikin hit 47 of his 63 free throws.

He averaged 19.4 points per game. Millikin wasn't just a scorer for the Panthers. He also had 64 assists, which was the second-most on his team. He finished the year with 53 steals, the second-most on his team. He also had 85 rebounds, with 76 of those on the defensive end. The senior added one block.

Millikin led his conference in three pointers made this season. He was also top-five in the conference in terms of field goals made, and points scored this season.

Joining Millikin on the first-team list is Henry Adam.

The junior season for Adam will be one to be remembered as he scored 214 total points. While that was only the fourth-most points scored on his team, Adam was a statistical leader in several categories.

Adam finished the winter with 163 total assists, which was second-most in the conference. He also had 99 steals this season, which did lead the SEISC North. He also had 117 total rebounds, with 82 on defense and 35 on offense. He added five blocks.

A utility player in just about every description of the term, Alijah Brock made the second-team All-Conference list after finishing his junior year with 246 total points. It seemed whenever a play was taking place Brock was involved in some way or another.

The junior had 222 rebounds, the most on his team. He pulled in 149 defensive boards while adding 73 on offense. He had a keen eye for the open player as he had 34 assists. Defensively, he was strong too, with 43 steals and 10 blocks.

Nolan Glick finished his senior year with 250 total points scored. He had 131 rebounds with 81 of those coming on the defensive end. He added 24 assists, 22 steals and 11 blocks to be named to the honorable mention All-SEISC list.

Another senior, Riley Smith, was also named to the All-SEISC honorable mention list. Smith was able to finish with 126 total points. He pulled in 54 rebounds and had 28 assists. The senior finished with 23 steals.



Carlie Gambell from Pekin drives toward the basket during a game this winter. Gambell was named to the honorable mention list for the SEISC this year.



Junior Maddy Petrehn scans the floor for an open teammate during a basketball game this season. Petrehn was named to the honorable mention All-Conference list this year.

Four Pekin girls make All-Conference list

By Mark Schafer | The News-Review

PACKWOOD - In many ways their season was a surprising success.

Although their record didn't have as many wins as they would have liked, the Pekin girls basketball team in 2025-26 continued to show growth in each and every game.

By the end of the season the Panthers were able to finish the season with an 11-12 overall record. Additionally, a total of four Panther girls were named to the Southeast Iowa Super Conference All-Conference girls basketball team.

Abby Guise was a first-team All-Conference player for the Panthers this year. On the second team was Anna Hadley. Two Panther players, Carlie Gambell and Maddy Petrehn were both named to the

All-Conference honorable mention list.

In her senior year, Guise was one of the leaders for the Panthers. There were a few changes thrown at her as head coach, Neil Hartz changed up the offense, but Guise was able to take control of the offense.

Guise finished the year with 277 total points. She averaged 12 points per game. Guise was one of the SEISC leaders in free throws this year as she made 73 free throws and finished the season shooting 51.4 percent from the line.

What helped set Guise out from some of the other top scorers in the conference was the way Guise played. She was also a leader in rebounds. This season the



Pekin senior Abby Guise lines up a shot during a game this winter. Guise was an All-Conference first team selection for the SEISC this year.

senior pulled in 248 total rebounds. That included 86 offensive rebounds and 158 total rebounds on the defensive end. She also had 52 assists, 67 steals and seven blocks recorded this year.

Another senior for the Panthers was Anna Hadley. Hadley continued to improve every game as she led the Panthers in scoring this year with exactly 300 points. Hadley finished the season shooting 44 percent from the floor. She also made 72 of her 131 free throws to finish with a free throw shooting percentage of 55 percent.

The senior was a conference leader in rebounds as she grabbed 234 total boards this year. She finished with 118 rebounds on the defensive side of the floor, and 116 total rebounds on the offensive side.

Hadley also collected 52 steals, 15 assists and eight blocks throughout the season.

Sophomore Carlie Gambell had an immediate impact on her team throughout the winter. She was able to finish the year with 130 total points. She also had 89 total rebounds with 62 of those coming on the defensive side of the floor. Gambell added 53 steals, 30 assists and seven blocks.

Junior Maddy Petrehn scored 103 points for the Panthers. She was the team's sharpshooter as she made 20 threes this winter.

In her junior year she also had 43 rebounds, 52 steals, 31 assists and five total blocks.

Photos by Mark Schafer



Anna Hadley splits a pair of Louisa-Muscatine defenders during a game earlier this year. Hadley was selected to the All-Conference second team list.

Johnston only repeat champions

By Mark Schafer | The News-Review

DES MOINES - The girls State basketball tournament has officially come to a close and five new champions are left standing.

There was only one repeat champion from last year as class 5A's Johnston won another title, their third-straight championship. It was an exciting week as the new champions were crowned in the Casey's Center.

Class 5A
Johnston entered as the No. 1 seed, and they left as the No. 1 seed and one of the few teams to finish the season completely undefeated. They won their first game by 24, and then earned a 10-point win over Ankeny in the semifinals.

In the championship they met third-seeded Waukee Northwest, who had bested Dowling Catholic by six in the semifinals.

Johnston never trailed in the championship game and would eventually win 51-37 for the third-straight championship by the Dragons.

On top of that, they were able to finish the season undefeated.

Class 4A
Carlisle entered the tournament as the No. 5 seed, but they weren't afraid to make their presence known at the tournament.

The Wildcats were able to start their tournament with a 58-44 victory over defending champions, Clear Creek-Amarna. That pushed Carlisle into the semifinals where they played No. 1 seeded Bishop Heelan.

Despite being the underdogs, Carlisle would score a 73-60 victory over the Crusaders to move into the championship game.

Carlisle faced No. 2-seeded Dallas Center-Grimes in the championship. For Dallas Center-Grimes they had bested Norwalk 47-42 in the semifinals in a game that came down to the

wire. The championship game was close, but Carlisle was able to score a 38-36 victory.

Class 3A
Eventually it came down to the top two seeds in the tournament. Although Mount Vernon was the No. 1 seed they weren't good enough on the final night as Maquoketa was able to claim the school's first girls basketball State championship.

In the opening game the defense of Maquoketa was the story as they held an undefeated Mediapolis team to just 23 points.

That advanced Maquoketa into the semifinals where they played Des Moines Christian. That game was closer, but Maquoketa was able to gain the win, 61-54.

In the other semifinal game Mount Vernon handled Wahler Catholic with a 53-49 victory.

In the title game Mount Vernon started with the lead, leading 27-24 at halftime, but a 19 point third quarter helped Maquoketa take the lead. Eventually the championship started to lead in favor of Maquoketa as they held Mount Vernon to just two points in the fourth quarter.

With that Maquoketa took the championship.

Class 2A
Northwest Iowa proved to be the strength of the class 2A basketball world once again. Rock Valley, who entered the tournament as the No. 2 seed would defeat Hinton in the championship game.

Rock Valley started off their tournament with a 43-31 victory over Regina Catholic in the quarterfinals.

In the semifinals Rock Valley survived a scare from Treynor, winning 57-54 over the Cardinals to go to the championship.

There, they were able to meet Hinton.

The path to the championship

game for Hinton wasn't quite as easy. In the quarterfinals Hinton survived a 46-45 win over West Lyon. They were then able to best Denver 57-48, assuring that the class 2A champion would hail from northwest Iowa.

In the championship Rock Valley was able to gain a 67-57 victory over Hinton.

Class 1A
It is hard to believe that 11 years ago Newell-Fonda had

never won a girls basketball State championship. This past weekend the Mustangs were able to win their fifth State championship since 2015. Their appearance in the State title game was their 11th since 2013.

As most of their runs to the championship have been, the Mustangs started off with dominance.

In the quarterfinals Newell-Fonda won 77-58 over Saint

Ansgar.

That led to a semifinal game where Newell-Fonda took on the defending class 1A State champion, St. Albert.

The Mustangs were able to win that contest 50-45.

In the championship the Mustangs took on Bishop Garrigan. This was a rematch of the 2021, 2022 and 2023 State title games.

Bishop Garrigan had started off their tournament with a 64-

42 victory over Kee. The Golden Bears then bested Dunkerton 49-38 in the semifinals.

In the championship game Newell-Fonda enacted some revenge over the 2022 and 2023 State title games as the Mustangs won 64-56 to claim their fifth State title, but their first since 2021.

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MARCH MANIA CHALLENGE



Think you have what it takes to predict this year's NCAA Tournament outcomes? Join The News-Review's March Mania Bracket Challenge, proudly sponsored by Grant Ranch Grub & Pub and Helmuth Ford, and com-

pete for fantastic prizes! The women's bracket winner will receive a gift card and some Grant Ranch swag, while the men's bracket winner will be awarded a complimentary oil change and Helmuth Ford swag. To participate, complete

your bracket(s)—men's, women's, or both—and submit them to The News-Review by 10 a.m. on Thursday, March 19. Submissions can be dropped off in person at 120 E. Washington St., Sigourney, or emailed to Sports Editor

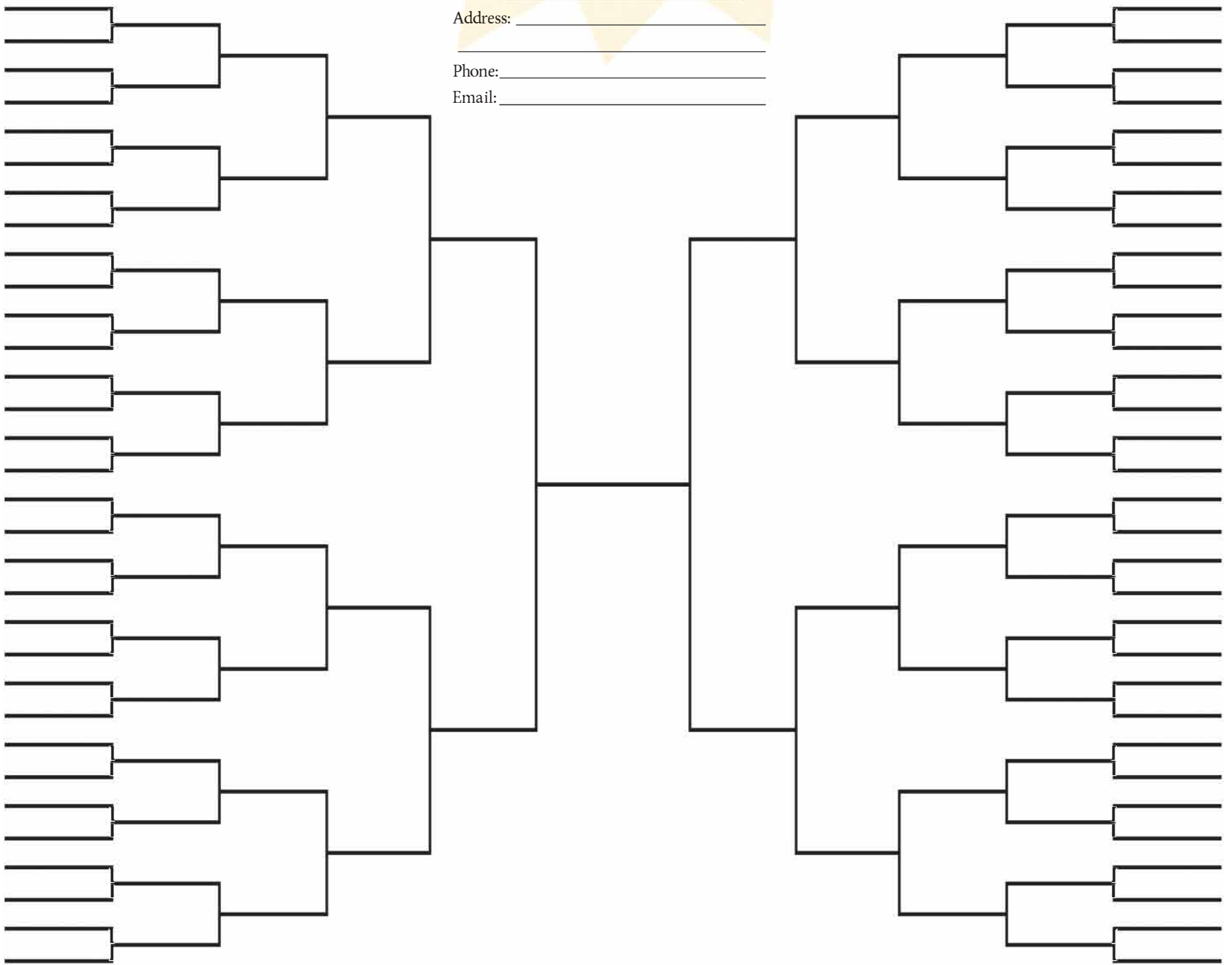
Mark Schafer at sports@sigourneynewsreview.com. Each tournament will have a separate winner, determined by the highest accumulated points from correct picks throughout the bracket. In the event of a tie, the winner will be determined by

whose predicted total points comes closest to the actual combined score of the championship game. Please note that employees, contractors, or agents of The News-Review, Mid-America Publishing, Helmuth Ford, and Grant Ranch Grub &

Pub are not eligible to participate. Don't miss out on this exciting opportunity to showcase your basketball knowledge and win amazing prizes. Submit your brackets today, and may the best predictions prevail!

Contestant Information

Name: _____
Address: _____
Phone: _____
Email: _____



Happy Hour All Day
\$1.50 MUGS • \$2.50 CANS

GRANT RANCH
CORNED BEEF & POTATOES

SAINT PATRICK'S DAY CELEBRATION
Tuesday, March 18th • 11am-8pm
Corned Beef, Cabbage, Red Potatoes, & Carrots \$9.95

121 S Jefferson St, Sigourney • 641-622-6161 • Kitchen Hours Tues to Thurs 10:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. • Fri & Sat 10:30 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. - Closed Mondays

The News-Review

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11, 2026
SECTION B, NUMBER 10, 165th YEAR

COURT RECORDS

Civil
Feb. 26th
Defendant: Candace J. Marley, Plaintiff: Citibank, NA, Order for Judgement.
Feb. 27th
Petitioner: State of Iowa EX REL, Respondent: Breanna Hagan, Respondent: Cory Prevett, Decree or Final Support Order.
Feb. 28th
Defendant: Dustin W. Smith, Payee: State of Iowa, Petitioner: State of Iowa EX REL, Plaintiff: Myra Marie Degen, Hearing for Initial Appearance.
March 2nd
Plaintiff: State of Iowa, Respondent: Jesse Monroe Millikin, Motion for Continuance.
Obligee: State of Iowa, Petitioner: Tara K. Richards, Petitioner: State of Iowa, Plaintiff: State of Iowa, Respondent: Jason Clawson, Full satisfaction of a SU.

Defendant: Shelby Leann Cranston, Defendant: Arick Michael Sille, Obligee: State of Iowa, Petitioner: State of Iowa EX REL, Modified Support Order.
March 3rd
Defendant: Phillip Earl Lee, Interested Party: Judi Byrom, Interested Party: Brooke L. Lee, Petitioner: State of Iowa EX REL, Motion for Continuance.
Non-Scheduled Traffic
March 2nd
Defendant: Nathan Glenn Smith, Payee: Keokuk County, Plaintiff: State of Iowa, Driving While License Denied, Suspended, Cancelled.
Defendant: Jesse Ray Williams, Plaintiff: State of Iowa, No Valid Drivers License.
Scheduled Traffic
Feb. 26th
Defendant: Michael Lee Hildenbrand, Plaintiff: State of

Iowa, Speeding 55 or Under Zone (6 thru 10 over).
March 2nd
Defendant: Jesse Ray Williams, Plaintiff: State of Iowa, Failure to use Child Restraint Devie.
Defendant: James William Ash, Plaintiff: State of Iowa, Speeding 55 or Under Zone (6 thru 10 over).
Defendant: Israel Tur Bad, Plaintiff: State of Iowa, Use Electronic Communication Device.
Defendant: Dustin Dwight Lanman, Plaintiff: State of Iowa, Failure to Provide Financial Liability.
Defendant: Theresa Ellen Dovico, Plaintiff: Stae of Iowa, Speeding 55 or Under Zone (6 thru 10 over).
March 4th
Defendant: Joshua Roland Baumberger, Plaintiff: State of Iowa, Speeding 55 or Under

Zone, (6 thru 10 over).
Criminal
Feb. 28th
Defendant: Avarie Jaclyn Smith, Plaintiff: Plaintiff State of Iowa, Criminal Complaint.
March 2nd
Defendant: Avarie Jaclyn Smith, Plaintiff: State of Iowa, written plea of guilty.
March 3rd
Defendant: Michael Maschmann, Payee: Keokuk County, Plaintiff: State of Iowa, motion for continuance.
Defendant: Sheffiney Shae Thomas, Plaintiff: State of Iowa, motion for continuance.
March 4th
Defendant: Walter Gabriel Flores Romero, Plaintiff: State of Iowa, criminal complaint, hearing for initial appearance.
Defendant: Gage Dean Buseman, Plaintiff: State of Iowa, hearing for initial appearance.

OWI
March 3rd
Defendant: Zachary Earl Brain, Payee: Teresa K. Brain, Payee: Keokuk County, Plaintiff: State of Iowa, Motion for Continuance.
Small Claims
Feb. 25th
Defendant: Christa English, Portfolio Recovery Associates, LCC, Judgment Default.
Defendant: Cassie Eastbrook, Plaintiff: Hauge Associates Inc, Judgment Default.
Defendant: Michael Eric Gainer JR, Plaintiff: BCG Equities, LLC, Small Claims Original Notice.
Feb. 26th
Defendant: Barbara J. Sterling, Plaintiff: CitiBank, NA, Dismissed without Prejudice.
Feb. 27th
Defendant: Katy Sue Street, Plaintiff: Hauge Associates Inc, Small Claims Original Notice.

Defendant: Leonard Daniel Van Patten, Plaintiff: AAA Collections, Small Claims Original Notice.
Defendant: Tina Marie Schmidt, Plaintiff: Midland Credit Management, Inc, Small Claims Notice.
March 2nd
Defendant: Eric J. Reinier, Plaintiff: LVNV Funding LLC, Order for Judgment.
Defendant: Kathleen Ann Detweiler, Plaintiff: LVNV Funding LLC, Order for Judgment.
Defendant: Joanna Rose McKim, Plaintiff: Capitol One, NA, Successor Bymerger to Discover, Order for Judgment.
March 3rd
Defendant: Donna Jean Exline, Plaintiff: Forsythe Finance, LLC, Small Claims Original Notice.
Defendant: Trevor Mccabe, Plaintiff: LVNV Funding LLC, Small Claims Original Notice.

PROPERTY TRANSFERS

Feb. 23rd
Deed Quit Claim, Ashley K.

Cory, Millard R. Fisher, Keota C H Achards 2nd Additon Lot: 05

Block 06, Keota C H Achards 2nd Additon Lot: 06, Block: 06, Keota C H Achards 2nd Addition, Lot: 07 Block: 06, Keota C H Achards 2nd Addition Lot: 36 Block 08, Keota C H Achards 2nd Addition Lot: 37 Block 08, Keota C H Achards 2nd Addition Lot: 38 Block: 08, Keota C H Achards 2nd Addition Lot: 39 Block: 08, Keota C H Achards 2nd Addition Lot: 40 Block: 08, Keota C H Achards 2nd Addition Lot: 41 Block: 08, PT Alleys Keota C H Achards 2nd Addition Block: 06, PT Streets Keota C H Achards 2nd Addition Block: 06, PT Streets Keota C H Achards 2nd Addition Block: 08, PT Alleys Keota C H Achards, 2nd Addition Block: 08.
Deed Quit Claim, Vernon L. Reinier, Vernon L. Jr. Reinier, Trustee, Linda K. Reinier, Linda K Reinier Trustee, Vernon Rei-

nier Living Trust, Linda Reinier Living Trust, Vernon and Linda Reinier Living Trust, SE SE 15-74-11 Parcel AUD PAR A, PLAT 2025-0456.
Warranty Deed, Scott P. Linder, Scott P. Linder Trustee, Barbara Linder, Scott P. Linder Revocable Trust, SW NW 26-74-13.
Warranty Deed, Emerald Holdings LLC, James Kozak, Ollie Original Plat Ollie Lot: 03 Block: 18, Ollie Original Plat Ollie Lot: 04 Block: 18.
Warranty Deed, William L. Bales, Peyton G Greiner, PT Lot: 07 SW NW 27-74-10, Bonnie L. Griener PT Lot: 08 SW NW 27-74-10, Plat B2 P144.
Feb. 24th
Deed Quit Claim, Ogden Oil Co, Ogden Oil Properties LLC, RR Row PT What Cheer Original Plat What Cheer, EXCEPT Plat B186 P245, EXCEPT Plat

2020-0426, RR Row PT What Cheer Original Plat What Cheer.
Warranty Deed, Mark P. Greiner Successor Trustee, Marlin A. Greiner Revocable Trust, Derek Greiner, PT NW SW 01-75-10, PT SW SW 01-75-10, Except Land Deed Record B79 P525, Undivided 49% Interest In, PT NW NE 15-75-10, PT NW NE 15-75-10, PT SE SW 36-76-10, PT SW SW 36-76-10, Undivided one half interest in NW NW 35-76-10, SW NW 35-76-10.
Warranty Deed Mark P. Greiner Successor Trustee, Bonita K. Greiner Revocable Trust, Derek Greiner, Undivided one half interest, PT NW NE 15-75-10, PT NW NE 15-75-10, PT SE SW 36-76-10, PT SW SE 36-76-10, NW NW 35-76-10, SW NW 35-76-10.
Feb. 26th
Court Officer Deed, James

Bernard Haberling Executor, James Bernard Haberling, Thomas Lee Humes Estate, James B. Executor, PT What Cheer Lortschers 3rd Addition Lot: 12.
Feb. 27th
Warranty Deed, Kenneth L. Weber, Karen B. Weber, Stephen V. Menke, Megan R. Menke, SW SE 07-75-10 Parcel: AUD PAR, PLAT 2026-0102
Warranty Deed, Kasey Beals, Sydney Beals, Matthew Agan, Shawn Agan, Hedrick Original Plat Hedrick Lot: 01 Block: 39, Hedrick Original Plat Hedrick Lot: 02 Block: 39, PT Hedrick Original Plat Hedrick Lot: 03 Block: 39.
Deed Quit Claim, Samuel Donovan Gragg, Maria G. Vandee, Zachariah Nathaniel Gragg, Bobbie Jo Lynn Porter, PT Lot: 01 NW 15-76-13, Plat B2 P246.

PROBATE Robert L. Ellis ESPR038670

THE IOWA DISTRICT COURT FOR KEOKUK COUNTY
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF Robert L. Ellis, Deceased CASE NO. ESPR038670
NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT OF ADMINISTRATOR AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS
To All Persons Interested in the Estate of Robert L. Ellis, Deceased, who died on or about February 9, 2026:
You are hereby notified that on March 5, 2026, the undersigned was appointed administrator of the estate.
Notice is hereby given that all persons indebted to the estate are requested to make immediate payment to the undersigned, and creditors having claims against the estate shall file them with the clerk of the above-named district court, as provided by law, duly authenticated, for allowance, and unless so filed by the later to occur of four

months from the date of the second publication of this notice or one month from the date of the mailing of this notice (unless otherwise allowed or paid) a claim is thereafter forever barred.
Dated on March 6, 2026.
Tammi Ellis, Administrator of the Estate
29036 240th Ave
Ollie, IA 52576
Jeff L. Ellis, Administrator of the Estate
23521 290th St
Ollie, IA 52576
John N. Wehr, ICIS#: 0008299
Attorney for the Administrator
John N. Wehr, Attorney at Law
116 E Washington
PO Box 245
Sigourney, IA 52591
Date of second publication
March 18, 2026
Probate Code Section 230
Published in The News-Review on March 11 and 18, 2026

PUBLIC NOTICE

City of North English • February 2026 Claims

TREASURER STATE OF IOWA, FEB2026 SALES TAX..... 218.06
TREASURER STATE OF IOWA, FEB2026 WATER EXCISE TAX... 1,255.89
USDA - RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FEB2026 USDA LOANS 02,04,05..... 15,509.00
ELAN CARDMEMBER SERVICE, BOOKS..... 327.67
INGRAM LIBRARY SERVICES, BOOKS..... 291.88
CENTER POINT LARGE PRINT, BOOKS..... 147.42
ALLIANT ENERGY, FEB2026 ALIANT BILLS..... 6,107.72
ALTORFER INC., OPERATIONAL EQUIPMENT REPAIR..... 1,599.78
BACKFLOW PREVENTION SERVICES O, MAINTENANCE..... 220.00

BADGER METER, METER TECHNOLOGY..... 64.54
COLUMN SOFTWARE PBC, PUBLICATIONS..... 201.74
COX SANITATION & RECYCLING INC, 2026 JAN CURBSIDE SERVICE..... 2,814.00
ELAN CARDMEMBER SERVICE, TAX FILING..... 17.67
ELWOOD, ELWOOD, & BUCHANAN, LEGAL SERVICES... 1,457.34
HAWKINS INC., CHEMICALS..... 1,156.72
IMFOA, MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL..... 50.00
ION ENVIRONMENTAL SOLUTIONS, LAB TESTING..... 528.00
IOWA COUNTY AUDITOR, ELECTION COSTS..... 470.37
IOWA ONE CALL, LOCATE SERVICES..... 10.80

LEAF, MINOR EQUIPMENT..... 107.17
METERING & TECHNOLOGY SOLUTION, OPERATIONAL EQUIP..... 2,816.40
NORTH ENGLISH CO-OP TEL CO, FEB 2026 PHONE BILLS..... 355.17
OXLEY, DEREK, TECHNOLOGY..... 250.00
QUILL CORPORATION, EQUIP, OPERATIONAL SUPPLIES..... 287.34
TIP RURAL ELECTRIC CO-OP, POWER SERVICES..... 1,192.89
WELLMARK BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIEL, INSURANCE..... 4,667.01
ELAN CARDMEMBER SERVICE, PROMOTIONAL..... 7.48
EO JOHNSON, OPERATIONAL SUPPLIES..... 174.30

LEAF OPERATIONAL SUPPLIES..... 63.75
MICRO MARKETING, AUDIO VISUAL..... 162.90
NORTH ENGLISH CO-OP TEL CO, FEB2026 PHONE BILL - LIBRARY..... 78.02
R&R SMALL TOWN LAWN, BLDG MAINTENANCE..... 110.00
STANDARD PEST CONTROL, FEB2026 SERVICE - LIBRARY..... 30.00
BADGER METER, WATER TECH..... 64.68
FREEMAN FOODS OF NORTH ENGLISH, MISC SUPPLIES..... 34.73
H & M FARM & HOME SUPPLY CO, MISC SUPPLIES..... 149.80
IOWA ONE CALL, LOCATE SERVICES..... 12.60

MULTI-CO OIL CO, VEHICLE FUEL..... 78.43
STANDARD PEST CONTROL, FEB26 SERVICE - CITY HALL..... 40.00
TIP RURAL ELECTRIC CO-OP, ELECTRIC AT LIFT STATION..... 1,239.48
WELLMARK BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIEL, INSURANCE..... 478.20
CITY OF NORTH ENGLISH, DEPOSIT PD ON ACCT..... 129.78
MERICAL, SASHA, PARTIAL DEPOSIT REFUND..... 70.22
NORTH ENGLISH POST OFFICE, MAR2026 UTILITY BILL POST-AGE..... 300.12
44 Grand Total (excluding void checks):..... 45,349.07
FEBRUARY 2026 EXPENSES BY FUND

001 GENERAL FUND... 10,463.02
031 GIFTS & MEMORIALS..... 766.97
110 ROAD USE..... 615.07
600 WATER FUND..... 9,022.14
610 SEWER FUND..... 24,481.87
TOTAL..... 45,349.07
FEBRUARY 2026 REVENUES BY FUND
001 GENERAL FUND..... 7,590.46
031 GIFTS & MEMORIALS..... 140.03
110 ROAD USE..... 9,672.94
121 LOCAL OPTION SALES TAX..... 9,172.29
600 WATER FUND..... 22,580.40
610 SEWER FUND..... 34,038.94
TOTAL..... 83,195.06
Published in The News-Review on March 11, 2026

PUBLIC NOTICE

City of North English • Minutes 3.4.2026

CITY OF NORTH ENGLISH CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS
Wednesday, March 4th, 2026
6:30 p.m.
- The North English City Council met in regular session at City Hall on Wednesday, March 4th, 2026 at 6:30 p.m. Roll call showed the following present: Mayor Strohmman, Haugland, Garringer, Carter, Custer, and O'Rourke. Also present: City Clerk Heyne, City Employees Knipfer and Lee, City Attorney Josh Kraushaar, Casey Jarmes, and Cassie O'Rourke. Trent Forrest arrived at 7:58 pm.
- Custer, seconded by Haugland, made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried with roll call vote as follows: Haugland, yes; Garringer, yes; Carter, yes; Custer, yes; O'Rourke, yes.

- A discussion with Kraushaar about the current draft of the 28E Agreement with Knoll Ridge ensued. Carter, seconded by Garringer, made a motion to approve the agreement upon incorporation of the changes discussed with Kraushaar into the document. Motion carried with roll call vote as follows: Haugland, yes; Garringer, yes; Carter, yes; Custer, yes; O'Rourke, yes.
- Garringer, seconded by Carter, made a motion to approve a \$5000 payment to Iowa County Community Development. Motion carried with roll call vote as follows: Haugland, yes; Garringer, yes; Carter, yes; Custer, yes; O'Rourke, yes.
- Custer, seconded by Garringer, made a motion to approve giving \$12,000 towards the 127 S. Main Street project that is applying for a

Catalyst Grant. Motion carried with roll call vote as follows: Haugland, yes; Garringer, yes; Carter, abstain; Custer, yes; O'Rourke, yes.
- Heyne shared a 5-year Maintenance agreement with the Iowa DOT they would like signed. Item was tabled due to request for clarification.
- Strohmman briefly discussed the Smoky Row Trail -Phase II budget.
- Knipfer reported on the phone line/ lift station issue. We are moving forward with the cellular option.
- Heyne shared Tax Levy information that will go to the county for mailing.
- Heyne shared the FY2025 Audit information and findings.
- O'Rourke, seconded by Custer, made a motion to approve Resolution 2026-04: REIC 28E Agreement Amendment. Motion carried

with roll call vote as follows: Haugland, yes; Garringer, yes; Carter, yes; Custer, yes; O'Rourke, yes.
- Strohmman reported on a letter received from the National Police Association requesting donations.
- Garringer, seconded by Custer, made a motion to approve Freeman Foods' ABD renewal. Motion carried with roll call vote as follows: Haugland, yes; Garringer, yes; Carter, abstain; Custer, yes; O'Rourke, yes.
- Strohmman gave a brief update regarding property reports. He indicated there are about 3 properties who have been unresponsive and would like to get Kraushaar involved.
- City Services: Heyne shared information related to Transient Merchants/ Food Trucks. No action was taken. Knipfer reported he

spoke to the school about the park shelter roofs and was told Mr. Baker would look at them. Dave Smith has worked on the lighting at the south city sign and will be working on the north sign soon. Strohmman indicated he set up a meeting for Monday morning with LL Pelling to discuss the road project.
- Garringer, seconded by Carter, made a motion to approve the Feb. 4th Regular Meeting Minutes. Motion carried with roll call vote as follows: Haugland, yes; Garringer, yes; Carter, yes; Custer, yes; O'Rourke, yes.
- Haugland, seconded by Garringer, made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. Motion carried with roll call vote as follows: Haugland, yes; Garringer, yes; Carter, yes; Custer, yes; O'Rourke, yes.

- Carter, seconded by Custer, made a motion to approve March 2026 bills to be paid as indicated on the handout (\$29,280.54) plus regular bills received after the meeting. Motion carried with roll call vote as follows: Haugland, yes; Garringer, yes; Carter, yes; Custer, yes; O'Rourke, yes.
- Utility Report was shared.
- Public Comments: Trent Forrest arrived and explained his plans for expansion. He also mentioned a business is moving into the north section of 213 S. Main.
- Council Communications: None.
- Meeting adjourned at 8:07p.m.
Tara Heyne, City Clerk/ Treasurer
Published in The News-Review on March 11, 2026

LOCALS
Have More Fun
Get out and support our local shops, restaurants and events!

THANK YOU
WE APPRECIATE YOUR LOYAL SUPPORT!

All concussions are serious. If you think you have a CONCUSSION:

- Don't hide it.
- Report it.
- Take time to recover

Symptoms of concussion may include:
 Headache
 Temporary loss of consciousness
 Confusion or feeling as if in a fog
 Dizziness or "seeing stars"
 Ringing in the ears
 Nausea
 Vomiting
 Slurred speech
 Fatigue

PUBLIC NOTICE City of North English • Media Notification

MEDIA NOTIFICATION
 BerganKDV has released an agreed-upon procedures report on the City of North English, Iowa, for the period July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025. The agreed-upon procedures engagement was performed pursuant to Chapter 11.6 of the Code of Iowa.
 BerganKDV reported two findings found on page 5 of this report. The findings address issues such as a lack of segregation of duties and unclaimed property. BerganKDV provided the City with recommendations to address each of the findings.

The City Council has a fiduciary responsibility to provide oversight of the City's operations and financial transactions. Oversight is typically defined as the "watchful and responsible care" a governing body exercises in its fiduciary capacity. A copy of the agreed upon procedures report is available for review in the City Clerk's Office, in the Office of Auditor of State and on the Auditor of State's website at <https://www.auditor.iowa.gov/reports/audit-reports>.
Published in The News-Review on March 11, 2026

PUBLIC NOTICE City of Sigourney • February 2026 Library Claims

FEBRUARY 2026 LIBRARY CLAIMS
 Access Systems (IT) - \$432.06
 Access Systems (Monthly Copier) - \$111.70
 Access Systems Leasing (Monthly Firewall) - \$125.89
 All American (Services) - \$35.00
 Alliant Energy (Utilities) - \$932.44
 Amanda Kelly (Supplies Reimbursements) - \$46.50
 Amazon Business (Collection) - \$231.14
 Amazon Business (Miscellaneous) - \$719.17
 Amazon Business (Restricted Gifts) - \$178.58
 Amazon Business (Supplies) - \$61.62
 Bancard (Collection (movies/music/books)) - \$168.76
 Bancard (Continuing Education) - \$165.00

Bancard (Miscellaneous) - \$18.75
 Bancard (Postage) - \$22.46
 Bancard (Fee Reversals) - \$(115.93)
 Bancard (Restricted Gifts-Freezer Meals) - \$1,744.98
 Brother's Market (Supplies) - \$159.50
 Center Point (Large Print Books) - \$99.48
 Greenleys Corp. (Supplies) - \$39.75
 ICN Comm. Network - \$6.51
 Junior Library Guild (Annual Renewal) - \$305.82
 MCG (Internet and Phone) - \$88.18
 Sha-Ran (Window Cleaning) - \$30.00
TOTAL - \$5,607.36
Published in The News-Review on March 11, 2026

PUBLIC NOTICE City of Sigourney • Claims 3.4.2026

CITY OF SIGOURNEY MARCH 4, 2026
 Access Systems Leasing- Services - \$261.67
 Arnold Motor Supply- Supplies - \$58.87
 Badger Meter- Services - \$286.35
 Bailey Office Outfitters- Supplies - \$54.00
 Bill Miller Logging Inc. - Mulch - \$3,129.00
 Brent Gilliland- Mileage Reimbursement - \$123.25
 Brother's Market- Supplies - \$26.14
 Column Software PBC- Services - \$106.64
 H&M Farm & Home- Supplies - \$339.12
 Heartland Shredding Inc.- Services - \$45.00
 HM Consulting, LLC- Services - \$200.00
 IMFOA- Clerk Conference - \$300.00

Keokuk County Auditor- 28E Agreement - \$1,900.00
 Keokuk County Highway Dept.- Services - \$819.55
 MCG- Services - \$1,027.57
 Microbac Labortaoories, Inc- Services - \$599.00
 Sigourney Cleaners- Services - \$30.50
 Sigourney Fire Dept. Disbursement - \$3,000.00
 Sinclair Tractor Loc#9- Services - \$6,763.31
 The Design House- Services - \$45.00
 T-Mobile- Services - \$214.20
 Tremmel Backhoe - Services - \$900.00
Customer Water Deposit Refund(s):
 MCG - \$125.00
 Total - \$20,354.17
Published in The News-Review on March 11, 2026

PUBLIC NOTICE Keokuk Co BOS • Minutes 2.23.2026

KEOKUK COUNTY BOARD PROCEEDINGS FEBRUARY 23, 2026
 The Keokuk County Board of Supervisors met in regular session, Monday, February 23, 2026, in the Board Room of the Courthouse. Present were: Michael C. Hadley, Daryl Wood, Kevin Weber, and Christy Bates, County Auditor.
 Weber moved, Wood seconded to approve the agenda with the addition to set the time, date and place for the Proposed Property Tax public hearing. All ayes and motion carried. Also present was Casey James, News-Review.
 Wood moved, Weber seconded to approve the minutes of February 17, 2026, as submitted. All ayes and motion carried.
 Hadley moved, Weber seconded approval of generator enhancement as submitted. All ayes and motion carried. Consensus was increased kw is the best option for longevity.
 Wood moved, Weber seconded to set the Proposed Property Tax public hearing for March 23, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. in the Boardroom of the Keokuk County Courthouse. All ayes and motion carried. Review of the fiscal year 2027 Keokuk County Budget was held. Bates reminded the county, cities and schools must have their proposed property tax report to the Department of Management on or by March 5, 2026, to

then be collected and a mass mailing be sent to our county residents no later than March 15, 2026.
 Various Board and Committee reports were held. Wood attended a meeting with the new RUSS attorney. Weber attended Assessor's Conference Board meeting. Hadley attended Semco and Assessor's Conference Board meetings last week.
 Discussion of old/new business and public comment was held. Stacy Flynn, insurance agent, was present to inform she was circling back around regarding the ICAP agent change conversation from last year. Hadley stated the Board had previously discussed this matter and consensus was we are satisfied with the performance of our current agent. Tuckpointing companies were contacted last week regarding the clock tower and will be followed up on today.
 On vote and motion Hadley adjourned the meeting at 9:20 a.m.
 The above and foregoing information is a summary of the minutes taken at the above indicated meeting. The full and complete set of minutes is available at the Keokuk County Auditor's Office and www.keokukcounty.iowa.gov.
 Approved Disapproved Michael C. Hadley, Daryl Wood, Kevin Weber
Published in The News-Review on March 11, 2026

PROBATE MARTHA JAQUINOT GODFREY TRPR014191

IN THE IOWA DISTRICT COURT, IN AND FOR KEOKUK COUNTY IN THE MATTER OF THE TRUST CREATED BY MARTHA JAQUINOT GODFREY. Donald R. Millikin and Joyce Millikin Trustees
 Probate No. TRPR014191
NOTICE OF HEARING
 TO: ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN THE HELM CEMETERY YOU, AND EACH OF YOU, ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that there is now on file in the Office of the Clerk of the District Court of the State of Iowa, in and for Keokuk County, the Annual Report of Donald R. Millikin and Joyce Millikin, Trustees for further particulars, see said Annual Report on file in the Office of the Keokuk County Clerk of the District Court.
 YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that under an Order of the District Court of the State of Iowa, in and for Keokuk County, a hearing will be had on said Annual Report of Trustees in the Iowa District Court in and for Keokuk County, in the

Courtroom of the Courthouse in Sigourney, on the 3rd day of April, 2026, at 10:00 o'clock A.M. and you may appear on or before said time and date and show cause in writing, if any you may have, why said Annual Report of Trustees should not be approved and ratified.
 Dated at Sigourney, Iowa, this 3rd day of March, 2026.
 (s) John N. Wehr
 John N. Wehr, ICIS AT0008299
 116 E. Washington
 P.O. Box 245, Sigourney, IA 52591
 Telephone: 641-622-3313
 FAX: 641-622-2479
 E-Mail: john@johnwehrlaw.com
 Attorney for Donald R. Millikin and Joyce Millikin, Trustees
 If you require the assistance of auxiliary aids or services to participate in Court because of a disability, immediately call your District ADA Coordinator at (641)684-6502. (If you are hearing impaired, call Relay Iowa TTY at 1-800-735-2942.)
Published in The News-Review on March 11, 2026

PUBLIC NOTICE Sigourney CSD • Bid for Concrete

SIGOURNEY COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT - SIGOURNEY, IOWA ADVERTISING FOR BIDS-NOTICE OF LETTING
 Three-Phase (3 Section) Jr. Sr High Parking Lot Pavement Improvements
 Full Bid document can be found on our website: www.sigourney-schools.com, under Bids/Equip Sales.
 Project Identification: Jr. Sr High School (back) Parking Lot Areas, Itemized Bids for Concrete Replacement and Alternate Bids.
 Phase I (Section 1): June - July, 2026 (Back of lot with Weight Rm Expansion)

Phase II: (Section 2) June - July, 2027 (Middle Section)
 Phase III: (Section 3) June - July, 2028 Entry and North near Building Alternate Bid - Entire Lot (July 31, 2026)
 All bidders must have proper equipment and staff power to complete any and all sections within a 30-day time span. Upon completion of Phase I the District will accept modified (updated) bids from the awarded bidder for the remaining sections to accommodate cost increases experienced in the market. Project Map also provided upon request.
 Project Location: Sigourney Jr. Sr High School (back parking lot

areas) 907 East Pleasant Valley Street, Sigourney, Iowa 52591
 Bids To: SCSD District Office, 909 East Pleasant Valley Street, Sigourney, Iowa 52591
 Primary Contract: Kevin Hatfield, Superintendent of School, 641-622-2025 kevin.hatfield@sigourney-schools.com
 Submission Deadline: Thursday, March 26, 2026, 3:30 PM
 Submissions include: Digital documentation (via email and attachments) and paper copies of all products, warranties, and licensure
 Type of Bid: Concrete Flatwork - Only Licensed, Insured, Bonded, Experienced Concrete - experienced, full equipped Pavement

Company Bids will be accepted. District Visit (Required): Contact Mr. Kevin Hatfield, Superintendent of Schools, or Mr. Jason Shifflett, Director of Buildings and Grounds to coordinate a physical inspection, walkthrough, and question process.
 The District will consider sealed lump sum bids for the prescribed parking lot itemized bids (sections)
 Bid Opening Date: Friday, March 27, 2026 Bid Time: 3:30 PM
 Location: District Office, 909 E. Pleasant Valley Street, Sigourney, IA.
Published in The News-Review on March 11, 18 and 25, 2026

PUBLIC NOTICE Sigourney CSD • PH Proposed Tax Levy

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING -PROPOSED PROPERTY TAX LEVY Proposed SIGOURNEY Property Tax Levy Fiscal Year July 1, 2026 - June 30, 2027		
Location of Public Hearing: Sigourney District Office, 909 E Pleasant Valley, Sigourney, IA 52591	Date of Public Hearing: 3/25/2026	Time of Public Hearing: 04:30 PM
Location of Notice on School Website: https://www.sigourney-schools.com/page/business-office		

At the public hearing any resident or taxpayer may present oral or written objections to, or arguments in favor of the proposed tax levy. After the hearing of the proposed tax levy, the Board will publish notice and hold a hearing on the proposed budget.

	Current Year Final Property Tax Dollar Levy FY 2026	Budget Year Effective Property Tax Dollar Levy (No change in Property Tax Dollars Levied) FY 2027	Budget Year Proposed Property Tax Dollar Levy FY 2027
General Fund Levy	1,899,080	1,899,080	1,978,802
Instructional Support Levy	211,648	211,648	294,904
Management	122,798	122,798	147,536
Amiana Library	0	0	0
Voted Physical Plant and Equipment	309,050	309,050	332,857
Regular Physical Plant and Equipment	76,109	76,109	81,972
Reorganization Equalization	0	0	0
Public Education/Recreation (Playground)	0	0	0
Debt Service	0	0	0
Grand Total	2,618,685	2,618,685	2,836,071

	Current Year Final Property Tax Rate FY 2026	Budget Year Effective Property Tax Rate (No change in Property Tax Dollars Levied) FY 2027	Budget Year Proposed Property Tax Rate FY 2027
Grand Total Levy Rate	11.37013	10.61491	11.49381

Property Tax Comparison	Current Year Property Taxes	Proposed Property Taxes	Percent Change
Residential property with an Actual/Assessed Value of \$100,000/\$110,000	539	563	4.45
Commercial property with an Actual/Assessed Value of \$300,000/\$330,000	2,344	2,630	12.20

Note: Actual/Assessed Valuation is multiplied by a Rollback Percentage to get to the Taxable Valuation to calculate Property Taxes. Residential and Commercial properties have the same Rollback Percentage at \$150,000 Actual/Assessed Valuation. The Proposed Property taxes assume a 10% increase in property values for the year as a comparison to the current year.
 Reasons for tax increase if proposed exceeds the current:
 The general fund levy increased due to a low SSA rate and due to a reduced income surtax rate for the ISL. The management levy increased to fund district property/easualty insurance costs and early retirement incentive.

Published in The News-Review on March 11, 2026

PUBLIC NOTICE Tri-County CSD • PH Proposed Tax Levy

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING -PROPOSED PROPERTY TAX LEVY Proposed TRI-COUNTY Property Tax Levy Fiscal Year July 1, 2026 - June 30, 2027		
Location of Public Hearing: Tri-County Community School District Board Room-3003 Hwy 22, Thornburg, IA 50255	Date of Public Hearing: 3/25/2026	Time of Public Hearing: 05:30 PM
Location of Notice on School Website: www.tri-countyschools.com		

At the public hearing any resident or taxpayer may present oral or written objections to, or arguments in favor of the proposed tax levy. After the hearing of the proposed tax levy, the Board will publish notice and hold a hearing on the proposed budget.

	Current Year Final Property Tax Dollar Levy FY 2026	Budget Year Effective Property Tax Dollar Levy (No change in Property Tax Dollars Levied) FY 2027	Budget Year Proposed Property Tax Dollar Levy FY 2027
General Fund Levy	1,227,005	1,227,005	1,265,983
Instructional Support Levy	150,587	150,587	145,453
Management	175,759	175,759	254,718
Amiana Library	0	0	0
Voted Physical Plant and Equipment	193,862	193,862	210,942
Regular Physical Plant and Equipment	50,753	50,753	54,685
Reorganization Equalization	0	0	0
Public Education/Recreation (Playground)	0	0	0
Debt Service	0	0	0
Grand Total	1,797,966	1,797,966	1,931,781

	Current Year Final Property Tax Rate FY 2026	Budget Year Effective Property Tax Rate (No change in Property Tax Dollars Levied) FY 2027	Budget Year Proposed Property Tax Rate FY 2027
Grand Total Levy Rate	11.95390	11.29604	12.14107

Property Tax Comparison	Current Year Property Taxes	Proposed Property Taxes	Percent Change
Residential property with an Actual/Assessed Value of \$100,000/\$110,000	567	595	4.94
Commercial property with an Actual/Assessed Value of \$300,000/\$330,000	2,464	2,778	12.74

Note: Actual/Assessed Valuation is multiplied by a Rollback Percentage to get to the Taxable Valuation to calculate Property Taxes. Residential and Commercial properties have the same Rollback Percentage at \$150,000 Actual/Assessed Valuation. The Proposed Property taxes assume a 10% increase in property values for the year as a comparison to the current year.
 Reasons for tax increase if proposed exceeds the current:
 The district's student enrollment decreased from the 2024-2025 year to the 2025-2026 year combined with lower Supplemental State Aid (SSA).

Published in The News-Review on March 11, 2026

PUBLIC NOTICE Keokuk Co • PH Proposed Tax Levy

COUNTY NAME: KEOKUK COUNTY	NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING -PROPOSED PROPERTY TAX LEVY Fiscal Year July 1, 2026 - June 30, 2027	COUNTY NUMBER: 54
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The County Board of Supervisors will conduct a public hearing on the proposed Fiscal Year County tax asking as follows:
 Meeting Date: 3/23/2026 Meeting Time: 09:00 AM Meeting Location: Keokuk County Courthouse Board of Supervisors - 1st floor 101 S. Main Street
 Sigourney, IA 52591

At the public hearing any resident or taxpayer may present objections to, or arguments in favor of the proposed tax levy. After the hearing of the proposed tax levy, the Board will publish notice and hold a hearing on the proposed county budget.

Iowa Department of Management	Current Year Certified Property Tax FY 2025/2026	Budget Year Effective Tax FY 2026/2027	Budget Year Proposed Tax FY 2026/2027
Taxable Valuations-General Services	782,811,045	833,915,322	833,915,322
Requested Tax Dollars-Countywide Rates Except Debt Service	4,504,694	4,504,694	4,707,093
Taxable Valuations-Debt Service	783,227,190	836,115,217	836,115,217
Requested Tax Dollars-Debt Service	0	0	0
Requested Tax Dollars-Countywide Rates	4,504,694	4,504,694	4,707,093
Tax Rate-Countywide	5.75451	5.40186	5.64457
Taxable Valuations-Rural Services	612,921,705	645,422,022	645,422,022
Requested Tax Dollars-Additional Rural Levies	2,159,679	2,159,679	2,229,604
Tax Rate-Rural Additional	3.52358	3.34615	3.45449
Rural Total	9,27809	8,74801	9,09906

Residential property with an Actual/Assessed Valuation of \$100,000/\$110,000	Current Year Certified Property Tax FY 2025/2026	Budget Year Proposed Tax FY 2026/2027	Percent Change
Urban Taxpayer	273	277	1.47
Rural Taxpayer	440	446	1.36

Commercial property with an Actual/Assessed Valuation of \$300,000/\$330,000	Current Year Certified Property Tax FY 2025/2026	Budget Year Proposed Tax FY 2026/2027	Percent Change
Urban Taxpayer	1,186	1,291	8.85
Rural Taxpayer	1,913	2,082	8.83

Note: Actual/Assessed Valuation is multiplied by a Rollback Percentage to get to the Taxable Valuation to calculate Property Taxes. Residential and Commercial properties have the same Rollback Percentage at \$150,000 Actual/Assessed Valuation. The Proposed Property taxes assume a 10% increase in property values for the year as a comparison to the current year.
 Reasons for tax increase if proposed exceeds the current:
 Additional dollars to go towards roads and bridges.

Published in The News-Review on March 11, 2026

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English Valleys Bearometer

March 11, 2025

www.facebook.com/Bearometer

Issue: XXVII - Student Recognition Issue

English Valleys Elementary Students of the Month



Tayem Geiger



Walker Lee



Layton Caster



Gannon Semler



Lennix Stutzman



Ryleigh Semler



Margeret Sieren



Dakota Graf



Levi Krebs



Korah Collins



Thalia Polton



Henery Keeny



CJ Walker



Blake Schaffner



Alexandria Buracker



English Valleys MS/HS Students of the Month



Kaden O'Dell



Sarah Frederick



Ximena Hernandez Briones



Colton Mikesell



Brodey Flander



McKenna Rugg



Connor Sparks-Hanna



Davis Burdick



Bentley Walker



Isabella Holden



Pypier Pinkerton



Mylie Morrison



Karlee Frazier



Jaci Coover

English Valleys Speech Team Sends 15 Events to State

The English Valleys High School speech team delivered an outstanding performance at the Individual District Speech Contest, qualifying 15 events performed by 12 students for the State Individual Speech Contest with Division I ratings, the highest rating possible.

State qualifiers include: Aliza Walker (Original Oratory); Tyler Wiseman and Jack Osborn (Radio News Announcing); Ambryn Hoylman and Miley Clubb (Prose); Betsy Wells (Poetry); Phoenix Sorden (Original Oratory); Kaylynne Hoylman (Prose, Solo Musical Theatre); McKenna Rugg (Radio News Announcing); Kaylee Frazier (Spontaneous Speaking, Poetry); Davis Burdick (VideoCasting); and Ellie Patterson (Literature Program, Poetry). In addition, several performances earned Division II ratings, the second-highest possible rating. Students earning Division II ratings include Jack Johnson, Peyton Conrad, and Chyar McGaffee. Every English Valleys competitor earned at least a Division II rating, highlighting the team's depth and preparation.

Students who received Division I ratings will now advance to the State Individual Speech Contest on March 14, 2026, at Vinton-Shellsburg.



Hunter Offerman Honored by the Iowa Limestone Producers



On February 26, Hunter Offerman had the honor of attending the Iowa Limestone Producers Association (ILPA) Scholarships Forever Awards Brunch in Coralville. Earlier this year, Hunter applied for the scholarship and was selected as one of six finalists out of 83 applicants from across the state. Through this program, he was awarded the \$5,000 Central Service and Supply Scholarship.

The event began with brunch at 9:00 a.m., where Hunter had the opportunity to meet other finalists, their families, and representatives from the limestone industry. Before the ceremony, he had photos taken with the scholarship donor, highlighting the significance of the award. The event also featured guest speaker Eddie Slowikowski, who spoke about the importance of hard work, perseverance, and setting goals. At 10:00 a.m., the scholarship recipients were announced and called on stage to accept the award and give a brief thank you.

Being selected as one of six finalists was an incredible honor for Hunter, especially among such a competitive and deserving group of students. It was also a proud moment for him to share the experience with his parents.

This scholarship will help Hunter pursue his diesel mechanics degree at Indian Hills Community College this fall. He plans to use his education to build a career in the diesel industry and eventually start his own mobile diesel repair business to serve rural communities.

Hunter is very grateful to Central Service and Supply and the Iowa Limestone Producers Association for their generosity and support. It is an honor for him to represent English Valleys High School and his community through this opportunity.



THE EAGLE'S WING

Keota Jr./Sr. High School Student Newspaper



Issue No. 14

Senior Spotlight

JACOB LIBE

This week's senior spotlight is Jacob Libe, he is the son of Heather Humble, and she graduated from Mid-Prairie High School. She works as a registered nurse. Jacob's father is Seth Libe; he graduated from Washington High School. Seth drives trucks for Holmes Livestock. Jacob also has 4 siblings: Colley, Rylee, Noelle, and Harper. Jacob believes people describe him as bald due to his condition of alopecia. He thinks another word would be kind since he helps peers and members of sports teams constantly. And last but not least, people would describe him as athletic due to him participating in track, football, wrestling, golf, FFA, and baseball. Jacob says his favorite Keota tradition is the Eagle Olympics due to his athleticism. His favorite activity was soil judging with Mr. Jamison. Jacob says his biggest pet peeve is when people won't let him focus and keep talking. Jacob's advice to the future seniors is that senioritis is real and make sure to still get your work done on time and don't fall behind. Jacob will miss sports and socializing with friends. His childhood dream was to play in the N.F.L. and make millions. After high school, Jacob will attend the University of Iowa to major in either radiology or exercise science to become a radiation tech or physical therapist. He wants the people of Keota to remember him as kind and respectful to all, no matter who it is.



By: David Sherman

ELEMENTARY SPOTLIGHT

Peyton is in 2nd grade and his teacher is Mrs. Moeller. Peyton is seven years old, and he has one sibling named Mason. His favorite subject in school is math, and he's really good at it. His favorite color is blue like the sky or the water in the ocean. When Peyton grows up, he wants to be an astronaut so he can be among the stars and explore the galaxy; he certainly could achieve that dream since he's good at math. He doesn't have any pets even though he probably wants his mom to get a puppy for him and his brother. In his free time, he likes to play the video game Minecraft another activity he enjoys in his free time is baseball, and I'm sure he is very good at it.



By: Forrest Bonebrake

ISASP TESTING

Keota High School has ISASP testing coming up. ISASP is a standardized tool used by the state to measure students' progress in language arts, math, and science. It is extremely important for students to do their best not only for themselves, but for Keota as a district. Keota School is hoping to improve in all subjects. Heather Rosewall stated "Those who succeed in being proficient, seeing growth, or maintaining advancement will be part of our Reward Party that will occur in the fall."

Each year, schools across the nation administer standardized tests in order to assess where their students' performance lies. In order to encourage the students through these days of testing, Keota Schools brings in juice and delicious treats. We could not do this without the generosity of the Keota community and businesses. Thank you to the following businesses/individuals for their thoughtful donations to the ISASP snack fund:

- Farmer's Coop
- Vittetoe Equip & Livestock Supplies
- Ray-Man Inc
- Lyle Insurance
- Prairie Flower Bakery
- Jeri Klein
- The Army National Guard/Sgt Foster

By: David Sherman & Colleen Donald

KHS REFLECTS ON EAGLEROCK!

Jane Edwards is the current EagleRock! director. Over the years she has watched this program grow and change. She has had many seniors over the years, and she believes they are handling the thought of knowing this is their last year in EagleRock!. Ms.Edwards believes they are leaders and that they won't let their last year bring them down. She believes that EagleRock! will continue to go above and beyond in these upcoming years; she also thinks they'll thrive and do good things without her. EagleRock! has had many performances over these years, and this year they have placed top ten almost all the time and with a bunch of first places. Ms.Edwards also thinks that the students love to go on the trips for EagleRock! No matter if its really cold and dry or really hot and humid, she knows they'll perform to the best of their abilities. Ms.Edwards is very excited to see how they go without her, and she believes that many upcoming freshmen will join and the juniors will step up and be role models. In all of her years here, her most memorable experience was this past Saturday February 28, 2026, she got a standing ovation from 1,400 people, both the kids and their parents alike. The kids will miss Ms.Edwards when she leaves, but she believes that we'll keep going.



By: Forrest Bonebrake

EVENTS

- 9-11 ISASP Testing
- 11-14 EagleRock! Trip
- 12 School Board Mtg 6 PM Elem Lib
- Quarter Ends
- 16 JH Exploratory
- Classes Change for Q4
- 20 No School
- 24 Kirkwood Acad. Rep - 11:30-1:00
- 25-30 NASA: Space Settle. Design Competition - Houston, TX
- 26 (B) Track @ Washington - 2:30 PM
- 27 No School
- 27-28 Spring Play @ Audit. 7:30 PM
- COR Weekend

EAGLE'S WING STAFF
2025-2026

JACK GREINER
 DAVID SHERMAN
 FORREST BONEBRAKE

ADVISER: Dr CULLETT

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

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

What is your favorite thing about Keota?

MRS. HEMSELY
STAFF



"4 day week"

JAKE MORRIS
12TH



"People"

PORTER CAVE
11TH



"Small School"

HALLE HEISDORFFER
10TH



"People"

DREW DODD
9TH



"Community"

LANDON BIENHART
8TH



"People"

CAIDEN LUERS
7TH



"FFA"



Tray of homemade bread. Courtesy of Metro Creative Connection

Webinar Series for Iowa Food Businesses Begins in March

By: Christa Hartsook, Alaina Friesleben

AMES— Iowa State University Extension and Outreach's Food Innovation and Business Hub, a resource that helps Iowa entrepreneurs develop successful food businesses, will host a monthly "Lunch and Learn" webinar series in 2026 to support current and aspiring Iowa food entrepreneurs. The webinars are offered at no cost and open to all.

The series is specifically designed for food business owners, farmers exploring value-added products and individuals in the early stages of developing a food-based enterprise.

Christa Hartsook, program manager for Farm, Food and Enterprise Development, said the series will help participants move closer to regulatory compliance and profitability.

"Anyone who is interested in developing a value-added business and even those who are at an idea stage will still find value in attending," she said. "Each webinar will include specific take-away points that will provide those

with a food business some ideas to immediately implement."

Each session will begin at noon on its respective date and feature a presentation from ISU food business and food safety experts, followed by an open question-and-answer session.

Webinar schedule and registration

- March 3: What is the Food Innovation and Business Hub?

- April 7: Differences in a Cottage Food License vs. Home Food Processing Establishment License

- May 5: Identifying Your Customers

- June 9: Food Safety 101 - Understanding Water Activity, pH, Microorganisms

- July 7: Food Innovation and Business Hub Analytical Services

- Aug. 4: Shelf-Stable Frostings

Remaining webinar dates and topics will be announced at a later date.

For more information about the Food Innovation and Business Hub and the webinar series, contact Hartsook at hartc@iastate.edu.

Request System Open for 2026 Conservation Station Trailer Visits

Unique educational trailers are fully staffed and ready to bring fun and learning to fairs, markets and public events at no cost

By: Ann Staudt

AMES — Iowa State University Extension and Outreach programs Water Rocks! and Iowa Learning Farms announced that the system to request an appearance of its award-winning Conservation Station educational trailers during 2026 is now live. Organizations looking to request a visit for their community festival, celebration, fair or farmers market should visit Request the Conservation Station to submit their request before March 20. Visits during the 2026 season will start June 1 and run through Sept. 30.

Each Conservation Station trailer houses a unique combination of highly visual and interactive lowa-centric demonstrations that delve into the impacts of land management choices, both urban and agricultural, on water quality and the connections between our state's water, soil and wildlife.

"The Conservation Stations are a consistent hit at events across the state, drawing thousands of visitors and providing fun and learning opportunities for Iowans of every age," said Jacqueline Comito, director of Water Rocks! and Iowa Learning Farms. "If you've never seen a Conservation Station in action, watch our new video to check out what you've been missing. Thanks to our generous sponsors, we can offer these visits that provide Iowans with science-based information about water quality, natural resources, conservation and agricultural practices at no cost."

In addition, each trailer has a different theme to provide a deeper dive into particular areas of interest. The "Conservation Station On

the Edge" trailer has working bioreactor and saturated buffer demonstrations, and "Conservation Station Marsh Madness" includes working scale models of different wetlands to show how water moves through these landscapes.

Steve Konrady, nonpoint source coordinator with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources Water Quality Improvement Section, also shared the stations' value.

"The Conservation Station fleet is a vital part of our conservation outreach and education mission across the state. In recent years, it has been a highlight of the Iowa State Fair DNR Building programming and is in high demand by field staff at many events around the state," he said. "Each trailer packs a lot of education into a flexible platform that has the ability to reach curious Iowans of all ages and ability levels, leaving each visitor with some newfound knowledge about lowa's environment."

Conservation Station visits include teams made up of Iowa State University faculty, staff and student interns that are eager to engage with the public about lowa and its natural resources.

Event organizers and fair boards are encouraged to submit requests for Conservation Station visits using the online form before March 20. Requesters will be notified of the status of their request by April 15.

Conservation Station visits are available at no cost thanks to support from ISU Extension and Outreach, Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, Iowa Department of Natural Resources (United States Environmental Protection Agency, Section 319 of the Clean Water Act), USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture, Soil and Water Conservation Districts statewide and personal gifts of support.



Seed starting. Photo submitted by Iowa State University Extension and Outreach.

Getting a Head Start: How to Successfully Start Seeds Indoors

By: Aaron J. Steil

AMES, Iowa — As winter lingers, many gardeners are looking for ways to get their hands dirty. Starting seeds indoors gives gardeners greater control over growing conditions, resulting in healthier, more resilient transplants.

"It's fun to get a head start on the upcoming garden season by starting seedlings indoors," said Aaron Steil, consumer horticulture specialist with Iowa State University Extension and Outreach.

To be successful, gardeners must provide the right conditions for seedlings to thrive and develop into stocky, resilient plants.

Time it right

Resist the urge to sow too early. Steil warns that seedlings started too soon often become lanky and transplant poorly. Check the seed packet for the recommended indoor growing period, then count backward from your frost-free date to determine when to start.

In much of Iowa, planting of frost-tender annuals and vegetables happens from late April to early May. Cool-season crops that tolerate light frost can be planted a bit earlier, in early to mid-April, so they can be started indoors sooner. "It's important to plan before you plant," Steil noted.

Choose the right growing medium and containers

Start with a lightweight, porous and disease-free seed-starting mix. Steil recommends commercially prepared soilless germination mixes designed for seedlings. Sow seeds in flats, cell packs, peat pellets, soil blocks or repurposed containers. "What you use is up to you, as long as it is clean and has drainage holes," he said.

Sow like a pro

Use new seeds packaged for the current season, as older seeds, especially those more than 2 or 3 years old, often germinate poorly. Seeds can be sown in rows in a flat or tray and carefully transplanted to individual containers when they develop true leaves. "This approach is good for small seeds or those with inconsistent germination rates," said Steil. Alternatively, seeds can be sown directly into individual containers, sowing several seeds per pot and thinning them later. This approach is well-suited for larger seeds.

Check the seed packet for sowing depth. Many are planted 1/4 inch deep and can be placed on the soil surface and lightly covered to ensure they are at the right depth. Small, fine seeds or those that require light to germinate are planted at a depth of 1/8 inch or less. "For these seeds, place the seeds on the surface and

gently press them into the germination medium to ensure good seed to soil contact," advised Steil.

Provide the best growing conditions

After sowing, water from below by submerging the container until the medium is fully wet, then let it drain. This prevents the seeds from washing or dislodging.

"Warm soil temperatures promote better, faster germination," Steil explained. "After emerging, the seedlings grow best in cooler temperatures around 65 F. This promotes stout, transplant-ready plants."

To maintain high humidity, cover the container with a clear dome or other covering, and water lightly only if the soil surface dries out. Remove the cover as soon as seeds germinate, and ensure good ventilation and air circulation to prevent damping-off diseases.

After germination, provide 12–16 hours of bright light each day to prevent stretching or leaning. Even with a sunny window, seedlings often grow best under supplemental light. Keep them 6–12 inches above the plants and raise the grow lights as seedlings grow.

Care and prepare seedlings

When seedlings graduate from a germination tray to individual pots, transplant them into a well-drained potting mix. Fertilize regularly with a 1/4-strength water-soluble all-purpose fertilizer. This will help to produce stockier transplants, provided enough light is available. Keep the growing medium moist but not soggy, checking daily and watering thoroughly when the surface is dry to the touch.

About two weeks before planting day, harden seedlings by gradually introducing them to outdoor conditions. "Start by putting them outside on cloudy days or in a shaded location, then after a few days, move them into more light and exposure," said Steil. This important step helps seedlings transition from the ideal conditions indoors to the bright sunlight, cool temperatures and windy conditions found outside.

For more information on starting seeds indoors, visit ISU Extension and Outreach Yard and Garden and related resources, including:

How to Successfully Start Seed Indoors

Guide to Starting Seed Indoors

Germination Requirements for Annuals and Vegetables

Growing Indoor Plants Under Supplemental Lights

Yard and Garden: Iowa State University Extension and Outreach

Cover Crop and Plant Disease Workshop to Be Held in Ames March 24

By: Mitch Harting

AMES — Iowa Learning Farms will host a cover crop and plant disease workshop as part of their "Beyond the Basics: Advanced Cover Crop Series" in Ames on Tuesday, March 24, from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. The event is open to farmers and landowners at no cost and includes a complimentary meal.

"Cover crops play a critical role in keeping Iowa's soil and water resources healthy. Though cover crops have many benefits, challenges like plant pathogens and disease can negatively impact the following cash crop," said Mitch Harting, water outreach specialist with Iowa Learning Farms. "This workshop will help farmers understand pathogen movement between cereal rye and corn, and the best management practices to reduce yield declines."

Attendees will also get insight into how they can implement alternative cover crops on their operation.

The workshop will feature Alison Robertson, extension field crop pathologist at Iowa State University, who will share information on the disease interactions between cereal rye cover crops and the corn that follows. Robertson will also offer a hands-on demonstration,

allowing attendees to see seedling disease first-hand among different cover crop treatments. The agenda will also include Mark Kenney, a local farmer who will offer insight into managing an oat cover crop as an alternative to rye. Additionally, Ethan Thies, conservation field specialist with ISU Extension and Outreach, will discuss other alternatives to cereal rye ahead of corn and best management practices to avoid disease when using cover crops.

The field day will be held at the Alliant Energy Agriculture Innovation Lab, located at 3800 University Boulevard, Ames. The event is open to farmers and landowners, though reservations are required to ensure adequate space and food. For reasonable accommodations and to RSVP, please contact Harting at 515-294-8912 or ilf@iastate.edu by March 17. Attendees will be entered in a drawing for ISU Prairie Strips honey.

Iowa Learning Farms field days and workshops are supported by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. For more information, visit Iowa Learning Farms.

<https://www.extension.iastate.edu/news/cover-crop-and-plant-disease-workshop-be-held-ames-march-24>


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ISU Extension in Oskaloosa hosts Iowa Farmers Market Nutrition Program Training on March 24

Iowa State University Extension and Outreach in Mahaska County is pleased to announce a partnership with the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (IDALS) to host an Iowa Farmers Market Nutrition Program (FMNP) vendor training on March 24 at 9 am. This training is for fruit and vegetable growers, as well as honey producers, who sell their products at farmers markets, and is the initial step toward FMNP certification, a requirement for farmers who wish to accept FMNP vouchers.

The Iowa FMNP, administered by IDALS with support from the Iowa Department of Health and Human Services, is vital in supporting local farmers and providing access to fresh, locally

grown produce for eligible seniors and WIC families. In 2025, over 10,000 seniors and 17,000 mothers and children in Iowa received FMNP vouchers, contributing to the certification of more than 600 farmers at 125 farmers markets and 100 farm stands.

The training will take place at the Iowa State University Extension and Outreach - Mahaska County office in Oskaloosa, located at 212 North I Street, on March 24 at 9 am. Attendance is free, but preregistration is mandatory. For registration and further details, please call 641-673-5841 or email striege@iastate.edu.

For inquiries regarding FMNP vendor certification, please contact IDALS at 515-281-5783 or FarmersMarket@IowaAgriculture.gov.