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# THE RED OAK Express

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## Zimbabwe author pens book, visits 'family' in Red Oak

**Nick Johansen**  
 The Red Oak Express

A Zimbabwe native with Red Oak ties has recently penned a book. The book is titled, "Promise Me-You Will Take Care of Your Brother: A Memoir of Faith, Dreams, and Everyday Miracles." The author, Fungisai Nota, came to the United States in 2000 to attend college at Simpson College in Indianola. At college, he met Red Oak's Andy Rea, and in the summer of 2001, stayed with Rea and the Hollen family during the summer break. He's stayed close to the Hollen family ever since.

Nota said the book is a memoir that chronicles his external and internal life journey from the time of his birth until 2015.

"The year 2015 is special because that's when I resigned from my formal job to start my own business. The book pays special attention to my mother, the lessons and the legacy she left me, but also pays tribute and gratitude to a lot of other individuals who played a pivotal role in helping me along my journey, and highlights the power of very ordinary people to make an extraordinary impact in the lives of other people," said Nota.

The title of the book also carried a very special meaning to Nota. They were his mother's last words to him.

"I was only 11, and she was very ill. My brother was only two years old. The last time I went to see her, just before I left, she pulled me close and asked me to promise that I will take care of my brother. That was the last thing she said to me before she passed," commented Nota.



Author Fungisai Nota speaks with Red Oak students during his recent visit to Red Oak on Sept. 9. (Photo submitted)

While the first draft of the book didn't take long to complete, Nota said it sat untouched for a while before he proceeded further.

"It only took about four to six weeks for the original draft, which I wrote in 2020. It sat on my desk for a year, and then I went back to it. When I wrote the book initially, I was just going through the narrative of what happened. When I went back to it after a year, I did some more internal reflection. What did that mean to me? How did it change me? Now instead of a narrative, it's showing how I was changing as an individual inside as well." Since he lost his parents at an early age, he said he always wondered if they were alive, what they would be teaching and telling him. When he had his own child in 2013, Nota said he wanted to start a legacy for his child,

and that led to his memoir.

"I decided on every birthday for my son, I'd write him a letter. When he was one, a one-page letter, two, a two-page letter, until he was 21, and then keep them in a safe and give him all 21 letters," Nota said. "In 2020, my son was turning seven, and I had to write a seven-page letter. It made me reflect and ask what I was really trying to say in these letters? I realized what I was really trying to do was introduce my son to the extended family he never met, share the lessons my mother and grandmother taught me, and the major life lessons I have learned on my journey. I didn't stop at seven pages, I decided to just make it into a complete story, one that wasn't cut up into letters, and write it into a book. It really motivated me to try to create a legacy for my son that helps him understand where he comes from. I believe understanding where you come from will give you a foundation to really be the best version of oneself."

As he put the story together, Nota said some parts were easier for him to put to the page than others.

"The easier parts were when I had to reflect on the people who are still alive who helped me along my path. It was easy to go through my experiences in Red Oak and how people came together. When writing about the passing of my mother, that was challenging, as well as writing about the challenges and tribulations that she went through. The most challenging thing was understanding what it meant to me, and how it changed me internally, as a person, when I was experiencing all these things," explained Nota.

**NOTA, Page 8A**



Kelli Bucy sits among the pumpkins of all sizes, shapes and colors at Bucy Pumpkins, located at 2163 Hazel Dr., Red Oak. (Tess Nelson/Red Oak Express)

## Ripe for the pickin' at Bucy's Pumpkins

**Tess Nelson**  
 The Red Oak Express

Roughly 20 varieties of pumpkins in all shapes, sizes, and colors, are available for purchase at Bucy's Pumpkins, located just south of Red Oak.

Kelli and Derrick Bucy have been growing pumpkins for several years, but two years ago they drastically expanded the size of the patch.

"We used to have the area baled by Tony Johnson, but it didn't produce much alfalfa, so Derrick plowed it up and we planted more pumpkins," Kelli said.

Varieties of pumpkins grown by the Bucys include Warty Goblin, Big Man, Gardell, Wolf, Jarrahdale, Turk's Turban, Prize Winner, Porcelain Doll, Polar Bear, Igor, Midnight, Sunshine, Popcorn and Lemonade. However, Kelli's favorite is a nice, big jack-o-lantern with lots of ribs in it.

"To me, it's just beautiful."

Kelli starts the seeds in a little greenhouse towards the end of April. She purchases new seed from well-known nurseries and nurtures them inside until after Mother's Day weekend. To figure

out exactly when the seeds should be planted, she relies on a calendar and how many days it takes each variety to grow. She said most varieties are 80 to 90 days, but some are as much as 110 days growth.

"Plants get shocked when they come from a warm environment and they're stuck in the barren ground and expected to grow," Kelli said. "Usually Mother's Day weekend is the last really cold spell."

When planting outside, Kelli said she and Derrick run a string line with 35 plants every six feet, running 12 feet long.

Birds and ants are known for stealing newly planted seed, Kelli warned, while raccoons, deer and insects cause issues until harvest.

In addition to new seed, Kelli said it is important to water the newly planted pumpkins almost excessively. She soaks the soil with water before and after putting the plant in the ground.

"If you are having difficulty growing pumpkins, it is most likely the seed. Seed makes a big difference," Kelli said. "And when I plant, I drown them

**BUCY, Page 8A**



Zane Eberly of Clarinda picks out a pumpkin at Bucy's Pumpkins in Red Oak. (Tess Nelson/Red Oak Express)

## City's ARPA funds to be used on several water and sewer projects

**Tess Nelson**  
 The Red Oak Express

Red Oak City Administrator Brad Wright informed the council on how the city's American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds will be used during the Oct. 3 regular meeting. The City of Red Oak has received \$778,000 in ARPA funds to be used on projects where the city has claimed "lost revenue" from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Wright's projects total nearly \$896,000 and include a digital mapping system of the city's water system, where a company will come in and copy the current water maps onto a digital system. Wright also wants the funds to be used for a G Avenue water extension project on the west side of town, which is a water main that needs extending; the replacement of a bad water valve at the intersection of Broadway and Maple Street and a water main project on the south end of town on South 4th Street from Oakwood to Park Avenues.

Installing a water insertion valve system, a water and storm sewer project on Eastern Avenue, and replac-



Red Oak City Administrator Brad Wright and Mary Bolton, city clerk listen to council comments at the Oct. 3 meeting. (Tess Nelson/Red Oak Express)

ing six-to-eight storm inlets around the community at a price of roughly \$6,500 per inlet are also on Wright's list. This is in addition to using roughly \$260,000 in ARPA funds on two new ambulances.

Red Oak Mayor Shawna Silvius said she would like to use about \$15,000 of ARPA funds on improving council chambers and council meetings. She added she had spoken to officials with the state auditor's office on whether her upgrades qualify and

received word they did.

"I was going to propose that we look at some furniture that is portable for council meetings and include speakers for those that are on Zoom who can't hear, microphones so the audience can hear, and possibly some A/V upgrades," said Silvius.

Wright replied, "We had no lost revenue that we could point to, so then I believe you're limited to the infrastructure type things that are identified, that's my understanding; I could be wrong but I've worked with John McCurdy from SWIPCO in trying to get clarification on some of those. It opens up the scope if you can identify lost revenue and again, as we went through this and tried to track revenues as we were going through COVID; frankly, we didn't have lost revenue."

Councilman Brian Bills volunteered to contact McCurdy with SWIPCO to double check on whether or not Silvius' recommendations could be considered "lost revenue."

Also at the meeting, members of the council approved funding recommendations from members of the

**COUNCIL, Page 8A**



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# Stronger IT security approved by supervisors

Nick Johansen  
The Red Oak Express

The Montgomery County Board of Supervisors approved another purchase at the Sept. 27 meeting to strengthen the county's IT infrastructure.

County IT director Sonia Morrison presented the supervisors with a quote from Heartland Business Systems for a new firewall, at a cost of \$30,700. Morrison said there are a number of benefits the new firewall will bring to the county that it is not getting from its existing software.

"Right now, we have multiple small firewalls at each location. With the new fiber being able to connect the county departments together, this new firewall is larger and more robust and gives us more options and protection. It's also a Meraki firewall, so it will also work well with the rest of the equipment we're getting with the cabling and switch upgrades, as those are Meraki equipment as well," explained Morrison.

Morrison also stressed the importance of having a strong firewall to protect all the users and information.

"It helps with intrusion prevention, and you can completely block off geographical areas. As we all know, with things going on in the world today, there are certain countries we may want to block. This firewall gives us the opportunity to do that, and comes with phishing protection, content filtering, and intrusion detection and prevention. It has a lot of available features that will be a big benefit," said Morrison.

Morrison had a second quote for a firewall, but that totaled over \$36,000, and her recommendation was to proceed with the Heartland Business Solutions quote.

"The company is based out of Urbandale, and they are also pro-

viding the equipment we approved at the Sept. 20 meeting. I've had glowing reports from other IT directors that have used them," commented Morrison.

Supervisor Donna Robinson asked how soon the new firewall could be put into place. Morrison said she was waiting to see how soon the fiber lines and new network equipment could be delivered and installed.

"The orders have been placed, but so far, only three switches have been shipped. Once all the equipment is in, I'll have a better timeline to give the supervisors. Some of the shipping is up in the air on certain pieces as well. It's the time we're living in right now."

The supervisors approved Morrison's recommendation for the purchase of the new firewall, for \$30,700. Morrison was asked what big ticket items remained in upgrading the county's IT infrastructure. Morrison said there were only a couple of remaining pieces to upgrade.

"The server upgrade is one of the more expensive items. The server upgrade has to happen to bring secondary roads, the emergency management agency, and public health onto everything with us, which the new fiber lines will allow us to do. It also needed upgraded anyway. It's out of warranty, and we had two audits from outside IT firms, and both audits indicated we needed to make an upgrade. If it goes down, we're basically dead in the water," stated Morrison. "By upgrading the server, and increasing the size, we'll have room to grow. Right now, as it is, we have no room to grow. I can't add another server to it even if I wanted to. We don't have the RAM or storage space to accommodate that."

The other needed upgrade was Microsoft Office 365. Morrison was still getting pricings for those two pieces, and they will be brought before the supervisors for a vote at a future meeting. Morrison said once those upgrades are complete, those will be her last big-ticket item requests for quite a while.



## Thank you

The Montgomery County Sheriff's Office is honoring two longstanding employees. This year, communications supervisor Jackie Laire celebrated her 45th year working with the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office. Sheriff's deputy Chris Stephens is celebrating his 30th year of service with the sheriff's office. (Photos provided)

# Board learns of pipeline ordinance misinformation

Nick Johansen  
The Red Oak Express

The Montgomery County Board of Supervisors cleared up some misinformation and continued to discuss legal options regarding the proposed Summit Carbon pipeline at its Sept. 27 meeting.

Grant Terry, a Summit Carbon Pipeline Solutions project manager had spoken at a recent meeting of the Montgomery County Planning and Zoning Commission, and at a supervisors meeting, saying that the Shelby County Supervisors Chairman, Steve Kenkel, who helped draft the Shelby County pipeline ordinance, was a member of BOLD Nebraska, an activist group. Jan Norris was the first to defend Kenkel during the public comment period of the meeting.

"If there are any questions about Kenkel's affiliation, I urge the supervisors to contact the Shelby County Board of Supervisors, or BOLD Nebraska, and ask them, because he is not, and this is misinformation," Norris said.

Supervisor Donna Robinson also came to Kenkel's defense, confirming that Kenkel was not a member of BOLD Nebraska.

"Steve Kenkel is definitely not a member of BOLD Nebraska. He has been working on ordinances and doing research on this for probably close to a year, and he was reaching out to get some information and reached out to that group, but he is not a member of them. He also spoke at a seminar, but he was a guest speaker, commenting about what was taking place in Iowa," commented Robinson.

Supervisors Chair Mark Peterson and Supervisor Randy Cooper attended a public hearing held by the Shelby County Board of Supervisors over the proposed carbon pipeline ordinance on Sept. 23, but the meeting was largely informational, and no action was taken.

Discussion also focused on whether or not the county should hire the services of Ahlers and Cooney to help draft an ordinance for Montgomery County. Supervisor Mike Olson again expressed his opinion against drafting an ordinance, citing legal fees if the issue went into litigation.

"If we end up in court, and this goes on for two or three years, like I feel the opposition to the pipeline wants, who's going to pay for these legal fees? That's taxpayer money, not our money. Once you start into litigation in a multi-year fight, that's going to get expensive. Plus, even if we get into this, it doesn't matter anyway. They're going to go by the Iowa Utilities Board guidelines," stated Olson.

Supervisors Randy Cooper and Charla Schmid again expressed their opinions that the county should pass an ordinance to offer whatever protection they could give to the residents of the county. Cooper

said if they didn't pass an ordinance to save being sued by the pipeline company, they could instead be sued by the county's residents.

"If we do not put an ordinance in place, kind of like Page County is doing with their wind power, they're being sued by the citizens. Why couldn't the citizens sue us? And then we have to ask who's going to pay for that litigation," said Cooper.

Schmid stated that they shouldn't base their entire decision on whether or not they were going to sue. "If they are going to sue us, then they're bullies. To me, it's just a fear factor," commented Schmid.

Peterson said he had conversations with County Attorney Drew Swanson and zoning administrator Barry Byers, who both recommended discussions be held with Tim Whipple with Ahlers & Cooney.

"They recommended I speak with Whipple to make sure that what we're doing is the right thing. And there's nothing to say we can't simply ask him whether we're just wasting our time," Peterson said.

Robinson was in agreement with having conversations with Whipple, as this was outside of the area of expertise of both Byers and Swanson. She was also in favor of approving an ordinance.

"Someone once said if we fail to plan, we plan to fail. I think we are planning to do what's best for the county, and if that means one more step, and bringing in someone who has the right background and knowledge on this, I'm in favor of doing that. If we sit here and say it doesn't matter, and they're not going to follow our rules, why do we have people trying to enforce things throughout the county," Robinson said.

Robinson added that the ordinance would protect the supervisors, the zoning board, and especially, the citizens and residents where the pipeline is going through, and where future pipelines could go through.

Olson remained of the opinion that the Iowa Utilities Board made these types of decisions, and did what they did so that the counties of Iowa wouldn't be doing what Montgomery County was doing right now.

"I feel that we have no say, per se, that we know of, because of that fact," Olson said.

Cooper felt the opposite, and felt the IUB wasn't exactly sure what direction to go either.

"I feel like they are looking for input from the county and the people, which is why they're holding all these webinars, and letting people listen in and ask questions, and then they'll take all the information, soak it in, and make a decision," Cooper stated.



# Rydbergs sweep carcass contest at 2022 Page County Fair

The three Rydberg siblings swept the Page County Fair Beef Carcass contest for 2022.

The youngest, Caleb Rydberg, right, was the champion, with Dillan Rydberg, middle, in second place. Eldest Hailey Rydberg placed third. Not only that, the Rydbergs also held the next three places; making them the exhibitors of the top six carcass winners at the county fair, held in Clarinda.

Caleb Rydberg also received Reserve Champion Rate of Gain for his Junior Feeders project.

Hailey, Dillon and Caleb are members of the Fremont Farmers and 4Hers Club and attend Red Oak schools, where Hailey and Dillan are members of the Red Oak FFA chapter.

They are the children of David and Amy Rydberg of rural Essex.

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NILS OLDBERG, 99

Nils Stockfleth Magelsen Oldberg, 99, passed away Sept. 24, 2022 in Blair, Nebraska.

Nils was born in Kansas City, Mo., on Aug. 14, 1923, to John Efraim and Ingrid (Magelsen) Oldberg. He graduated from Henry C. Kumpf Elementary School and Paseo High School, both in Kansas City, Mo. He accepted Jesus Christ as his Savior when he was about 5 years old and was baptized when he was 9 years old at the Michigan Avenue Baptist Church in Kansas City, Mo.



He served a carpenter apprenticeship under his father and was a member of Carpenter's Union No. 71 in Kansas City, Mo. He served three years in the U.S. Navy aboard the submarine Guavina, SS 362 during World War II. Nils received a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture from the University of Missouri in 1950. He was a member of the University of Missouri chapter of the Inter Varsity Christian Fellowship during his college years and was the president of the IVCP for two years.

He married Laura Lucille Shields on June 8, 1951. He and Laura became missionaries, serving with the Evangelical Free Church of America from 1951 - 1990. This included one year of studies at Trinity Bible College and Seminary, followed by another year of studies in Belgium to learn French and then to complete the "Colonial Course" required by the Belgian government for teaching in the Belgium Congo. They arrived in Congo on Oct. 1, 1953, to begin their teaching ministry.

Nils also earned a master's degree in Secondary Education from the University of Missouri in 1966. He was preparing to teach and be the principal of a new secondary school started by the Free Church mission in Congo. Nils and Laura served in two different secondary schools in Congo until 1973. Since Nils' position in Congo, as principal of the teacher training high school, was being filled by a Congo university graduate, and it appeared that their ministry in Congo was ending, they were asked by the mission to open a new field in Belgium and do church planting.

This required that he go to seminary for two years, earning a master's degree in Missions and Evangelism. He was ordained as a minister of the Gospel in September 1977, and in November the couple went to Belgium to begin the work. After starting two churches in the greater Brussels area, they retired in 1990. Nils then served the mission as coordinator of Missionary Construction Teams, recruiting and sending teams to do construction work in many countries where the mission was involved. He accompanied several of these teams and worked alongside them. In 1996 he retired from the work.

He is survived by Laura Oldberg, his wife of 71 years; his children, Rachel Ingrid and Nathan Bliss of Rockford, Ill.; David Loren and Karin Oldberg of Blair, Neb.; and Paul Jonathan and Patti Oldberg of Missouri Valley. He is also survived by 11 grandchildren and their spouses; and by 28 great-grandchildren.

Services will be held Saturday, Oct. 8, 2022, at PassageWay Church in Blair, Neb., with family greeting friends from 12 to 2 p.m. and services beginning at 2 p.m. Services will be live streamed by PassageWay Church. Burial will be Oct. 9 at 10 a.m. in the Center Ridge Presbyterian Church Cemetery north of Red Oak.

Memorials may be directed to the Evangelical Free Church of America "Bibles for Congo" at the following link: <https://give.efca.org/?des=Nils%20Oldberg%20Bibles%20For%20Congo%205415>.

BARBARA VON DIELINGEN, 86

Barbara Mae Brown Von Dielingen, 86, Red Oak, entered to glory Friday, Sept. 30, 2022.

Barbara was born May 18, 1936, near Henderson, the daughter of James and Cordelia (Summers) Brown. Her Grandpa Brown gave her the nickname "Bobbie," as she was known to her family. She was the youngest of six children, twins that were lost in infancy; brother, Nathan "Pete" Brown; and sisters, Betty Core and Bonnie Frink. She attended school in Henderson, where she graduated high school. Barbara went on to work at the five and dime in Red Oak and later at the Red Oak Express, where she was a typesetter. She was united in marriage to Elmer Von Dielingen on Oct. 19, 1956, at the Little Brown Church in the Vale at Nashua. Barbara had four children and after they were raised, she worked as office administrator for the Montgomery County Sheriff's Department for 35 years. Barbara was a member of Our Savior Lutheran Church for many years and was currently attending Faith Community Church.



Preceding her in death were her parents; husband, Elmer Von Dielingen on Oct. 29, 1984; and her siblings, two infants; brother, Nathan "Pete" Brown; and sister, Betty Core.

Survivors include her children, Marta and husband Don Goodrich; Ed Von Dielingen and partner Wilma; Ronda and husband Jerry Daffer; and Ron Von Dielingen and wife Stacey; nine grandchildren; 11 great-grandchildren; and sister, Bonnie Frink; along with many nieces, nephews, and other relatives and friends.

On Tuesday, Oct. 4, 2022, graveside services were held at the Evergreen Cemetery and a celebration of life service was held at Faith Community Church.

A memorial fund will be established at a later date. Nelson-Boylan-LeRette Funeral Chapel is in charge of arrangements.

BROOK CARPENTER, 30

Brook Marie Carpenter, 30, Norman, Okla., died Sept. 25, 2022, in Oklahoma City, Okla., after a brief battle with leukemia.



Brook was born April 20, 1992, with her twin, John, to Dick and Linda McAlpin. She was raised in Red Oak, graduating in 2010. Brook later moved to Norman, Okla., where she met her fiancé, Benny Ruiz. They enjoyed going to OU games together, spending time with friends, playing pool, and riding horses. Brook continued her education at Mid-America Vo-Tech, earning her certification and ultimately being licensed as an Emergency Medical Technician. She worked for Wadley's EMS in Purcell. Brook and Benny shared the joy of bringing Bennett Lane into this world, giving Brook her greatest joy of being a mom.

Brook was preceded in death by her mother, Linda McAlpin; her sister, Kris Esaias; and her grandparents, Mary and Lowell Rucker.

Survivors include her fiancé, Benny Ruiz; and her son, Bennett Lane Ruiz, both of Norman; her family, Dick McAlpin and significant other, Marsha Larson of Red Oak; Kory Pierson of Stroud, Okla.; Kim King of Seward, Neb.; VJ Baker of Kansas; Kayla and Corey Engquist of Gretha, Neb.; Chantel King of Denver, Colo.; John McAlpin of Red Oak; Cache Pierson and Colt Pierson of Covington, Okla.; and numerous other relatives and friends.

Funeral services took place Friday, Sept. 30, 2022, at Wadley's Funeral Chapel. Interment took place at Hillside Cemetery, entrusted to the care of Wadley's Funeral Service.

DENNIS "BILL" PIKE, 90

Dennis William "Bill" Pike, 90, Henderson, passed away Thursday, Sept. 29, 2022, at his home.

Bill was born March 23, 1932, in Red Oak, the son of George Donald and Alice Pearl (Merkle) Pike. Preceding him in death were his parents.

Survivors include his wife, Marjorie Pike of Henderson; sons, William Andrew "Andy" Pike of Neosho, Mo.; and William Earl "Bill" Pike and wife Viola of Newnan, Ga.; eight grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held Monday, Oct. 3, 2022, at the Nelson-Boylan-LeRette Funeral Chapel. Burial was in the Evergreen Cemetery.

Memorials are suggested to Deaf Missions or Elliott Church of Christ.

ARDITH CORNELISON, 87

Ardith Ann Cornelison, 87, Red Oak, passed away Wednesday, Sept. 28, 2022, at Goldenrod Manor in Clarinda.



Ardith was born Sept. 20, 1935, in Wales, the daughter of Ray and Fern (Peherson) Gammell. She was raised in the Wales area, graduating from Wales Lincoln High School as valedictorian in 1953. Ardith worked for Martin and Sons as a secretary from 1952 to 1966. During this time, she was united in marriage to Richard "Dick" Cornelison on Sept. 26, 1959, in Red Oak.

Ardith lived most of her life in Red Oak. She was a clerk at Gibson's from 1966 to 1969 and then started a long career with Houghton State Bank as an installment loan officer, retiring in 1999. She also owned and operated Johnny's Steakhouse with David Hammer from 1985 to 1989. Ardith worked with her son, Jason, operating Viking Lake Concessions from 1998 to 2005. She also worked at Acorn Clothing from 2000 to 2006, at which time she retired.

Ardith was a longtime member of First United Methodist Church, Altrusa, and Montgomery County Memorial Hospital Auxiliary, working many hours in the Lemon Tree. She always enjoyed sports, playing basketball in high school and bowling and women's softball league in her adult years. She was inducted as a member of the Bowling Hall of Fame. Ardith was a great cook, who enjoyed baking and loved spoiling her grandkids.

Preceding her in death were her parents; husband, Richard Cornelison on July 31, 2015; sister, Betty Lehman; brother, Eldon Gammell; brothers-in-law, Ross Lehman and Kenneth Cornelison; and sister-in-law, Darlene Anderson.

Survivors include her children, Mike Cornelison and wife Ann of Ankeny, Kelly Boucher and husband Mark of Elliott, and Jason Cornelison and wife Megan of Clarinda, grandchildren, Matt Cornelison and wife Ashley of Chicago, Ill.; Josh Cornelison and wife Stacia of Chicago, Ill.; Luke Cornelison and fiancée Elizabeth of Chicago, Ill.; Jessica Wong and husband Eric of Papillion, Neb.; Mason Boucher and McKenna of Geneva, Neb.; Alyx Jorgensen and husband Christian of Griswold; Hannah Boucher of Omaha, Neb.; Kayla Cornelison and Tyler of Clarinda; Jordyn Cornelison of Omaha, Neb.; Jaxon Cornelison of Clarinda; and Dylan Reynolds of Clarinda; great-grandchildren, Connor, Fallon, Krew, Holland, and Cash; sister-in-law, Margy Gammell of Creston; many nieces, nephews, and other relatives and many friends.

Funeral services were held Monday, Oct. 3, 2022, at the First United Methodist Church. Burial was in the Evergreen Cemetery.

Memorials are suggested to the First United Methodist Church. Nelson-Boylan-LeRette Funeral Chapel is in charge of arrangements.

KENNETH WALKER, 93

Kenneth LaVern Walker, 93, passed away peacefully on the morning of Sept. 27, 2022, with family by his side.



He was born Nov. 6, 1928, at home on the family farm near Red Oak. Kenneth served his country in the U.S. Navy, U.S. Navy Reserve, U.S. Army Ready Reserve and the Army National Guard. In total he served 12 years, four months and 15 days.

Kenneth's children, are Clinton Walker of Wilber By The Sea, Fla.; Ken D. Walker (Liz) of Keystone Heights Fla.; Sheryl Petroff (Lenin) of Bay City, Mich.; Julie Davison (David) of Council Bluffs; and Wendy Walker of Johnston. He was a grandfather to eight grandchildren and many great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his wife of 56 years, Mary Ann (Lewis) Walker, originally from Elliott.

Kenneth resided in Red Oak for most of his life, where he continued farming the family's Century Old Farm, even winning Montgomery County Conservationist of the Year. He also owned his own construction company, building homes in Red Oak and the surrounding area. He worked many professions during his life, including plumber, HVAC technician, electrician, and finally retired from the U.S. Postal Service almost 30 years ago.

His family and friends will tell you he knew how to do just about everything and did it well. He wasn't afraid to tackle any project and was admired by so many for his amazing work ethic and dedication. He loved all-you-can-eat buffets and could consume more than anyone else at the table. This was undoubtedly due to how hard he worked. But what people will remember most about him is the love and care he had for his family. He was a mentor, teacher, friend and moral compass not only for his family, but for all who knew him.

A celebration of life is currently being planned for next spring. Memorials are suggested to: The Assistance Fund at [www.tafcares.org](http://www.tafcares.org).



ROBERT SHEARER, JR., 65

Robert Louis Shearer, Jr., 65, Emerson, passed away Monday, Sept. 26, 2022, at the Gardenview Care Center in Shenandoah.



Rob Shearer was born Feb. 6, 1957, in Red Oak, the son of Robert Shearer, Sr. and Jane (Sheets) Shearer. He was raised near Elliott, graduating from Griswold High School in 1975.

Rob was united in marriage to Michelle King on Aug. 20, 1977, at the Stratton United Methodist Church near Red Oak.

Over the years they lived in many different places throughout Iowa, settling in Emerson in 1993. His jobs included working for Rogers Plumbing and Heating in Red Oak, Standard Chemical in Malvern, Neil's Service in Malvern, John Deere in Shenandoah, Rhoden Auto Center in Council Bluffs, and retired after 20 years of service from Nishna Valley/East Mills Community School District in 2019.

Rob was a longtime member of the Masonic Lodge of Emerson, and now Carson, and was a former member of the Order of Eastern Star. His hobbies include mechanics, model trains, woodworking especially with his scroll saw, cross stitching, video games, fishing, camping, boating, and he enjoyed the outdoors.

Preceding him in death were his father, Robert Shearer, Sr.; brother, Richard Shearer; nephews, Travis Shearer and David Daugherty; mother-in-law, Rene King; father-in-law, Eugene King; and brother-in-law, Rick Nelson.

Survivors include his wife, Michelle Shearer of Emerson; daughter, Krystal Shearer of Des Moines; mother, Jane Shearer of Red Oak; siblings, Bill Shearer of Atlantic; Russ Shearer of Griswold; Steve Shearer of Manson; Julia Daugherty of Breda; and Jeff Shearer of Red Oak; step-mother-in-law, Betty Hossle of Emerson; brothers-in-law, Mike King and wife Cindy of Jay, Okla.; Dennis Porter of Rogers, Ark.; and Allen Porter of Elliott; sisters-in-law, Vicki Kudron and husband Phil of Emerson, and Nancy Nelson of Elliott; many nieces, nephews, and other relatives and friends.

Funeral services were held Saturday, Oct. 1, 2022, at the Nelson-Boylan-LeRette Funeral Chapel in Red Oak. Burial was in the Emerson Cemetery.

Memorials are suggested to the Hope Lodge in Omaha, Neb. Nelson-Boylan-LeRette Funeral Chapel is in charge of arrangements.

Law and Order

The following events were filed with the Red Oak, Montgomery County, State of Iowa, or other government offices. In regard to law enforcement and judicial activities, all parties are presumed innocent until proven guilty, and other details may be available at [iowacourts.state.ia.us](http://iowacourts.state.ia.us).

REAL ESTATE

WARRANTY DEED

- Gene and Erma Esau to Trevin and Valery Schmidt, Red Oak Hillcrest Addition Lts 2-3.
- Roger and Jane Brown to Garry and Florence Mayes, Red Oak Willard's Addition Lts 9-11.
- Justin Miner to Caniglia Miner, Red Oak Willard's Addition Lt 41.

QUIT CLAIM DEED

- Susan Johnson to Jake Dixon, Villisca Original Plat Lt 299.
- Jennifer Gettler to Caleb Gettler, 29-72-37.

COURT OFFICER'S DEED

- Norma Mercer Estate, Jenice Barton, Executor, and Dorsen Mercer, Executor, to Jenice Barton and Dorsen Mercer, 5-71-37 Lt 2, 6-71-37.
- Mary Franks Estate and Levi Franks, Jr., Administrator, to Levi Franks, Jr., Red Oak Original Plat Blk 62 Lt 10.
- Norma Mullenix Estate, Jerome Prokes, Jr., Co-Executor, and Jacqueline Johnson, Co-Executor, to Dustin and Amber Sellers, 20-72-37.
- James Durbin Estate and Teresa Durbin, Executor, to James

Durbin III, Red Oak Country Club Estates Lt 6.

CONTRACT

- Larry and Carrie Shalters to Amanda DeVito, Red Oak Alix Addition Blk 3 Lts 10-11.

MORTGAGE

- Caniglia Miner to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems Inc, MERS, and Iowa Bankers Mortgage Corporation, Red Oak Willard's Addition Lt 41.
- John and Deandra Davis to Houghton State Bank, Elliott Whitney Addition Blk 4 Lts 9-12.
- Keith Wiederien to Bank Iowa, Red Oak Eastern Slopes V Lt 47.
- Trevin and Valery Schmidt to Bank Iowa, Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems Inc, and MERS, Red Oak Hillcrest Addition Lts 2-3.
- John and Stacie Peterson to Bank Iowa, Stanton Highland Oaks Lt 2.
- Barbara and Randolph Lewellen to Ark La Tex Financial Services LLC, Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems Inc, and MERS.
- Garry and Florence Mayes to Bank Iowa, Red Oak Willard's Addition Lts 9-11.

MOD/AMENDMENT OF MORTGAGE

- Garnet and Kirk Request to First Interstate Bank, 3-71-37, SLT 2-3, Lt 11.

SMALL CLAIMS

- Nebraska Furniture Mart vs. Matthew Archer, Red Oak, judgment default in favor of the plaintiff, \$2,015.64 with 5.61% interest

from Sept. 29, plus costs.

- Hauge Associates, Inc. vs. Tami Altschaffl, Elliott, judgment default in favor of the plaintiff, \$1,554.71 with 5.26% interest from Sept. 22, plus costs.

ARRESTS

- Filed Sept. 27, Chadwick Zucco, 52, Red Oak, possession of controlled substance - marijuana third offense, \$5,000 bond.
- Filed Sept. 27, Andrew Nagunst, 23, Red Oak, contempt - violation of no contact order, \$300 bond.
- Filed Sept. 27, Skyler Nagunst, 22, Red Oak, contempt - violation of no contact order, \$300 bond.
- Filed Sept. 27, Michelle Burns, 49, Henderson, simple assault, \$300 bond.
- Filed Sept. 29, Alec Jeffries, 20, Red Oak, assault - display dangerous weapon, \$2,000 bond.
- Filed Sept. 30, Sean Kinsley, 40, Red Oak, simple assault, \$300 bond.
- Filed Sept. 30, Joshua Lowe, simple assault, \$300 bond.
- Filed Sept. 30, Chloe Coburn, 32, Red Oak, domestic abuse assault first offense, held on no bond.
- Filed Oct. 1, Richard Linfor, 54, Red Oak, possession of drug paraphernalia, \$300 bond.
- Filed Oct. 1, Jayden Rpoeberts, 19, Danville Ill., public intoxication, harassment third degree, \$300 bond.
- Filed Oct. 1, Tyler Kuhlmann, 29, Danville, Ill., public intoxication, \$300 bond.
- Filed Oct. 1, Russell McGee,

Danville, Ill., public intoxication, \$300 bond.

DISMISSED

- Felony, State of Iowa vs. Chantal Sperling, 29, Council Bluffs, neglect or abandonment of dependent person, dismissed
- Serious Misdemeanor, State of Iowa vs. Jason Eppenbaugh, Red Oak, possession of a controlled substance, first offense, dismissed.

CRIMINAL

- Aggravated, State of Iowa vs. Jamie Gentry, 31, Emerson, child endangerment, \$855 fine.
- Aggravated, State of Iowa vs. Alec Jeffries, 20, Red Oak, assault while displaying dangerous weapon.
- Felony, State of Iowa vs. Angela Kruse, 34, Red Oak, providing tobacco to a person under 21, first offense, pled guilty, \$105 fine.
- Felony, State of Iowa vs. Chantal Sperling, 29, Council Bluffs, child endangerment, deferred judgment, one year, one year informal probation.
- Felony, State of Iowa vs. Richard Jenkins, 52, possession of a controlled substance - third or subsequent offense, possession of a controlled substance - marijuana, third or subsequent offense.
- Felony, State of Iowa vs. Richard Pierce, III, 34, Red Oak, theft second degree.
- Felony, State of Iowa vs. Chadwick Zucco, 52, Red Oak, possession of a controlled substance - marijuana, first offense.
- Simple Misdemeanor, State of Iowa vs. Michael Kelly, 65, Elliott, possession of drug paraphernalia, \$105 fine.

- Simple Misdemeanor, State of Iowa vs. Michelle Burns, 49, Henderson, assault.
- Simple Misdemeanor, State of Iowa vs. Michelle Burns, 49, Henderson, assault.
- Serious Misdemeanor, State of Iowa vs. Jason Eppenbaugh, 43, Red Oak, possession of drug paraphernalia, pled guilty, \$105 fine.
- Serious Misdemeanor, State of Iowa vs. Yandri Betancourt Bacallao, 28, Miami, Fla., possession of a controlled substance - methamphetamine, first offense.

TRAFFIC

- Sherry Franzén, Elliott, operating non-registered vehicle.
- Justin Schomburg, Malvern, no valid driver's license.
- Alyssa Horton, Randolph, no valid driver's license.
- Steven Cattano, Elliott, speeding.
- Naayian Nyiwe, Omaha, Neb., speeding.
- Brian Othahoudt, Cumberland, speeding.
- Zane Fetter, Summerville, S.C., no valid driver's license.
- Rafael Ontiveros, Shenandoah, speeding.
- Ashley Fitzwater, Red Oak, failure to use child restraint device.
- Jean Noyes, Red Oak, registration violation.
- Jon Dodge, Joplin, Mo., speeding.
- Jeffrey Kelsey, Red Oak, fail to display registration plate.
- Brittany Hoskins, Council Bluffs, speeding.

ACCIDENTS

- On Sept. 29, at 8:02 a.m., Red Oak Police officers investigated a

two-vehicle accident in the 200 block of West Coolbaugh Street. Melissa VanScyoc, 52, Red Oak, driving a 2017 Mitsubishi Outlander owned by Ricki VanScyoc, was traveling east on Coolbaugh Street. Crystal Durbin, 31, Red Oak, driving a 2018 Nissan Altima, was also traveling east on Coolbaugh Street, and started to slow down for the red light at the intersection. VanScyoc did not see the Durbin vehicle slowing down due to sun in her eyes and was following too closely.

The VanScyoc vehicle struck the Durbin vehicle, causing \$5,000 damage to the VanScyoc vehicle and \$7,000 damage to the Durbin vehicle. There were no injuries, and VanScyoc was issued a written warning for following too closely.

On Sept. 28, at 5:16 p.m., Red Oak Police officers investigated a two vehicle accident at the intersection of North 8th and East Coolbaugh streets. Lexis Moreno, 16, Red Oak, driving a 2012 Ford Fusion owned by Jody Sands, Red Oak, was traveling north on 8th Street at the intersection with Coolbaugh Street. Devon Briggs, 29, Red Oak, driving a 2013 Ford Fusion owned by Alexis Ransom, Red Oak, was traveling east on Coolbaugh Street and failed to yield at the intersection.

The Briggs vehicle struck the Moreno vehicle and continued through the intersection. Damage to the Moreno vehicle was about \$2,000, and damage to the Briggs vehicle was about \$4,000. There were no injuries, and Briggs was cited for failure to obey stop sign and yield right of way.

East Mills students learn about emotions



The East Mills fifth grade class really got into their favorite "character" by acting out their emotions and describing what they see during lessons on Sept. 28. (Photo provided)



Graham visits Stanton

Sadie Graham from the Montgomery County ISU Extension Office came to the Stanton School District on Sept. 30 and coordinated a variety of STEM activities with students in kindergarten through the fifth grade. (Photo submitted)



Kyla Hart honored

Stanton student Kyla Hart was selected to the 2023 All-Iowa Honor Dance Team Hart will perform in March at the State Basketball Tournaments. (Photo submitted)

Weston named to steel band

Central College student Alexia Weston, Villisca, was selected into the Flying Pans Steel Band. Performances begin Oct. 9.



Local Food for Schools grants available

Iowa Secretary of Agriculture Mike Naig announced that the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship will provide more than \$2.1 million in grants to Iowa schools as part of the Local Food for Schools Cooperative Agreement Program (LFS).

The grants, offered in partnership with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), will provide Iowa public and private schools with money to purchase meat, produce, and dairy products from local farmers.

"These grants provide yet another way that we can assist our schools with providing fresh, nutritious, and delicious meals to students while also building demand and markets for Iowa meat, produce, and dairy products," said Iowa Secretary of Agriculture Mike Naig. "As we continuously

pursue efforts to shorten the distance from farm to plate, improve our supply chain resiliency, and foster long-term connections between students, schools, and farmers, initiatives like the Local Food for Schools program are helpful and important."

Iowa farmers interested in participating in the program can fill out the Producer Registration Form.

Iowa public and private schools participating in the National School Lunch Program can apply for the grants.

The approved schools will receive funding to purchase food from local farmers and food hubs. Schools may choose a \$4,000 grant for produce, a \$4,000 grant for protein and certain dairy products, or both.

Approved schools will be assigned a food hub sponsor to help coordinate the purchases.

The Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship is partnering with the Iowa Department of Education, Iowa Valley Resource Conservation and Development (Iowa Valley RC&D), Iowa State University Extension and Outreach, and Iowa's Food Hub Managers Working Group (FHMWG) to strategically implement the program in Iowa and to build the capacity for local procurement.

Applications from schools will be approved on a rolling basis and must be submitted by Nov. 1.

The expenses must be incurred between now and June 30, 2023.

Any unspent funds will be available for the 2023-2024 school year.

The grant period ends Feb. 28, 2024, and all funds must be spent prior to that date.

VIEWPOINTS

Stronger the Press, Stronger the People

THE TIME CAPSULE | ROY MARSHALL

A wood-fired pizza oven

Many of us have wished for old-world pizza baked to perfection in a rustic chamber fueled by wood to temperatures higher and more aromatic than a typical kitchen oven.

Years ago wife obtained plans for building a brick monster in the back yard. We decided against because it would be occasionally used yet permanently in the way.

More recent developments in food gadgetry have brought compact, portable outdoor ovens that can be easily stored. The Ooni seems to be the most heavily advertised, gets mostly good reviews, but they run from \$350-\$800 depending on model and choice of fuel (natural gas, propane, wood pellets or a combination).

Wife asked how many pizzas could be had for the price of an Ooni, so I bought a Bighorn.

The Bighorn, at \$200, is stainless steel and has the basics. A pizza peel seemed necessary, adding \$17. The infra-red thermometer was \$14, which I acquired after incinerating the first two pizzas. Another addition was a \$6 pizza pan from Dollar General (or Dollar Tree—I've forgotten which).

Wood pellets are inexpensive, and after 20-25 pizzas I'm still on the first bag. (We didn't actually eat 20-25 pizzas from our Bighorn, but we put that many in it.)

The firebox holds just over one cup of pellets. I



settled on paraffin starter cubes. There is no damper. It takes a few minutes for flames to find their way from the rear firebox to the front chimney, and when the blaze starts rolling it lasts only a few minutes.

The Bighorn came without operating instructions. I assumed the firebox was big enough to heat the stone and cook a pizza with one fill, which

was probably my third mistake.

The second was not buying the thermo gun earlier so I knew how hot the oven was. A fourth mistake may have been closing the oven door, which has no window. This is fine for preheating, but when temps approach 700 degrees and the pizza is inserted, you best be able to watch. The rear of the oven is hotter than the front, and the operator must be ready to start rotating.

Rotating was another issue. I watch the pros with their long-handled peels and a 3-foot-wide oven door and see how this is done. The Bighorn, though, is 12 inches wide; the pizza peel about 1/4

inch less.

There is no room to maneuver. I pulled the pizza out and tried to rotate by tugging the raw crust, tearing it badly. I then learned that the firebox does not hold enough pellets. It was necessary to stop trying to rotate and refuel an oven that cools quite quickly.

That particular pizza was picked over by our four chickens—ungrateful wretches that grew fussier as the summer passed.

The rotation problem was solved with a 12-inch, \$6 pizza pan. While this fits nicely and is easy to rotate, the pan largely negates the effect of a pizza stone.

When toppings became bubbly the crust remained undone. Wife remedied this in future trials by partially prebaking the crust.

Another mistake was too many toppings. I'm fine with the basic Neapolitan. She prefers the supreme or even a deep dish. These will not work.

Thick pizzas need time to thoroughly bake. Flames rolling a couple of inches above the top will burn it black before doing much to the center. I've explained this multiple times, but she puts the pizzas together. Our hens got three more before she accepted the fact that in some cases less is best.

With the summer winding down we established a successful pizza-night routine—wife prebakes

the crust inside using the dollar store pizza pan. She then adds nothing more than sauce, spices, a light sprinkling of grated parmesan, a few dabs of fresh mozzarella and maybe a bit of pepperoni.

I prepare and preheat the outdoor oven. When all is ready I manage the firebox, adding a few pellets at a time (too many at once puts out the fire; not enough won't produce the desired heat).

She inserts the pizza, closes the door, counts to 50, removes the door and, using a potholder, starts rotating the pan. We're too busy to time this, but I suspect the pizza is done in three to four minutes. Basil leaves and a sprinkle of olive oil are added at the table.

The oven works fine. There was an ugly incident when a sudden gust of wind carried tiny embers from the firebox onto wife's long-haired cat, and the pizzas aren't actually better than what we made with the range, but outdoor cooking is pleasant.

With the summer over our Bighorn has gone into storage with the Salad Shooter, fondue pot, bread machine and so on, and there it may stay.

Roy Marshall is a local historian and columnist for the Red Oak Express. He can be contacted at news@redoakexpress.com.

Letters to the Editor

The Red Oak Express supports healthy community discourse and encourages readers to submit a letter to the editor. Letters must be signed and include a phone number for verification purposes. They can be submitted by mail or dropped off at 2012 Commerce Drive, Red Oak, Iowa, 51566, or emailed to news@redoakexpress.com, or entered through our website at redoakexpress.com. Letters should be concise and centered on a single topic. All letters are subject to editing for length, taste, accuracy, liability, or other reasons. The Express is under no obligation to print any letter. If you have questions, contact the Express office at 712-623-2566 or news@redoakexpress.com.

DEADLINES

Newspaper Inserts: Noon Wednesdays.  
Submitted News Items and Letters: 4 p.m. Thursdays.  
Public Notices: 4 p.m. Thursdays.  
Display & Classified Display Advertising: 4 p.m. Thursdays.  
Classified Line Ads/Garage Sale Ads: 10 a.m. Fridays.  
Obituaries: 9 a.m. Mondays.

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WHO WE ARE

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Single copies are \$1.00 each and available at (in Red Oak unless specified): Red Oak Express; Casey's (Red Oak, Stanton,

Villisca, Griswold); Cubby's; Dollar General; E-Stop (Emerson); Fareway; Hy-Vee; Hy-Vee Wine & Spirits; United Farmers Cooperative; Walmart (Shenandoah). Single copy sales are

also available from a coin rack in front of the Red Oak Express.

## Community Calendar

### 6 October

12:30 p.m., Bingo, Red Oak Senior Center, 2700 N. 4th St. Call 712-623-3497 or Carolyn at 402-926-8683 for more information.

4 p.m., Community Prayer Time, Fountain Square Park. Call Bonnie at 623-4759.

4 p.m., ROCIA Rural Commerce Committee meeting, Chamber office

7 p.m., Alcoholics Anonymous, Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 1101 Summit St.

7 p.m., Shari Peterson presents "View From 13F," The Corning Opera House, 800 Davis Ave., Corning. Tickets \$15.

### 7 October

9 a.m. to midnight., Bella Notte pampered artist retreat, 504 E. Reed St., \$40.

5:30 p.m., Alcoholics Anonymous, Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 1101 Summit St.

6-9 p.m., B Side 3, Five One 8, 518 N. 4th St., doors open at 3 p.m.

7 p.m., "The Goonies," theatre #1; "Bullet Train," theatre #2; Red Oak Grand Theatre.

### 8 October

9 a.m.-5 p.m. Fall Arts and Crafts show, Mid-America Center, 1 Arena Way, Council Bluffs.

9 a.m. to midnight., Bella Notte pampered artist retreat, 504 E. Reed St., \$40.

10 a.m.-3 p.m. Henderson Fall Fair, homemade crafts and jewelry.

7 p.m., "The Goonies," theatre #1; "Bullet Train," theatre #2; Red Oak Grand Theatre.

### 9 October

10 a.m.-4 p.m. Fall Arts and Crafts show, Mid-America Center, 1 Arena Way, Council Bluffs.

9-11 a.m., Red Oak Fire Department open house, Red Oak

fire station, pancakes and sausages to go.

2 and 7 p.m., "The Goonies," theatre #1; "Bullet Train," theatre #2; Red Oak Grand Theatre.

5:30-8 p.m. Cindy Axne meet and greet, KMA, 209 N. Elm St., Shenandoah.

5:30 p.m., Alcoholics Anonymous, Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 1101 Summit St.

### 10 October

7-8 a.m. Red Oak Chamber and Industry Rural Commerce Committee meeting, ROCIA office.

12:30 p.m. Bingo, Red Oak Senior Center, 2700 N. 4th St. Call 712-623-3497 or Carolyn 402-926-8683 for more information.

5:30 p.m., Red Oak School Board meeting, Red Oak Jr./Sr. High School, or via Zoom.

7 p.m., Alcoholics Anonymous, Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 1101 Summit St.

### 11 October

8:30 a.m., Montgomery County Supervisors, North Meeting Room in courthouse basement, open to public.

Noon, Rotary Club meeting. For location, go to <https://rotarydistrict5650.org/clubinfo/red-oak>.

1 p.m., Card games (pitch and/or cribbage) Red Oak Senior Center, 2700 N. 4th St. Call 712-623-3497 or Carolyn 402-926-8683 for more information.

### 12 October

1:30-5 p.m., Christ's Cupboard Food Pantry and Clothing Cupboard, 206 E. Coolbaugh St. Donations accepted 1-5 p.m. at back door.

4-7 p.m., Sip and Stroll around the Red Oak downtown square, coasters available to be turned in for prizes

## ROFD open house slated Oct. 9

The Red Oak fire Department is hosting its annual open house fundraiser on Oct. 9, on the east side of 1904 N. Broadway.

The event will feature a drive-thru style breakfast of sausage and pancakes. Attendees are requested to come to the east side of the building to be served.

This year's donations will be used to assist in purchasing a wild-land firefighting vehicle. The vehicles are used to fight grass and field fires and have the ability to respond to remote locations with rescue equipment, such as the Jaws of Life, where the department's larger vehicles are unable to access. A free-will donation will be accepted for the breakfast. The estimated cost of the new vehicle is \$250,000.

## Sip and Stroll Oct. 12 on the square

Area residents are invited to take a sip and stroll around the Red Oak downtown square and other area locations, and stop in at participating businesses for a warm drink.

Businesses participating in the sip and stroll event are: Five One 8, J Mercantile, Mark Jackson's Red Oak Hardware Hank, Hallmark Gold Crown Store, Red Oak Rehab, the Teeny Weeny Weiner Wagon, The Carpet Store & So Much More, the Pudgy Pumpkin Patch, Valley Antiques & Gifts, and White Sparrow.

Participants are encouraged to collect coasters at every location and end the night at the Five One 8 for a drink and a chance to win prizes if they have collected 10 coasters.

## Craft show at Mid-America Center

The Annual Fall Arts and Crafts Show will be held Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 8-9 at the Mid-America Center in Council Bluffs.

The show is billed as one of Iowa's largest shows, with over 150 talented exhibitors presenting and selling thousands of unique, handmade products.

Among the various products being sold at the show are leather goods, wine barrel furniture, paintings and prints, ceramics, wall hangings, toys, blankets, jewelry, metal art sculptures, pet products, etched and stained glass, yard and garden art, pottery, candles, clothing, quilts, aprons, pillows, doll clothes, baskets, rugs, place mats, table runners, purses, floral arrangements and wreaths, wood and

metal signs, soap and lotions, emu oils and many more original products.

Exhibitors will also be selling coffee cakes, dips, salsa, barbecue sauce, soups, jams, jellies, cheese and sausage, wines, fudge, honey, food mixes and roasted nuts. All items offered for sale to the public are handmade by the exhibitors.

The hours of the show are from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday. Admission is \$6 and children 10 and younger are free. Parking is free throughout the show.

All patrons who attend the show on Saturday will receive a two-day re-entry stamp.

For more show information, please call Callahan Promotions, Inc. at 563-357-1986.

## ROFM season ends



The final Red Oak Farmers Market of the season took place on Sept. 29. The markets were initially scheduled for the first two weeks of October, but the vendors chose to close the season last Thursday. Pictured above, from left: Steve Turman and Maggie McQuown of Resilient Farms sell vegetables to patrons. (Nick Johansen/The Red Oak Express)

## Deadline nears for Chamber event guide

Time is running out for area Red Oak businesses to get their holiday events featured by the Red Oak Chamber of Commerce.

If anyone wishes to have a holiday event included in the 2022 Holiday Schedule of Events, information is required by the Chamber by Oct. 8. Call 623-4821 for further details.

## Happy Birthday!

Celebrating birthdays are:

- Nancy Taylor - Oct. 6
- Dylan Kinser - Oct. 6
- Reed Ramsey - Oct. 6
- Monte Isaacson - Oct. 6
- Gary Goodemote - Oct. 6
- Abby Burke - Oct. 7
- Jerry Bates - Oct. 9
- Teresa Russell - Oct. 9
- Hudson O'Flynn - Oct. 10
- Ronald Potter - Oct. 11
- Chris Lombard - Oct. 11

To be included on the free "Happy Birthday" list, e-mail your birthday (and those of your friends and family) to [news@redoakexpress.com](mailto:news@redoakexpress.com), mail to P.O. Box 377, Red Oak, IA 51566, or drop by our office at 2012 Commerce Dr.

## Happy Anniversary!

Celebrating their anniversaries this week are:

Don and Bev Gillespie - Oct. 9  
Rick and Rita Leinen - Oct. 10  
Alan and Marilyn Foy - Oct. 10  
Brad and Melissa Mueller - Oct. 10  
Duane and Kathy Harris - Oct. 12

Congratulations and happy anniversary to you!

To become a member of the free "Anniversary Club," e-mail your anniversary (and those of your friends and family) to [news@redoakexpress.com](mailto:news@redoakexpress.com), mail to P.O. Box 377, Red Oak, IA 51566, or drop by our office at 2012 Commerce Dr.

## Card Shower

### KINSER 30TH BIRTHDAY

Dylan Kinser will celebrate his 30th birthday on Oct. 6. In honor of this occasion, his family is hosting a card shower. Cards may be sent to Dylan at 407 E. Valley St., Red Oak, IA 51566.



## Senior Menu

<p>Thursday, Oct. 6: Sliced turkey with gravy, whipped potatoes, diced beets, bread slice, fresh seasonal fruit, milk/coffee.</p> <p>Friday, Oct. 7: Chicken with supreme sauce, whipped sweet potatoes, roasted Brussels sprouts,</p>	<p>bread slice, applesauce, milk/coffee.</p> <p>Monday, Oct. 10: Chicken stuffing casserole, whipped sweet potatoes, green beans, bread slice, fruit, milk/coffee.</p> <p>Tuesday, Oct. 11: Sliced ham and cheese sandwich on a bun, pota-</p>	<p>to wedges, mixed vegetables, rosy applesauce, milk/coffee.</p> <p>Wednesday, Oct. 12: Beef stroganoff with noodles, diced beets, corn, dinner roll, cookie, milk/coffee.</p> <p>For more information, call the</p>
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Senior Center at 623-3497 or Carolyn at 402-926-8683. Please call for reservations by 9:30 a.m. the day before you plan to eat lunch.

Be sure to get your news on the Community Page by calling 712-623-2566 or emailing [news@redoakexpress.com](mailto:news@redoakexpress.com).

## CHURCH DIRECTORY

<p><b>Advent Christian</b> 300 S. 2nd Ave., Villisca, Rev. Jeff Eason, Sunday School, 9:30 a.m., Worship, 10:30 a.m., Celebrate Recovery, Tuesday, 6:30 p.m.</p> <p><b>Assembly Of God</b> 1005 Senate, Red Oak, 623-2174, Services, 10:30 a.m.</p> <p><b>Baptist</b> The Bridge (First Baptist Church), 406 N. 3rd St., Red Oak, Rev. Len Taylor, Worship, 11 a.m. Grace Baptist, 1510 N. 6th St., Red Oak, Gary D. Walters, Bible class, 10 a.m., Worship, 11 a.m., Worship, 6 p.m.; Wednesday, Prayer, 7 p.m. Grace Baptist, 525 Main St., Griswold, Victor Maxson, Bible study, 10 a.m., Worship, 11 a.m. <b>Online:</b> 11 a.m. livestream.</p> <p><b>Southern Baptist</b> Crossroads Community Church, 303 E. Oak St., use the alley entrance, Rev. Ricky Rohrig, Sr., Celebration Services with Kids' Church, 9:23 a.m., Wednesdays in the Word, live on Facebook, 6:30 p.m. 712-357-1060, <a href="http://crossroadsredoak.com">crossroadsredoak.com</a>. <b>Online:</b> 9:45 a.m. approx. live on Facebook.</p> <p><b>Catholic</b> St. Joseph's, 131 W. High, Villisca, Father Eze Venantius Umunnakwe,</p>	<p>Sunday Mass, 8:30 a.m. St. Mary's, 1510 Highland Ave., Red Oak, Father Lazarus Kirigia, Saturdays, 5 p.m. (1st, 3rd, 5th Saturday); Sunday, 10:30 a.m., in Spanish, 1 p.m.</p> <p><b>Christian</b> First Christian, 1909 Summit St., Red Oak, Pastor AJ Baratta, PreKindergarten - Sunday School, 9:30-10:15 a.m., Fellowship, 10 a.m., Worship, 10:30 a.m. <b>Online:</b> 10:30 a.m. live on Facebook.</p> <p><b>Christian &amp; Missionary Alliance</b> Citylight Southwest Iowa, 705 Bradford, Emerson. Co-lead pastors Matt Keller, Tyler Mass. Worship with children's church, 10 a.m. in-person gathering. <b>Online:</b> 10 a.m. live on Facebook.</p> <p>Faith Community, 2701 N. 8th St., Red Oak, Pastor Dan Wetzel, Associate Pastor Stephen Beaulier, Worship, 9:30 a.m. Connection Classes for pre-kindergarten-adults, 11 a.m., Wednesday activities: Faith Kids, Pre-K grade 4, 6-7:30 p.m. Faith Midpoint, grades 5-6, 6-7:30 p.m. Faith Youth, grades 7-12, 7-8:30 p.m. <b>Online:</b> 9:30 a.m. on KCSI, 9:30 a.m. on Facebook.</p>	<p><b>Church Of Christ</b> Church Of Christ, Elliott, Sunday Bible School, 9 a.m., Worship, 10 a.m., Men's and Women's Bible study and breakfast, first Sunday of the month at 7:30 a.m. River of Life Church, Hwy. 48 North, Red Oak, Minister David Haynes, Sunday School 9 a.m., Worship, 10 a.m.</p> <p><b>Church Of the Nazarene</b> Red Oak, 401 E. Prospect St., Rev. Lori Lathrop. Radio ministry, 8:30 a.m., worship with children's church at 10:30 a.m.</p> <p><b>Covenant</b> Evangelical, Rev. Matt King, 308 Eastern, Stanton, Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Worship, 10:45 a.m. <b>Online:</b> 10:45 a.m. live on Facebook and later on Youtube. Faith Covenant Church, 212 Alice St., Essex, Pastor Gordon Scott, Pastor Staci Shearer, Worship, 8:30 a.m. First Covenant, Rev. Alan Dean, pastor, 3rd &amp; Hammond, Red Oak, Worship, 9:30 a.m.</p> <p><b>Jehovah's Witness</b> 210 Argus Road, Shenandoah, Thursday, 7:30 p.m.; Sunday, 10 a.m., public Bible discourse.</p> <p><b>Lutheran</b></p>	<p>Bethesda Lutheran, Rural Clarinda. Worship 9:30 a.m. Worship, Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Bethlehem Lutheran, 1101 Summit St., Red Oak, Rev. Jennifer Yeske-Drown, Sunday worship, 11 a.m., evening service 4 p.m. Strand Evangelical, Rural Villisca, Rev. Marietta Nelson-Bittle, Worship, 9:45 a.m. Fremont Lutheran (Nyman), 1147 Ironwood Ave, Red Oak, Pastor Ann Albert, Worship, 9:30 a.m., Sunday School, 10:30 a.m. Mamrelund Lutheran, 410 Eastern Ave., Stanton. Worship, 10:30 a.m. Sunday School, 9:15 a.m. <b>Online:</b> 10:30 a.m. FMTC Cable Channel 1, also live on Facebook. Mt. Calvary, 107 S. 5th, Villisca, Jerome Wagoner, Worship, 9:00 a.m. Tabor Lutheran, 1711 Q Ave., Stanton, Worship, 8:15 a.m., Sunday School, 9:15 a.m. Peace Lutheran, (A WELS Congregation), 411 Church St., Shenandoah, Saturday Worship, 5:30 p.m.; Bible and Sunday School, 6:30 p.m.</p> <p><b>Non-Denominational</b> Oaks Community Church, 41310 Ellington Rd., Emerson, Rev. Ron Perry, 712-824-7218, Sunday School, 10 a.m., Worship, 11 a.m.</p> <p><b>Presbyterian</b></p>
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## What is Media Literacy?

Knowing the difference between news that really happened and news that is a made-up story is important. Today, information comes from all directions. It shows up in print, online, on the radio, on billboards ... all kinds of places!

Reading carefully and knowing the difference between real and false is called **Media Literacy**. Check out your media literacy skills with today's *Kid Scoop* page!



## True news or not?

Today, you get information from lots of different places – the Internet, TV, newspapers, magazines, radio, and more. Some of it is true, and some of it is not. When something isn't real, we say it is "fake," "false," or "made up."

Clearly, our article about a fairy finding a leprechaun's gold is not true. It is made up and just for fun. But sometimes, it's not so easy to tell the difference between real (true) news and stories that are false.

### True Clues

Here are three ways you can check to see if something you read is true or made up. Ask a librarian or another trusted adult to help you when you go online.

Answer the following questions when you read or hear a news item.

### Fairy Land News & Observer



Friday Fairy and her lucky find.

## Fairy Finds Leprechaun Gold

By Normen Gnome

**FAIRYWOOD GLEN** – Frida Fairy discovered what is believed to be a local leprechaun's gold hidden inside of a log in Fairywood Glen.

"I saw a little glow coming from inside the log," reported Frida. "So I walked up to investigate."

Frida said that it appeared a squirrel had chewed a hole in the bag of gold, causing several coins to fall out. She said it was the glowing coins that caught her attention.

"It's a leprechaun tradition, whoever finds the gold gets to keep it," said Shamus O'Clover, lawyer for the Fairywood Glen Leprechaun League.

What will Frida do with her new-found treasure? "First, I am going to have a party for all my friends!" exclaimed Frida.

"I'd also like to take a vacation to Candy Land," Frida added. "I've always wanted to see Rock Candy Mountain."

1. Does it say if it is fiction or if it is news?

Sometimes an exaggerated story is meant to poke fun. This is called **satire**.

YES  NO

2. Look at the source.

Notice where the news came from. In this case, it is from "Fairy Land News." Is that a real news reporting source?

YES  NO

3. Look at the byline.

The byline tells you the name of the person who supposedly wrote the article. Is Normen Gnome a real person?

YES  NO

What other clues tell you this is not a real article?

## Fairy Tale Facts

Knowing the difference between a **FACT** and an **OPINION** is another skill that helps you decide if a news article is true or made up.

Two of the Three Little Pigs are sharing **opinions**, and one is making a statement of **fact**.

Do the math to find out which pig is sharing a fact. Odd-numbered answers are opinion, and even-numbered answers are fact. Circle the opinions in red crayon. Circle the fact in green.

Standards Link: Language Arts: Distinguish between fact and opinion.

17 + 4 =

13 + 6 =

21 + 3 =

My little yellow straw house was the coolest house in Storybook Land!

Houses made of sticks are my favorite because they're easy to build!

My brick house is the only one still standing!

## Ad Facts and Opinions

Find an advertisement you like in today's newspaper. Circle the **facts** in green. Cross out the **opinions**. What does the ad say if you read only the facts?

Standards Link: Language Arts: Distinguish between fact and opinion.

## Kid Scoop Puzzler

### Prove it, Pinocchio!

It was easy to tell when Pinocchio wasn't telling the truth because his nose grew whenever he fibbed. But it's not always that easy. Sometimes you need **proof** to tell the difference between what is **TRUE** and what is **FALSE**.

Look closely at this picture to see which of Pinocchio's statements are **TRUE** and which are **FALSE**. Cross out the false statements. Circle the true ones.

"My water bottle leaked!"

"I'm not wearing a hat right now!"

"My backpack is wet!"

"My backpack has pockets."

"I'm not wearing a hat and bow tie."

"Now there's a puddle on the floor!"

"I have over 300 big books in my backpack."

## Double Double Word Search

ARTICLE  
ATTENTION  
BYLINE  
COINS  
FACT  
FALSE  
FUN  
GOLD  
LITERACY  
MEDIA  
NEWS  
OPINION  
PRINT  
REAL  
TRUE

Find the words in the puzzle. How many of them can you find on this page?

G M M E G R E A L Y  
E O E W N F E P R A  
L A L D P I R M T W  
I R N D I I L T X X  
T T R O N A E Y R E  
E I S T I N Y M B S  
R C N G T N T N J L  
A L I I R Z I C U A  
C E O J U J F P A F  
Y N C N E W S I O F

Standards Link: Letter sequencing. Recognize identical words. Skim and scan reading. Recall spelling patterns.

## FROM THE LESSON LIBRARY

### Media Gets Attention

Media is created to get people's attention. These people are the media's **audience**. Look through today's newspaper. What audience do you think the publisher of this paper is trying to reach?

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Analyze intention in written text.

## Why are dragons so easy to weigh?

They all carry their own scales.

ANSWER:

## Kid Scoop Together

# Three Bears Fact and Opinion



Read each of the following statements by the characters in *The Three Bears*. Decide if the character is sharing a **FACT** or an **OPINION**. Have a family member check your work and discuss your answers.

- "This porridge is not too hot nor too cold," said Goldilocks. "It's just right!"  
 FACT  OPINION
- "My chair is broken!" cried Baby Bear.  
 FACT  OPINION
- Mama Bear said, "It's a lovely day for a walk in the forest."  
 FACT  OPINION
- Papa Bear growled, "Someone has been sitting in my chair!"  
 FACT  OPINION
- "I'm getting sleepy," said Goldilocks after eating Baby Bear's bowl of porridge.  
 FACT  OPINION
- "This chair is too soft," said Goldilocks.  
 FACT  OPINION
- Baby Bear shouted, "Someone has been sleeping in my bed. And they're still here!"  
 FACT  OPINION
- "Going into unfamiliar places can be dangerous," said Goldilocks.  
 FACT  OPINION

## Kid Scoop VOCABULARY BUILDERS

This week's word: **MEDIA**

The noun **media** means print, online or audio designed to communicate news or points of view.

Some examples of **media** are newspapers, websites, radio, magazines and podcasts.

Try to use the word **media** in a sentence today when talking with your friends and family members.

## Write On!

### My Newspaper

Imagine you are publishing your very own newspaper. What would you call it? What stories would be on the front page today?

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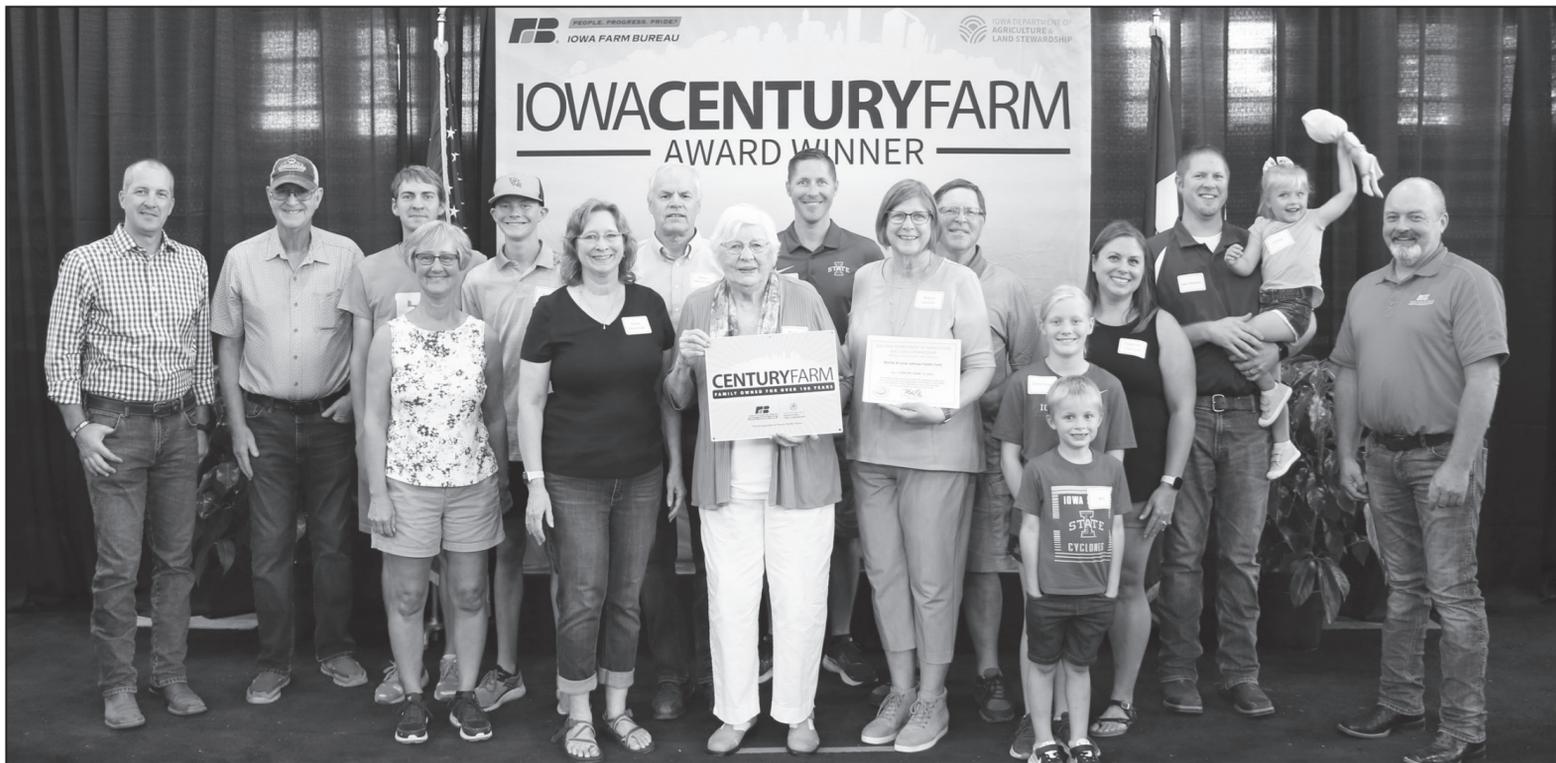
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### Century Farm honors

The Martin and Irene Johnson Family Farm in Page County was honored as a Century Farm by the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship at a special ceremony Aug. 18, held during the Iowa State Fair. Accepting the award were, front row, from left: Lisa Sunberg, Diane Masterson, Phyllis Sunberg, Sharon Johnson, and Will Johnson. Back row, from left: Iowa Secretary of Agriculture Mike Naig, John Sunberg, John Titus Barnett, Davis Johnson, Steve Masterson, Daniel Johnson, Ron Johnson, Genevieve Johnson, Stephanie Johnson, Joel Johnson, Emma Johnson, and Iowa Farm Bureau Federation President Brent Johnson. (Photo submitted)

## Secretary Pate urges Iowans to not fall for election misinformation

Iowa Secretary of State Paul Pate is urging Iowans not to fall victim to election misinformation and disinformation. Instead, voters should turn to trusted sources for election information, the people that run elections in Iowa: the Secretary of State and county auditors.

Secretary Pate updated the Myth vs. Fact section of his Election Security in Iowa webpage with several more entries. A reported case of election disinformation happened in Iowa.

A voter in Mahaska County who had requested

an absentee ballot reported receiving a call from an out-of-state number falsely telling him he could register his ballot over the phone and there is no need to return it to the county auditor's office. The Mahaska County Sheriff's Office is investigating the incident.

"That is a clear case of election disinformation, where someone is purposefully trying to mislead Iowa voters," Secretary Pate said. "We have a great record of clean, fair elections in Iowa and election officials across the state are pushing back

on this nonsense."

Last week, Secretary Pate and his bipartisan Auditors Advisory Group released a joint media release about their united effort to dispel election misinformation and disinformation.

"Iowa is one of the top three states in the nation for election administration and we're going to keep it that way by defending our process against grifters and people who want to sow doubt in our system," Secretary Pate added. "If you have any questions about how to cast your ballot and ensure

your vote counts, visit [VoterReady.Iowa.gov](http://VoterReady.Iowa.gov) or your county auditor's website."

For a detailed breakdown of many of the election security measures Iowa has in place, visit [sos.iowa.gov/elections/pdf/ElectionSecurityinIowa.pdf](http://sos.iowa.gov/elections/pdf/ElectionSecurityinIowa.pdf).

If you see or hear of something suspicious related to elections, call the Iowa Secretary of State at 1-888-SOS-VOTE.

### Single engine plane slides off Red Oak runway

Staff report

Around 12:19 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 30, the Montgomery County Communications Center received a call from the Red Oak Airport. The caller reported a small aircraft had slid off the runway while attempting to land.

Members of the Red Oak Fire Department and Montgomery County Emergency Management Agency responded to the scene to verify the situation. It was determined there were no inju-

ries or hazards.

The single occupant of the plane complained of minor injuries, but was not transported to the hospital. Brian Hamman with EMA reported extensive damage to the landing gear and engine propeller of the aircraft.

The aircraft involved was a Weitzel-Laury Varieze, fixed wing single engine plane, owned and operated by a subject from Council Bluffs.

The incident is under investigation by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA).



Photo provided by Brian Hamman

### Griswold royalty

Griswold High School held their coronation for homecoming on Wednesday, Sept. 21, during a community pep rally. The king and queen were voted on by the high school student body. McKenna Wiechman was crowned queen and Aiden Kennedy was crowned king, but the three boys who were running for king decided whoever received king, they wanted to give that honor to Collin Evans, one of their classmates. Pictured front row (left to right): Crown bearer - Hattie Leighton, daughter of Matt and Sandra Leighton, King - Collin Evans, son of Ryan and Jessie Evans, Crown bearer - Kingston Farr, son of Kevin Farr and Missy Jacobson. Back row (left to right): Queen - McKenna Wiechman, daughter of Matt Wiechman and Missy Jacobson, King - Aiden Kennedy, son of Bill and Emily Kennedy. (Photo/Griswold American)



### Women Impacting Agriculture nominations open

The Iowa State University Extension and Outreach Women in Ag Leadership Conference is seeking Women Impacting Agriculture nominees. The winners will be honored at the 2022 Women in Ag Leadership Conference, to be held Nov. 29-30.

"The goal of the award is to honor women who are making positive changes in Iowa agriculture," said Madeline Schultz, Women in Ag program manager with ISU Extension and Outreach.

Schultz invites nominations for women in all areas of agriculture including owners, managers and employees of Iowa farms, agricultural businesses and organizations. Nominees

must also have a connection to ISU Extension and Outreach, either serving as a volunteer, Iowa State University alum or any unpaid position within the organization.

Honorees will receive a cash award, a personalized gift and conference registration. 2020 honoree Emily Boettcher said she enjoyed getting to network with new people and still keeps in touch with them today. She believes the award is a great example of the encouragement women in agriculture should share with each other.

Nomination forms and additional information can be found at [extension.iastate.edu/womeninag/women-impacting-agriculture-2022-call-nominations](http://extension.iastate.edu/womeninag/women-impacting-agriculture-2022-call-nominations).

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COUNCIL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A

city's Tourism and Recreation Committee.

Eleven organizations in Red Oak were granted monies from the city's seven-cent tax on hotel and motel rooms. Projects aimed at increasing community development were able to apply for the funds.

City councilperson Jeanice Lester, who serves on the committee, briefed the council prior to the approval.

"We had different things, we had some same things. It's always interesting to see what ideas people come up with," said Lester. "A lot of times we don't have enough money and so we kind of prorate it to a percentage if they qualify."

Lester added that as long as the project is, "truly is for Red Oak" it is approved.

The Red Oak Chamber and Industry Association was approved for \$670 for the reprinting of Heritage Hill brochures; \$2,200 for Phase 1 of the Marketing and Tourism Committee's Plaque Project for 26 historic downtown buildings; \$26,300 for the 2023 Junction Days; and \$4,600 for the upcoming holiday season events.

Two ROAD committee projects were approved; one for \$700 for downtown planter box project materials and

\$7,000 for the first of seven murals to be done downtown.

The Save Our Depot committee was also approved for two projects; \$6,160 for spray foam in the attic of the Burlington Northern Depot and \$12,700 to update the depot so it is ADA accessible.

The Red Coach Inn's annual Stay & Play initiative was granted \$12,000; \$3,622 was awarded to the Wilson Performing Arts Center for a new artistic fitness program; and lastly, the Red Oak Optimists were awarded \$10,000 for a LED digital sign for the Red Oak High School.

In other business, the council:

- Approved moving public comments from toward the end of the meetings to the beginning. Mayor Shawna Silvius made the request, which was approved unanimously. No public comments were made.

- Set a work session following the council's regular meeting on Nov. 21.

- Agreed to hold a public hearing at the Oct. 17 meeting for the disposal of real estate at 818 E. Nuckols St., to David Wilson in the amount of \$2,500. The resolu-

tion states Wilson is to have the property rehabilitated and brought up to compliance per Red Oak City Code within 18 months. Wilson had the higher of the two bids received for the property.

- Heard from Wright construction on the stage at Fountain Square Park will begin next week.

- Heard from Wright the security cameras have been installed on the interior and exterior of city hall by Midwest Data. Wright said the installation was "easy" and "quick." He and Mary Bolton have access to the cameras on their computers, with footage stored on the cloud.

Sivius questioned whether council chambers and the fire department also need security cameras, as well as the city dumpster. Wright commented if the city had security cameras at all properties it would be extremely costly and is most likely unnecessary.

- Began initial discussions on a city procurement policy, as there currently isn't one.

- Heard a street department report by Chris Baird, street superintendent.

BUCY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A

in water, but that is pretty much all they get from me. The rest is up to Mother Nature."

If it is really hot and dry in the summer, she will drag a hose down to the patch and watch out for the plants that are struggling. During the hot, dry summer months, she also protects the plants from insects.

"I'd get up early each morning this summer and check the leaves for bugs. I had a bucket of soapy water and I'd take a knife and scrape the insect eggs off the leaves and into the soapy water. It was very tedious, but necessary."

Kelli said the hot, dry weather might have played a role in her growing fewer pumpkins this year than last. It also wreaked havoc on her goal of growing an entry for the Iowa State Fair's largest pumpkin contest.

"I entered potatoes this year and won first place and I wasn't even trying, but my pumpkins didn't grow as big as I needed them to."

Bucy's Pumpkins are located at 2163 Hazel Dr., Red Oak. Hours are 9 a.m. until 7 p.m. Monday through Sunday.

NOTA

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A

Nota reflected on when he first came to Iowa, and said it was Andy Rea who was instrumental in making him feel welcome.

"When you're an international student, it's hard to make connections with other students because you don't know anybody. Andy is friendly and caring and started a conversation with me and we became good friends. During summertime, he said he was going home and asked if I was too. When I said my home was thousands of miles away, and there was no way I could go home and come back, he called his mom and asked if I could come home with him for the summer and stay with them. They said yes, and they welcomed me in."

In addition to providing him a place to stay, they were also a key part in helping him meet outstanding financial needs that

were not covered by his Simpson College scholarship.

"I met Kim Robinson, who was then the human resources director for what was called CDS. She gave me my first formal job, working and processing magazine subscriptions in Red Oak," Nota stated. "I also started going to church with Andy and his family, and the church wanted to help me because my scholarship was not covering everything. There were missionaries in Pennsylvania doing bake sales to help me cover the tuition, and the Red Oak community decided they wanted to do their part and hold bake sales and fundraisers to help me cover the difference."

During that summer of 2001, Nota said he got to meet a big part of the Red Oak community, who made donations and held fundraisers to assist him. Even now, Nota said he has a great affinity for Red Oak and a great

appreciation for what the Red Oak community did for him.

Nota visited Red Oak Sept. 9 and spoke to students at the Red Oak School District, and held a book signing. Nota said he's planning on making his visit an annual tradition.

"Next year, when I visit Red Oak, we're going to go to the football game in Iowa City, and I'll bring my family and stay in Red Oak for a few days. I'll do that every September," Nota said.

Nota is the founder and CEO of Nota Consulting Group, LLC, which he started in 2015. He said he is pleased he could start a business, hire people, and make it a success. However, he felt one

of his greatest achievements was when he became a father.

Copies of Nota's book can be purchased at the Pudgy Pumpkin Patch Gift Shop at 512 N. 4th St. It's also available on Amazon at amazon.com/Fungisai-Nota/e/B09MJS6SZL/ref=aufs\_dp\_fta\_dsk, or through Target and Barnes & Noble.

Nota said he is beyond grateful to people like Andy and his family, the Red Oak community, and Frank and Wini Dressler, the missionaries who helped him come to the U.S.

"I can honestly say that my life, and the lives of my extended family, are much better because of everything they have done for me. I think God uses us,

very ordinary people, to answer the prayers of others. I want to thank them for helping answer my prayers, and I am inspired by their work and to see how I can be used by God as well, to answer other people's prayers. I hope I can continue to give gratitude to the people that lifted me up, and use gratitude as a lubricant to a happier and fulfilling life. If you live a life of gratitude, it's very hard to always be upset. I feel very blessed and pray that I continue to find my life's meaning in serving others. The book pays tribute to those still living and those who have passed who played a pivotal role in what my life is today."



Fungisai Nota, left, poses with Red Oak resident Rita Leinen during a book signing event at the Pudgy Pumpkin Patch Gift Shop Sept. 9. (Photo submitted)

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