

The News

KALONA, WELLMAN, RIVERSIDE, LONE TREE & HILLS

EPC closing its doors in Kalona after years of operation

“We regret to inform you” notice posted as company cites drop in Whirlpool orders



After years of operation, the EPC plant in Kalona is closing as operations are consolidated at the company's facility in Grinnell.

BY JJ PETERS
The News

KALONA

Walking into work and seeing a notice posted on the door can raise questions for any employee.

But if that notice begins with the words “We regret to inform you,” the message is often clear.

That is what workers at EPC in Kalona reportedly experienced on the

morning of Wednesday, Feb. 18.

According to a letter posted at the facility, the company cited a “significant reduction in orders from their main customer Amana Whirlpool” as the reason for closing the plant.

Employees were given little clarity about the timeline for the shutdown, leaving many uncertain about when operations will officially end.

The letter stated that workers who wished to keep their jobs could trans-

fer to the company’s plant in Grinnell, which is more than an hour away.

Workers were reportedly given written notices stating they could report to the Grinnell facility at their normal shift time if they wished to remain employed. Those who do not relocate would lose their jobs.

On Tuesday, March 10, the Kalona plant halted both its second and third shifts.

According to a source, they heard the plant is expected to close at the end of this month. However, the exact closing date remains uncertain.

Whirlpool Amana

The closure comes as layoffs have recently been reported at the Whirlpool plant in Amana.

More than 300 employees at the Amana facility have reportedly lost their jobs in recent months. According to reports, some positions have been moved to Whirlpool plants in Mexico.

The reduction in production at Whirlpool appears to have had a ripple effect on other businesses connected to the company, including suppliers such as the EPC plant in Kalona.

SEE EPC CLOSING | PAGE 6A

Lawmakers address vaccines, mental health, school funding at legislative briefing

BY JJ PETERS
The News

WASHINGTON

During the second Legislative Briefing on Friday, March 5, both State District 92 Representative Heather Hora and State District 46 Senator Dawn Driscoll were present at the City of Washington Council Chambers.

Both Hora and Driscoll spoke to the crowd while providing updates on what they are working on at the Capitol.

Driscoll spoke first and apologized for why she was not there during last month’s first Legislative Briefing.

“I want to apologize for not being here last time. I had already committed to being at the Capitol with the National Guard, where we were giving tours. There were about 250 guardsmen there, and I was with them.”

Driscoll said she was excited about the Senate’s property tax reform bill, which aims to provide relief for homeowners, potentially eliminate property taxes for homeowners over 60 who have paid off their mortgage, and make the system easier to understand.

After Driscoll made her opening comments, Hora spoke to the crowd about what she was excited for.

Hora said she was excited about several bills moving through the Iowa House, including House File 2542, a “three-strikes” measure that could lead to a 20-year prison sentence for repeat offenders.

She also highlighted House File 2719, which would provide voters with more transparency about judges, and House File 2529, a “Right to Repair” bill allowing farmers to repair their own equipment.

Other legislation she mentioned included House File 2676, focused on improving public health, House File 2711, which removes affirmative action requirements in state employment and contracting, and House File 2649, allowing certain community colleges to offer bachelor’s degrees in high-demand fields.

Hora also noted a proposal expanding play-based learning in preschool programs.

After both Hora and Driscoll made their opening statements, questions were then open to the public.

One attendee raised concerns about House File 2171 and whether removing school vaccination requirements could lead to lower immunization rates.

Another question focused on mental health services, specifically House File 2292, which would expand inpatient mental health beds at state facilities. One attendee asked how the state plans to fund the proposal.

“DHHS estimates a one-time infrastructure cost of about \$5.7 million at Cherokee and \$10 million at Independence,” Hora said. “Beginning in fiscal year 2028, the department expects ongoing staffing costs, though some may be offset by federal support if a waiver

SEE LEGISLATIVE BRIEFING | PAGE 7A

Kalona moves forward on \$3.7 million trails project

BY RON SLECHTA
The News

KALONA

The Kalona City Council decided at their March 4 meeting to use donated funds to approve a \$317,400 contract with MSA, Cedar Rapids, for engineering and design work for a 2.7-mile trails project on both sides of the English River, including a new walking and biking pedestrian bridge over the river. The council met Wednesday night to allow city officials to attend the Washington Annual Dinner & Awards Monday night.

On a motion by council member Jenelle Bender, seconded by councilman Greg Schmidt, the council voted 5-0 to proceed with the project with MSA Consultants to do engineering and design work on the trail for foot and bicycle traffic only. Golf carts and ATVs will not be allowed on the trails. City Administrator Ryan Schlaubaugh confirmed with council members that the trail would be designed strictly for foot and bicycle traffic.

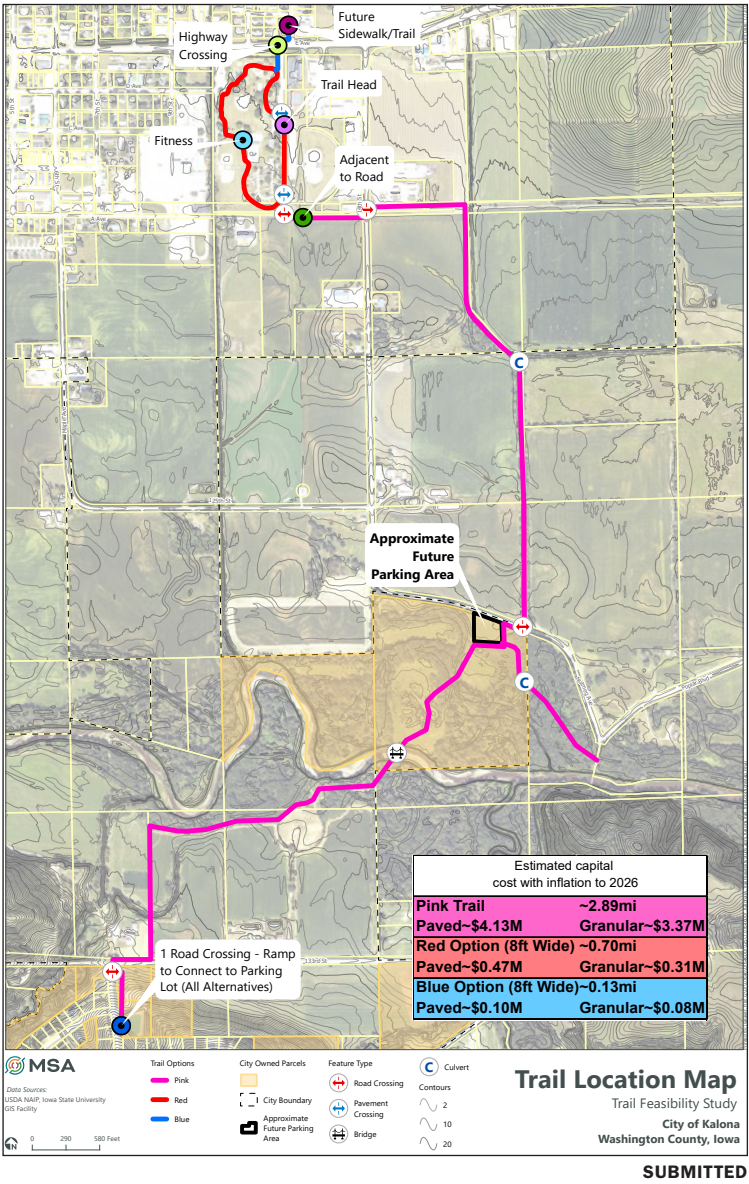
Schlaubaugh pointed out that donated funds could be used to pay for the engineering fees, and that would be taken into consideration when the city applies for grant funds to help pay for the trails project. He stated that the city has received over \$1.2 million in donated funds for the trails project, with the majority of those funds coming from Shiloh.

Andrew J. Inhelder, P.E., with MSA, estimated that the engineering and design work would be complete by this fall, making the project bid- and grant-application ready. The engineering work will be done as one project, but the construction work could be divided into two projects: one for north of the English River and one for south of the river, including the Southtown area.

Total estimated cost of the trail project is estimated at \$3,780,000 if it can all be done at one time and completed in 2027. If it is divided into two projects, with the north side of the river being done in 2027 and the section south of the English in 2028, the cost is projected to be \$4,246,000.

Schlaubaugh pointed out that this project would give the city three district parks: the present City Park, a

SEE KALONA | PAGE 6A



AROUND TOWN

Potluck at Goodwin Dinning
Join your friends and neighbors for a potluck at Goodwin Dining Center in Wellman on Thursday, March. 12. Serving begins at noon, arrive a bit early and bring table service and a dish to share. Serving spoons provided.

Purple Martin Workshop
The 18th annual Purple Martin Workshop/Seminar will take place Saturday, March 14 with building opening at 8 a.m. and program start at 9 a.m. \$3.00 admission. Lunch will be available; children under 10 free. Location: CAM Iowa Clothing Center, 1005 Nutmeg Ave, north of Kalona. For more information, contact Evan Gingerich at 319-359-0997 or Jim Walters at 319-466-1134.

Port City Coin Club Coin Annual Show
On March 15 the annual Port City Coin Club show will take place at the Rendezvous 3127 Lucas Street in Muscatine. It will go from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Admission is free with a raffle and hourly prizes. More info can be found by calling 563-264-8148.

Kalona Parkinson's Support Group
The Kalona Parkinson's Disease Support Group will meet next on Monday, March 16, from 5 to 6 p.m. in the Community Room at the Kalona YMCA. For more information, call 319-656-5347.

Wellman Fire Tenderloin Dinner
The Wellman Volunteer Fire Department will hold its 6th Annual Drive-Thru Grilled Tenderloin & Fries Dinner fundraiser on Saturday, March 21 from 4-7:30 p.m. at the fire station. Freewill donation.

1870s Period Meal
The Kalona Historical Village and Mike Zahs will present a 1870s Period Meal on March 21 at the Kalona Historical Village; 715 D Ave. Dinner will be served at 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. at a cost of \$35 per person. Seating is limited, and reservations are required. Proceeds will benefit the Washington County Military Museum. For more information, call 319-656-3232.

Captain Kirk's Birthday Party
The Riverside Area Community Club (RACC) will host a Birthday Bash for Capt. Kirk on Saturday, March 21 from 7 to 9 p.m. at Riverside VFW Post 6414. Cake, door prizes, live music; free and open to the public.

Optimists of Kalona Tenderloin Meal
The Optimists of Kalona will host their annual Tenderloin Meal on March 26 at the Kalona United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall. The meal will be served from 4:30 to 7 p.m., with freewill donations accepted, and carryout meals available.

Kalona Home Show
The 3rd annual Kalona Home Show takes place Friday, March 27 from 4-8 p.m. and Saturday, March 28 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Kalona Community Center/YMCA. Free and open to the public.

Kalona Fire Pancake Day
The Kalona Volunteer Fire Department will hold its annual Pancake Day breakfast on Saturday, March 28 from 6 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the fire station.

KPL Spring Book Sale
The Kalona Public Library will hold its annual Spring Book Sale on Saturday, March 28. Opens at 9 a.m. for Friends members, 9:30 a.m. for the general public.

SEE AROUND TOWN | PAGE 6A

Dutch Country Table set to open soon in Kalona

BY JJ PETERS
The News

KALONA

If you’ve driven past First Street in Kalona recently, you may have noticed construction taking place. That construction is for the new restaurant, Dutch Country Table, which is being built at the former location of the BP gas station and Hard Luck Café.

The restaurant was first announced last April, and construction on the building began in August.

Dutch Country Table is expected to open sometime in April.

The owner of Dutch Country Table is Marlin Bontrager, who also owns Dutch Country Inn, located next door to the new restaurant.

Bontrager recently spoke at the Rotary Club of Kalona, where he discussed the restaurant and the inspiration behind the name.

“The name comes from being right next door, which ties in with the Dutch Country Inn and reflects the area’s Amish and Mennonite community,” Bontrager said.

He said the goal is to create a place where people can gather.

“We want it to be the kind of place where people can gather around the table,” he said.

Bontrager explained that the concept for the restaurant developed over several years.

“Over the past five to ten years we’ve visited a lot of different places, and our original idea was to open a coffee shop,” he said. “But after talking with people in Kalona, many said they wanted a place to sit down and eat, so we decided to focus more on a restaurant while still offering coffee.”

The restaurant will include a drive-thru, although it will operate differently from a traditional fast-food drive-thru.

“We plan to have a drive-through where everything will be pre-ordered,” Bontrager said. “Customers will order through an app on their phone, so when they come to the window they won’t have to wait like at a typical fast-food restaurant. Their food will be fresh and ready for them.”

Dutch Country Table plans to serve breakfast and lunch and will initially be open from 6 a.m. to 2 p.m., while being closed on Wednesdays and Sundays.

Bontrager said they may expand their hours in the future.

“Our goal is to eventually be open in the evenings,” he said. “If you come to Kalona on a Monday or Tuesday, there really aren’t many options. For now, though, we’ll be closed on Wednesdays to give ourselves



JJ PETERS/THE NEWS

Dutch Country Table is set to open sometime in April.

a break and catch our breath before the rest of the week.”

He also discussed some of the menu items, including one requested by many people in the community.

“Several people in the community asked for fried mush,” Bontrager said. “We originally weren’t planning to include it, but because of the overwhelming demand, it will now be on the menu.”

The restaurant will also feature rotating daily items.

“We’ll try to let the community know each week what our featured items will be on certain days,” he said. “The menu won’t be huge, but it will focus on quality items.”

Bontrager said the restaurant has already received strong interest from people looking for jobs.

“We’ve probably had

around 45 applicants,” he said. “We’re getting a really good response from the community, with people of all ages applying, from high school sophomores to someone who is 72 years old.”

The restaurant plans to employ about 18 staff members in total, with roughly 12 working during each shift.

One challenge early on was finding the right chef, but Bontrager said that recently changed.

“In the last 24 hours we’ve really been blessed with a couple of great answers to prayer, especially when it comes to finding a good chef, which was our top concern,” he said.

Bontrager also said a candidate for governor of Iowa is expected to visit the restaurant for a special event.

“We just confirmed that one

of the candidates will be coming in for an evening event and dinner in April, which gives you a bit of a teaser,” he said.

Inside the restaurant, Bontrager said there will be additional spaces available for gatherings and events.

“We’ll have an event space like a party room and a conference room upstairs that can hold about 15 people for meetings or smaller gatherings,” he said. “There’s also a loft upstairs that can hold around 50 people, and right now we plan to keep that space open most of the time.”

Bontrager also described how the dining experience will work.

“When customers walk in, they will place their order at the counter, then take a seat while a server brings the food to their table.”

Dutch Country Table has been in the works for some time, and with an opening expected in April, many in the community are looking forward to the restaurant’s debut.

Bontrager will operate the restaurant with his wife, Becky Bontrager.

For more information about Dutch Country Table, follow the restaurant on Instagram and Facebook or visit dutch-countrytable.com for even more updates.

Democratic candidates speak at Washington County Meet and Greet

BY JJ PETERS
The News

WASHINGTON

The Washington County Democrats hosted a meet-and-greet Saturday at the Washington Public Library, giving residents a chance to hear from candidates running in several federal, state and local races.

Candidates attending the event included Secretary of State candidate Ryan Peterman, U.S. Senate candidate Zach Wahls, U.S. House District 1 candidate Travis Terrell, State Auditor candidate Taylor Wettach, State Treasurer candidate John Norwood and Washington County Board of Supervisors candidate Dr. Lynette Iles.

U.S. Senate candidate Josh Turek was unable to attend, but his campaign manager spoke on his behalf and shared information about his campaign. U.S. House candidate Christina Bohannon, who is running again for Iowa’s 1st Congressional District in 2026, also did not attend but provided a recorded message that was played during the event.

During the event, Brittney Erickson also announced she is entering the race for Iowa House District 92. Erickson will challenge incumbent Rep. Heather Hora.

After introductions, each candidate spoke about their background and why they are running.

Secretary of State race

The first speaker was Secretary of State candidate Ryan Peterman, a former Navy helicopter pilot and national security adviser who is challenging incumbent Secretary of State Paul Pate.

“I grew up in Iowa with a father who owned a small business, and the lessons I learned from my family, teachers and coaches shaped my desire to serve,” Peterman said. “After attending the Naval Academy and becoming a Navy helicopter pilot, I returned home in 2024 to be closer to my family. That’s why I decided to run for Secretary of State — to protect the right to vote and ensure elections remain both secure and accessible for all Iowans.”

Peterman had to leave early for another campaign event but answered questions before departing. One question focused on voter identification requirements.

“I think if voter ID or a passport becomes a barrier, you can’t require people to purchase those just to vote,” Peterman said. “In Iowa, there should be a free alternative, like the state-issued ID card.”

Washington County Board of Supervisors seat

Washington County Board of Supervisors candidate Dr. Lynette Iles spoke next about why she is running for the seat that will become open at the end of 2026 when current board member Richard Young retires.

“I’m a retired physician, and I’m running for Richard



JJ PETERS/THE NEWS

The Washington County Democrats hosted a meet-and-greet with candidates on Saturday, March 7 at the Washington Public Library.

Young’s seat on the Washington County Board of Supervisors,” Iles said. “I watched the board closely for about six months last year and felt they weren’t listening to constituents. My husband and I moved here 32 years ago to serve this community, and I want to help make our county government more accessible and responsive.”

Christina Bohannon message

Although she was not present, Christina Bohannon addressed the audience through a recorded message.

“Thank you all for coming today,” Bohannon said. “I’m sorry I couldn’t be there in person, but I’m grateful for the support, especially after our 2024 race that came down to just 799 votes. I’m running again because I believe this race is critical and I want to keep bringing people together while working to lower costs, improve water quality and expand affordable health care.”

Terrell focuses on health care

U.S. House candidate Travis Terrell focused much of his remarks on health care.

“For decades, I’ve watched Washington pass policies that affect families like mine, and too often those policies make life harder,” Terrell said. “My mom is 70 years old, still working and paying hundreds of dollars for health care, which is why I believe health care should be a human right and guaranteed for every American.”

Terrell said his experience working in health care shaped his views.

“I strongly believe in universal health care,” he said. “After working in health care for 10 years, I’ve seen how our broken system forces people to leave the hospital early or refuse treatment because they’re afraid of the cost.”

Wettach discusses auditor race

State Auditor candidate Taylor Wettach, a Muscatine attorney, said he is running to ensure the office remains focused on accountability.

“I’m a seventh-generation Iowan from Muscatine, and I’m running to ensure the State Auditor’s Office remains an independent watchdog for taxpayers,” Wettach said. “The

support small businesses, protect IPERS retirement benefits and bring transparency to the treasurer’s office.

Wahls speaks about Senate race

State Sen. Zach Wahls also spoke about his campaign for the U.S. Senate.

“I’m a sixth-generation Iowan, state senator, husband and father, and I’m running for the United States Senate because I believe Iowa deserves leadership that focuses on lowering costs for families rather than serving big corporate interests,” Wahls said.

Turek campaign representative speaks

Josh Turek’s campaign manager, Brendan Koch, spoke on behalf of the candidate.

“He’s a four-time U.S. Paralympian and the first permanently disabled member of the Iowa State Legislature, representing the reddest district currently held by a Democrat,” Koch said.

Koch encouraged attendees to review Turek’s “Motion for Change” agenda online.

Erickson announces house campaign

During the event, Brittney Erickson formally announced her candidacy for Iowa House District 92.

“I’m running against Heather Hora for District 92,” Erickson said. “I support universal health care, stronger support for our public schools and making sure people have access to safe food and clean water.”

Erickson said school funding is one of the issues that motivated her to run.

“I don’t believe a 2 percent increase is enough,” she said. “We need to invest more in our schools so every child has the same opportunities.”

Round table discussion

After the speeches concluded, attendees had the opportunity to meet with candidates and ask questions.

Washington County Democratic Chair Sandra Johnson described the format as similar to “speed dating,” with attendees rotating between tables to speak with candidates and discuss issues affecting their communities.

The discussions allowed voters to learn more about the candidates and their positions on local and statewide issues.



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Forecasts for North Washington County

Thursday
March 12

54° 35°
RealFeel® 50°

Clouds and sun; becoming windier

Friday
March 13

48° 32°
RealFeel® 38°

Windy; turning cloudy and cooler

Saturday
March 14

57° 39°
RealFeel® 55°

Not as cool; breezy in the morning

Sunday
March 15

44° 14°
RealFeel® 36°

Winds becoming strong

Forecasts and graphics provided by **AccuWeather, Inc.** ©2026

SUN/MOON

	Sunrise	Sunset	Moonrise	Moonset
Thursday	7:24 a.m.	7:10 p.m.		
Friday	7:22 a.m.	7:11 p.m.		
Saturday	7:20 a.m.	7:12 p.m.		
Sunday	7:19 a.m.	7:13 p.m.		
Monday	7:17 a.m.	7:14 p.m.		
Tuesday	7:15 a.m.	7:15 p.m.		
Wednesday	7:14 a.m.	7:17 p.m.		

Last
Mar 11

New
Mar 18

First
Mar 25

Full
Apr 1

DAILY ACTIVITY CONDITIONS

Thu.	Fri.	Sat.	Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.
AccuWeather.com UV Index™						
4	4	2	1	5	1	2
Pollen Level Forecast						
5	6	6	7	9	10	8
Rating: 0-2: Low, 3-5: Moderate, 6-7: High, 8-10: Very high, 11+: Extreme						
Fishing forecast						
5	6	1	0	3	8	6
Soil Moisture forecast						
10	10	10	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Rating: 0-2: Poor, 3-4: Fair, 5-6: Good, 7-8: Very Good, 9-10: Excellent						

DAILY HEALTH CONDITIONS

Thu.	Fri.	Sat.	Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.
Arthritis forecast						
1	0	3	3	0	0	0
Asthma forecast						
5	4	1	1	0	0	0
Migraine forecast						
0	0	0	1	3	0	2
Sinus forecast						
5	4	3	3	3	1	2
Rating: 0-2: Beneficial; 3-4: Neutral; 5-6: at Risk; 7-8: at High Risk; 9-10: at Extreme Risk.						

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Riverside’s property tax rates to drop in FY27

BY PAUL D. BOWKER
The News

RIVERSIDE

The proposed residential property tax rate for Riverside residents is going down in Fiscal Year 2027, decreasing from the current \$8.10 per \$1,000 of assessed property values to \$8.0198.

The Riverside City Council, during its regularly scheduled meeting March 2, set a public hearing on the FY27 property tax rate for 6 p.m. April 6.

Riverside residents will also see a decreased property tax rate from Highland Community Schools; the proposed levy rate of 10.95554 is nearly \$2 lower than its current rate of 12.89597, and a public hearing on the schools’ tax rate has been set for 5 p.m. March 23 at Highland High School.

Tax bills, which come due every six months, are also dependent on Washington County levy rates and property assessment values.

Special Meeting

The City Council will hold

a special meeting at 6 p.m. Thursday (March 12) to consider approval of a resolution that would clear the way for the city to request Washington County Riverboat Foundation funds for the Riverside Wellness Center project.

Riverside voters approved an \$8 million referendum for Wellness Center construction funds in last November’s election, but the city is hoping to get additional funds in a WCRF grant this spring. A similar request in the WCRF fall grant cycle, covering \$4 million, was declined.

The expected total construction and design cost is about \$13 million. OPN Architects and Axiom Consultants of Iowa City already have plans spanning the architecture and financing.

The city has punched out \$1.5 million for the project in a special fund.

TrekFest Fireworks

The City Council approved a \$7,000 fireworks display contract with J&M Displays for a fireworks show that will take

place Saturday, June 27, as a part of the annual TrekFest celebration in Riverside.

June 27, the third day of the festival, will also feature a parade in the morning and a number of activities all day long at Hall Park.

This year’s special guests include Robert Duncan McNeill and Garrett Wang of the Star Trek Voyager TV series.

Council Action

The City Council approved an FY27 services contract with Kalona Public Library for \$42,500.

The City Council set a public hearing of 6 p.m. March 16 for the presentation of plans and costs for a sewer rehabilitation project that would take place this spring and summer.

The City Council, via a 2-2 vote, declined a rezoning request to change a piece of property located near the downtown from C-1 and C-2 (commercial) to R-2 (residential).

Next board meeting: The City Council’s next meetings are at 6 p.m. March 12 and 6 p.m. March 16.

Wellman council authorizes bid not to exceed \$55,000 for memorial project

BY JJ PETERS
The News

WELLMAN

The council discussed the memorial project. Mayor Ryan Miller said he has been in contact with Country Stonemasons, which is handling the project.

Miller explained the company submitted a bid in October, but the dimensions were incorrect. A revised bid was later submitted, but it again did not meet the required specifications. That bid totaled \$34,500.

Miller asked the council to authorize him to move forward with the project by allowing him to enter into a contract with Country Stonemasons for an amount not to exceed \$55,000. The authorization includes a 25% deposit, with the final cost dependent on receiving a correct bid.

Resolution 26-10

Council next considered Resolution 26-10, which authorizes an extension to the city’s gas supply amendment. The resolution was approved unanimously by the council.

Resolution 26-11

Council then moved on to Resolution 26-11, which proposes an encroachment, access and maintenance agreement. After discussion, the council voted to set a public hearing on the proposed agreement.

Water Tower

Toward the end of the meeting, council discussed an issue involving the city’s water tower. The water tower overflowed over the weekend, creating significant icing in the area. Ice covered a nearby tree from top to bottom, and water overflowed onto the fence. Officials noted the overflow did not impact the pipeline.

JoCo Supervisors retain COLA and merit pay raises for county employees in FY27

BY PAUL D. BOWKER
The News

IOWA CITY

Johnson County Supervisors agreed to maneuver the Fiscal Year 2027 budget so that it would cover cost-of-living raises for all county employees and merit pay increases of up to 3%.

“Just to make sure we’re taking care of our employees,” Supervisor Vice Chair Lisa Green-Douglass said during the Board’s final budget work session March 3.

The proposed budget includes a number of vehicle replacements. It does not include a proposal of \$8 million for design work and other projects associated with a new county jail; it was voted down, 3-2. Instead, those funds would come from elsewhere in the FY27 and FY28 budgets, pending public approval of a bond referendum in the November 2026 election. The new jail and sheriff’s office is expected to cost \$99 million on a property that is not yet finalized or purchased.

In order to keep FY27 costs down, all five county supervisors turned down pay increases. Other elected officials, including Sheriff Brad Kunkel and County Attorney Rachel Zimmermann Smith, agreed to the same COLA increases as other county employees.

Johnson County’s tax asking for FY27, which begins July 1, is \$76.2 million, a drop of \$2.1 million from the current fiscal

year. Property tax bills could drop in FY27, depending on property assessments.

City residents will see lower levy tax rates while some rural residents may see small increases.

A public hearing on FY27 property tax proposals was set for 5:30 p.m. March 25.

Road Project

A \$4.6 million proposal by InRoads Paving of Des Moines for a resurfacing and widening project on 540th Street SW was approved by the board during its March 5 formal meeting.

Paul Wittau, Johnson County Engineer, said work would begin in the spring and go through the entire road construction season into November.

The project covers six miles and will go west from the Highway 1 and 540th Street SW intersection. The road crosses Angle Road SW and also goes past Hillcrest Academy, which is just east of the Johnson County and Iowa County borders.

Strategic Planning Forum

A fourth, and additional, community meeting conducted Feb. 26 at Dream City in Iowa City for Johnson County strategic planning drew a crowd of five. The fourth meeting drew opposition from Supervisor Rod Sullivan because of the additional cost and the previous approval of three community meetings in Hills, Solon and

Coralville.

“Honestly, it was a good session to the end,” said Erin Shane, Board Executive Director. “Really thankful for BerryDunn for having one of the consultants coming back and host that for us.”

Board Action

The Board approved a \$549,000 amendment to a professional services agreement with Shive-Hattery Architecture & Engineering of Iowa City for an assessment study on a new county jail.

The Board approved collective bargaining agreements with the Johnson County Sheriff’s Office Sergeant’s Association, and Public Professional and Maintenance employees.

The Board approved a \$19,454 proposal from CR Signs of Cedar Rapids to install a 50-foot flagpole in the Johnson County Courthouse yard.

The Board approved a number of land-use agreements at the Historic Poor Farm.

The Board issued a proclamation in honor of International Women’s Day and Women’s History Month.

Next meeting: The Board’s next formal session is at 5:30 p.m. March 12. This is the monthly evening meeting that will include rezoning and platting applications, and public hearings.

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Board oks new subdivision plat

BY MARY ZIELINSKI
The News

WASHINGTON COUNTY

The supervisors Tuesday unanimously approved Resolutions S6-95, acceptance of the minor plat of Jotoammi Acres Subdivision in Township 77 containing 1.50 acres to be used for residences. The property is owned by Larry and Miriam Pecker. It was noted the plat meets all requirements set by the county.

When it came to the two offers the county received for the property at 302 W. Main Street, Washington, one of which is \$15,000 with no conditions. The other offer is \$20,000 with request to permit a zoning change to permit building on the site.

Discussion noted that the county has offered the prop-

erty for sale and extended period. However, no offer was taken.

In other business, the board approved a resolution allowing Emergency Management to apply for a Washington County Riverboat Foundation spring grant and also authorized Secondary Roads to apply for a grant in the foundation’s Spring 2026 cycle.

The County engineer’s quarterly effort was accepted. In total of 7,894 tons of rock were hauled a used on center-board in the last quarter. Cost for the snow removal, involving personnel, equipment, sale and overtime was \$316,742.38.

The board also unanimously approved the law enforcement contracts the sheriff’s department has with seven county cities.

Correction

In this issue’s Farm & Field Section C, we misspelled Heather and Tim Marek’s name in the story “Meet the Mareks.” We deeply regret the

error. The online version of the story has been corrected; learn more about Marek Land & Livestock at mareklandandlivestock.com.

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The politics of bridge building



Rod Sullivan
Sullivan's Salvos

I find that there are often disconnects between reality and the political narratives we choose to embrace. The issue of rural bridges is a good example of this disconnect.

First, a bit of background: every Iowa county has hundreds of miles of gravel roads. In addition, many of these roads have multiple bridges. Some are concrete, some are steel, and some are timber, but they all serve the same purpose. We replace a few of these bridges every year, and I can tell you the cost is pretty much always between \$500k-\$1,200,000, depending upon the length.

These bridges are lifelines for the people who live in the area. This is how farmers get to their fields. This is how farmers get to town. The rural economy functions best when these bridges are well maintained.

In addition, there is a public safety factor. Fire trucks, ambulances, and Sheriff's vehicles need to be able to access the residents of the area via a quick and direct route.

On the other hand, the cost of these bridges adds up. Say we set aside \$4.0 million for these bridges each year. That is the same cost as two brand

new miles of paved road, or the rehabilitation of 6 miles of paved road.

Some of our paved roads see thousands of cars every day. Often these gravel roads have traffic counts as low as 20 cars per day. Needless to say, many people feel it is foolish to invest so much money in these bridges when the total traffic counts are so low.

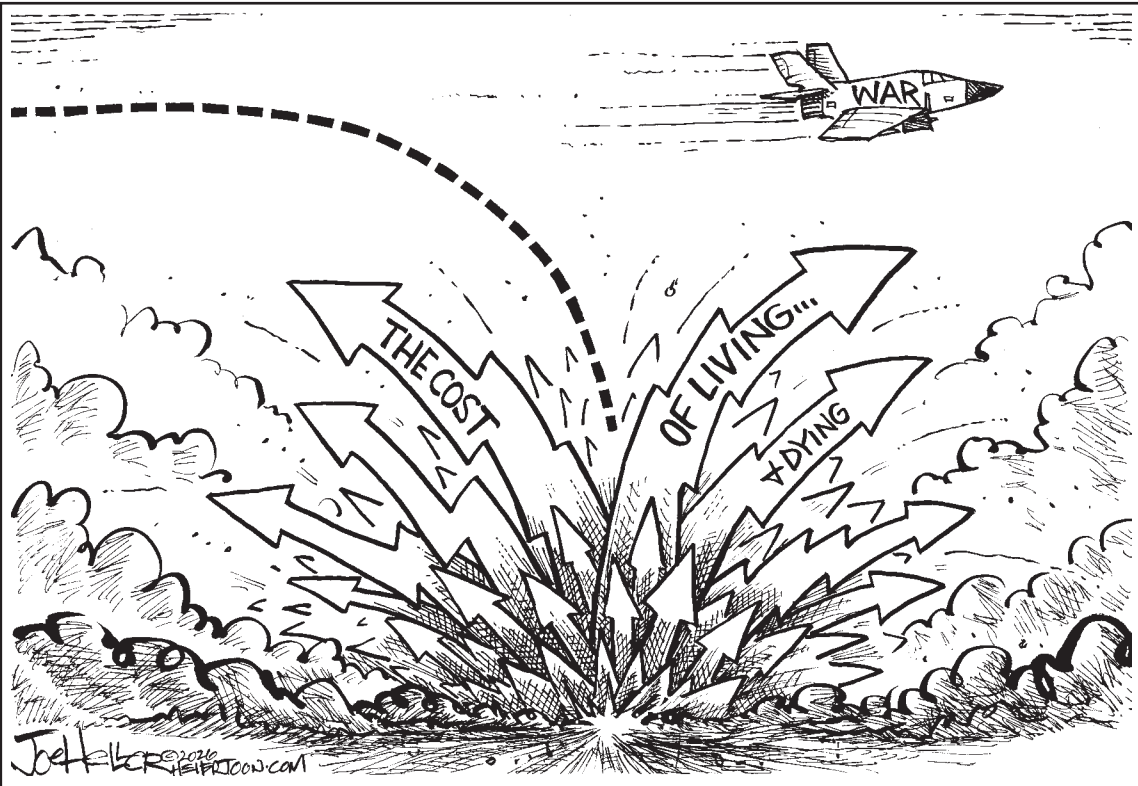
I understand both sides of the argument. But time after time, I have come down on the side of the farmer. I have served as a Supervisor for 20 years. In that time, Johnson County has never permanently closed a bridge. I am extremely proud of that fact!

But you won't find a bunch of farmers singing my praises. In fact, you'll find the exact opposite; farmers talking about how much they hate my work as a Supervisor.

Here is where the disconnect comes in. Washington County – with more farms than Johnson County – has closed bridges. The Washington County Board is made up 100% of conservative Republicans. But they have closed bridges.

Cedar County is the same way. The Cedar County Board is made up of 100% conservative Republicans, including the Chair of the Iowa Republican Party. But they have closed bridges.

Like many areas of our politics today, the realities of bridge building do not match the political narrative.



Enjoying a non-irritating retirement

Compared with a lot of men, I'm a rather boring guy. I have no major hobbies.

Many men enjoy golfing. I tried it; even took golf lessons. Those little round holes on the golf course are safe with me.

Fishing? Naw. I'm too impatient.

Hunting? Nope. Nearly 65 years ago I bought a shotgun from my Uncle Frank. Only one animal — a slow-moving rabbit — ever died because of my hunting prowess (or lack of same.)

Years ago, I remodeled part of our basement; Better Homes & Gardens never took photos.

To save money I have tried servicing my cars but it always costs more to have a real mechanic repair the damage.

Like I said, I'm a rather boring guy with no hobbies.

A few decades ago, my lack of hobbies was causing my wife to worry. She had several hobbies and was concerned that when we retired I would have nothing to do and would, at the least, be bored and irritating.

To my great sorrow, Cindy passed away before we could retire.

Fast forward to today and I am retired. I have remarried and to the best of my knowledge my lack of hobbies has not yet exasperated Julie. Time will tell.

Meanwhile, I am keeping as busy as I would like to be in retirement.

The first step to a sane retirement was to adjust the length of my days. My first job required a 4 a.m. wake-up. During most of the remainder of my career I was up before or shortly after 5 a.m. and re-



Arvid Huisman
Country Roads

mained active until 10 p.m. or later.

When I remarried in 2014 Julie was still teaching and left for work around 7:30 a.m. As she left I was watching "Leave It to Beaver" on television and feeling guilty. Over the following years I solved that problem by learning to stay in bed until 7 a.m. or later.

I am now having no problem staying busy. Coffee shop conversations with friends are wonderful activities.

Our church offers two men's Bible Studies. We old retired guys meet on Thursday mornings and the younger men meet on Saturday mornings. In addition, I do some graphic design work for the church and serve on a committee that ensures newcomers are warmly welcomed.

Once a month a couple dozen old former television and radio broadcasters get together for lunch and tale telling. Broadcasting careers are, shall we say, "unforgettable" and the tales we tell are as fun to hear as they are to tell. Imagine a room full of folks who used to talk for a living.

I do not enjoy network television and am selective with my news sources so my television viewing is mostly YouTube. There's a wide choice of topics available and I am discerning enough to avoid YouTube's bogus content.

As most married men will tell you, there is usually a honey do list in a relationship. Julie takes it easy on me but I enjoy helping when I can. Most recently she changed some decorating in the house and I was called upon to fill and paint nail holes from no longer used drapery hardware. I don't do ladders anymore but I'm tall enough to fulfill this task just standing up.

In recent years I have been active in the central Iowa medical community. Most of the appointments on my calendar these days begin with "Dr."

So, I'm staying busy as an old retired guy but, you may ask, what am I doing to keep my mind sharp in my senior years? I'm glad to asked.

I am in a relationship with my keyboard. I have loved to write since I was a kid and I am continuing to do so as a former kid. I write a newspaper column for several Iowa newspapers and statewide farm publications serving Iowa, Missouri and Illinois.

I have written a column for the bi-monthly Iowa History Journal magazine since its inception nearly 20 years ago as well as an occasional feature article. My most recent contribution concerns the 100th anniversary of U.S. Highway 20, a route I have driven from Dubuque to Sioux City scores of times. In fact, I lived within a dozen miles of U.S. 20 more than half my life.

So, all that fretting my dear wife did 20-some years ago was in vain. Any irritation I am causing in my old age is not related to my lack of hobbies.

Nationalize Amazon

BY JON HOCHSCHARTNER

There are many lessons we could take from the last decade of American politics, in which our country has degenerated further and further into an oligarchic hellscape. One I hope a majority would agree with is that current levels of wealth inequality are incompatible with political democracy. There are various ways this issue might be addressed, but one I'd prefer is nationalizing giant corporations, like Amazon, by which I mean putting them under public control and redirecting the profits to socially beneficial ends.

I was struck by a recent post that appeared on the website Bluesky, which said that given Amazon founder Jeff Bezos has a net worth of more than \$253 billion, he could light \$1 million on fire every day for almost 700 years without exhausting his funds. If this wasn't incredible enough, a number of commentators pointed out the post was misleading, since Bezos earns more than \$1 million in interest every day, so, actually, the oligarch could burn \$1 million a day in perpetuity. This is, needless to say, outrageous.

Compared to many, I live a life of privilege. And, yet is there any sense in which I can claim equality with Bezos? The question is laughable on its face. Take our ability to participate in the democratic process. Sure, we both have one vote, but, if I want to influence the views of others, I must write a letter to the editor which newspaper staff choose to run or create a short-form video which happens to go viral. In contrast, Bezos can purchase even more of the media landscape than he already has and change the editorial line as he sees fit.

To help neutralize this threat to democracy, we should nationalize companies like Amazon. The federal government should take over all aspects of the business, from the stock warehouses and delivery fleets to its streaming applications and cloud-computing services. The profits could be put toward any number of worthy projects, like rebuilding our crumbling infrastructure, funding local news organizations in communities without them, providing free healthcare to all, or offering no-cost college education to anyone who wants it.

Personally, as an animal activist, I'd like to see a portion of such profits devoted to funding cultivated-meat research. For those who don't know, cultivated meat is grown from livestock cells, without slaughter. I view developing this technology as the most promising means of reducing nonhuman suffering and premature death. We should be establishing facilities like the Tufts University Center for Cellular Agriculture across the country. The point, however, is these profits could be put toward anything we might democratically decide on.

Present levels of wealth inequality are destabilizing the United States in any number of ways. Among other things, it's fueling a fascist movement which has taken control of the White House and the wider Republican Party. Such politics reflect what's been termed 'the socialism of fools,' a far-right populism which blames racial, religious and gender minorities for the existing, miserable state of affairs, rather than the obscenely wealthy. Let's help preserve American democracy by nationalizing giant companies like Amazon.



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News items - Please include all pertinent data - names, city of residence, dates, etc., and a description of the event. Photos may be picked up at The News office unless you include a stamped, self-addressed envelope for their return.

Letters to the editor - Your name and city or community will be published with your letter to the editor. For verification purposes, please include your address and phone number. Letters to the editor will be accepted via email subject to verification.

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OBITUARIES

Kathryn Marie Slaubaugh

1926 - 2026

Kathryn Marie Slaubaugh was born December 21, 1926, in rural Iowa County, the daughter of Jacob Arthur and Mary Anna (Yoder) Slaubaugh. She graduated from Hesston High School, received her BS degree in education from Goshen College and her MS degree in learning disabilities from the University of Central Arkansas. She taught in rural public and parochial schools in Iowa and Illinois before moving to Arkansas where she lived and taught for 25 years. She returned to Iowa and taught at Pathway Christian School several years before retiring after 37 years of teaching. Kathryn was baptized and became a member of West Union Mennonite Church in 1936. She was also a member of Bethel Springs Mennonite Church in Arkansas. She



taught Sunday School, Vacation Bible School and served as a Sunday School superintendent. She was involved in Mennonite Women and was active in many other groups, Kalona Lioness Organization, Iowa Mennonite Historical Society, the local Prairie China Painters, Meals on Wheels and volunteered at the World Market Place. She enjoyed travel, arts and crafts, bird watching and letter writing. Kathryn graduated from this earthly life Friday, March 7, 2026, at Pleasantview Home in Kalona at 99 years. She is survived by her sister:

Helen Lindstrom of Wellman; a sister-in-law: Grace Slaubaugh of Kalona; a nephew: Nathan Lindstrom of Houston, Texas; and 4 great-nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents; sister: Carolyn (Lester) Yoder; brother: Marvin D. Slaubaugh; niece: Mary Catherine Murray; and a nephew: Kenton J. Slaubaugh. A memorial service was held Wednesday, March 11, 2026, at West Union Mennonite Church rural Parnell. A memorial fund has been established for MCC (Mennonite Central Committee) and West Union Mennonite Church. Messages and tributes can be sent to the family at www.powellfuneralhomes.com. Yoder-Powell Funeral Home is caring for Kathryn and her family.

Miriam Gingerich

1954 - 2026

Miriam Gingerich, 72, of Kalona, passed from this life Thursday, March 5, 2026, at her home following a lengthy illness. Funeral services were held Sunday, March 8, 2026, at the Laban T. Miller home, Kalona. Burial will follow at the North Gingerich Cemetery. The Beatty Peterseim Funeral Home is assisting the family. Miriam (Miller) Gingerich was born January 31, 1954, near Kalona, Iowa, the daughter of Truman W. and Lovina (Swartzentruber) Miller. She accepted Christ as her personal Saviour and was baptized, remaining faithful until her death on March 5, 2026, at her home in rural Kalona. On November 24, 1983, she was united in marriage to Daniel D. Gingerich and lived in matrimony for 42 years. To this union were born

five sons: James Daniel and wife Leanna of Lockridge, Iowa, Samuel David and wife Norma of Pittsfield, Illinois, John Duane and fiancée Joyce of Mount Crawford, Virginia, Isaac Dale and wife Ruby of Kalona, and Mark Don and wife Ada of Washington, Iowa. She is also survived by nine grandchildren: Nathan, Nancy, Timothy, Twila, Maria, Myron, Maynard, Melissa, Mervin; three brothers: Joseph T. Miller of Pearisburg, Virginia, Enos T. Miller and Laban T. Miller, both of Kalona; three sisters: Phebe (Mrs. Robert L. Yoder), Freda (Mrs. Marvin E. Miller) and Orpha Miller all of Kalona; and two aunts: Susie and Katie Miller. She was preceded in death by her parents; and three sisters-in-law: Rhoda, Esther and Annie.

Lovina spends a special day with her daughters and enjoys meals with family

On Wednesday all five of my daughters spent the day here. It had been a while since we all were together for a day. Elizabeth has three children in school and Susan has five children in school. That fills up their schedules with dentist and doctor appointments. I remember those days very well. Susan brought a casserole, so lunch was easy. Elizabeth baked Chocolate Chip Cream Cheese bars for me after she was here. Those were warm and great for a snack after everyone came. It was a different recipe I had wanted to try that was in a cookbook I received from my friend Lucille. She lives in the Mennonite community in Virginia. They drive horses and have buggies which is similar to the Amish. We met Ray and Lucille many years ago when our daughters were pen pals. Lucille, if you are reading this, thank you for your friendship through the years. When the eight grandchildren are in school, we still have Andrea, 4, Denzel, 3, Byron, 2, Ervin Jr, 2, Kylie, 1, Sharlene, 7 months and Brooklyn, 6 months here when they come home during the weekday. Elizabeth and Susan left earlier so they could be home before their children came home from school. Lovina had an appointment in town in the afternoon so she left Brooklyn here with us. She did really good and was easy to take care of. Such little sweeties! I fried chicken for our supper and made steamed potatoes. Along with that we had cheese, lettuce and homemade sour cream (which we put on our steamed potatoes). Also, ice cream and the bars were on the menu. Everyone was hungry for fried chicken again. Dustin, Loretta and children, Daniel, Lovina, and Brooklyn, Daniel Ray and Verena and son Benjamin's special friend Joanna were here for supper.



Thursday, I baked over a hundred chocolate chip cookies. I took some to church on Sunday and made the extra to have on hand here. Friday, I washed laundry and with it being such a nice day, I hung out outside to dry. The temperature was in the upper fifties, and everything was dry to put away. After I was done, I helped daughter Verena with her laundry and hung it out as well. Friday night we had supper at Dustin's. He made supper in the deep fryer outside. On the menu were broasted chicken, fish, and potato wedges. They told the family whoever wants to come can, so Tim's, Ervin's and Daniel Ray's went. Joe came home from work feeling sick, so he decided to stay home and rest. He didn't feel like eating but told me to go over and have supper with the family. I baked five loaves of bread that day, so I took some warm bread over to have with our supper. Sunday morning Ervin, Susan, and their seven children picked me up to go to church at our neighbors Joas and Susan. Joe was still sick so he stayed home. (He was home Monday yet from work. He went back Tuesday to work.) It was nice to have Ervin's visit our church district again. When we divided our church district they were in the other district. Ervin's brought me home after church services and they stayed here for supper. Dustin's and Daniel Ray's also came here after church. Dustin and Daniel Ray grilled the chicken for supper and also made potatoes and carrots on

the grill. That made supper easy on me. For dessert we had ice cream and chocolate chip cookies. They played games in the afternoon and visited. The children wanted to color but I was short on coloring books so I said they can tear sheets out of the books so everyone can color. They like it when I hang their colored sheets on my refrigerator. I remember how fun it was to color with my sisters when we were young. We would always tell each other that theirs was nicer (although we probably thought our own was). Haha! We would always write our name and age on the page we colored. Looking through some older color books is interesting to see that we were the ages my grandchildren are now. Time sure does not stand still. I'll share the recipe for the Chocolate Chip Cream Cheese bars now. God's blessings!

CHOCOLATE CHIP CREAM CHEESE BARS
1 chocolate cake mix
1 egg
1/3 cup vegetable oil
8 ounces softened cream cheese
1/3 cup sugar
1 egg
1 cup chocolate chips
Mix the first three ingredients together until crumbly. Pat all but 1 cup of crumbs into a 9x13 cake pan. Bake for 15 minutes at 350 degrees. Mix together remaining ingredients until light and smooth. Stir in 1 cup of chocolate chips. Spread over the baked layer. Sprinkle the remaining 1 cup of crumbs on top. Bake for 15 more minutes. Cool and cut.

Lovina's Amish Kitchen is written by Lovina Eicher, Old Order Amish writer, cook, wife, and mother of eight. Her three cookbooks, The Cherished Table, The Essential Amish Cookbook, and Amish Family Recipes, are available wherever books are sold. Readers can write to Eicher at Lovina's Amish Kitchen, PO Box 234, Sturgis, MI 49091 (please include a self-addressed stamped envelope for a reply); or email questionsforlovina@gmail.com and your message will be passed on to her to read. She does not personally respond to emails.

Barbara J. Anderson

1942 - 2026

Barbara J. Anderson, 83, of Columbus Junction, passed from this life Sunday, March 8, 2026, at Lantern Park Specialty Care in Coralville. A funeral service will be held Friday, March 13, 2026, at 11 a.m., at Peterseim Funeral Home in Kalona. The service will be available via Livestream at the Beatty Peterseim Facebook and YouTube Pages. Burial will follow at the Frytown Cemetery. The family will greet friends on Friday morning from 9:30 – 10:45 a.m., at the funeral home. A general memorial fund has been established. Barbara Joan (Smith) Anderson was born November 18, 1942, in Haxton, Colorado, the daughter of Lloyd and Iva Viola (Young) Smith. She was united in marriage to Joseph Anderson March 26, 1961, in Paoli, Colorado. Barb was a member of the Frytown Church of Christ where she loved to teach Sunday school and sing. She enjoyed embroidery, crocheting, puzzles, bird watching, reading and babysitting, especially her grandchildren. Survivors include three children: Philip Anderson of Washington, Brenda Anderson of Longmont, Colorado, and Judith (Robert) Sedlacek of Columbus Junction; two grandchildren: Ashlee Noelle Reese and Matthew Robert “Bobby” (Lizeth) Reese; two great-grandchildren: Kinnick Schultz and Jaxson Reese; and two sisters: Virginia Etl of California and Beverly Hembry of Yuma, Colorado. Preceding Barb in death were her parents; her husband: Joseph; her daughter: Debbie Plourd; her sister: Jean Freer; and brother: Bill Smith.



Thomas J. Rice

1946 - 2026

Thomas J. Rice, 79, passed away peacefully at home March 5, 2026, surrounded by his family. Tom was born November 21, 1946 in Iowa City, Iowa, to James and Margaret Rice. He grew up in Riverside where he developed a lifelong love for the outdoors and nature. Tom attended the University of Iowa, studying computer science. His career brought him to Minneapolis, Minnesota, where he began working for Control Data. On April 11, 2015, Tom married Mary Becker. Residing in rural Jordan, Minnesota, they together shared a love of nature, adventure, and community. Tom's true passion was the outdoors. He was happiest when hiking, biking, canoeing, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, trail clearing or exploring prairies and natural landscapes. Being active in nature brought him joy throughout his life. He was a long-time member of the North Star Ski Touring Club and Minnesota Public Radio. Tom was also a dedicated volunteer, giving his time to organizations including Habitat for Humanity, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, University of Minnesota Landscape Arboretum, Ney Nature Center, and Minnesota Master Naturalist. Those who knew Tom will



remember him as humble, quiet, adventurous, and generous - someone who deeply valued nature and an active life outdoors. Tom is survived by his beloved wife: Mary Becker; and his siblings: Linda and Denny Oeth of Oak Harbor, Washington, Rich and Sharen of Columbus, Ohio, Larry Rice and Beth Broman of Riverside, Kathy and Gary Hahn of Aurora, Colorado, Betty and Mike Lord of Riverside, and Jan and Tom Stout of Solon; many nieces and nephews; and Mary's family. *Mary, the Rice family and the Becker family extend special gratitude to Ridgeview Hospice and all who supported Tom with care and compassion.* A celebration of Tom's life is planned for Sunday April 12, 2026, at 2 p.m., in the Snyder Auditorium at The University of Minnesota Landscape Arboretum, 3675 Arboretum Dr., Chaska, Minnesota. Admission at front gate is complimentary for guests by informing the gatekeeper of the Celebration of Life for Tom Rice. Condolences at: www.bruzekfuneralhome.com

William “Bill” Rath

1949 - 2025

A memorial gathering to honor William ‘Bill’ Rath, 76, of Riverside, will be held Saturday, March 21, 2026, at Post Home 6414 VFW Post, Riverside, Iowa. The family will greet friends from noon until 2 p.m. The Beatty Peterseim Funeral Home is assisting the family. Philip James Armbruster, 75, of Harmony Cedar Rapids, was born May 26, 1950, in Iowa City, Iowa, the son of Paul and Lois (Strabala) Armbruster. Philip passed away peacefully Wednesday, November 5,

2025, at Harmony Cedar Rapids. A celebration of life memorial service with military rites will be held May 30, 2026 from 3-5 at Riverside VFW.

Philip James Armbruster

1950 - 2025

KALONA PUBLIC LIBRARY

Join us for our Silent Book Club with Gnoll's Loot Table Saturday, March 14 at 9:30 a.m. Teen Spring Break Virtual Re-laty & Pizza Hangout, Thursday March 19 at 1 p.m. (13+) Fancy Nancy Tea Party is Saturday, March 21 at 10 a.m. Spring Book Sale is approaching! Saturday, March 28, 9:30 a.m.-1p.m. If you have books you would like to donate please drop them off. **New Adult Fiction:** “Lulu’s Cafe” by T.I. Lowe; “Bird of Bedford Manor” by Michelle

Griep; “Through Each Tomorrow (Timeless #6)” by Gabrielle Meyer; “Beneath a Scarlett Sky” by Mark T Sullivan **New Adult Non-Fiction:** “Frozen in Time: an Epic Story of Survival and a Modern Quest for Survivals of WWII” by Mitchell Zuckoff; “Family of Spies: A WWII Story of Nazi Espionage” by Christine Kuehn; “Countdown 1945: The Extraordinary Story of the Atomic Bomb” by Chris Wallace **New Juvenile Fiction:** “Legends of Lotus Island-The

Guardian Test” by Christina Soontornvat; “Europa- City Spies #7” by James Ponti; “Hypergifted” by Gordon Korman; “The Underdogs” by Tracey West **New Picture Books:** “Echo” by Adam Rex; “How to be Brave Like a Snail” by Nas-eem Hrab Check us out on our website at www.kalonalibrary.org or our Facebook page – Kalona Public Library.

WELLMAN PUBLIC LIBRARY

It's hard to believe spring break is almost here. We have a busy week of spring break events at the library this year. We will be hosting another Cat Cafe on Monday, March 16. Teens are welcome to join us from 1-2 p.m. Tweens are invited to hang out with our furry friends from 2-3. On Tuesday, March 17, we will be hosting a movie at 2 p.m. for school aged children with popcorn provided by Hills Bank. Checkout our website to see what we're showing. That evening, we will be hosting our Cook Around the World at 6:30, featuring the

country of South Africa. Thursday, March 19, we will host our first Puppy Love teen event at 10:30, where teens can enjoy playing with some sweet puppies. Please note that the puppy event is for teens only. We will have story times on Wednesday and Friday at 10:30, so be sure to join us for stories, songs, and imaginative play! **Children's Books:** The Snow Fox and the Long, Long Night by Marieke Ten Berge; The Magic Hug by Fifi Kou; Dear Girl, by Amy Krouse Rosenthal **Junior & Young Adult Books:** Wildflower Emily by

Lydia Corry; History Smashers: Harriet Tubman by James Buckley Jr.; Twelfth Knight by Alexene Farol Follmuth; Evil Spy School Graphic Novel by Stuart Gibbs **Adult Books:** The Astral Library by Kate Quinn; The Murder at World's End by Ross Montgomery; In Her Defense by Philippa Malicka; Keeper of Lost Children by Sadeqa Johnson; The Crossroads by C. J. Box **Large Print Books:** The Love Fix by Jill Shalvis; We Are All Guilty Here by Karen Slaughter See you at the library!

AROUND TOWN/Continued from Page 1A

**Gospel Light Fellowship
Easter Bible Walk**

Gospel Light Fellowship will host their annual Easter Walk on Friday, April 3 from 1 to 8 p.m. on the church grounds, 401 E Ave., in Kalona. The story of redemption in Old Jerusalem during the time of Jesus' crucifixion. Journey through the sights and sounds of an outdoor market. The event is an interactive, outdoor market experience for all ages. Entry is free.

Riverside Easter Egg Hunt

The RACC will host an Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, March 28 at 10 a.m. at Hall Park. Intended for children younger than 3rd grade; arrive before 10 a.m. to find area designated for your age group. Free.

**Riverside Fire Pancake
Breakfast**

Riverside Fire/EMS will hold their annual pancake breakfast on Sunday, March 29 from 6:30 a.m. to noon at the Riverside Fire Station. Adults \$7, children 6-12 \$5, under 5 free. Kolaches also available.

**Civil War Images of
Washington County**

Mike Huston will present a

program featuring Civil War images of Washington County on April 1, beginning at 6 p.m. Admission is free for veterans and members, while the cost for the public is \$5. All proceeds will benefit the Washington County Military Museum. The event will take place at the Kalona Historical Village.

Kalona Quilt Block Challenge

Prepare your entry for the Quilt Block Challenge, due April 1 at Woodin Wheel Antiques, 515 B Ave, Kalona. Fabrics must be red, white and blue; finished block 24"x24"; have a rod pocket and label with entrant's name, phone, and block name. Contestants receive one complimentary ticket to the Kalona Quilt Show, April 23-25, where all entries will be displayed; three winners announced Saturday, April 25 at 1 p.m. Contact Woodin Wheel antiques with questions, 319-656-2240.

Kalona Easter Egg Hunt

The Kalona Historical Village will host its annual Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 4 at 10 a.m. Enjoy pony rides, bounce house, crafts and games, hot dogs, chips, and cookies. Free will donation.

EPC CLOSING/Continued from Page 1A

History of the plant

The Kalona facility was originally known as Kalona Plastics. Its parent company, Victor Plastics, was founded in 1983 and expanded operations to Kalona in 1993.

In 2006, Maytag — now owned by Whirlpool — chose not to renew its contract with Victor Plastics. The loss of the contract eventually led Victor Plastics to file for bankruptcy.

EPC later purchased the vacant Kalona plant and began operating there in 2007.

At the time, some employees chose to remain with Victor Plastics while others sought employment with EPC. Several employees continued working at the plant for many years following the transition.

Kalona plant

Approximately 200 employees work at the Kalona facility and could be affected by the closure.

The plant manufactures plastic components used in Whirlpool refrigerators as well as parts for BUNN coffee makers.

According to the source, production at the plant has slowed over the past two years, with employees occasionally being sent home due to reduced

workloads.

The source said outdated machinery and ownership changes may have contributed to the decline in operations.

Employee benefits have also reportedly changed over time, with workers limited to two weeks of vacation regardless of how long they had worked at the company.

The source also said staffing challenges had become more common in recent years.

U.S. Sen. Chuck Grassley addressed the layoffs, saying, "It's a hardship when anyone gets laid off from work, and I know from first-hand experience how hard that is on a family. My office is in ongoing communication with the employees' union, the impacted communities and Whirlpool."

Kalona City Administrator Ryan Schlabaugh also commented on the plant's closure. "The City of Kalona is saddened by the upcoming closure of EPC Kalona, due in large part to the closure of the Amana Whirlpool plant. We respect the plan for assistance EPC has in place for its impacted employees. The City will also serve as a secondary resource for area EPC employees who may need additional access to

local and regional support systems as they navigate the loss of EPC Kalona."

Grinnell plant

The company's Grinnell facility remains open and operational.

However, equipment and molds used to manufacture plastic parts have reportedly begun to be removed from the Kalona plant and transported to the Grinnell facility as part of the consolidation.

Workers who remain at the Kalona location still have jobs for the time being, but many may soon face unemployment if they choose not to relocate to the Grinnell facility.

Future

If the consolidation moves forward as expected, hundreds of workers could lose their jobs in the coming months, including some employees who have worked at the plant for decades.

The potential closure could have a significant impact on the Kalona community, as the plant has provided jobs for local residents for many years.

The News also attempted to contact EPC for comment but did not receive a response.

KALONA/Continued from Page 1A

new park in the English River bottom, and Vista Park in Southtown.

Inhelder briefed the council on the preliminary work his firm has done with the Trails Committee in determining routes that should be considered. He said the Bunker Mill Bridge was considered, but the committee determined that a new bridge over the English River would be the best alter-

native. He said there would be a spur trail where people could walk or bicycle to the Bunker Mill Bridge area. The trails plan has had a lot of community input, involving several meetings.

Schlabaugh also announced he is working with CJ Moyna and Alliant on installation of gas mains in the Incline Grove area of Southtown and other development plans in South-

town. Schlabaugh said the city is moving forward on getting water mitigation grants to prepare the city for development on the Yoder property in the northwest sector of the city. During his report, Schlabaugh said the city is moving forward with plans for improving the water treatment plant and adding new wells.

Time capsule

Schlabaugh said the city will be opening the time capsule near the flagpole in City Park in conjunction with Kalona Days. The city is also soliciting items that can be put in a new time capsule during the June celebration.

Horseshoe Gravel Ride

The council voted to close several streets during the Kalona Horseshoe Gravel Bike Race on May 9. From 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., 9th Street will be closed from D Avenue to E Avenue (Highway 22). From 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., the 9th Street and C Avenue intersection will be closed.

The council also approved a facility use agreement for use of the Community Center with the American Red Cross in case of need.

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LOCAL CHURCH SERVICES

AINSWORTH

Ainsworth Community Church: Ainsworth, Worship Sunday 10:30 a.m.; Kids Club Wed 6:30 p.m.

HILLS

Atrium Village: 117 3rd St, Hills. www.atriumvillagehills.com/events-happenings. Mass & Rosary schedule: Tuesday - Friday 8 a.m. in Chapel located inside facility.

St. Joseph Catholic Church: Hills, Pastor: Father David Paintsil, 319-679-2271; Carol Kaalberg, 319-330-5324. www.StsMaryandJoseph.com. Mass schedule: Sunday 10 a.m.

IOWA CITY

Crosspoint Baptist Church: Pastor Mike Barr. Meeting at the Clarion Hotel 2525 N. Dodge Street, Iowa City; Sunday Worship 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. Wednesday 6:30 p.m. Supper and Bible Study (offsite).

KALONA

Cornerstone Community Church: 229 South 14th St.; Floyd Yutzy, 319-430-9574; cornerstonekalona@gmail.com; Sunday, 10 a.m. Nursery & kids's classes available

East Union Mennonite Church: 5615 Gable Ave. SW, 319-656-2590; Joel Beachy, Pastor, Sunday Worship: 9:30 a.m. Sunday School: 10:45 a.m.

English River Chapel: 1370 Hwy 1, Sunday 10 a.m. Worship, Wednesday 7 p.m. prayer and worship, Saturday 9:30 a.m. Torah study/discussion 10 a.m.; news@englishriverchapel.org.

Fairview Mennonite Church: 2605 540th St. SW; Pastors: Conrad Hertzler, 319-512-6186; Sunday Worship: 10:30 a.m. & 7 p.m. Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.

Full Gospel Revival Center: 1103 J Ave. 319-656-2298; Pastor: Jeremy Gugel; Sunday Worship: 10 a.m.; Wednesday Mid-Week Service: 7 p.m.; fgrc@kctc.net

Gospel Light Fellowship: 401 E Ave (Hwy 22) Pastor: Dwight Schrock, 319-530-4783; Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.; Message: 10:45 a.m.

Haven Conservative Mennonite Church: 5203 Cosgrove Rd. SW, 1 mile west of Hwy.1; Ministry: James

Swartzentruber, 319-683-2372; Sunday Worship: 10:30 a.m. Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.

Kalona Mennonite Church: 6th Street & J Ave., 656-2736, kalonamennonitechurch.com; Pastor: Don Patterson; Sunday Worship service at 9:30 a.m.; Live-streamed on Facebook. Sunday School at 10:30 a.m. All ages.

Kalona United Methodist Church: 4th St. & C Ave. 319-656-2642, www.kalonaumc.org; Pastor: Lisa Crow; Sunday Worship: 9 a.m. Fellowship following, Sunday School: 10:30 a.m.

Lower Deer Creek Mennonite Church: 1408 540th St. SW 319-656-2076, http://ldcmc.org, Email: donna@ldcmc.org; Pastor: Steve Nelson; Sunday Worship: 10 a.m. Sunday School: 9 a.m.

Sharon Bethel Mennonite Church: 5 miles north on Highway 1, ¼ mile east, 319-683-2672; Pastors: Delmar Bontrager, Leighton Yoder, Lavon Bontrager; Sunday Worship: 10:30 a.m. Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.

Sharon Center United Methodist Church: Rural Johnson County at corner of James Ave & 520th St. 319-683-2564; Sharoncenterumc.wordpress.com; Pastor Olympia Marcos Muller; On the first Sunday of each month, there will be a combined worship at 9 a.m., the remaining Sunday's will have casual worship at 8:30 a.m. and traditional at 10:30 a.m.

Sunnyside Mennonite Church: 501 14th St. 319-656-2688; Pastors: Mary Bender and Floyd Helmuth; Sunday Worship: 9:30 a.m. & 6:30 p.m. Sunday School: 10:45 a.m.

NORTH ENGLISH

Champion Hill; Sunday worship: 9 a.m. Oct. - May, Contact Suzanne Moffitt, 319-664-3829

North English Christian Church: Pastor: Luke Caster Sunday worship: 10-11 a.m.

KINROSS

Kinross Christian Church; Pastor: Luke Caster Sunday worship: 8:30 - 9:30 a.m.

LONE TREE

St. Mary's Catholic Church: 216 W. Jayne St; Pastor: Father David Paintsil, 319-679-2271; Carol Kaalberg,

319-330-5324. www.StsMaryandJoseph.com. Saturday Mass: 4 p.m.

United Presbyterian Church of Lone Tree: 110 W Elm St; 629-4900 www.lonetreeiowachurch.com; Sunday Worship: 10 a.m.; www.lonetreeiowachurch.com

NICHOLS

Nichols Christian Church: 607 Grant Ave; 319-723-4346; Sunday Services: Worship 9 a.m.; Sunday school: 10:30 a.m.

Nichols United Methodist Church: 315 Main; 319-723-4585; Pastors: Mary & Don Timmermann; Sunday Services: 9 a.m. Family Worship Service with Children's Message

St. Mary's Catholic Church: Short St & Grand Ave; Pastor: Father David Paintsil, 319-679-2271; Carol Kaalberg, 319-330-5324. www.StsMaryandJoseph.com. Sunday Mass: 8 a.m.

OXFORD

Windham Community Church: 1424 Black Diamond Rd. SW, 2 miles north of Frytown. Pastor: Randy Harker, 319-430-1912; Sunday Worship 10 a.m. windham-church.com

RICHMOND

Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church: 319-648-2331, clusterparishes.org; Fr. Ben Snyder; Mass: Sunday 8 a.m.

RIVERSIDE

The Church In Riverside: 41 E 1st St., 319-698-2185, thechurchatriverside@hotmail.com; Patrick Leonard, Evangelist; Service Times: Sunday 10 a.m.; Wednesday 7 p.m.

River City Church: Meet at Highland Elementary School, 220 Schnoebelen St.; www.rivercityia.org; Pastor Rodney Gehman; Sunday at 10 a.m.

St. Mary's Catholic Church: 51 St. Mary's St., 319-648-2331, clusterparishes.org; Fr. Ben Snyder; Mass: Sunday, 10 a.m.; Thursday 11 a.m. at Pleasantview Home.

Trinity United Methodist Church in Riverside: 11 E 2nd St. 319-648-3092; Pastor: Marsha Gerot, Sunday Service: 9 a.m. Sunday School: 10 a.m. (Preschool -

6th).

SOUTH ENGLISH

English River Church of the Brethren: 29252 137th St. (Hwy 22 between South English & Kinross) 319-667-5235; Sunday Worship: 10 a.m. Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.

TIFFIN

First Global Methodist Church at Tiffin: 1100 Tall Grass Ave; 319-545-2065; Pastor: Rev. Ruby T. Bongan; Sunday Worship: 9 a.m.

WELLMAN

Asbury United Methodist Church: 601 8th Ave. 319-646-2417; Pastor: Lisa Crow; Sunday Worship: 10:30 a.m.

First Baptist Church: 600 4th St., 319-646-2254; Pastor: Pastor Kevin Gingerich; Sunday School for all ages 9:00 a.m. Sunday Morning Worship 10:00 a.m. Communion is held the first Sunday of each month.

Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd: Pastor: Gary Sears. Missouri Synod; 5th St. & 4th Ave. Saturday Worship: 5 p.m.

New Life Community Church: 257 8th Ave, downtown Wellman. Office located at 214 8th Ave, 319-674-9057, Office hours: 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Mon-Fri. www.newlifewellman.org; Pastor: Aaron Fleming, 646-2390; Sunday Worship: 10 a.m.

Salem Mennonite Fellowship: 1306 Keokuk Washington Rd., 7 miles west of Wellman; Ministry: Wilford Beachy 319-656-3733; Freeman Miller, 319-325-2013. Sunday Worship: 10:30 a.m. Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.

St. Joseph Catholic Church: 11th St & Maplewood, 319-648-2331, clusterparishes.org; Fr. Ben Snyder; Saturday Mass: 5 p.m.

Upper Deer Creek Mennonite Church: 6 ½ miles west of Cheese Factory, 319-656-3843; Pastor: Elmer Miller; Sunday Worship: 9:30 a.m. Sunday School: 11 a.m.

Wellman Mennonite Church: 1215 8th Ave. 319-646-2532; Pastor: David Heusinkveld; Sunday Worship: 9:30 a.m. Sunday School for all ages following the service.

West Union Mennonite Church: 3253 305th St. Parnell, 319-646-6004; Pastor: John David Kenney; Sunday Worship: 9:30a.m. Sunday School: 10:45a.m.; Mennonite Women: First Wed. of every month 8:30a.m.-3p.m.

Zion Christian Fellowship: 1308 Madison Ave. Pastor: Elvin Martin. Worship: 9:30 a.m.

WEST CHESTER

West Chester Community Church: 403 Franklin Street, 319-698-4665; Richard Grimm, interim pastor; Sunday 10:45 a.m.

WASHINGTON

New Hope Mennonite Church, 1506 N. 5th Ave.; Pastors: Gabriel Beachy, Elwyn Stutzman, Matthew Petersheim; Sunday worship 10:30 a.m. Sunday school 9:30 a.m.

Immanuel Lutheran Church (ELCA): 1226 E Washington St. 319-653-3950; Pastor: Susan Debner; Sunday Worship & Communion Service: 9 a.m., website: luthwash.org. Current info on church phone recording, 319-653-3950

Prairie Flower Baptist Church: 1909 Larch Ave, at the corner of 190th St., rural Washington; Pastor: Tim O'Tool. Sunday Worship: 10:15 a.m. Sunday School: 9 a.m. Prairie Time: 9:45 a.m. Wednesday: Various activities posted on our web site, pfwbwashington.org

St. James Parish: 602 West 2nd St., 319-653-4504, 319-458-0412 cell; Father Bernie Weir; Sat. 5:30 p.m.; Sun. 9 a.m.; Spanish 11:30 a.m. stjameswashington.org

United Methodist Church: 206 W 2nd St. 319-653-5446; Pastor: Alyssa Nantt; Traditional Worship 10 a.m.; Sunday School (during school year only) 9 a.m.; Washingtonumc.com.

Washington Reformed Presbyterian, WRPCNA.ORG, Pastor: Keith Dwell; Washington: Sabbath School 9:30 a.m.; Worship 10:30 a.m. and 1:15 p.m. Fellowship Lunch at Noon; 319-653-3101

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The News

LEGISLATIVE BRIEFING/Continued from Page 1A

is approved.”

Library legislation was also discussed, with several attendees’ expressing opposition to proposals that would give city councils authority over decisions related to school libraries.

Hora responded to those concerns.

“When schools partner with city libraries, we’re trying to determine how those same rules can apply so students follow them there as well,” Hora said. “The proposal is not finalized yet, and discussions are ongoing with both schools and libraries at the table, with the goal of reaching a consensus that ensures students continue to have access to library resources.”

There were also multiple audience members who questioned public school funding and why the state is only providing a 2 percent increase in per-pupil funding for public schools.

Other questions from the audience covered a variety of topics including veterans services funding, prison staffing levels, election integrity, non-compete clauses for workers, and immigration policies in Iowa communities.

The legislative briefing was hosted by the Washington Chamber of Commerce and gave residents the opportunity to ask questions directly to their state lawmakers.



JJ PETERS/THE NEWS

After the briefing was over, many came to talk and ask questions with both Hora and Driscoll.

Other questions from the audience covered a variety of topics.

One question focused on veterans services funding. A local veteran asked about a proposal that could reduce funding for county veteran service officers and asked whether lawmakers would oppose the bill.

Driscoll said the proposal is still being worked on but noted

she has heard concerns from veterans’ organizations. “I actually spoke to a lot of American Legion members about that bill, and many people have reached out with concerns,” Driscoll said. “As it was introduced, I probably would not support that.”

Another topic raised by the audience involved the repeat offender “three-strikes” bill. One attendee asked how the

state would deal with prison overcrowding and staffing shortages if incarceration numbers increase.

Hora responded that public safety is the main priority.

“The most important thing is to get criminals off the street,” Hora said. “If we do need to build a new prison, we are looking at that.”

Public health was also discussed, with one resident

bringing up Iowa’s high cancer rates and concerns about possible water contamination.

Driscoll said the state has already taken steps to address the issue, including funding for cancer research and rural health initiatives.

“We’ve talked about \$209 million for rural health transformation funds,” Driscoll said. “Those funds will help support cancer prevention, screenings, and strengthening the health-care workforce.”

Immigration was also raised during the forum. One attendee asked what lawmakers are doing to help immigrants feel welcome and safe in Iowa communities.

Driscoll pointed to several programs aimed at supporting refugee resettlement and helping refugees integrate into communities across the state.

Later, one question focused on workforce issues, including whether Iowa lawmakers would consider eliminating non-compete clauses that prevent employees from taking jobs with competing businesses.

Hora said she would be open to further discussion on the issue.

“I don’t agree with non-compete clauses in many situations,” Hora said. “People’s circumstances change, and families should have the ability to move or change jobs without being restricted.”

Workshop on attracting purple martins set for Saturday

A workshop on attracting and maintaining colonies of Purple Martin will be held Saturday, March 14, beginning at 9 a.m. at the CAM Iowa Clothing Center, 1005 Nutmeg Ave., about 1.8 miles north of Kalona and one mile east on Johnson-Washington Road.

The program will feature a series of speakers throughout the day covering bird habitat, conservation and practical steps residents can take to encourage bird populations.

Morning speakers will include Evan Gingerich presenting “Chimney Swifts Up Close,” and James M. Yoder speaking on “Planting to Promote Healthy Bird Habitat.” Gingerich will discuss the habits of Chimney Swift and his work fabricating improved nesting towers designed to help the birds. Yoder will share insights from his experience planting hardwood trees and

native wildflowers that provide food and habitat for birds, and will highlight ways property owners can help increase songbird populations in their yards and communities.

The afternoon session will focus on purple martins and will feature Mark Bowman, a retired professor and active naturalist and bird bander. His presentation, “The Purple Martin: A Very Large, High-Flying Swallow,” will examine local martin populations as well as other New World martin species found across the Western Hemisphere. Bowman will discuss their plumage, diet and life cycle, and how those factors influence efforts to attract and support colonies.

Following the presentation, a panel of experts will answer questions from attendees. The program will conclude with door prizes and a charity auction.

Organizers say purple martins are among the most sought-after songbirds for backyard colonies. With improved housing and proper monitoring techniques, martin populations are rebounding in many parts of North America, making it possible for more homeowners to establish colonies.

Anyone interested in starting or reestablishing a purple martin colony, or seeking help maintaining an existing colony, is encouraged to attend.

A \$3 registration fee will be charged, with children under 10 admitted free. Lunch will be available during the midday break, and vendors are invited to set up displays related to birding and habitat.

For more information, contact Evan Gingerich at 319-359-0997.

University of Iowa Kantorei to perform in Washington

The Washington Area Performing Arts & Events Center will host the University of Iowa Kantorei for a concert Thursday, March 26, at 7 p.m. in Hanson Auditorium.

The performance, titled “A Night of Choral Excellence,” will feature the University of Iowa’s premier choral ensemble and will serve as the opening stop on the group’s regional tour.

Kantorei is composed of about two dozen undergraduate and graduate singers from the University of Iowa School of Music. The ensemble performs a wide range of choral repertoire, from Renaissance works to contemporary compositions, and presents concerts on campus as well as on tour.

During their visit, the choir will also spend time working with the Washington High School choir prior to the evening performance.

The ensemble is directed by David Puderbaugh, director of choral activities at the University of Iowa.

Tickets for the concert are available online at washingtonauditorium.org or at the door. Admission is \$20 for adults and \$10 for college students. Students in grade 12 and under will be admitted free.

Organizers say the concert will offer audiences an opportunity to hear the ensemble at the start of its tour while enjoying a program showcasing a range of choral music styles.

Hillcrest Seniors Head to Washington, D.C. Over Spring Break

Next week, Hillcrest Academy’s senior class will continue the longstanding tradition, spending spring break exploring the nation’s capital. Instead of a typical week off, the seniors will travel together to Washington, D.C. for several days filled with history, government, museums, and a few memorable experiences along the way.

The trip will start early on

Tuesday morning as the students leave Hillcrest and fly out of O’Hare International Airport in Chicago before arriving at Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport in the evening.

The first day of the actual trip will take place on Wednesday, as the students will visit The White House and spend time exploring the monuments and memorials near the Na-

tional Mall. After lunch at the historic Union Station, students will spend the afternoon exploring the museums of the Smithsonian Institution.

On Thursday, the students will visit the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, one of the more powerful museums in the area. After lunch near Dupont Circle, students will spend time exploring the John F. Kennedy Center for

the Performing Arts and will visit Arlington National Cemetery to see the changing of the guard ceremony. In the evening, they will return to the Kennedy Center to see the popular comedy show Shear Madness.

On Friday, the students will visit Mount Vernon, the historic home of George Washington in Virginia. After returning to the city, students will meet at

Senator Grassley’s office to visit the United States Capitol and end the day with a visit to the beautiful Washington National Cathedral.

For many students, the Washington trip has become one of the highlights of senior year. It’s a chance to see places they’ve learned about in class, spend time together as a class, and experience a city filled with history and significance.



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Lone Tree approves boys track sharing agreement with Columbus

BY JJ PETERS
The News

LONE TREE

The Lone Tree school board approved a cooperative sharing agreement for high school boys track with Columbus during a special session following its workshop meeting on Wednesday, March 4.

The agreement is intended to give Lone Tree's five boys track athletes a better opportunity to compete this spring. However, the arrangement remains contingent on Columbus' final classification and approval by the Columbus school board.

Superintendent Tyler Hotz told the board that Columbus officials recently reached out about the possibility of sharing the program.

"Columbus reached out and said they're interested in sharing boys' track," Hotz said. "They won't know their classification until March 20 but may approve the arrangement on the 16th while waiting to see where they are placed."

Under the agreement, Lone Tree would provide transportation for its athletes to practices in Columbus, and Lone Tree coach Kale Render would remain involved with the program while working alongside Columbus' staff.

Later during the special session, the board approved the cooperative agreement.

Athletics report

Activities Director Amber Jacque also presented an athletics participation report for upcoming spring and summer sports.

According to Jacque, Lone Tree currently has five boys and eight girls participating in high school track this season. Golf participation included seven boys, while girls numbers were still being finalized.

Jacque also discussed softball and baseball participation numbers.

For softball, the district currently has 11 high school players along with five eighth graders, seven seventh graders and 12 sixth graders. Jacque

suggested one option could be moving the eighth graders up to the high school level while allowing sixth graders to help fill out the junior high team.

At the high school level, baseball numbers were estimated at 16 to 17 players, including one eighth grader who could potentially move up.

Junior high baseball participation is more limited, with only a few seventh graders planning to play while several others indicated they intend to play travel ball instead. District officials said they may need to consider a sharing agreement if numbers remain low.

Bus Barn Concrete

The board also reviewed possible improvements to the bus barn area.

They discussed a proposal to pour concrete in three bus barn bays as part of a long-term plan to improve bus maintenance space. The project would allow staff to more easily wash buses, perform maintenance and improve drainage in the

area.

The estimated cost discussed was about \$125,000 for the concrete work and about \$6,600 for plumbing rough-ins.

Staffing Updates

Board members also received an update on staffing changes following a recent resignation.

Administrators said the district does not plan to refill a half-time position, which would slightly reduce staffing levels while still covering student needs and saving money.

During the staffing discussion, the board also addressed an open Spanish teaching position.

Jacque has said that the district has received one application from an out-of-state candidate with an Iowa teaching license who is willing to teach the class online through Zoom while following the district's schedule.

"The district currently has an opening for a Spanish teacher and has received one application from a candidate

who lives out of state and is willing to teach the class online via Zoom," administrators said. "Spanish is a high-need area and leaving the position unfilled could also create challenges."

Batting Cages

The board also revisited the possibility of relocating the batting cages from the Wellness Center to the weight room.

Early feedback from players indicated the current setup is workable.

"I think having it at the Wellness Center works fine, although I haven't seen it used anywhere else," Jacque said. "The only thing she noticed was that they use tees outside the cage, since the turf doesn't run the full length of it."

Upcoming meeting

The next school board meeting will be on Wednesday, March 18 at the library.

Highland, Lone Tree boards to talk about sports partnership

BY PAUL D. BOWKER
The News

RIVERSIDE

The Highland and Lone Tree School Boards will meet together in a rare combined work session March 18 to discuss a potential partnering of athletic programs.

The session will be open to the public, but the Highland superintendent told The News that public comment will not be a part of the session.

Lone Tree officials reached out to Highland months ago about sharing a number of sports programs due to low participation numbers. The March 18 session will be the

first time that an in-person work session will be held between the two boards.

Highland board members, in a February session, concluded that football is the only sport under immediate consideration.

Both schools paused their varsity football programs last fall because of low participation numbers, but junior varsity schedules were still played.

Highland is in the midst of interviewing for a new varsity head football coach. Cory Quail, the 2024 and 2025 coach, resigned last fall.

Lone Tree has already approved a partnership with Co-

lumbus Schools in boys track.

WCRF Grant Proposal

The School Board is requesting a \$32,870 grant from the Washington County Riverboat Foundation to help fund a new sound and visual system for the gymnasium/cafeteria at Highland Elementary.

The entire project has a projected cost of \$65,741. Matching funds from the district would be combined with the WCRF grant, if approved in the Foundation's spring grant cycle.

"We'll have an amazing space," Highland Elementary Principal Jane O'Leary said.

"If we get the grant, it should be a nice project," Highland

High School Assistant Principal Bill Zywiec told the Board during its regularly scheduled meeting Monday.

FY27 Levy Rate

The Board approved a property tax levy rate of 10.96165 for Fiscal Year 2027.

The levy sets up a tax rate of \$10.96 per each \$1,000 of assessed value. It is nearly \$2 lower than the FY26 rate of 12.89597.

Public hearings on the FY27 school budgets are scheduled for March 23 and April 13.

Board Action

The Board approved the

2026-27 school year calendar. The district will remain on a four-day school week.

The Board appointed Courtney Dietze as Summer Daycare Coordinator.

The Board approved a mowing contract with Colbert Lawn Care at a cost of \$15,750.

The Board approved a 28-E agreement with the Mid-Prairie Home School Assistance Program.

The Board approved a Budget Guarantee resolution.

Next Meeting

The Board will hold its next formal meeting at 5 p.m. March 23.

Mid-Prairie approves special education delivery plan

BY JJ PETERS
The News

WELLMAN

Mid-Prairie Special Education Director Doug Stafford presented the board with the district's 2026 special education service delivery plan, which is reviewed every five years. Stafford referred to the process as his "Super Bowl."

The plan outlines how special education services are delivered and how student needs are supported across the district. Stafford said the plan is developed through collaboration between teachers, parents and administrators.

One of the biggest changes since the last plan in 2021 is a shift in how special education teacher caseloads are calculated. The district previously used a point system where students received points for factors such as taking alternate assessments or working with a paraprofessional.

The district has now moved to a weighted caseload system that better reflects the inten-

sity of services each student receives.

"Since 2021, the last time the plan was drafted, the district has moved to a weighted system that assigns students based on the intensity of services they receive," Stafford said. "Instead of dividing students evenly among teachers, the new system allows the district to determine caseloads more objectively based on each student's needs."

Students with greater needs often require additional meetings, planning and communication with parents, which the new system helps account for. Mid-Prairie currently has 11 special education teachers serving about 10 students each.

Following the presentation, the board approved the updated plan.

LifeWise Academy

During the public forum, Jacob Schaver introduced the board to LifeWise Academy, a Bible-based character education program, and asked the

district to consider discussing it at a future meeting.

Schaver said the program began in Ohio in 2017 and has since expanded across the country.

If introduced locally, the program would likely be hosted at Kalona Mennonite Church and held off school property.

It would be privately funded and require parental consent, with a primary focus on East Elementary and the middle school.

Schaver said there has already been strong community interest. "We have approximately 90 people on our community interest list so far," he said.

According to Schaver, the program currently operates in 12 Iowa school districts, with another 33 expected to launch next fall.

Dance team trip to nationals

The board also heard from members of the Mid-Prairie dance team and head coach Brenna Hutson about their recent trip to the DTU National

Championship in Orlando. While the team did not advance to the finals, students said the trip was a valuable experience and highlighted the team camaraderie built during the competition.

Library grant

The board also approved a resolution allowing the district to apply for a grant through the Washington County Riverboat Foundation for library improvements.

District librarian Cate Burke previously presented plans to update the libraries at East Elementary, West Elementary and the middle school. The total cost of the project is estimated at \$147,473.48.

The district would contribute \$45,000 toward the project and seek the remaining \$101,473.48 through the grant application.

Other business

Board members also approved a resolution allowing the district to levy the maxi-

mum \$2.70 debt service tax rate and place an additional \$110,000 in escrow to help pay down bond debt earlier and reduce interest costs.

School Board Secretary Jeff Swartzentruber told the board the district filed its 2026-27 certified budget on time and adjusted it for the recently approved 2% State Supplemental Aid increase. He noted the district's property tax rate could decrease later this month depending on final state calculations.

Website

Superintendent Brian Stone also announced the district's new website is expected to launch March 23, though administrators will continue learning how to use its features after the rollout.

Next Meeting

The next Mid-Prairie School Board meeting will take place Monday, March 23 at 6:15 p.m. in the Central Office Community Room.

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What’s in tile runoff? University of Iowa professor explains

BY JJ PETERS
The News

HILLS

On Friday, March 6, the Hills Community Center hosted a meeting on tile runoff monitoring led by Dr. David Cwiertny, a professor at the University of Iowa.

Cwiertny has studied agricultural tile drainage for several years and moved to Iowa from California in 2011.

His research includes monitoring tile runoff in counties such as Muscatine, Scott, Washington and Cedar, which were discussed during the presentation.

During the meeting, Cwiertny used a projector to display data collected from several monitoring locations and explained how tile drainage systems move water and nutrients through farmland.

Throughout the presentation, he walked the audience through the results of the monitoring work and what the findings may mean for water quality across the region.

Cwiertny also discussed the impact of bioreactors on nitrate levels found in tile water, explaining that they can significantly reduce nitrate concentrations. According to his findings, bioreactors can reduce nitrate levels by about 50 percent under the right con-



JJ PETERS/THE NEWS

University of Iowa professor David Cwiertny explains tile runoff to the audience during a meeting at the Hills Community Center on March 6

ditions.

Early in the presentation, Cwiertny showed examples of measurements collected from tile water samples and explained what those numbers mean when analyzing runoff levels.

“You might get some sticker shock at first, but it’s not actually a large load,” Cwiertny said. “Because the water volume is small, the higher concentration doesn’t translate into a major concern.”

He explained that farm tile

lines and drainage districts continue to be a significant source of nitrate runoff in Iowa.

However, he also noted that bioreactors have shown promise in helping reduce nitrate levels, particularly later in the growing season when conditions allow them to operate more effectively.

Phosphorus levels were generally low in the samples that were tested and were not considered a major concern based on the monitoring re-

sults. Bacteria, including E. coli, was detected in some tile water samples, though only a small number of readings showed higher levels.

The presentation also covered pesticides that were detected in tile water. Insecticides such as clothianidin and thiamethoxam were frequently found in the samples.

According to Cwiertny, higher concentrations of these chemicals in certain areas could pose risks to aquatic life, particularly in locations where sandy soil allows the chemicals to move more easily through the ground and into water systems.

Fungicides were also detected during the monitoring process but were found less frequently and generally at lower levels.

Atrazine and metolachlor were found more often in the samples, which Cwiertny said could be linked to both current agricultural use and chemicals that remain in the soil from past applications.

Later in the presentation, Cwiertny discussed PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances), which are often referred to as “forever chemicals.” PFAS were detected in some drainage samples collected in 2024. However, when samples were collected again in 2025, the same trend was not observed.

Cwiertny said he is still unsure why PFAS levels appeared higher in 2024 but were not seen at the same levels the following year. While reviewing the results, he suggested that the chemicals may have been linked to containers used to store or handle agricultural chemicals rather than a single specific application.

Throughout the presentation, Cwiertny emphasized the importance of continuing to gather data and monitor environmental conditions across the state.

Towards the end, he encouraged the audience to support increased testing and monitoring efforts, noting that limited funding has made it difficult for researchers to fully study soil, water and air contamination across Iowa.

“We need to start by gathering more data, because that’s where the process begins,” Cwiertny said. “We also need to keep investing in monitoring so we can determine whether this is actually a problem or confirm that it isn’t.”

Cwiertny added that increased testing of soil and air contamination could help communities in counties such as Muscatine, Scott, Washington and Cedar better understand potential risks to public health and the surrounding environment.

LONE TREE FFA



AVA JEAN CHRISTOFFERSON

The Lone Tree FFA Chapter welcomed Iowa FFA State President Chloe Zittergruen and District Officer Eladée Gaucin to a chapter visit on February 26th, 2026. While at the high school, they discussed opportunities in FFA and the students participated in leadership-building activities.

Mid-Prairie Jazz Band earns district title, advances to state competition

The Mid-Prairie High School Golden Hawk Jazz Band earned first place at the Southeast Iowa District Jazz Contest on Saturday, March 7, qualifying the group for the state jazz championships later this spring.

Competing in Class 3A, the band placed ahead of ensembles from Mount Pleasant High School, Oskaloosa High School and Williamsburg High School to take home the first-place trophy.

Several Mid-Prairie students also received individual honors during the contest. Senior Jillian Clark and sophomore Daniella Bohlen were recognized with outstanding soloist

awards.

Junior Thomas Lueck received the contest’s top individual recognition, being named the Outstanding Soloist in Class 3A.

With the district title, Mid-Prairie automatically qualifies for consideration as one of 15 Class 3A jazz bands that will perform at the Iowa Jazz Championships, scheduled for Tuesday, April 7, in Ames.

The Golden Hawk Jazz Band will perform again this week at the Corridor Jazz Project concert at Voxman Music Building in Iowa City. The concert is set for Tuesday, March 10, at 8:05 p.m.



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Meet 4-H seniors Hannah Rodgers and Nick West



Hannah Rodgers

Hannah Rodgers, a senior from Kalona attending Mid-Prairie High School, is a member of the Green Acres 4-H Club, where her projects focus on communication and health. Her 4-H activities have included serving as club president, attending project workshops, participating on club committees, volunteering in community service projects, decorating hay bales and helping at the county fair. Rodgers said one of her favorite 4-H memories was presenting educational demonstrations three times at the Iowa State Fair.

At school, Rodgers participates in cross country, track, dance, church youth group, yearbook and student council. She plans to attend Iowa State University and major in dietetics with a minor in global health. Nick West of Wayland, a student at WACO High School, is a member of the Crooked Creek 4-H Club, where his project area is beef. His 4-H activities have included serving as club president and vice president, participating in the spring cattle show, organizing a canned food

drive, helping package Food for Hunger meals and volunteering at community events. One of his favorite 4-H memories was winning Grand Champion Overall Produce Steer. At school, West participates in student council, National Honor Society, football, basketball, soccer, golf, quiz bowl and National FFA Organization, where he serves as chapter president. He plans to attend Kirkwood Community College in Cedar Rapids to study agricultural crop science.



Nick West

Mid-Prairie FFA attends SE FFA District Convention at Prairie High School

On March 6, 10 members of the Mid-Prairie FFA chapter traveled to Cedar Rapids Prairie High School to participate in the SE District Leadership Development Events and Convention. Tate Bombei and Caedyn Huston prepared the Secretary's Book with the minutes of the past meetings and chapter attendance. The book received a gold rating and advanced to state competition. The Chapter Program team of Allie Whetstine, Cuyler Rourke, and Ellie Callahan presented about the yearly activities of the Mid-Prairie FFA Chapter. They received a gold rating and were named the alternate to state. Layken Lee participated in the Ag Sales contest where she was selling Lister Star Clippers. She received a gold rating and was named the alternate to state. Adelyn Huston participated in the Job Interview Contest. She was applying to be a sales representative. She earned a gold rating. Adelyn Huston and Averí Janecek prepared the Reporter's Scrapbook to serve as a permanent record of the chapter's history. The scrapbook received a gold rating.

Kylar Kiefer took the Greenhand Test and received a 2nd place gold rating. Also receiving a gold rating on the Greenhand test were Preston Ford and Rena Lyle. Nick Peck, Samuel Meader, Morgan Northup and Lynde Cole received a silver rating. Brendan Fisher received a bronze rating. Madelyn Sieren, Conner O'Rourke, and Jason Yoder received a gold rating for the Chapter Test. Stella Janecek, Destina Moyle and Kennah Robertson received a silver rating. Members who attended serving as chapter voting delegates included Tate Bombei and Madelyn Sieren. Adelyn Huston completed her year of service as the SE FFA District Reporter for 2025-2026. Caedyn Huston was elected as the NW Sub-District Vice President and Adelyn Huston was elected as the District Secretary for 2026-2027. Five members will receive their Iowa FFA Degrees at the State Convention in April. They include Adelyn Huston, Caedyn Huston, Averí Janecek, Stella Janecek and Jason Yoder. Advisor Elsa Schmidt attended the event with her students.



Ten members of the Mid-Prairie FFA chapter attended the 2026 SE District FFA Convention. Members included: Ellie Callahan, Averí Janecek, Madelyn Sieren, Layken Lee, Tate Bombei, Adelyn Huston, Caedyn Huston, Cuyler Rourke, Jason Yoder and Allie Whetstine.

EAGLEBOTS WIN INSPIRE AWARD



The Eaglebots robotics team earned the Inspire Award at the State FIRST Tech Challenge Robotics Championship Feb. 27 & 28 in Coralville. The Inspire Award is the highest honor in the FTC, given to the team that best embodies the spirit of the competition. Mid-Prairie HSAP and MPMS students Ben Lothamer, Ella Chiang, Carl Gustafson, Maverick Diller, Maeve Diller and Cecis Nuxoll are members of the Eaglebots team.

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BENDER, JACQUE RECEIVE ALL-STATE NODS
Four area girls named to all-district teams by Iowa Girls Coaches Association



BY CORI JOBMAN
The News

Mid-Prairie's Morgyn Bender and Lone Tree's Finley Jacque were both named third-team all state, the Iowa Print Sports Writers Association announced Tuesday morning.

Bender was the Golden Hawks' first IPSWA all-state selection since Maddie Nonnenmann's third-team nod in 2022, while Jacque was the first Lion to be selected since Madison Forbes' third-team appearance in 2017.

Bender, a junior, led the No. 12 Golden Hawks with 13.3 points per game while acting as a key piece of Mid-Prairie's defense. Golden Hawk head coach Jenny Hobbs described Bender's impact, "She's just one of those players that is just very well rounded. She can play any position, can score any way, and can play defense against anybody."

Jacque, also the Southeast Iowa Superconference North Division Player of the Year, led the Lions in points, steals and assists, including a conference-leading 19.2 points per game, the 10th-highest mark in class 1A.

Bender and Jacque were also joined by Mid-Prairie's Jovi Evans and Highland's Kamryn Fink on Iowa Girls Coaches Association all-district teams for the southeast region. This was Jacque's third all-district selection and Fink's second. Both Mid-Prairie honorees were first-time nods and the Golden

SEE ALL-STATE | PAGE 2B

Auriemma:
A Husky of
pure legend



Paul Bowker
Columnist

PAUL BOWKER/THE NEWS
Mid-Prairie's Morgyn Bender reacts after hitting a school-record eighth 3-point shot in a win at West Branch on Jan. 20.



CORI JOBMAN/THE NEWS
Lone Tree's Finley Jacque elevates for a transition layup in the Lions' substate semifinal loss to Springville.

Geno isn't really Geno. He's Luigi. So, there's a March Madness fact for you.

Geno Auriemma, the legendary women's basketball head coach at the University of Connecticut, grew up in the middle of a hard-working family in a small town in Italy. They didn't have a car. They didn't have a TV set. Or even a telephone.

Montella, Italy, is about a three-hour drive from Rome. It has less than 8,000 residents. But it has history; at one time, it was part of the Roman Empire.

You know, like "Gladiator?"

Luigi lived for soccer. Not basketball.

We're talking Italy. Real Italy. Luigi's parents were Marsiella and Donato. He had a sister, Anna, and a brother, Ferruccio.

Luigi, who was born March 23, 1954, became Geno. Montella, Italy, became Norristown, Pennsylvania, after the Auriemmas emigrated to the USA. Soccer became basketball because Norristown didn't have soccer. And basketball became legend.

OK, we share the same birth year. I met Geno once, and I'll never forget it.

The UConn Huskies women's basketball team was hosting an NCAA Tournament game in Storrs, Connecticut, a New England town you won't find without a GPS or a really good map.

Geno is pretty much the best women's basketball coach on the planet. Or the best coach. Period. He is demanding, but fair. He's a worker. He's approachable. He's a talker who loves to talk. An Italian.

Less than an hour before the Huskies were to play their game that day, while the opposing team was still on the other half of the court, UConn's starters and bench players went at each

SEE BOWKER | PAGE 3B

ATHLETE of the WEEK

DOMONIC GARCIA
LONE TREE SENIOR

Garcia set the second-best time among class 1A runners and a top-ten time in school history with his 24.51 second 200-meter dash at the season-opening Dickinson Relays in Cedar Falls on Monday.

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ALL-STATE/Continued from 1B

Hawks’ first all-district selections since 2023.

“Any honor that an individual receives, it’s always a team honor,” Hobbs said. “It means that teams around the state and coaches around the state respect our program, respect our players, and respect what we’ve done this past year.”

Highland senior Emersyn Schultz and Lone Tree senior Ava Christofferson were selected by the IGCA for the Larry Niemeyer All-Star Game for select seniors across the state. Both were selected to the 1A white roster, which will face the 1A grey team. They will be coached by Amber Gerringer of Gladbrook-Reinbeck. The game will be played at Cedar Falls High School on March 14 at 2 p.m.

2026 IPSWA All-State Selections
Miss Basketball 2026: Jenica Lewis, Johnston

Class 5A
FIRST TEAM
Romey Croatt, Waukee Northwest
Kelli Kalb, Johnston
Ellie Muller, West Des Moines Dowling
Katie Muller, West Des Moines Dowling
Nakia Ollivierre, Waterloo West

Natalie Ramsey, Iowa City Liberty
Jayla Williams, Ankeny

SECOND TEAM
Lizzie Beam, Ankeny Centennial
Samantha Becker, Cedar Rapids Washington
Vana Bilic, Waukee Northwest
Sira Doumbia, Cedar Rapids Washington
Grace Fincham, Iowa City West
Ari Phillips, Johnston
Tylee Weite, West Des Moines Valley
KeaOnna Worley, Cedar Rapids Prairie

THIRD TEAM
Bentley Dill, Cedar Rapids Kennedy
Tessa Driscoll, Iowa City High
Karis Finley, Cedar Falls
Ainsley Kiene, Ankeny
Jalayah Kinnetz, Johnston
Sadie McCann, Waukee Northwest
Alyvia McCorkle, Bettendorf
Adrienne Sears, West Des Moines Dowling

Class 4A
FIRST TEAM
Braylyn Birmingham, Norwalk
Macy Comito, Carlisle
Maryn Franken, Sioux Center
Lizzy Frazell, Waverly-Shell Rock
Averie Lower, Clear Creek Amana
Ava Smid, Dallas Center-Grimes
Melina Snoozy, Sioux City Heelan
Madden Wilson, Cedar Rapids Xavier

SECOND TEAM

Lena Evans, Clear Creek Amana
Tenley Levin, Solon
Macy Meyer, Dallas Center-Grimes
Trishelle Miller, Sioux City Heelan
Ella Otten, Sioux City Heelan
Ava Putman, Central DeWitt
Campbell Schultz, North Polk
Ella Smith, Carlisle

THIRD TEAM
Kendra Boatman, Keokuk
Leah Brauch, Dallas Center-Grimes
Pearl Brown, Norwalk
Avery DeHaan, Storm Lake
Delaineey Durr, Solon
Ady Jeltema, MOC-Floyd Valley
Faith Sullivan, North Polk
Bre VanDenTop, Sergeant Bluff-Luton

Class 3A
FIRST TEAM
Hayden Brown, Forest City
Taylor Franck, Mount Vernon
Claire King, Dubuque Wahlert
Addy Oetker, Des Moines Christian
Emily Tanny, Dubuque Wahlert
Cora Widel, Maquoketa
Addy Wolfswinkel, Cherokee
Savanna Wright, Mount Vernon

SECOND TEAM
Zoe Allen, Williamsburg
Elody England, Iowa Falls-Alden
Grace Estling, Center Point-Urbana
Courtney Franck, Mount Vernon
Lexi Isebrand, Forest City
Riley Johnson, Roland-Story

Aubrey Kroymann, Maquoketa
Tori Lindsay, Monroe PCM

THIRD TEAM
Channing Becker, Williamsburg
Morgyn Bender, Mid-Prairie
Reese DeVoght, Des Moines Christian
Deidra Doeden, Cherokee
Grace Holsteen, Mediapolis
Albany Reinke, Spirit Lake
Jordyn Schmidt, Tipton
Ruth Tauber, Dubuque Wahlert

Class 2A
FIRST TEAM
Sydney Doeschot, Hinton
Izzy Eisbach, Nodaway Valley
Izzy Gilbertson, Mount Ayr
Danika Hoogendoorn, Central Lyon
Addie McLaughlin, Iowa City Regina
Haevyn Ranschau, Rock Valley
Hudsyn Ranschau, Rock Valley
Rachel Schany, Emmetsburg

SECOND TEAM
Bailey Boeve, Hinton
Taya Christie, West Lyon
Caydence Harmsen, Rock Valley
Brenna Johnson, Westwood
Nora Konz, Treynor
Ella Thornton, Treynor
Mylie Thurn, Denver
Avery Wilson, Sioux Center

THIRD TEAM
Audra Burbridge, Maquoketa Valley
Brynn Clarahan, Sigourney

Addison Frake, Cascade
Addison Glass, Hinton
Miah Murphy, Grand View Christian
Cam Richter, Guthrie Center ACGC
Grace Richter, Maquoketa Valley
Taylor Rypkema, Central Lyon

Class 1A
FIRST TEAM
Gracyln Eastman, Algona Garrigan
Rowan Jacobi, Springville
Taryn Petersen, Exira-EHK
Cora Sauer, Lake Mills
Ellie Sievers, Newell-Fonda
Quinn Sievers, Newell-Fonda
Ainsley Ulrich, North Union
Avah Underwood, Council Bluffs St. Albert

SECOND TEAM
Sacha Alesch, Algona Garrigan
Emmi Bartolo, Algona Garrigan
Lilee Boriskey, Edgewood-Colesburg
Kennedy Brant, Gladbrook-Reinbeck
Kamryn Fink, Highland
Jacey Johnston, Saint Ansgar
Kylee Pexa, Dunkerton
Addison Winters, Lansing Kee

THIRD TEAM
Lindsey Haken, George-Little Rock
Anna Hart, Coon Rapids-Bayard
Kate Harthoorn, Lynnville-Sully
Caitlyn Hough, Ruthven GTRA
Finley Jacque, Lone Tree
Paige Kampman, Clarksville
Hailey Kipp, Dunkerton
Jaelynn Petersen, Exira-EHK



PAUL BOWKER/THE NEWS



CORI JOBMAN/THE NEWS

Mid-Prairie senior Jovi Evans (left) and Highland sophomore Kamryn Fink (right) were both named to the IGCA all-district teams for their respective classes.



GIOVANNI CORONEL/THE NEWS



JEFF YODER/CONTRIBUTOR

Highland senior Emersyn Schultz (left) and Lone Tree Senior Ava Christofferson (right) were selected to play in the IGCA All-Star game on March 14.

Johnston completes 3-peat, old dynasties return at state

BY CORI JOBMAN
The News

DES MOINES

The Newell-Fonda Mustangs, Rock Valley Rockets, Maquoketa Cardinals, Carlisle Wildcats and Johnston Dragons took home state titles in last week’s IGHSAU state basketball tournament in Des Moines.

In 5A, No. 1 Johnston capped off its third consecutive undefeated season and extended its winning streak to 79 games with a 51-37 victory over the No. 3 Waukee Northwest Wolves. The Dragons were the only repeat champions and the only one seed to emerge victorious in 2026.

No. 5 Carlisle was the lowest ranked champion in this year’s tournament, with the other four champs all entering as top-two seeds. The Wildcats narrowly knocked off No. 2 Dallas Center-Grimes in the title game to secure their first state championship in program history.

No. 2 Maquoketa was also a first-time champion, upsetting defending state champion Mt. Vernon 59-42 in the 3A championship game.

No. 2 Rock Valley returned to the top of the 2A mountain, riding Haevyn Ranschau’s single-game state tournament-record nine three-pointers to a

67-57 victory over No. 1 Hinton, the defending champions in the class. The Rockets previously won three consecutive titles from 2001-2003.

Just five years removed from its three-peat run and coming off of three consecutive second-place finishes, No. 2 Newell Fonda reclaimed the 1A throne in a 64-56 win over No. 1 Bishop Garrigan.

GAME RESULTS:

5A

Quarterfinals

No. 1 Johnston 54,
No. 8 Ankeny Centennial 30
No. 5 Ankeny 57,
No. 4 Cedar Rapids Washington 44
No. 2 Dowling Catholic 55,
No. 7 Valley 48
No. 3 Waukee Northwest 80,
No. 6 Iowa City West 49

Semifinals

No. 1 Johnston 49,
No. 5 Ankeny 39
No. 3 Waukee Northwest 56,
No. 2 Dowling Catholic 50

Championship

No. 1 Johnston 51,
No. 3 Waukee Northwest 37

4A

Quarterfinals

No. 2 Dallas Center-Grimes 59,
No. 7 Waverly-Shell Rock 39
No. 3 Norwalk 50,
No. 6 Central Dewitt 37

No. 1 Bishop Heelan 81,
No. 8 North Polk 56
No. 5 Carlisle 58,
No. 4 Clear Creek-Amana 44

Semifinals

No. 2 Dallas Center-Grimes 47,
No. 3 Norwalk 42
No. 5 Carlisle 73,
No. 1 Bishop Heelan 60

Championship

No. 5 Carlisle 38,
No. 2 Dallas-Center Grimes 36

3A

Quarterfinals

No. 1 Mt. Vernon 55,
No. 8 Cherokee Washington 44
No. 4 Wahlert Catholic 56,
No. 5 Williamsburg 47
No. 2 Maquoketa 57,
No. 7 Mediapolis 23
No. 3 Des Moines Christian 52,
No. 6 Forest City 46

Semifinals

No. 1 Mt. Vernon 53,
No. 4 Wahlert Catholic 48
No. 2 Maquoketa 61,
No. 3 Des Moines Christian 54

Championship

No. 2 Maquoketa 59,
No. 1 Mt. Vernon 42

2A

Quarterfinals

No. 1 Hinton 46,
No. 8 West Lyon 45

No. 4 Denver 45,
No. 5 Emmetsburg 42
No. 2 Rock Valley 43,
No. 7 Iowa City Regina 31
No. 6 Treynor 62,
No. 3 Central Lyon 50

Semifinals

No. 1 Hinton 57,
No. 4 Denver 48
No. 2. Rock Valley 57,
No. 6 Treynor 54

Championship

No. 2 Rock Valley 67,
No. 1 Hinton 57

1A

Quarterfinals

No. 1 Bishop Garrigan 64,
No. 8 Kee 42
No. 5 Dunkerton 60,
No. 4 Lynnville-Sully 39
No. 2 Newell-Fonda 77,
No. 7 Saint Ansgar 58
No. 3 Saint Albert 45,
No. 6 Exira-EHK 37

Semifinals

No. 1 Bishop Garrigan 49,
No. 5 Dunkerton 38
No. 2 Newell-Fonda 50,
No. 3 St. Albert 45

Championship

No. 2 Newell-Fonda 64,
No. 1 Bishop Garrigan 56

All-tournament teams:

5A

Jenica Lewis, Johnston, Captain
Arianna Phillips, Johnston
Romey Croatt, Waukee Northwest
Jayla Williams, Ankeny
Ellie Muller, Dowling Catholic
Vana Bilic, Waukee Northwest

4A

Macy Comito, Carlisle, Captain
Mallie Stoner, Carlisle
Macy Meyer, Dallas Center-Grimes
Braylyn Birmingham, Norwalk
Melina Snoozy, Bishop Heelan
Ava Smid, Dallas Center-Grimes

3A

Savannah Wright, Mt. Vernon, Captain
Maelyn Kluever, Maquoketa
Taylor Franck, Mt. Vernon
Emily Tanny, Wahlert Catholic
Reese DeVoght, Des Moines Christian
Cora Widel, Maquoketa

2A

Haevyn Ranschau, Rock Valley, Captain
Hudsyn Ranschau, Rock Valley
Channing Johnson, Denver
Addison Mauer, Treynor
Caydence Harmsen, Rock Valley
Sydney Doeschot, Hinton

1A

Ellie Sievers, Newell-Fonda, Captain
Quinn Sievers, Newell-Fonda
Emmi Bartolo, Bishop Garrigan
Avah Underwood, St. Albert
Jacey Johnston, St. Ansgar
Gracyln Eastman, Bishop Garrigan

Garcia shines at Dickinson Relays

BY CORI JOBMAN
The News

CEDAR FALLS

The 2026 track and field season officially crossed the starting line on Monday as the Lone Tree Lions’ boys track team travelled to the University of Northern Iowa campus in Cedar Falls to compete in the Dickinson Relays.

The standout performer of the afternoon was senior sprinter Domonic Garcia, who opened his final season on the oval with the eighth-best 200 meter dash time in school history at 24.51 seconds, winning his heat by well over a second. The time placed Garcia in a tie for 52nd overall with Dowling

Catholic’s Lincoln Ramaeker. He was second in Class 1A, .02 seconds behind East Union’s Paul McNeill, although Lone Tree is expected to move up to class 2A following the finalization of a sharing agreement with the Columbus boys’ track team, where Garcia would have finished 11th.

The leader of the Lions also took home 71st in the 60m with a time of 7.43 seconds and 75th in the 400m with a time of 56.55 seconds. Both results placed Garcia within the top 10 finishers in class 1A and would have him in the top 20 of 2A. His 400m time was good for seventh in school history and the best this decade, despite it being his least favorite event according to Lone Tree boys’ track coach

Kale Render.

“That 200 probably could have even been a little faster since he ran the 400 right beforehand. He’s not overly fond of 400s, but this year he’s limited on relays, so we’re doing everything possible to get him to state.”

Other Lone Tree athletes competing at the meet included senior Grey Spilman and freshmen Carter Parrish and Jonas Koedam.

The Lone Tree boys will return to the track on March 23 at the Columbus Early Bird Invitational.

MEET RESULTS
60m
Top five (finals):
1, Connor Kunze, Nevada, 6.72 sec.

2, Kellan Harter, Grinnell, 6.75 sec.
3, Noah Ross, Ankeny Centennial, 6.84 sec.
4, Jackson Miller, Dowling Catholic, 6.95 sec.
5, Will Remmert, Cedar Falls, 6.97 sec.

Lone Tree (all prelim times):
71, Domonic Garcia, 7.43 sec.
163, Grey Spilman, 7.97 sec.
173, Jonas Koedam, 8.09 sec.

200m
Top five:
1, Drew Vander Wilt, Ames, 23.11 sec.
2, Kashton Grimm, Vinton-Shellsburg, 23.14 sec.
3, Jace Ortnr, Ballard, 23.35 sec.
4, Jakson Hoversten, Carlisle, 23.40 sec.
5, Rylen Schweitzer, IC Liberty, 23.42 sec.

Lone Tree:
52, Domonic Garcia, 24.51 sec.
163, Jonas Koedam, 26.41 sec.
165, Grey Spilman 26.54 sec.

400m
Top five:
1, Jordan Meeker, Muscatine, 51.35 sec.
2, Jayden Jeter, Waukee, 51.47 sec.
3, Coby DeRaad, PCM, 52.10 sec.
4, Layne Peska, Iowa Valley, 52.23 sec.
5, Jace Ortnr, Ballard, 52.41

Lone Tree:
75, Domonic Garcia, 56.55 sec.
184, Carter Parrish, 1:07.61

800m
Top five:
1, Jesse Gomez, Denver, 2:04.50
2, Will Primrose, Vinton-Shellsburg, 2:04.53
3, Kash Fischer, PCM, 2:04.88
4, Jude Dykstra, WACO, 2:06.06
5, Lincoln McMahan, CR Kennedy, 2:06.28

Lone Tree:
125, Carter Parrish, 2:59.28

BOWKER/Continued from 1B

other in the most intense 20-minute half-court pregame I’ve ever seen.

I had heard all the stories about this team’s work ethic.

Now, I had a front-row seat.

After this 20-minute exhibition, in which players were screaming and coaches were shouting, I just couldn’t help but wonder, how are they going to play a game in the next half hour?

After this? The game was easy.

More than two hours later, Luigi “Geno” Auriemma, a two-time Olympic gold medalist coach whose teams never lost a game, wandered into the postgame press conference and talked for over an hour. No question was too stupid. No question was too lame. He made you feel comfortable. Not many big-time coaches do that.

I felt the same way with Kalona’s Don Showalter when I met him for the first time two years ago at his Snow Valley Basketball Camp in Waverly. Another gold medal guy with USA Basketball. A pure treasure. Golden.

The young woman I was in Storrs to write about was a kid who was a good shooter in high school, but certainly not Olympic worthy and probably never a starter at UConn. Geno gave her a chance, he used up a precious scholarship on her because he liked the work ethic. She worked hard. And that’s a 10 in Geno’s book.

Now I understand. It’s all about Montella. The loyalty. The honor.

Honor? When this kid from Cape Cod wound up on this dreamy college basketball team, Geno insisted that the

kid ask Sue Bird, a two-time Olympic gold medalist and 2002 National Player of the Year with UConn, if she could wear Bird’s uniform number.

Loyalty? Geno passed up recruiting Iowa’s all everything, Caitlin Clark, only because he had just recruited another point guard, Paige Bueckers, and stood by her fully knowing that Clark was a “generational player,” in his words.

Geno would have loved watching Mid-Prairie’s girls basketball team this winter. The defense. The man-to-man work ethic. The enthusiasm and teachings of head coach Jenny Hobbs, herself a former Iowa State player who made the team only through her unstoppable work ethic.

Monday night, Geno’s Huskies won their 34th consecutive game this season, and 50th straight overall, defeating Villanova 90-51 for the Big East championship. In three Big East Tournament games, the Huskies won three times by a combined winning margin of 133 points. Yikes.

Iowa’s Hawkeyes know that feeling. They lost to the Huskies by 26 points back in December in the Women’s Champions Classic.

UConn won its last 16 games in 2024-25 and claimed its 12th national title with a win over South Carolina.

These are the numbers of legend.

The numbers of Luigi. March Madness, let the show begin.

News columnist Paul Bowker can be reached at bowker-paul1@gmail.com. Follow him on Twitter/X: @bowkerpaul



CORI JOBMAN/THE NEWS

Mohegan Sun Arena prepares for UConn to take the court in the 2024 Big East Tournament. UConn has won six consecutive conference championships since returning to the league in 2020-21

IHSAA basketball state tourney begins

BY CORI JOBMAN
The News

DES MOINES

32 boys’ basketball teams travelled to the Casey’s Center in Des Moines this week with hopes of cutting down the nets and hanging an IHSAA state championship banner as play kicked off on Monday with the 3A and 4A quarterfinals.

Ballard, Carroll, ADM, Storm Lake, Dowling Catholic and Cedar Falls all emerged victorious in Monday’s first round games to advance to the semifinals, while Waukee Northwest, Johnston, Waukee, Prairie, and all 1A and 2A qualifiers had to wait for the action to begin later in the week. Monday results, matchups where available, and game times for the rest of the week are as follows:

MONDAY, MARCH 9
Class 3A Quarterfinals
Ballard 70, Gilbert 40
Carroll 50, Pella 49
ADM 68, Xavier 59
Storm Lake 68, Solon 60

Class 4A Quarterfinals
Dowling Catholic 63, Dubuque Senior 45
Cedar Falls 73, Urbandale 53

TUESDAY, MARCH 10
Class 4A Quarterfinals
10:30 a.m.—#3 Waukee Northwest vs. #6 Johnston
12:15 p.m.—#2 Waukee vs. #7 Prairie, Cedar Rapids

Class 1A Quarterfinals
2:00 p.m.—#1 St. Edmond vs. #8 Woodbine
3:45 p.m.—#4 Notre Dame vs. #5 Bellevue

5:30 p.m.—#2 MMCRU vs. #7 Boyden-Hull
7:15 p.m.—#3 Bishop Garrigan vs. #6 Marquette Catholic

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11
Class 2A Quarterfinals
10:30 a.m.—#1 Kuemper Catholic vs. #8 Union Community
12:15 p.m.—#4 Treynor vs. #5 Grundy Center
2:00 p.m.—#2 Unity Christian vs. #7 Western Christian
3:45 p.m.—#3 Regina Catholic vs. #6 Aplington-Parkersburg

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11
Class 3A Semifinals
5:30 p.m.—#1 Ballard vs. #5 Carroll
7:15 p.m.—#2 ADM vs. #3 Storm Lake

THURSDAY, MARCH 12
Class 4A Semifinals
10:30 a.m.— Semifinal 1
12:15 p.m.— Semifinal 2

Class 1A Semifinals
2 p.m.— Semifinal 1
3:45 p.m.— Semifinal 2

Class 2A Semifinals
5:30 p.m.— Semifinal 1
7:15 p.m.— Semifinal 2

FRIDAY, MARCH 13
Finals

1:00 p.m.—Class 3A

3:00 p.m.—Class 4A

5:00 p.m.—Class 1A

7:00 p.m.—Class 2A

CORRECTION: Birky All-SEISC Honorable Mention

Isaac Birky of Hillcrest Academy was named to the All-Southeast Iowa Super Conference North Team as an Honorable Mention selection. His name was omitted in a story in the March 5 edition of The News.



105 YEARS AGO MARCH 9, 1911

COMPILED BY NANCY SWARTZENDRUBER
Kalona

Although Cecil Rhodes was a busy man he got time for a certain amount of reading. He made it a rule, although very fond of good pictures, never to buy any for fear of developing a craze for collecting works of art, for withal his wealth, he felt that he could not afford to spend so much money on a fad. The only famous painting that he owned was one by Sir Joshua Reynolds, supposed to represent a young married woman, which hung in the dining room over the fireplace. As a boy, he had taken a great fancy to the picture, and when he grew up and became rich, he bought it.

The women of the West Indies have been wearing the hobble skirt for years and are apt to wear it for years to come. The hobble may have originated with these women of the tropics, but they probably care little for the credit, as their hobble is more of a necessity than a fashion decree. They wear a bell anywhere between the shoulders and the hips, and the tight hobble cord is placed just below the knees. They are often forced to walk through long, wet grass and ford streams, and when occasion demands it, the skirts are pulled up and the hobble cord holds them in place. Every native woman wears a hobble, but she calls it a “grazitto.”

The girlie who throws away all dignity and writes soft, foolish and silly love letters, is liable someday to feel her cheeks burn on account of them. Always try to keep a level head when you write love letters and never forget that they often do turn up years afterwards in most distressing and embarrassing ways.

Emily Hawkins, living near Nashua, mistook ammonia for a throat gargle. She was badly burned, but will recover.

Charles F. Reggentine of Hopkinton has found a large amount of jewelry, wrapped in a handkerchief, hid in a partition of a cattle shed.

Certain venereal diseases are classified as contagious and infectious in a bill introduced in the house by Representative Halgrims of Humboldt County. The measure requires all physicians to report all such cases in their care to local health boards under the penalty of a misdemeanor. It also imposes a fine of not more than \$500 or one year in the county jail, or both, upon those who knowingly transmit such diseases to others.

“I saw John, the butler, smacking his lips just now as he went out. Had he been taking anything, Katie?” asked the mistress.

“What was he doing, ma’am?” asked the pretty waiting girl.

“Smacking his lips.”

“Sure, he’d just been smacking mine, ma’am!”

Fire of unknown origin destroyed the drug store, pool hall and telephone office at Hills, entailing a loss of about \$2500.

William Lincoln, a wealthy stockman of Dysart, is dead as the result of running a small slover in his hand. Blood poisoning set in and he lived but a short time.

In our last issue, we announced the death of John Sleichter of Inez, Wyoming. A letter received states that his death was caused by pneumonia, after only about two weeks illness. His wife is at Riverside now, called there by the death of her mother, Mrs. Ford. Hers is a double sorrow and her friends here will truly sympathize with her.

A case of petty thieving occurred on the street here last night, wherein someone stole the breeching of W.M. Smith’s harness. Billy is pretty sure he knows where they went and the fellow may find it a good plan to return the property without further trouble. That’s pretty low work, when a farmer can’t leave his horse attached to the rack, without having his harness stolen.

Dan Wertz came in from the country yesterday where he has been at the home of his son Charley helping take care of the sick. Charley and his family and two sons of Seth Miller, who are staying there, all had a turn of the measles, some of them pretty bad, but are all getting along nicely now.

C.C. Swartzendruber, residing northeast of Kalona was a caller Monday. He has been a recent victim of measles, as have been the rest of his family and nearly every other family in his neighborhood.

Jos. C. Gingerich has been

suffering from a case of blood poisoning, in his hand and arm, but by prompt medical attention, it seems likely to get along all right.

Frank Stumpf was born in Germany, in the year of 1828, and was 82 years, 6 months and 24 days old at the time of his death. He came to America about 60 years ago, and since then has been a respected citizen of Richmond and vicinity. He was a faithful and influential member of the Catholic church at Richmond, contributing liberally to help build the first church building of that denomination in his community and also in building the present Holy Trinity church at Richmond. He was married about 54 years ago to Miss Mary Spetel, who with their family of four sons and two daughters, survive him. It was no doubt a great satisfaction to this worthy father and mother, that none of their children have ever gone far from them, but have all remained and prospered in their home community. The cause of his death was paralysis, the first stroke, a light one, over two years ago, followed by a heavier one later, which endangered his life at that time. When his last attack came about noon Wednesday, it was seen at once that he could not recover and death came about ten hours later. In the death of Mr. Stumpf, the church and community have sustained a loss that will be deeply felt, and the family have the sincerest sympathy of friends and neighbors.

Lone Tree

There seems to be a fire bug abroad at Solon. The fire department there has been called out three times in the past week by the alarm of fire.

Bertha Schriener was born March 15, 1883 in Indiana, died at her home in Johnson County, March 1, 1911, aged 27 years 11 months and 15 days. She was united in marriage to Levi Schriener, Dec. 14, 1898. To this union were born six children, one of which died in infancy.

She came with her husband to Iowa City in 1899 and resided in Johnson County ever since until her death.

She was converted to Christ in early womanhood and united with the M.E. church at Honey Grove and continued a member of the same until called to the church triumphant.

Her last illness began about the first of last July and she was confined to her bed since last November.

She was a patient sufferer and kept up a courageous and sweet spirit all the time. She died in peace with God.

She leaves a husband, five children, mother and two half brothers and many friends and neighbors to mourn her departure.

Times have changed in many ways. In former days, when a man got a pain in his stomach, his wife had a red-hot stove lid on him and next morning he was ready to slop the hogs, feed the calf and kick the cat. Now, if he gets an uncomfortable feeling back of his waist band, the doctor called it appendicitis, lays him on the table, cuts a hole in his anatomy and he—dies, maybe. Again, in the good old days you could take a razor or a corn cutter and trim your corns, put on your boots and plow all day. Now, if you scrape the top of your corn toe, blood poisoning sets in and off comes your leg. This is a strenuous age and don’t you forget it.

Friend (consoling)—So you’ve lost your job, eh? Well, don’t worry about it. I reckon you was only wasting your time in a place like that.

Young Bill (sadly)—Yes, that’s what the boss told me when he fired me.

“I understand they sentenced him to life imprisonment?” “Well, no; it wasn’t as bad as that. He got only 99 years.”

An engine struck the team of Roy Schnepf at Bagley. One horse was thrown thirty feet and the wagon reduced to kindling. The boy was not injured.

A hen at Iowa State College poultry farm at Ames has laid 230 eggs during the past year. The eggs weighed fifty-six pounds, or more than eleven times as much as the hen herself.

J.B. Crabtree, a Great Western conductor, escaped death, but lost the toes of one foot when he slipped on an icy car step and fell under his moving train at Fort Dodge. Amputation of the foot may be necessary.

Did you ever go out of your way to speak to or make happy

an aged man or woman? If you did, you know how much the act was appreciated, and you are forever rewarded with the memory of their smiles and happiness.

Now as everybody has had the grippe several times, it’s about time to change the name of the disease.

The young men of our town who are loafing around waiting for something to turn up, will be run down someday by an automobile they are too lazy to get out of the way.

Your home paper is really a tireless letter writer, if nothing more. Week after week, we prepare this printed letter for those living here and for those who have moved to some other locality, telling of marriages, births, deaths, the coming and going of people, of business efforts and progress, accidents, crops, improvements, meetings and so on. In fact, everything of importance and interest. If you should undertake to write a letter to an absent friend every week telling him all the news, you would get a faint idea of the task in preparing a newspaper. Many of our townspeople recognize this and take pleasure in giving items of news. It helps us and is appreciated.

It has been stated by Postmaster General Hitchcock that the federal postal establishment will become self-sustaining before the close of another fiscal year. If this can be accomplished, penny postage for first class mail will become a fact. Indeed, Mr. Hitchcock is almost prepared to assert that one cent postage is in sight as a practical business proposition.

Here are a few rules that it would be well to cut out and paste up in your kitchen:

Wash a saucepan in plenty of hot water; but never wash cake tins or frying pans. Wipe them well with a piece of paper, which is afterward burned, and polish them with a dry cloth.

Stand saucepan, fish kettles, etc., in front of the fire for a few minutes after washing them so that they may be thoroughly dried inside. This makes them last longer and helps to keep them in good condition.

Add a little soda to the water in which you wash plates and dishes. The soda loosens the grease on them and gives the china a good shiny surface.

Never add soda to the water in which you wash silver. Use a wooden tub, with plenty of hot water and soap, and dry the articles with a soft cloth.

Never put the handles of knives into hot water or they will split. If a knife has been used for cutting onions or any other strong-scented vegetable, dig the blade of it once or twice into garden mold to remove the smell before it is washed.

If a pan is burned or blackened, rub the inside of it with a hard crust of bread dipped in salt and afterward wash it with hot soda and water.

Be very careful to keep the lids of saucepans clean, for the flavor of one dish may cling to a lid which has not been washed and spoil a second dish which is prepared in the same pan.

Cyril Rife lost a valuable driving horse with lockjaw the first of the week, caused by getting a piece of old rusty shears in its boot several days before.

The motor car broke down again between here and Muscatine, Monday evening and is in the repair shop where all railroad men hope it will stay. The new passenger run deserves a good engine.

There are now 116 patients in the Oakdale sanitarium, near Iowa City, the largest number which has been in the hospital at any time since the opening of the hospital three years ago. In these three years there have been treated at the hospital more than 700 patients. Representative George W. Koontz has introduced a bill in the legislature calling for a \$50,000 appropriation for the use of the sanitarium.

Wellman

Charley Long Jr., is sick with measles at the home of his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. John Long.

We who have to pull our whiskers out with a dull razor or drive to town will be relieved now, as we are to have a barber.

We notice our blacksmith to be the busiest man in town these days, as our farmers are inspecting their old plows and getting ready for spring.

James Fuller, a nephew of Mrs. H. Fuller, who came here from New York a couple of years ago, died at the home of Mrs. David Bitting, where he had been employed, Monday night. The cause of his death was pneumonia, from which he had been ill for several weeks. He was a young man about

thirty years of age. The news of his death will be a great shock to his relatives in the east, as it was those here, as it was not realized his condition was so dangerous.

Tony Florang, of Riverside, has been taken to the S.U.I. hospital suffering with what is thought to be infantile paralysis.

Clum Mahaffa was assaulted by one of Alf. Burkett’s boys up at his farm last Saturday and as a result wears a pretty badly swollen jaw. The offender was arraigned in Justice Hanley’s court yesterday and plead guilty to assault and battery.

Mrs. James Ross, wife of ex-Mayor Ross of Dallas Center, is dead from burns sustained while attempting to kindle a fire with gasoline.

When Ellen Terry was presented with a Founders gold medal at the New Theater, New York, recently—an honor conferred in recognition of her great services to dramatic art—she was called upon to make a speech of acceptance. It so happened that the actress was exceedingly hoarse and she was therefore forced to cut her remarks short. So, she told this story: “A friend of mine bought a parrot and gave much money for it with the understanding that it could speak fluently, but when he reached home with it, he found to his dismay that the bird was dumb. So, he took it back. “This parrot cannot say a word,” he said indignantly to the bird fancier. “It can’t talk at all,” “Talk!” the dealer exclaimed. “Come to think of it, I know it can’t, but it’s a devil to think.”

Do not throw away boot polish when it has become hard through the lid being left off, but place it on top of a warm oven until it softens.

George Joseph, a gentleman who has been peddling through our north country for a dozen years or more, was taken ill with appendicitis at the home of Amelius Bender the first of the week. He was removed to the hospital in Iowa City.

The Muscatine button factories all closed down last Saturday and over 2,000 people were thrown out of employment. Manufacturers declare overproduction of buttons is responsible for the step. Members of the newly organized and rapidly growing button workers’ union say it is a move against that organization.

There is no fault so hard to overcome as the hasty temper. We may make numbers of good resolutions, and then the first time we have any provocation, away we go without an instant’s warning, and before we realize what we are doing, the unkind words have been spoken, and no matter how much regret we feel, they cannot be unsaid.

A doctor’s first question when consulted by a patient is, “Are your bowels regular?” He knows that 98 percent of illness is attended with inactive bowels and torpid liver and that this condition must be removed gently and thoroughly before health can be restored.

Rexall Orderlies are a positive, pleasant and safe remedy for constipation and bowel disorders in general. We are certain of their great curative

value that we promise to return the purchaser’s money in every case when they fail to produce entire satisfaction.

Rexall Orderlies are eaten like candy, they act quietly and have a soothing, strengthening, healing influence on the entire intestinal tract. They do not purge, gripe, cause nausea, flatulence, excessive looseness, diarrhea or other annoying effect. They are especially good for children, weak persons or old folks. Two sizes, 25 cents and 10 cents. Sold only at our store—The Rexall Store.

For the past two weeks the scarlet fever in town has been making such advances that a conference on Monday between the health officers and the school board resulted in the closing of the school and forbidding the churches to open this coming Sunday.

The disease, so far, has been of a very mild type, but as no one can tell when it might assume a malignant form prompt measures of quarantine were adopted.

No alarm is felt over the situation and it is quite likely that the general quarantine will not long remain in force.

Al Kepler retires from the mail service as conductor on R.F.D. 4 this week and Lou McGuigan has been appointed to succeed him. Lou began his work yesterday.

Dr. Jones accompanied Mrs. Gene Welch to Iowa City last Monday where she underwent an operation. Her many friends near Yankee Point will be pleased to learn that she is improving nicely.

A certain well-brought-up little girl yawned at the breakfast table last Sunday morning and ventured a polite proposition to her mother.

“I really don’t feel at all like going to church this morning,” she remarked. “Can’t we just send cards?”

Theatrical Manager—I understand that you played with Booth, Miss Sereleaf?

The Actress (with much spirit)—Well, I don’t think it’s anybody’s business how old I am!

If a man’s wife can read about politics without wishing she were a man, he will never experience the pleasure of being henpecked.

A close call to what could have easily resulted in a bad fire last evening. Accidentally the trimming in Nichols & Krueger’s front window was touched by the lighter as the lamps in the window were being lighted, and quicker than the snap of your finger, there was a blaze that took quick action on the part of several nearby before it was extinguished. A small amount of damage was done by the fire.

Albert Topping was operated on last night by Dr. Burge, of Iowa City, assisted by Dr. Downing, and we are glad to say that the operation was very successful. His lungs were drained of a lot of accumulated pus that was preventing his recovery. It is now believed his recovery will be rapid. His condition is even greatly improved this morning.

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ARTS & Crafts SHOW

Over 250 Exhibitors

Bring This Ad To Show For \$1 Off Adm.

March 13-15

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DES MOINES, IOWA

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Celebrating 100 years

easterseals

Iowa

100

Easterseals Iowa is celebrating 100 years in 2026

Save the Date for our celebration on

Saturday, June 6, 2026

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Support Easterseals and make an Iowa impact *together.*

CITY OF KALONA	
KALONA, IOWA CITY HALL MARCH 4, 2026 6:00 PM	
Regular meeting of the Kalona City Council with Mayor Robe presiding. A motion was made by J Schmidt and seconded by Beran to approve the agenda. With all voting yes, the motion carried.	
Council members present: Bender, G Schmidt, J Schmidt, Yeggy-Berg and Beran.	
Motion was made by G Schmidt and seconded by Beran to approve the minutes for the regular meeting on February 18, 2026. With all voting yes, the minutes were approved and published.	
On a motion by J Schmidt and seconded by Bender, the following bills were allowed with all voting yes. (See list of bills below.)	
Access Systems, Monthly.....	86.51
ACCO, Water Chemicals.....	497.60
Alliant Energy, Monthly.....	21,431.89
Amazon, Supplies.....	1,044.50
Central Iowa Distributing, Supplies.....	664.00
Dakota Supply Group, Water Parts.....	1,375.00
Dorsey Whitney, SRF Sewer Loan Services.....	5,000.00
Goerdit Inspection, Building Inspections.....	1,670.00
Hills Bank Kalona, Payback General - Sewer (Payroll Taxes).....	2,411.30
Hills Bank Kalona, Payback General - Water (Budget).....	9,746.26
Hills Bank Kalona, Payback General - Sewer (Budget).....	22,651.89
Hills Bank Kalona, Payback General - Sewer (Payroll).....	6,298.94
Iowa Department of Revenue, State Withholding.....	1,134.73
Iowa Department of Revenue, Water Excise Tax.....	2,708.83
Iowa Department of Revenue, Sewer Sale Tax.....	434.92
Iowa Public Employee Retirement System, IPERS.....	6,935.29
J&S Plumbing, Repair.....	366.05
Jackie Etheredge, Office Cleaning.....	337.50
John Deere Financial, Parts.....	81.21
Johnson County Refuse, Monthly Garbage/Recycle Contract.....	16,886.11
Kalona Builders, Student House/Supplies.....	205.76
Kalona Coop Technology, Monthly.....	2,136.52
Keaton Redlinger, Weekend Grave Closing.....	50.00
Kevin's Concrete, Concrete.....	9,663.24
Konica Minolta, Monthly.....	26.02
Kuenster Heating & Air, Repairs.....	175.00
Martin Equipment, Monthly-Backhoe Maint.....	253.00
Nesper Sign Advertising, YMCA Sign Light Repairs.....	532.27
Reserve Account Pitney Bowes, Postage.....	800.00
RJF Electric, Shelter C.....	3,402.68

ORDINANCE NO. 2026 - 368

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF KALONA, IOWA, PERTAINING TO THE OPERATION OF GOLF CARTS, UTILITY TRAIL VEHICLES (UTV), AND ALL-TERRAIN VEHICLES (ATV) ON CITY STREETS

BE IT ENACTED by the City Council of the City of Kalona, Iowa:

SECTION 1. PURPOSE OF AMENDING
The purpose of this chapter is to determine which vehicles are permitted for operation on City streets, as authorized by Section 321.247 of the Code of Iowa.

81.01 DEFINITIONS

1. "Golf Cart" means a four-wheeled recreational vehicle generally used for transportation of person(s) in a sport of golf that is either electric powered or gas powered with a ground speed limited to 25 mph.

2. "Utility Trail Vehicle" means a four-wheeled recreational vehicle generally used for transportation of person(s) or materials in a commercial setting that is either electric powered or gas powered.

3. "All-Terrain Vehicle" means a small open motor vehicle with one or two seats and three or more wheels fitted with large tires, designed for use on rough ground.

81.02 OPERATION GOLF CARTS, UTILITY TRAIL VEHICLES (UTV), AND ALL-TERRAIN VEHICLES (ATV)

1. Golf Carts with a 5-year permit which will be determined by the schedule the City operates under, will be issued by the City of Kalona to be operated

upon the streets of the city by persons possessing a valid Iowa driver's license and must be at least sixteen (16) years of age. Any persons fifteen (15) years of age and younger may not be permitted to operate, even if an adult is present.

2. Utility Trail Vehicles (UTV) with a current registration obtained through the State of Iowa, may operate on city streets and follow the state requirements for operation, as authorized in House File 2130.

3. All-Terrain Vehicles (ATV) are not allowed on city streets at any time.

81.03 PROHIBITED STREETS Golf Carts shall not be operated upon Highway 1, Highway 22, or on the shoulder thereof unless it is to cross said highways.

81.04 UNLAWFUL OPERATION

1. No Golf Cart shall be operated or parked upon City sidewalks or trails.

2. No Golf Cart shall be operated while under the influence of intoxicating alcohol, narcotics or habit-forming drugs.

3. No person shall operate a Golf Cart in a careless, reckless, or negligent manner endangering the person or property of another or causing injury or damage to same.

4. No Golf Cart shall carry more passengers than the golf cart is designed to carry.

5. No Golf Cart may be operated by any minor under the age of 16, even if an adult is present.

6. No Golf Cart may have more than one person behind the steering wheel when in operation.

7. No person shall ride on, and no operator shall allow a person to ride on any portion of the Golf Cart, not designed or intended for the conveyance of passengers.

Stout Companies, Grass Seed.....	300.00
Team Laboratory, Sewer Chemicals.....	10,875.00
The News, Publications.....	80.99
Trusted Trades, Student House.....	1,725.00
Vesco, Water Chemicals.....	1,337.72
VISA, Classes/Certification.....	1,709.12
Washington County EMS Associate, First Responders.....	100.00
YMCA of Washington County, Monthly Agreement.....	4,500.00
Yotty's, Supplies.....	952.22

WITHDRAWALS:	
Transfer Funds.....	\$ 19,442.45
General Fund.....	61,822.13
Library Board Fund.....	1,781.82
Road Use Fund.....	7,372.47
Trust & Agency Fund.....	9,774.47
Water Fund.....	8,965.97
Sewer Fund.....	1,766.25
DEPOSITS:	
Transfer Funds.....	\$ 54,071.90
General Fund.....	32,286.92
Library Memorial Fund.....	100.00
Garbage Fund.....	16,826.24
Storm Sewer Fund.....	3,786.88
Water Fund.....	18,363.44
Sewer Fund.....	11,457.83

Resolution No. 2026-D, a resolution approving the temporary street closures for the 100K Horseshoe Gravel Bike

Race. The portions of 9th Street and D Avenue and 9th Street and C Avenue will be closed on May 9, 2026. A motion was made by G Schmidt, and seconded by Bender, authorizing the Mayor and City Administrator to sign the same. The council was then polled with Bender, J Schmidt, G Schmidt, Yeggy-Berg, and Beran each voting yes. The motion carried.

Consideration of Preliminary Developer site work for Incline Grove Phase-3, prior to Alliant Energy installing gas main, was held by the council. The design plans were reviewed by the council that the developer is proposing to start work on. City staff was directed to work with the developer on the site work and to begin discussion on developers' agreement for phase-3.

Discussion of approving of the American Red Cross Kalona Community Center Facility Use Agreement, was held by the council. This will allow the Red Cross to utilize the Kalona Community Center if unforeseen events occur. A motion was made by Beran, and seconded by Bender, with everyone voting yes. The motion carried.

Consideration was held by the council

on approving financial advisory services from PFM. A motion was made by Bender and seconded by G Schmidt directing staff to engage financial services with PFM. With everyone voting yes, the motion carried.

Presentation from Andrew Inhelder with MSA Engineering on the Kalona Trails Feasibility Study. Mr. Inhelder outlined the engineering designs services that MSA would perform under the Professional Services Agreement presented and answered the council's questions. The estimated cost for the agreement was \$317,400.00 which would be paid with funds donated specifically for the trial project. A motion was made by Bender and seconded by G Schmidt to accept and sign the agreement. With all voting yes, the motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned.

SARAH CHMELAR, City Clerk
MARK ROBE, Mayor

Published in The News, Thursday, March 12, 2026 L-137

81.05 EQUIPMENT Golf Carts operated upon City streets shall be equipped with a minimum of the following safety features:

1. A slow-moving vehicle sign, with a city-issued permit sticker as indicated in section 81.09

The sign can be no less in size than, 16-inch in width and 14-inch in height.

2. A bicycle safety flag, the top of which shall be a minimum of five (5) feet above ground level.

3. Adequate brakes

4. Headlights and taillight
a. Aftermarket headlights and taillights may be installed on Golf Carts.

b. Headlights must always remain in use during operations

81.06 HOURS OF OPERATION Golf Carts may be operated on city streets and alleys only between sunrise and Sunset, per state code 321.247 1. (b)

81.07 SPEED No Golf Cart shall be operated on any City Street at a speed more than twenty-five (25) miles per hour. Posted speed limits must be followed in accordance with the Code of Iowa.

81.08 PARKING PROHIBITED Golf Carts shall not be parked overnight on City streets or alleys at any time.

81.09 PERMITS No person shall operate a Golf Cart on any public street or alley, for any purpose, unless the Golf Cart has a permit to operate on City streets, issued by the City of Kalona.

1. Golf Cart owners must have a valid driver's license.

2. The City of Kalona shall not issue a permit until the owner has confirmed the following:

a. That the owner is at least 16 years of age, and possesses a valid Iowa driver's license.

b. That owner has insurance covering the operation of golf carts on City streets.

c. That the required equipment list in section 81.05 is on the cart.

3. All permits shall be issued for a specific Golf Cart. Permit holders will be issued a number and a sticker to be placed on the lower center of the slow-moving vehicle sign (as not to cover the reflective border) vehicle sign or similar component.

4. For permit renewals, the owner must register with the City of Kalona by March 1 of the following year of the expiration that is listed on the sticker provided at each resignation.

A form either completed online or at City Hall, confirming that the requirements for equipment, as listed in section 81.05, are current to operate the cart on City Streets.

5. The permit may be suspended or revoked upon finding evidence that the permit holder has violated the conditions of the permit or abused the privilege of being a permit holder.

This will be decided by the Kalona City Council. There will be no refund of the permit fee.

81.10 LATE RENEWAL REGISTRATION FEES renewal registrations not completed by March 1, of the renewal calendar year, will be subject to late registration fees:

1. After March 1, the cost for renewal registration will be \$50.00

2. After April 1, the cost for renewal registration will be \$100.00 and must have City Council approval.

81.11 PENALTY person who violates this ordinance and is cited is guilty of a simple misdemeanor punishable as

a scheduled violation under Iowa Code. 321.247.

Schedule of City Fines:
1. First Offense - One Hundred dollars (\$100.00)
2. Second Offense - One Hundred Twenty-five dollars (\$125.00)

If the violation is committed on a registered cart, then the council may suspend or revoke their permit. If a violation is committed on a nonregistered cart, then the City of Kalona Council will decide if that person can file for registration for that year.

SECTION 2. REPEALER All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict with the provisions of this ordinance are hereby repealed.

SECTION 3. SEVERABILITY CLAUSE
If any section, provision or part of this ordinance shall be judged invalid or unconstitutional such adjudication shall not affect the validity of the ordinance as a whole or any section, provision or part thereof not adjudged invalid or unconstitutional.

SECTION 4. WHEN EFFECTIVE This ordinance shall be in effect upon its final passage, approval, and publication as provided by law.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the City Council on the 18 day of February 2026

MARK ROBE, Mayor
ATTEST: RYAN SCHLABAUGH, City Administrator

Published in The News, Thursday, March 12, 2026 L-233

CITY OF LONE TREE
MARCH 02, 2026

Mayor Spilman called to order at 5:30 PM the regular meeting of the Lone Tree City Council at Lone Tree City Hall with Hamm, Ford, Zadow, Goedken, and Gluba present. Zadow, Gluba motioned to approve the agenda as presented. CARRIED 5-0. Hamm, Zadow motioned to approve the consent agenda (previous minutes, reports, bills, etc). CARRIED 5-0. Water samples were read from 300 W Commercial St and 303 S DeVoe St both reported safe and filed.

Mayor Spilman called to order the public hearing for West Dougherty Street project at 5:38 PM.

Public question about if project will be done in phases or all at once. Engineer responded with it will be done all at once. Residents will have to park around the block while the project is happening. No written comments.

Zadow, Ford motioned to close public hearing at 5:40 PM. CARRIED 5-0.

Zadow, Gluba motioned to approve Resolution 2026-D designating certain areas for camping during Lone Tree Flyers event. CARRIED 5-0.

Zadow, Ford motioned to appoint the following residents to Planning & Zoning Commission: Rick Ogren, Eldon Slaughtner, Tyler Baird, Josh Forbes and Yancey Dautremont. CARRIED 5-0.

Ford, Gluba motioned to approve Resolution 2026-E approving application for the purpose of receiving benefits from the Washington County Riverboat Foundation. CARRIED 5-0.

Hamm, Goedken motioned to approve clerk to attend IMFOA conference in Des Moines on April 16-17 with city paying for mileage, hotel and registration. CARRIED 5-0.

Zadow, Hamm motioned to adjourn at 5:55 PM. CARRIED 5-0.

AQUAFIX \$675.23, midelfy complete
CITY OF IOWA CITY \$5,712.00, library agreement

ELAINIA AMUNDSON \$9.18, reimbursement/comm dine
FERGUSON WATERWORKS \$2,090.95, UB Neptune annual support
IMFOA \$50.00, IMFOA dues
ION ENVIRONMENTAL SOLUTIONS \$6,600.00, WWTF & water plant management
JOHNSON CO SHERIFF'S OFFICE \$4,693.00, police contract
MENARDS \$542.89, shop repairs & supplies
N&N SANITATION \$8,466.00, garbage/recycling contract
FOODSERVICE \$1,566.02, food supplies/comm dining
RITTENMEYER TRUCKING CO \$1,920.00, mixed salt sand
STANDARD PEST CONTROL \$35.00, spray city hall & com bldg
THE NEWS \$121.25, legal
WATER SOLUTIONS UNLIMITED \$1,846.31, chlorine
WINDSTREAM \$235.02, WWTF phone & internet, water plant phone
DOLLAR GENERAL \$167.40, food supplies/comm dining
FAREWAY MEAT & GROCERY \$597.90, food supplies/comm dining
LONE TREE GAS & GROCERY \$186.50,

fuel/streets
KALONA AUTO PARTS \$192.46, vehicle maintenance
US CELLULAR \$74.48, public works cell phones
VISA \$512.01, Bud's - food supplies/comm dining, Deluxe - work orders/pw
WINDSTREAM ENTERPRISE \$42.10, city hall phone
ALLIANT ENERGY \$10,662.12, street lights & electrical
DELTA DENTAL OF IOWA \$148.84, employee premium
EASTERN IOWA LIGHT & POWER \$293.45, street lights & lift station electric
WELLMARK \$5,941.62, employee premium
WINDSTREAM \$380.15, com bldg phone, city hall & shop internet, lift station phone
IPERS \$2,250.42, IPERS payment
IRS \$2,581.98, FICA payment
FEBRUARY PAYROLL \$12,467.39, all employees

\$12,325.05.....	\$5,454.93
LOST.....	
\$25,499.28.....	\$0
WATER FUND.....	\$11,389.30
\$13,800.59.....	
SEWER FUND.....	\$12,582.87
\$18,922.21.....	
SEWER REVENUE.....	\$0
\$12,745.48.....	
REFUSE FUND.....	\$8,466.00
\$11,000.45.....	
TRUST & AGENCY.....	\$0
\$0.....	
CEMETERY TRUST.....	\$0
\$40.00.....	
TOTALS.....	\$71,061.67
\$99,505.13.....	\$2,778,305.33
Cash On Hand.....	\$282,565.03
Sav Cert.....	

JOSH SPILMAN, MAYOR
ATTEST
STEPHANIE DAUTREMONT, CITY CLERK
Submitted for publication 03-03-2026

Published in The News, Thursday, March 12, 2026 L-136

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CITY OF WELLMAN

MARCH 2, 2026
WELLMAN, IOWA

The Wellman City Council met in regular session at the Wellman City Hall Council Chambers at 5:30 pm. Mayor Ryan Miller presided with the City Administrator, City Clerk and the following Council Members: Angela Stutzman, Shannon McCain, Fern Bontrager, Nathan Klostermann and Aaron Fleming. The Consent Agenda was approved by Klostermann, seconded by Stutzman and all voted ayes. The consent agenda includes the agenda, minutes from the previous meeting and the following:

3/2 PAYROLL

Jonathan J Adam.....	\$155.14
Diane Z Brennenman.....	\$481.94
Carrie R Geno.....	\$1,221.41
Gabrielle M Geno.....	\$130.90
Melissa J Fleming.....	\$484.15
Beth A VanWinkle.....	\$2,006.39
Betty J Johnston.....	\$174.40
Timothy J Garrett.....	\$6,691.32

Travis D Hartley.....	\$1,782.16
Jerry D Sanders.....	\$1,546.90
Josh S VanWinkle.....	\$1,554.27
Eli M Conrad.....	\$26.67
Debra S Hill.....	\$737.20
Landon P Humble.....	\$359.36
Deana K Nolan.....	\$276.80
Demayanti Banelos Ortega.....	\$106.67
Shirley Y Brown.....	\$669.56
Kelly L Litwiller.....	\$2,615.75
Cynthia S Thrapp.....	\$2,207.21
Fed Taxes.....	\$7,547.56
Christopher Adams, Library Trivia Fundraiser.....	\$200.00
Cynthia S Thrapp/February Cell/Goodwin Center, Food Reimbursements.....	\$267.53
Jerry D Sanders, February Cell Reimbursement.....	\$70.00
Josh S VanWinkle, February Cell Reimbursement.....	\$70.00
Kelly L Litwiller, February Cell/Mileage Reimbursements.....	\$159.90
Merlin J Hernandez, February Banquet Hall Cleaning.....	\$350.00
William D Nickell, March Yard Waste.....	\$175.00
Paws & More, February City Contribution/Customer Donations\$637.16	
Ryan J Miller, February Mileage Reimbursement.....	\$29.00
Treasurer State of Iowa, February Gas Use Taxes.....	\$27.19
Shirley Y Brown, February Goodwin Center Food Reimbursement.....	\$148.24

WASHINGTON COUNTY

PROCEEDINGS OF THE WASHINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING TUESDAY, MARCH 3, 2026

At 9:00 a.m., Chairperson Jack Seward, Jr. called to order in regular session a meeting of the Washington County Board of Supervisors which took place at Orchard Hill. Items on the agenda included the following: Pledge of Allegiance, approval of agenda, public comment related to agenda items, personnel change request – Secondary Roads, Sheriff’s Office FY27 law contracts, Department Head comment, adjourn.

Supervisors Marcus Fedler, Bob Yoder, and Richard Young were also present. Stan Stoops was absent.

Other individuals in attendance included Giovanni Coronel with the South-east Iowa Union, Public Health Fiscal Administrator Peggy Wood, and citizen Jeff Batterson. Various other individuals listened and/or watched remotely via Zoom.

Young led the individuals assembled in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

All motions were passed unanimously unless noted otherwise.

On motion by Fedler, seconded by Yoder, the Board voted to approve the agenda as published.

There was no public comment.

On motion by Seward, seconded by Fedler, the Board approved, and authorized the Chairperson to sign, a personnel change request from Secondary Roads for the termination of Parts & Service Technician Patrick Farrell effective February 20, 2026.

Sheriff Jared Schneider was not available to present the FY27 law contracts; therefore, the item was tabled until March 10, 2026.

During Department Head comment, Auditor Tamera Stewart advised the Board of an informal cash offer of \$15,000.00 for purchase of the county-owned lot located at 302 W. Main Street. The official offer will be presented during the March 10, 2026, Board of Supervisor meeting. This lot entered the real estate market on November 14, 2025, and has received one previous offer which was not accepted.

At 9:11 a.m. on motion by Yoder, seconded by Fedler, the Board voted to adjourn.

ATTEST: s/ Tamera S. Stewart, Washington County Auditor

Published in The News, Thursday, March 12, 2026 L-61

PUBLIC NOTICES

THE IOWA DISTRICT COURT FOR WASHINGTON COUNTY

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF Susie J. Yoder, Deceased CASE NO. ESPR008516

NOTICE OF PROBATE OF WILL, OF APPOINTMENT OF EXECUTORS, AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS

To All Persons Interested in the Estate of Susie J. Yoder, Deceased, who died on or about February 14, 2026:

You are hereby notified that on March 2, 2026, the Last Will and Testament of Susie J. Yoder, deceased, bearing date of April 5, 2024, was admitted to probate in the above-named court and that Linda Tones and Lou Ann Miller have been appointed Executors of the estate. Any action to set aside the will must be brought in the district court of said county within the later to occur of four months from the date of the second publication of this notice or one month from the date of mailing of this notice to all heirs of the decedent and devisees under the will whose identities are reasonably ascertainable, or thereafter be forever barred.

Notice is further given that all persons indebted to the estate are requested to make immediate payment to the undersigned, and creditors hav-

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

Dated March 3, 2026.

Linda Tones
Executor of Estate
1547 Stafford Place
Iowa City, IA 52240

Lou Ann Miller
Executor of Estate
5263 James Avenue SW
Kalona, IA 52247

Michael J. Brennenman
ICIS#: AT0001095
Attorney for Executors
Brennenman, Detweiler & Goertz, LLP
330 E. Court St., Iowa City, IA 52240

Published in The News, Thursday, March 12, 2026 L-63
Date of second publication, Thursday, March 19, 2026

THE IOWA DISTRICT COURT FOR WASHINGTON COUNTY

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF Diana Kay Cunningham, Deceased CASE NO. ESPR008518

NOTICE OF PROBATE OF WILL, OF APPOINTMENT OF EXECUTOR, AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS

To All Persons Interested in the Estate of Diana Kay Cunningham, Deceased, who died on or about May 4, 2023:

You are hereby notified that on March 5, 2026, the Last Will and Testament of Diana Kay Cunningham, deceased, bearing date of June 1, 2018, was admitted to probate in the above-named court and that Heather Lynn Murphy was appointed Executor of the estate. Any action to set aside the will must be brought in the district court of said county within the later to occur of four months from the date of the second publication of this notice or one month from the date of mailing of this notice to all heirs of the decedent and devisees under the will whose identities are reasonably ascertainable, or thereafter be forever barred.

Notice is further given that all per-

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

Dated March 9, 2026.

Heather Lynn Murphy
Executor of Estate
27 Roselene Drive
Kirksville, MO 63501

Michael J. Brennenman,
ICIS#: AT0001095
Attorney for Executor
Brennenman, Detweiler & Goertz, LLP
330 E. Court St.
Iowa City, IA 52240

Published in The News, Thursday, March 12, 2026 L-60
Date of second publication, Thursday, March 19, 2026

Standard Pest Control, March Pest Control.....	\$115.00
Timothy J Garrett, February Cell Reimbursement.....	\$70.00
Travis D Hartley, February Cell Reimbursement.....	\$70.00
Treasurer State of Iowa, February Sales/Water Excise Taxes\$6,015.90	
Beth A VanWinkle, February Cell Reimbursement.....	\$70.00
Wellman Emporium Assoc., March Goodwin Center Condo Fees.....	\$136.54
Access Systems, City Hall Copier Lease.....	\$175.00
Alliant Energy, City Utilities.....	\$9,671.02
Badger Meter, February Meter Fees.....	\$352.59
Capper Ford, Van Parts.....	\$56.28
CT Sewer Solutions, FY26 Maintenance Contract.....	\$19,587.96
Dakota Supply Group, Water Supplies.....	\$1,203.00
Delta Industries, WWTP Belts.....	\$582.24
Engineered Equipment Solutions, WWTP Repair Kit.....	\$89.49
Garden & Associates, Water System Improvements.....	\$4,180.60
Hawkins, WWTP Tube Assembly/WTP Chemicals.....	\$1,024.25
Hi-Line, Gas Supplies.....	\$88.83
Impressions Computers, February Maintenance.....	\$166.25
ION Environmental Solutions, March Water/Sewer Operations & February Labs.....	\$8,614.00
J&S Plumbing, Htg. & A/C, Parkside Water Heater Service.....	\$90.00
J&B Repair, Chevy Starter/Filter/Battery/Van Heater Install \$3,944.96	
Jerry D Sanders, FY26 Clothing Allowance.....	\$127.98
JFH Welding & Fab., Watermain Shut offs.....	\$2,460.00
Kohl Wholesale, Goodwin Center Food.....	\$963.62
Lynch Dallas, Auditor Fees.....	\$180.00
Mahaska Bottling Co., Skate Pop for Resale.....	\$249.74
Menards-Iowa City, Skale/Goodwin Center Shelving.....	\$131.25

MSA, Memorial Park Design/Construction.....	\$1,908.50
Mueller, Rubber Stopper Lubricant.....	\$27.17
Office Express, City Hall Copier Paper.....	\$132.62
Project Share, Project Share x2.....	\$400.00
Schindler Elevator Corp., Annual Contract Renewal.....	\$1,556.38
The News, City Minutes.....	\$272.04
Thrapp Electric, Final Balance Skate Rink Units.....	\$2,575.65
U of I Health Care, Random Drug Screenings.....	\$42.00
USABluebook, Water Chemkeys.....	\$1,319.70
Visa, City Hall Credit Card.....	\$1,575.60
Walsh Door & Hardware, Skate Rink/Parkside Keys.....	\$54.56
Wapello Rural Water, February Water Usage-1,930,000 Gallons.....	\$6,280.00
Washington Community YMCA, January Banquet Hall Utilities \$976.55	
Wellman Co-op Telephone, City Telephones.....	\$1,168.10
	\$111,615.15

No one spoke in public forum.

Resolution No. 26-10 A resolution authorizing the execution of an amendment to its gas supply agreement with PEFA, Inc in connection with the reset of the available discount in PEFA, Inc's gas prepayment project; approving the issuance of bonds by PEFA, Inc; and related matters was introduced and caused to be read. Bontrager moved to approve Resolution No. 26-10, McCain seconded and upon roll call the vote was unanimous ayes.

Resolution No. 26-11 A resolution proposing encroachment, access, and maintenance agreement and setting public hearing was introduced and caused to be read. Public hearing will be on March 16th Council Meeting. Klostermann moved to approve Resolution No. 26-11, Fleming seconded and upon roll call the vote was unanimous ayes. Discussion and action from Country Stonemasons bids for Memorial Project was had. McCain made a motion to allow Mayor Miller to enter into a contract with Country Stonemasons but not to exceed a \$55,000 bid, Stutzman seconded and all voted ayes.

With no further business to be discussed Fleming moved to adjournment at 5:41pm, McCain seconded and all voted ayes. The next regular City Council Meeting will be Monday, March 16, 2026, at 5:30pm in the Council Chambers of the Wellman Municipal Building.

Minutes transcribed by the City Clerk are subject to Council Approval.

Published in The News, Thursday, March 12, 2026 L-134

MID-PRAIRIE CSD

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING - PROPOSED PROPERTY TAX LEVY Proposed MID-PRAIRIE Property Tax Levy Fiscal Year July 1, 2026 - June 30, 2027		
Location of Public Hearing: Mid-Prairie Central Office Building-Community Room; 1636 Hwy 22 East, Wellman, Iowa 52356	Date of Public Hearing: 3/23/2026	Time of Public Hearing: 06:15 PM
Location of Notice on School Website: https://tinyurl.com/MPCSDPublicHearingDocument		

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	4,869,339	4,712,750
Instructional Support Levy	2	372,016	422,571
Management	3	528,324	689,206
Amana Library	4	0	0
Voted Physical Plant and Equipment	5	396,714	477,453
Regular Physical Plant and Equipment	6	206,965	210,838
Reorganization Equalization	7	0	0
Public Education/Recreation (Playground)	8	0	0
Debt Service	9	1,693,335	1,723,966
Grand Total	10	8,066,693	8,236,784
	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	13.03879	12.81676	13.08313
Property Tax Comparison	Current Year Property Taxes	Proposed Property Taxes	Percent Change
Residential property with an Actual/Assessed Value of \$100,000/\$110,000	618	641	3.72
Commercial property with an Actual/Assessed Value of \$300,000/\$330,000	2,688	2,993	11.35

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:

ISI.And Physical Plan & Equip increases are due to a 1% lowering of Surtax Rate. Managemnt Fund: Worker's Comp Ins. cost reflects increases due to higher claims experience. Debt Svc is early paydown of bonds. District is in Budget Guarantee.

Published in The News, Thursday, March 12, 2026

JOHNSON COUNTY

COUNTY NAME: JOHNSON COUNTY	NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING -PROPOSED PROPERTY TAX LEVY Fiscal Year July 1, 2026 - June 30, 2027	COUNTY NUMBER: 52
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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: 3/25/2026 Meeting Time: 05:30 PM Meeting Location: Johnson County HHS Building -3rd Floor 855 S. Dubuque Street Johnson County Boardroom Room #301

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	10,124,745,723	10,503,845,595	10,503,845,595	
Requested Tax Dollars-Countywide Rates Except Debt Service	50,273,716	50,273,716	44,967,594	
Taxable Valuations-Debt Service	11,153,286,596	11,675,710,514	11,675,710,514	
Requested Tax Dollars-Debt Service	19,691,016	19,691,016	22,226,700	
Requested Tax Dollars-Countywide Rates	69,964,732	69,964,732	67,194,294	
Tax Rate-Countywide	6.73092	6.47271	6.18473	
Taxable Valuations-Rural Services	2,009,496,641	2,015,154,591	2,015,154,591	
Requested Tax Dollars-Additional Rural Levies	7,257,679	7,257,679	7,959,861	
Tax Rate-Rural Additional	3.61169	3.60155	3.95000	
Rural Total	10.34261	10.07426	10.13473	
Tax Rate Comparison-Current VS. Proposed				
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	319		303	-5.02
Rural Taxpayer	491		496	1.02
Tax Rate Comparison-Current VS. Proposed				
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	1,388		1,415	1.95
Rural Taxpayer	2,132		2,319	8.77

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:

General Basic increase for employee pay and benefit increases, Debt Service increase for increased debt payments, Rural Basic increase for higher Secondary Roads' costs, library funding, animal control and solid waste management cost increases.

Published in The News, Thursday, March 12, 2026

LONE TREE CSD

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING -PROPOSED PROPERTY TAX LEVY Proposed LONE TREE Property Tax Levy Fiscal Year July 1, 2026 - June 30, 2027		
Location of Public Hearing: Lone Tree School Library	Date of Public Hearing: 3/25/2026	Time of Public Hearing: 06:00 PM
Location of Notice on School Website: https://www.lonetreesd.org/district/annual_notices		

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	1,420,273	1,622,965
Instructional Support Levy	2	176,118	173,225
Management	3	435,728	297,014
Amana Library	4	0	0
Voted Physical Plant and Equipment	5	110,775	171,487
Regular Physical Plant and Equipment	6	66,314	65,922
Reorganization Equalization	7	0	0
Public Education/Recreation (Playground)	8	0	0
Debt Service	9	355,297	244,740
Grand Total	10	2,564,505	2,575,353
	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	12.76179	12.83772	12.89203
Property Tax Comparison	Current Year Property Taxes	Proposed Property Taxes	Percent Change
Residential property with an Actual/Assessed Value of \$100,000/\$110,000	605	632	4.46
Commercial property with an Actual/Assessed Value of \$300,000/\$330,000	2,631	2,950	12.12

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 \$0.22 for budget adjustment for one year to adjust due to declining enrollment.

Published in The News, Thursday, March 12, 2026

CALL THE NEWS TO SET UP YOUR SUBSCRIPTION TODAY!
319-656-2273

It seems as if the question never goes away...

DO PEOPLE REALLY READ PUBLIC NOTICES?

The newspapers of Iowa wanted to know, too. That's why the Iowa Newspaper Association commissioned a study by the respected Newton Marketing and Research firm in December 2009.

The results of the study are almost overwhelming. Iowans read public notices in newspapers and that's where they want them to stay. **Public notices are better read in Iowa than national sports news.**

Why are public notices important?
An important premise upon which the principle of democracy is based is that information about government activities must be accessible in order for people to make informed decisions.

Why should public notices be printed in newspapers?
That's where they've been available to the public for 200 years. Newspapers are a respected third party - not like a government agency posting public notices on the agency's own website. Newspapers have the responsibility to print public notices in a timely, complete and accurate basis. Nobody has ever "hacked" a newspaper - unlike internet sites where public notices have mysteriously disappeared.

How long do public notices last?
Unlike the Internet, newspapers provide a timeless repository of important documents and information. Public notices in newspapers don't evaporate into cyberspace days after they are posted. Notices in newspapers are a permanent record.

71.2% of Iowans believe state and local government should be required to publish public notices in newspapers.

91% of Iowans find their local newspaper trustworthy when publishing public notices, compared with only 61% who find a government-sponsored website trustworthy.

JOHNSON COUNTY

THE JOHNSON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
FORMAL MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 26, 2026

Proclamations, ordinances and resolutions adopted by the Board of Supervisors are only summarized in the published minutes; the full text may be inspected at the Office of the County Auditor, 913 S. Dubuque Street, Iowa City, Mon. thru Fri., between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. and at www.johnsoncounty-iowa.gov.

Supervisor Sullivan called the Johnson County Board of Supervisors to order in the Johnson County Health and Human Services Building Boardroom at 9:00 a.m. **Members present:** V Fixmer-Oraiz, Mandi Remington, and Rod Sullivan. Members absent: Jon Green, Lisa Green-Douglass.

Motion by Fixmer-Oraiz, second by Remington, to approval of the agenda as presented, except by delaying agenda item D.2 “Consider resolution adopting proposal to convey 1102 Hollywood Boulevard to the City of Iowa City” and striking agenda item G. “Closed Session - Real Estate”. Approved unanimously.

Public Comment - Quintin Bryant from American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) delivered the collective bargaining opening proposal from AFSCME Local 183 for employees of the Johnson County Ambulance Department Employees. County Board Office Executive Director Erin Shane said she will stamp receipt and deliver the proposal to County Human Resources. Sullivan requested the minutes reflect receipt of the proposal. **Motion** by Fixmer-Oraiz, second by Remington, to approve the following consent agenda items:

- 1. The claims on the County Auditor’s Claim Register for February 26, 2026, in the amount of \$832,703.18:

Airgas Usa	\$215.65
Alliant Energy.....	\$1174.35
Amazon Credit Plan	\$1466.82

American Home Finding.....	\$2332.50
Apartments At Iowa.....	\$700.00
Apts In IC	\$750.00
Arnold Motor Supply.....	\$581.44
Axial Industries	\$49.68
Axiom Consultants	\$1207.83
Big Brothers Big Sisters IC.....	\$6230.15
Boostingo	\$99.50
Bound Tree Medical.....	\$3356.99
Brandon Tietje Feddersen.....	\$40.20
Bret McLaughlin.....	\$330.00
Browns West Branch Ford	\$2301.46
Cambrie Schute	\$4.50
Candelina S Helmutth.....	\$750.00
Cdhw Government Inc.....	\$100.80
Central Iowa Distributing.....	\$956.00
Charm-Tex Inc.....	\$73.80
City Laundering Co.....	\$189.56
City Of Coralville.....	\$65092.25
City Of Iowa City-Acc Rec.....	\$72636.02
City Of Swisher.....	\$12011.50
City Tractor Co.....	\$224.34
CJ Cooper & Associates.....	\$275.00
Colleen R. O’Connell.....	\$349.00
Community & Family Res.....	\$30372.15
Community Crisis Services.....	\$7250.23
Consumers Cooperative.....	\$20184.42
Coral Ridge	\$700.00
Corridor Radiology	\$450.00
Custom Hose & Supplies.....	\$859.00
Deery Brothers Ford Lincol.....	\$2346.53
Delta Dental Of Iowa.....	\$15634.30
Electric Motors Of IC.....	\$1596.57
Elena Boryuk.....	\$126.00
Elite Fire Sprinkler System.....	\$3005.00
Emerald Court Apts.....	\$800.00
EO Johnson Business Tech.....	\$299.90
Erin Shane.....	\$138.05
Galls	\$74.19
Gatr Truck Center.....	\$32.59
Golfview Estates	\$750.00
Greater IC Housing Fellow.....	\$850.00
HACAP	\$64145.99
Hayley Abdo.....	\$2518.68
Heartland Shredding Inc.....	\$40.00
Henderson Truck Equip.....	\$1104.74
Henry Schein Inc.....	\$8.27
Hilltop Mobile Home Park.....	\$485.00
Holiday Wrecker & Cran.....	\$136.25
Hospers & Brother Printers.....	\$1393.68

Hy-Yee Inc.....	\$83.92
Imon Communications.....	\$800.00
Interstate All Battery Center.....	\$308.94
Iowa International Center.....	\$6.15
Iowa Paper Inc.....	\$1348.68
Iowa Public Health Assoc.....	\$500.00
Iowa Secretary Of State.....	\$30.00
Iowa Sheriff & Deput Assoc.....	\$25.00
Irish Reporting Inc.....	\$68.20
Jim’s Instrument Mfg Inc.....	\$113.00
Johnson County.....	\$43745.81
Joshua Busard.....	\$193.10
JZ Orchard Holdings.....	\$800.00
Kiecks Career Apparel.....	\$991.00
Law Enforcement Seminars.....	\$445.00
Lenoch & Citek Ace.....	\$17.94
Lensing Funeral Service.....	\$2200.00
Linder Tire Service Inc.....	\$1268.76
Linn County.....	\$39900.15
LI Pelling Company.....	\$223.65
Lynette Jacoby.....	\$140.61
M68 Property Mgmt.....	\$700.00
Mac Real Estate.....	\$700.00
Madison Tunning.....	\$18.50
Mandy Coates.....	\$253.93
Martin Equipment Of IL.....	\$36.48
Mediacom.....	\$102.48
Menards - Iowa City.....	\$584.80
Mercury Reserve Distribut.....	\$372.39
Metro Planning Org Of IC.....	\$3906.25
Midamerican Energy.....	\$19455.84
Mt Vernon Ace Hardware.....	\$113.97
Muscatine County Auditor.....	\$65.00
Mutual Wheel Company.....	\$74.49
Napa Auto Parts.....	\$137.89
Neighborhood Centers IC.....	\$38753.44
NI Community Library.....	\$35155.89
Office Express / Product.....	\$138.90
Office Machine Consultants.....	\$133.45
One Property Management.....	\$700.00
Ottsen Oil Co.....	\$2322.99
Oxford Public Library.....	\$3118.88
Pet Health Center Of Tiffin.....	\$3804.03
Pip Printing & Marketing.....	\$524.63
Point And Pay.....	\$1530.86
Psc Distribution.....	\$1741.81
Public Health Accred Board.....	\$8400.00
Pyramid Services Inc.....	\$115.28
Quaddient Finance Usa Inc.....	\$1303.52
Qwest Corporation.....	\$91.24
Reach For Your Potential.....	\$1142.40
Schneider Graphics Inc.....	\$114.49
Sean Michael Davis.....	\$600.00
Sector Technology Group.....	\$2029.55

Sharon Telephone Comp.....	\$1609.38
Solon Public Library.....	\$16577.58
Staples Contract.....	\$1295.09
Star Equipment Ltd.....	\$2583.79
State Indust Products Corp.....	\$740.85
IA Dept Of Inspect & Appeal.....	\$66.68
Storey Kenworthy Corp.....	\$298.03
Streichers.....	\$92.99
Solar Capital Investments.....	\$700.00
Summit Food Service.....	\$26466.13
Sunrise Village.....	\$697.00
Tailwind IC/Quarters All IC.....	\$695.00
Tik Properties.....	\$750.00
Teletask Inc.....	\$3550.00
Tennant Sales & Srv Co.....	\$805.60
The Holub Apartments.....	\$700.00
The Lodge Apartments.....	\$1550.00
The Sherwin Williams Co.....	\$84.47
The Summit Of Coralville.....	\$30.00
Titan Machinery.....	\$1872.16
Tom Villhauer.....	\$231.00
Tristar.....	\$9404.41
University Of Iowa.....	\$902.79
Unlimited Abilities.....	\$500.00
Us Cellular.....	\$2149.87
Verizon Wireless.....	\$310.35
Vermeer Sales & Srv.....	\$64.45
Visa.....	\$1397.98
Wellmark BCBS Iowa.....	\$203000.00
Windstream Holdings.....	\$623.41
Workday Inc.....	\$4000.00
Zavash Zare.....	\$700.00

2. The minutes of the Formal Meeting for February 19, 2026.

3. Payroll authorizations submitted by department heads and elected officials. Approved unanimously.

Convened public hearing at 9:03 a.m. on proposal to convey 1102 Hollywood Boulevard to the City of Iowa City as set forth in Resolution No. 02-12-26-02. County Deputy Attorney Ryan Maas was present for questions and noted the information pertaining to the proposed conveyance was embodied in Resolution No. 02-12-26-02 adopted by the Board and otherwise set forth in the conveyance agreement. No one from the public spoke. Public hearing closed at 9:05 a.m. Sullivan reiterated that agenda item D.2 “Consider resolution adopting proposal to convey 1102 Hollywood Boulevard to the City of Iowa City” is delayed to a fu-

ture Board Meeting with Maas confirming formal consideration will be scheduled within the next two weeks. **Motion** by Remington, second by Fixmer-Oraiz to set a bid letting date of March 17, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. for a bridge replacement project on Angle Road SW, known as Project L-P-12-6—73-52 and authorize the County Auditor to publish the Notice to Bidders. Approved unanimously. **Motion** by Fixmer-Oraiz, second by Remington, to approve Amendment No. 1 to Fiscal Year 2026 Agreement Fiscal Year 2026 (FY26) Agreement to Provide Juvenile Detention Services with Linn County. Approved unanimously. **Motion** by Remington, second by Fixmer-Oraiz, to approve proposal from TK Elevator Corporation, Urbandale, for repairs and upgrades to the County Court-house elevator/ door operator package in the amount of \$30,307.00. Approved unanimously.

Motion by Fixmer-Oraiz, second by Remington to approve adding a fourth community forum for the Strategic Plan project. Shane said the strategic planning consultants Berry, Dunn, McNeil & Parker, LLC agreed to not charge for the additional community forum and the County will only have to pay for their staff’s mileage. Approved 2-1, with Sullivan voting nay.

Sullivan reiterated that the Board will not go into closed session that was included on today’s agenda as the discussion is not needed. Adjourned at 9:20 a.m.

/s/Jon Green, Chairperson, Johnson County Board of Supervisors
Attest: /s/Julie Persons, Johnson County Auditor

On the 5th day of March, 2026
Recorded by Auditor’s Office: Marly Melsh, Executive Clerk to the Board
These minutes were sent for formal approval and publication on March 5, 2026.

Published in The News, Thursday, March 12, 2026 L-164

WASHINGTON COUNTY

911 COMMISSION/COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 18TH, 2026, 6:00 PM
WASHINGTON COUNTY EOC – EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS BUILDING
2183 LEXINGTON BLVD., WASHINGTON IA 52353

In attendance: Cara Sorrells, Ryan Miller, Jack Seward Jr., Sheriff Jared Schneider (virtually), Richard Young, Nathan Schmuckeer, Bill Farmer, Allen Schneider, and Millie Youngquist.

At 6:00 PM, prior to the regularly scheduled meetings, the Assessor’s Conference Board meeting began. It was agreed that for the months of February and March we would share meeting dates for the purpose of approving budgets, and to save extra meeting dates for the members serving on both boards. The Assessor’s Conference Board meeting ended at 6:42 PM.

At 6:44 PM, Chair Richard Young called the 911 Commission meeting to order. Present were representatives from Brighton, Riverside, Washington, Wellman, the Board of Supervisors, Emergency Management, and the Sheriff’s Office. The cities of Ainsworth, Crawfordsville, and Kalona lacked representation. A quorum was determined. Chair Richard Young made a request for approval of the agenda. Allen Schneider made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Millie Youngquist seconded the motion, and the agenda was ap-

proved with no one opposed. A request was then made for a motion to approve the minutes for the last meeting dated January 14th, 2026. Millie Youngquist made a motion to approve the minutes from the last meeting and the motion was seconded by Bill Farmer. No one was opposed and the motion passed.

The approval of claims was next, and Cara Sorrells detailed the claims. This month’s 911 claims contained expenditures totaling \$9,344.88 and revenue totaling \$55,669.73. The expenses included

the Quarter 2 PSAP payment to Iowa HSEMD in the amount of \$3,723.24. The total amount diverted to the State 911 Program from Washington County’s local 911 budget is \$6,315.82 to date. Allen Schneider made a motion to approve the claims as presented. The motion was seconded by Millie Youngquist. The motion to approve the claims was passed unanimously.

Under new business, Sorrells presented the FY ’27 budget to the Commission. The revenue was estimated to be \$230,935.50. All but \$12,000 of this amount is based on wireline and wireless surcharge received. There can be some fluctuation as these change in the future. The amount set for the budget expenditures was \$496,800. Ryan Miller made a motion to approve the budget for publication as presented. Miller’s motion was seconded by Allen Schneider. The public hearing date was set for next month’s meeting on March 10th, 2026. The motion to approve the budget

also passed unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was the review of generator maintenance quotes for six generators (five at the radio tower sites and one in the Emergency Communications building). Quotes were received by Cummins Sales & Service out of Cedar Rapids, Interstate Power Systems out of Cedar Rapids, and Ace Electric out of North Liberty. Cummins and Interstate Power both sent quotes for 3-years of service. Ace Electric sent a quote for only 1 year. Ryan Miller made a motion to seek a 3-year quote from Ace Electric and to pursue a contract with them if it was still more affordable. Allen Schneider seconded Miller’s motion and it was approved with no one opposed.

Under old business, Sorrells reported that SF 2022 and SF 2023 likely will not make it through the funnel. They are instead supporting SSB 3008 which is a devastating bill for local PSAPs. Although it contains a surcharge increase, that increase is tied to forced consolidation and other operational hardships for those PSAPs who are already consolidated. It does nothing to address the billing imposed by SF 659, forces the local 911 Commission to be taken over by EMA, turns all of the 911 assets over to EMA, and removes decision making from those who manage the local 911 centers currently on a daily basis.

The next meeting was scheduled for March 10th, 2026, at 6:00 PM.

A motion was made to adjourn the 911 Commission meeting by Millie Youngquist and seconded by Bill Farmer. The 911 Commission meeting was ad-

journed at 6:57 PM.

At 6:57 PM, Chairman Ryan Miller called the Communications Commission meeting to order. Present were representatives Jack Seward, Richard Young (sitting in for Stan Stoops), Ryan Miller, Allen Schneider (sitting in for Mark Robe), and Millie Youngquist. Alternate Bill Farmer was also present. A quorum was determined.

Chairman Miller made a request for an approval of the agenda. Jack Seward made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Allen Schneider seconded the motion, and the agenda was approved unanimously. A request was then made for a motion to approve the minutes from the previous meeting dated January 14th, 2026. Millie Youngquist made a motion to approve the minutes from the last meeting and the motion was seconded by Allen Schneider. No one was opposed and the motion passed.

The approval of the claims was next, and Cara Sorrells detailed the claims. The total of the claims was \$1,749.11 and there was revenue totaling \$295,681.50 to report from the 3rd quarter FY ’26 EMA levy. A motion was made by Millie Youngquist to approve the claims as presented. Allen Schneider seconded the motion, and the claims were approved with no one opposed.

There were no committee reports.

The next item under new business was the FY ’27 budget presentation, discussion, and approval for publication. Sorrells detailed the proposed Communica-

tions budget and the total amount of the expenditures total \$1,276,328.15. This amount includes the wage increase recommendation applied to the salary step plan, as well as an additional pay period this next fiscal year. The revenue is the same with \$30,000 coming from a budget transfer from 911, and the rest from the EMA levy. A motion was made by Millie Youngquist to approve the proposed budget as presented. Allen Schneider seconded the motion, and the FY ’27 budget was approved with no one opposed. The date set for the public hearing is also March 10th, 2026, at 6 PM.

The next Communications meeting was also set for March 10th, 2026, at 6:00 PM. This meeting will also be held in coordination with the County Assessor’s mandatory budgetary meetings.

Under old business, there was a brief staffing update. We recently interviewed and did Critical Hire testing on several good applicants for the full-time position. We should be extending the offer soon. Also, the IT department has completed the replacement of all the computers in the dispatch center.

Millie Youngquist made a motion to adjourn the Communications Commission meeting. Allen Schneider seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 7:03 PM.

Respectfully submitted by,
Cara Sorrells
911 Commission
Communication Commission

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WASHINGTON COUNTY REAL ESTATE

Dec 22 - 25

Kevin G Lake, Christine E Lake, C E Lake, grantor; Christy Lake Joint Trust, Kevin Lake Joint Trust, grantee; quit claim deed; Kalona North Ridge SD PT I Lot 53

Randall Martin, Dana Martin, grantor; Gregory M Gent, Georgia A Gent, grantee; warranty deed; Part NE 18-77-9; \$1,500,000

Michael C Hadley, Pamela Hadley, grantor; Michael C Hadley Revocable Trust, grantee; quit claim deed; part NE 34-74-9

Jason J Litwiller, Bridget C Litwiller, grantor; Prairie Key Rentals LLC, grantee; Prairie Key Rentals LLC, grantee; quit claim deed; Washington Dennys Add Lot B Block 5

G David Nacos, Lisa M Nacos, grantor; SAK Development Inc, grantee; warranty deed; Washington Prairie Ridge SD Lot 8-9; \$62,000

SAK Development Inc, grantor; VC Inc, grantee; warranty deed; Washington Prairie Ridge SD Lot 8-9; \$78,500

Cory S Canny Jessica A Canny, grantor; Prairie Key Rentals LLC, grantee; warranty deed; W 50 FT Washington AW Chilcotes Add Lot 7 Block 1; \$118,000

Neal G Megchelsen Estate, Karen S Megchelsen Executor, grantor; Karen S Megchelsen, grantee; court officer deed; Part SE SW 22-75-6; Part E2 NW 27-75-6; Aud Parc D, 2.38 Acres in Part NW 27-75-6; Lot 2 in Aud SD of SW NE 27-75-6; Lot 3 in Aud SD of SE NE 27-75-6; Part N2 NE SW 27-75-6; SE NE SW 27-75-6; N2 SE 27-75-6; Lot 1 in Aud SD of SW NE 27-7-6; N2 SW SE 27-75-6; Lot 1 in Aud SD of SW NE 27-75-6; N2 SW SE 27-75-6; SE SE 27-75-6; W2 SW 26-75-6; Lot A in NW NE 35-75-6; Comm at NW CORN 35-75-6 Thence E to NE Corn NW4

Benjamin J Baughman, Carma B Baughman, grantor; Sebastian L Hollandsworth, Makenna J Hollandsworth, grantee; warranty deed; Part Washington East Washington Lot 1 Block 2; \$230,000

Neal Horning Executor, Walter E Horning Jr Estate, grantor; Nicholas W Rogers, Jordan L Rogers, grantee; court officer deed; Aud Parc F, Part Aud Parc B & Aud Parc E in SE SE 12-76-8

James R Peiffer, Angela M Peiffer, grantee; James R Peiffer Revocable Trust, James R Peiffer Trustee; quit claim deed; Undivided ½ Int in Washington WE Chilcotes Add Lot 2

James R Peiffer, Angela M Peiffer, grantor; Angela M Peiffer Revocable Trust, Angela M Peiffer Trustee; quit claim deed; Undivided ½ Int in Washington WE Chilcotes Add Lot 2

Christopher Lane Janecek, Julie Ann Janecek, grantee; C & J Janecek Farms LLC, grantee; quit claim deed; NW SE 22-75-6; part SE NE 03-74-9; E2 SE 03-74-9

Christopher L Janecek, Julie A Janecek, grantor; C & J Janecek Farms LLC, grantee; quit claim deed; Aud Parc

A in SE SW 07-75-8

Christopher L Janecek, Christopher Janecek, Julie A Janecek, Julie Janecek, grantor; C & J Janecek Farms LLC, grantee; quit claim deed; Aud Parc A in NW NW 32-75-9; Aud Parc D, part Lot 2 NE NW 03-74-9; Part SW NE 03-74-9

Anderson M Gearhart, Martha R Gearhart, grantor; Michael Gearhart, grantee; warranty deed; Kalona Morning-side Add Lot 7 Block 2; \$215,000

Tim J Greiner, Mary L Greiner, grantor; Morgan Steinberg, Ryan Steinberg, grantee; warranty deed; undivided ½ Interest; Lot 2 of Lot C of Washington AW Chilcotes OL Add Lot OL 9

Betty Stumpf, Randy Stumpf, Barbara Goodwin, Barbara Kauffman, John Goodwin, grantor; Kaylin E Oetken, Christian L Oetken, grantee; warranty deed; Part Wellman Heights Add Lot OL 2; \$180,000

Michael D Conrad CoTrustee, Nathan Chalupa CoTrustee, Dennis B Conrad Revocable Trust, grantor; Nathan Chalupa, grantee; warranty deed; SW SW 20-75-9

Roberta L Garrels, grantor; Roberta L Garrels Trustee, Roberta L Garrels Family Trust, grantee; quit claim deed; Washington Highland park Add Lot 5-6 Block 38

Jeffrey W Freyenberger, grantor; Meredith Eaton, James Eaton, grantee; warranty deed; Kalona Kreekside SD Lot 24; \$315,000

Luclyuz G Fuller, L G Fuller, grantor; Dakota K Longbine, grantee; warranty deed; Ainsworth West Side Add Lot 7-8 Block 3; W 38 FT Ainsworth West Side Add Lot 9 Block 3; \$110,000

Dec 29 – Jan 2

Vina R Seeley, Jonah J Seeley, grantor; Kieran Williams, Gabriella Williams, grantee; warranty deed; Ainsworth Wilsons SD Lot 1-2; \$285,000

Lavon J Bontrager, Vesta R Bontrager, grantor; Lincoln Taylor Bontrager, Susanna J Bontrager, grantee; warranty deed; Rural Subdivisions Kola Avenue SD Lot 2; \$142,000

Virginia A Bordwell Trustee, Virginia A Bordwell Living Trust, grantor; Richard S Bordwell Trustee, Richard S Bordwell Living Trust, grantee warranty deed; Undivided ½ Interest: Washington OP Lot B Block 7

Richard S Borwell Trustee, Richard S Bordwell Living Trust, Virginia A Bordwell, grantor; Phillip W Parsons, Jessica J Parsons, grantee; contract; Washington OP Lot B Block 7

Darren R Brown, Megan Brown, grantor; Isaiah Properties LLC, grantee; quit claim deed; W 9 FT Washington Southwest Washington Lot 1 Block 5; E57 FT Washington Southwest Washington Lot 2 Block 5

Leo Sieren Farms LLC, grantor; Brandon Ray Sieren, grantee; warranty deed; W2 E2 SE 30-77-9; \$546,000

JD Wollrab, J D Wollrab, Sue B Wollrab, Sue Wollrab, grantor; Nathan J Yahnhke, Tessa R Winn, grantee; warranty deed; Rural Subdivisions Vine Acres SD

Lot 1; \$120,000
W Edward Whetstine, William Edward Whetstine, Sally J Whetstine, grantor; W Edward Whetstine Trustee, W Edward Whetstine Revocable Trust, Sally J Whetstine Trustee, Sally J Whetstine Revocable Trust, grantee; warranty deed; Wellman Stone Gate Estates SD Lot 2; Lot 1 SD of E2 SW 22-77-9; Part Lot 7 Aud SD of NE 27-77-9

Highland Land Company LLC, grantor; 1734 Vine Ave Holdings LLC, grantee; warranty deed; Lot 1 of Aud Parc G, Cont 2.30 Acres in SW NW 10-75-6; \$1,765,000

Miller North LLC, grantor; 1734 Vine Ave Holdings LLC, grantee; warranty deed; part Aud Parc G SW NW 10-76-8; \$25,000

Michael A Patton Estate, Jerrica N Patton CoAdministrator, Eric Patton Co-Administrator, grantor; Roy Schneider, Ceanne Alvine, grantee; court officer deed; part W 123.75 FT Washington South Washington Block 17; \$185,000
Lucille Gault Humphreys Living Trust, Paul Eric Humphreys Trustee, grantor; Mary Kay Rappenecker, Paul Eric Humphreys, Lynne Roberta Humphreys, Anne Elizabeth Dengler, Chris Ewing Humphreys, grantee; warranty deed; Undivided ½ Int in: W2 SW 13-74-6

Lucille Gault Humphreys Living Trust, Paul Eric Humphreys Trustee, grantor; Mary Kay Rappenecker, Paul Eric Humphreys, Lynne Roberta Humphreys, Anne Elizabeth Dengler, Chris Ewing Humphreys, Lucille Gault Humphreys, grantee; warranty deed; Undivided ½ Int in: E2 NW24-74-6

Lucille Gault Humphreys Living Trust, Paul Eric Humphreys Trustee, grantor; Lynne Roberta Humphreys, Lucille Gault Humphreys, Mary Kay Rappenecker, Paul Eric Humphreys, Anne Elizabeth Dengler, Chris Ewing Humphreys, grantee; Undivided ½ Int: Aud Parc B in the NE NW 26-74-6; SE SW 13-74-6

Leo Sieren Farms LLC, grantor; Bryce Anthony Sieren, Ashlin Paige Sieren, grantee; warranty deed; E2 E2 SE 30-77-9; \$454,000

Withoft Apartments LLC, grantor; Village Court apartments LLC, grantee; warranty deed; Washington Congers Add Lot 4-10; Part Washington Congers Add lot 3; part Washington Congers Add Lot OL 3 & 4

Kelly A Carmichael, grantor; Grant Schmidt, Miranda Meadows Schmidt, Miranda Schmidt Meadows, grantee; warranty deed; E 22 FT of Brighton OP Lot 7 Block 2; \$130,000

Sylvia R Miller, Sylvia R Miller Life Estate, grantor; Karen Waters, grantee; quit claim deed; Kalona Snider & Allen Add Lot 6-7 Block 4

JD Wollrab, J D Wollrab, Sue B Wollrab, Sue Wollrab, grantor; Alan G Beers, Rita J Beers, grantee; warranty deed; rural Subdivisions Vine Acres SD Lot 2; \$125,000

JD Wollrab, J D Wollrab, Sue B Wollrab, Sue Wollrab, grantor; Alan G Beers, Rita J Beers, grantee; warranty deed; part NE NE 16-76-6; \$155,000

James R Peiffer, Angela M Peiffer,

grantor; Peiffer Family Farms LLC, grantee; quit claim deed; NW SW 09-74-7
James R Peiffer, Angela M Peiffer, grantor Peiffer Family Farms LLC, grantee; quit claim deed; E 2 NWFR 4 01-74-8
James R Peiffer, Angela M Peiffer, grantor; Peiffer Family Farms LLC, grantee; quit claim deed; Part SWFR4 06-74-7
James R Peiffer, Angela M Peiffer, Angela Peiffer, grantor; Peiffer Family Farms LLC, grantee; quit claim deed; Part W2 SE 02-74-8

Christopher J Wulf, Christopher Wulf, Chris Wulf, Edward Charles Wulf Agent, Jordan T Wulf, grantor Stanley A Jones Trustee, Stanley A Jones Revocable Trust, grantee; warranty deed; Aud Parc A in E2 SE 35-76-9; \$170,000

Jan 5 – 9

Dale E Roberts Farms Inc, grantor; Whiteway Farm Inc, grantee; warranty deed; part SW NE 23-75-6; Part NW SE 23-75-6; \$689,500

Elizabeth A Bennett, Thomas Bennett, grantor; Christian Schwartz, Starla D Schwartz, grantee; warranty deed; Lot C in SD of Kalona Snider & Allen SD Lot 6

Dale E Roberts Farms Inc, grantor; Adam D Kaufman, Erin I Kaufman, grantee; warranty deed; Aud Parc F

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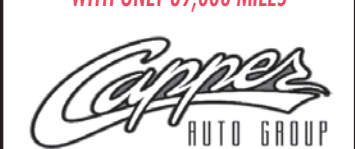
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WASHINGTON COUNTY DISPATCH

March 2
Caller in the 200 block of E 1st St., Riverside, reports vandalism to a vehicle. Caller reports following a truck pulling a trailer that crossed the center line many times and almost went into the ditch as well. Operator was located at the Kalona Sales Barn. Arrested Harry David Howk, 66, of Bloomfield for OWI 2nd.

Caller in the 600 block of 4th St., Wellman, requests a deputy regarding an issue at her residence. Male party at the same residence reports his vehicle was taken by his girlfriend without his permission. Arrested Shyenne Lorraine Chamber, 36, of Wellman for criminal mischief 2nd degree.

Caller requests a welfare check on a friend who was possibly drinking and driving. Unknown direction of travel from Kalona. Responded. Spoke with the person and family. Report was unfounded and he is fine.

Caller in the 100 block of 9th St., Kalona, reports subject acting suspicious and making the female employees uncomfortable. Spoke with the caller. Extra patrol will be provided.

Caller reports residential burglary alarm in the 2100 block of 140th St., Kalona. General motion detector. Responded. Residence was secure and contact was made with owners.

March 3
Deputy received a report of a missing juvenile who may be in the Kalona area. Unable to locate. Spoke with parent who will contact North Liberty Police again to get them entered into the system.

Caller reports a storage unit with forced entry at East Side Storage, Kalona. Report to be filed.

Caller in Riverside requests to speak with a deputy regarding a vape product brought to school by a student. Responded. Item was not a tobacco vape product. The school will handle the incident internally.

Report of a dog bite that occurred in rural Washington County. Deputy spoke with the property owner and the incident occurred at the residence in Iowa County. Forward the information to Iowa County.

Caller in the 500 block of Main St., Kalona, reports three carbon monoxide detectors are going off in her residence. Kalona Fire responded. Alliant was notified.

Caller in the 800 block of 7th St, Washington, reports a fire in the ceiling. Washington Fire, City Units, Washington EMS responded. Fire extinguished. Kalona Fire and Ainsworth Fire were paged for mutual aid and disregarded before going enroute.

Caller reports a traffic accident tin the casino parking lot. No injuries. Operators: Karmell Louise Bowen of Coralville and Daniel Craig Bilharz of Nashua. State report filed.

Caller in the 2700 block of Hwy 22, Riverside, reports their garage was broken into at some point during the day. Documentation only at this time.

Deputy advised out with four juveniles on Riverside Road and 130th St. Spoke with the subjects. Advised everything was okay.

March 4
Caller requested a welfare check in Kalona. Responded. Subject was alright, no issues.

Caller reports a suspicious vehicle parked in a timber driveway on Juniper Ave. Responded. Unable to locate the vehicle.

Caller in the 800 block of 5th St., Kalona, requests a deputy for a vehicle parked outside for over 2 hours. Responded and marked the tires.

Traffic stop in the 3000 block of Hwy 22, Riverside. Deroginald Von Morgan, of Cedar Rapids was cited for driving under suspension and received 2 citations for no insurance and operating an unregistered vehicle.

Cedar Rapids and Johnson County request deputies to assist searching for a male at Hwy 22 and Sioux Ave, Lone Tree.

March 5
Caller in Kalona requests to speak with a deputy in reference to a student

who assaulted 3 staff members and his mother on school grounds this morning. Student is no longer there as the parents have picked him up. Report filed.

Caller reports they had a shoplifter at Kwi Star yester. Report to be filed.

Caller in Wellman requested welfare check for a male subject who made suspicious comments. Responded. Subject is alright.

Caller reports kids playing in the press box on the loudspeaker at the soccer field in Wellman. Deputy responded and made contact with the coach who advised they were using a different field and the speakers. They will turn the volume down.

Caller reports a two-vehicle accident with no injuries at 1st St and W H Ave, Kalona. Road is blocked. Operators: Adam Unruch of Wayland and juvenile of Kalona.

March 6
Caller in the 1400 block of Walter Mapp Dr, Riverside, reports her carbon monoxide alarms are going off and she does not feel good. Riverside Fire and Washington County ambulance responded. Residence was cleared.

March 7
Johnson County requests Riverside Fire for mutual aid to a structure at 646 Beachview Drive. Trailer on fire. Responded and assisted.

Caller in the 1200 block of 7th Ave, Wellman, requests an officer due to an argument at the residence where she has been staying. Responded. Verbal only and property owners were advised of the eviction process.

Caller at 5273 Cosgrove Rd requests Kalona QRS and Kalona Fire for minor vehicle accident. Kalona QRS and Kalona Fire responded and assisted.

Caller reports a German shepherd in the median on Hwy 218. Dog was caught and taken to Paws & More.

Caller in Riverside requests documentation for an incident that occurred today where a customer threatened the manager. Documentation only.

March 8
Caller reports a two-vehicle accident at Hwy 218 and 175th St. Vehicle hit the back end of a semi. One person injured. Riverside Fire, Riverside QRS responded. Operators: Ivan Lorenzo Bailey of Burlington and Allen William Ginnett of Allespot, Washington. Charges pending per DCI results.

Deputy reports following up on a suspicious activity incident that occurred last night in the 1000 block of 6th St., Wellman.

Caller in the 1900 block of 140thSt., Wellman, reports she believes neighbors are shooting guns towards her residence. Responded. Subject were not shooting towards the residence.

Jan 5 - 9
Dale E Roberts Farms Inc, grantor; Highland Land Company LLC, grantee; warranty deed; Part Lot 2 in Aud SD of SW SE 13-7-6; Lot 2 in Aud SD of SE SE 13-75-6; \$132,500

Cedar Bay Inc, grantor; Ronald R Sexton, Theresa A Sexton, grantee; warranty deed; Rural Subdivisions Cedar Bay SD lot OL A; \$71,500

Cedar Bay Inc, grantor; Ronald R Sexton, Theresa A Sexton, grantee; Rural Subdivisions Cedar Bay SD Lot 8-28; \$19,500

Kristin Trinidad, Kristin Trinidad Mosley, Kristin McElhinney, Eloy Trinidad Mosley, grantor; Thomas Gerot, Angela Gerot, grantee; warranty deed; Somm on W Line of Main St; 471.5 FT S of N Side of Crawfordsville 74-6-15; \$97,500

Tim J Greiner, Mary L Greiner, grantor; Morgan Steinberg, Ryan Steinberg, grantee; warranty deed; undivided ½ Interest: Lot 1 of Lot C of Washington AW Chilcoets OL Add Lot OL 9

Leonard E Malmberg, Clarissa Malmberg, Leonard E Malmberg Power of Attorney, Leonard E Malmberg Attorney in Fact, grantor; Leonard E Malmberg, grantee; warranty; S2 NW 05-74-6; N2 SW 05-74-6; Part NE SE 06-74-6; S2 SE NE 06-74-6; Lot 2, 58.50 Acres in Aud SD S2 NE05-74-6; Part RR Row in NE SE 06-74-6; Part RR Row in NW SW 05-74-6

JD Wollrab, J D Wollrab, Sue Beth Wollrab, Sue B Wollrab, grantor; Nicholas L Stumpf, Susan R Stumpf, grantee; warranty deed; Amended Aud Parc A in Part NE SE 08-76-6; \$2000

Frances Batterson, Jeffrey R Batterson Agent, grantor; Adin N Herr, Lindsay R Herr, grantee; warranty deed; Washington OP Lot 3 Block 16; \$196,000

Krystal Kay Easton, Brian Yanish, grantor; Trisha Morrison, grantee; warranty deed; Washington MM Youngs 1st Add Lot B Block 2; \$91,000

Jan 12 - 16
Mark H Beenblossom, Mark Harold Beenblossom, Christi A Beenblossom, Christi Ann Beenblossom, grantor; Mark H Beenblossom, Christi A Beenblossom, grantee; warranty deed; S2 SE 01-74-8; SE SW 01-74-8; NE SW 01-74-8; NW SE 1-74-8; NW NE 12-74-8; W2 NW 33-75-7; NE 32-75-7

Mary Wieland, grantor; Randall J Wieland, grantee; warranty deed; ½ Int In: SE SE 27-77-6; NW SW 26-77-6; E2 NE 35-77-6; Part NW NW 35-77-6

Mary Wieland, grantor; Randall J Wieland, Rebecca Hedden, grantee; warranty deed; Aud Parc C in NW NW 36-77-6

Philip Gene Guy Estate, Tom K Guy Executor, grantor; Toni K Guy Trustee, Toni Kay Guy Trust, grantee; court officer deed; SE 01-75-8; S 12 FT of SW NE 01-75-8; Part SE NE 01-75-8; Part NE NE 08-74-8; Part NW 09-74-8; W2 NE 09-74-8; Part SE 07-74-8; Part S ¾ of

SW NW 17-74-8; Part SE NW 17-74-8; Part N2 SW 17-74-8; Lot 1 Aud SD of SE 17-74-8; Aud Parc I, Part 17-74-8 & Part SE SE 18-74-8; Part N2 20-74-89; Part SE SW 17-74-8; Amended Aud Parc B in NW NE 20-74-8 & in Part Lot B & Part Lot E SD of N2 NE 20-74-8; Part Lot 2 in SE 17-74-8; Part Lots C & E in N2 NE 20-74-8; SW NE 20-74-8

Amanda Legate, Daniel Legate, grantor; Ross G Thompson, Betsy M Thompson, grantee; warranty deed; W 29 FT Kalona Myers 2nd Add Lot 8 Block 2; Kalona Myers 2nd Add Lot 9-10 block 2; \$225,000

Air Dr Rentals LLC, grantor; Brian Patrick Murphy, Sonya J Murphy, grantee; warranty deed; E 22 FT Brighton Original Town Brighton Lot 3 Block 7

Carl D Bener, grantor; Pamela M Bender, grantee; deed of surviving spouse; Wellman Wakelees 2nd Add Lot 9 & 10

Debra Lynn Montoya Estate, Marcy Linn Free Administrator, Marcy L Free Administrator, grantor; Reformation Church of Washington, grantee; court officer deed; N 60 FT of Washington Add to Washington Lot 5 & 6 Block 5; \$29,000

Washington State Bank Executor, Larry I Fishback, Mary Ellen Dawson Estate, grantor; Washington State Bank Trustee, Mary Ellen Dawson Trust, grantee; court officer deed; SE SE SE 15-75-8; NW NW 23-75-8; Part SE SE 15-75-8

Hills Bank & Trust Company, grantor; NAB Investments Inc, grantee; special warranty deed; Riverside OP Lot 5 & 6 Block 4; \$39,000

Kasandra Sypherd, grantor; Michael Sypherd II, grantee; quit claim deed; commencing at NW Corn 12-74-6 thence E 674 FT, Thence S, W & N

Jan 19 - 23
Steven J Quinn, Kristina L Quinn, grantor; Randy A Goldstein, April Goldstein, grantee; warranty deed; Washington Prairie Home Ad Lot 4; \$387,000

Ray Mourer Farms LLC, grantor; Brett Mourer, grantee; warranty deed; E2 SW 20-74-9; SE NW 20-74-9; Part Lots 1 & 2 in SD of N ¾ of E2 32-74-9; Lot E in S2 SE 17-74-9

Ray Mourer Farms LLC, grantor; Eddy L Seevers Trustee, Jill L Seevers Trustee, Eddy L Seevers Revocable Living Trust, grantee; warranty deed; Part E2 SE 19-74-9; Part SE NE 19-74-9; W2 SE 19-74-9; SW NE 19-74-9; SE NW 19-74-9; E2 SW NW 19-74-9; E2 SE SW 19-74-9; E2 NE SW 19-74-9; E2 NE SW 19-74-9; W2 E2 SW 19-74-9; WFR2 SW 19-74-9

Mourer Farms Inc, grantor; S & B Iowa Farms LLC, grantee; warranty deed; Lot F in E ¾ of S2 17-74-9; NE NW 20-74-9; NW NE 20-74-9

Fawndoeubuck LLC, Fawndowbuck LLC, grantor; NKNI Properties LLC, D Rich Properties LLC, grantee; warranty deed; Part W2 NW 16-74-6; \$850,000

Virginia A Bordwell Trustee, Virginia A Bordwell Living Trust, Richard S Bordwell, grantor; Richard S Bordwell Trustee, Richard S Bordwell Living Trust, grantee; warranty deed; Undivided ½ Interest: Washington OP Lot B Block 7

Jeffrey S Temple Administrator, Jeff S Temple Administrator, Timothy lee Temple Estate, grantor; Lael Stout, Penny Stout, grantee; court officer deed; NE NE 34-76-7; SE NE 34-76-7; \$1,284,000

Shirley K Madden Revocable Trust, Kenneth E Madden CoTrustee, Chad Grieser CoTrustee, grantor; DBA Farms Partnership, grantee; warranty deed; E2 SW 32-74-6 with Easement; \$987,000

NKNI Properties LLC, grantor; William Gene Wilkerson Jr, Amanda Rae Siverly, grantee; warranty deed; Riverside OP Lot 7 Block 8; E 27 FT Riverside OP Lot 8 Block 8; \$180,000

Gerald D Vittetoe, Debra J Vittetoe, grantor; Jordan T Vittetoe, grantee; special warranty deed; Aud Parc A in Part SE SE 14-75-9; \$500,000

Roger A Lillie, grantor; Sarah M Lillie, grantee; deed of surviving spouse; W 60 Rods of lot 5 in N2 SE 09-74-7; Part E2 SW 09-74-7

Nancy Sue Wood Estate, Christopher M Sumouske Administrator, grantor; Christopher M Sumouske, grantee; court officer deed; Unit 2, Farm & Home Mutual Washington Lofts in Part Washington OP Lot 2 Block 12 & Units Undivided Interest in Common Area

Jason P Gehrs, Carol A Gehrs, grantor; Jason P Gehrs Trustee, Jason P Gehrs Revocable Trust, Carol A Gehrs Trustee, Carol A Gehrs Revocable Trust, grantee; quit claim deed; Riverside OP Lot 1-3 Block 5

Frank Joseph Skubal, Judy A Skubal, grantor; Skubal Family Farm LLC, grantee; quit claim deed; N2 SE 26-76-6; S2 NW 26-76-6; E2 SW 25-75-6; S2 SE 26-76-6; SW SE 26-76-6; N2 NE 12-75-6; Lots 2 & 3 in E2 SE 25-76-6

Timothy R Brinning, Angela R Brinning, grantor; Timothy R Brinning Revocable Trust, Angela R Brinning Revocable Trust, grantee; warranty deed; Washington Highland Park Add Lot 4 Block 41

Timothy R Brinning, Angela R Brinning, grantor; Timothy R Brinning Revocable Trust, Angela R Brinning Revocable Trust, grantee; warranty deed; W2 SW 02-74-8; E2 NE 03-74-8; Part E2 SE 03-74-8

DLEL LLC, DLEL Investments LLC, grantor; Kim Barnes, grantee; warranty deed; Washington MM Youngs 2nd Add Lot 5 Block 6; \$114,000



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