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# THE RED OAK Express

WEDNESDAY

Feb. 22, 2023  
Red Oak, IA  
Volume 156, No.08  
redoakexpress.com

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## New NWMSU scholarship honors Elliott graduate

Nick Johansen  
The Red Oak Express

A Red Oak native and Navy veteran who is also an alumni of Northwest Missouri State University is honoring his wife's memory with a special scholarship through NWMSU.

Denny Sapp, a Red Oak high school graduate and husband of Anne Morgan Sapp, established the Anne Morgan Sapp Dream Team Scholarship through the Northwest Foundation. The scholarship will assist students who qualify for the Northwest Promise. The inaugural scholarship of \$1,000 will be awarded for the 2023-24 academic year. Anne passed away Aug. 14, 2022, after a three-year battle with multiple myeloma.

Anne was an Elliott native and a Griswold High School graduate. The Sapp's story began shortly after Anne started attending NWMSU and meeting Denny.

"She was pledging the Sigma Sigma Sigma sorority, and she had to get the active signatures and came by my fraternity house, Phi Sigma Epsilon. Three of my fraternity brothers were out front and offered to help. She was supposed to meet other sorority sisters over there, but they didn't show up, so they brought her into the house," Sapp said.

While it was his first time meeting her, Sapp said that he was still very familiar with her through members of his own family.

"My mom and grandmother knew her family, and I had heard what a superstar Anne had been at Griswold High School. I was the fraternity house manager, and they called me from upstairs to sign the paper for her, and that was the very first time I saw her," commented Sapp. "We differ on when I called her for the first date. I thought it was right away, and but she always said it was a few days later. In any case, we started dating in 1966, and dated for two and a half years before we got married in August of 1968."

After graduation with a B.S. in Secondary Education, Denny enlisted in the U.S. Navy and earned his wings of gold in 1969. Upon completion of training in the A-4F Skyhawk he was sent to Vietnam for the first of three tours on USS Hancock with Attack Squadron 55. During those deployments he acquired 376 combat missions and was awarded two Distinguished Flying Crosses, 39 Air Medals (of which 11 were for individual actions), 9 Navy Commendation Medals with combat V, the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry, and others.

Anne's life-long teaching career began in Jacksonville, Fla. where she taught English at the start of racial integration.

"She was 21 when she started teaching at the Nathan B. Forrest High School, now known as the West Side High School. She was teaching kids that were barely younger than her. She was one of 30 teachers in the English department. One of her favorite teachers at the school was African American, and when it integrated, it was her first real experience with racial equality," stated Sapp.

Denny was attending flight training at the time and once his training was complete, he departed for Vietnam. At this time, Anne spent a few months back with her mother in Elliott. Upon his return to California, they settled into housing at Naval Air Station Lemoore for the next three years. Anne resumed teaching, this time at the middle school in Lemoore. Denny would serve two more tours before they left for their next duty station. On Nov. 22, 1971, their first child, Dee Anne, was born.

The Naval Air Station China Lake in Ridgecrest, Calif. was their next stop. At the end of this tour, Denny was accepted to fly with the Blue Angels, and they moved to Pensacola, Fla. for two years.

Denny recalled one of his fondest memories with the Blue Angels was an unscheduled fly-over of Red Oak in 1976, which was witnessed by a then 14-year-old Chris Hughes.

"We were doing an air show in Omaha, and I asked the boss if we could do the fly over through Red Oak before we did the weekend show. As we were passing over Stanton approaching Red Oak, the boss kept taking us lower and lower," Sapp said. "Chris said he was working at Hunt's Super Valu in Red Oak and was walking out with sacks of groceries and was well aware of



Denny Sapp and wife Anne. Sapp has created a scholarship in Anne's memory for Northwest Missouri State University students. (Photo submitted)

flight teams. He saw us when we flew over the square at 100 feet. He said he couldn't believe it, and wasn't sure why the Blue Angels were flying over Red Oak. Later, he found out I was from there. Every time I see someone from Red Oak that saw the flyover, they can tell me exactly where they were and when they saw us. I've always looked at that memory as a highlight."

Another fond memory of that time was after arriving at Offutt AFB, he went to Red Oak and discovered the Red Oak Chamber of Commerce had set up a reception in his honor. He was later joined by the other five members of his formation and gave them a tour of the town.

Following his two years with the Blue Angels, they moved to Norfolk, Va. where their second child, James Thomas, was born in 1977. Denny left active duty and was hired by Western Air Lines, and they relocated to California. After a year in Tustin, they purchased their home in Newbury Park where they resided for seven years. Anne was employed by California Lutheran University, where she ran the learning assistance center and worked closely with minority students coming from the inner city. The final move of their career took them to Gig Harbor, Wash., where they lived for over 35 years. Anne resumed her teaching career, first as a substitute teacher and eventually as a full time history teacher where she retired in 2002. Denny retired from Delta Airlines in 2005.

While they lived in the Washington, Denny was a member of the NWMSU Foundation for many years, and he and his wife supported general scholarships at NWMSU. However, Denny said he wanted to memorialize his wife after her passing with the Anne Morgan Sapp Dream Team Scholarship. He said he was able to tell Anne of his plans two weeks before her passing.

"Her reaction was pretty incredible. I set it up in the spring of 2022, and I hesitated to tell her, because she did not want to be in the limelight. But I knew it was a matter of time before she would pass, and I still wanted to do the scholarship in her name," Sapp explained "On her birthday, July 29 of last year, I gave her a card with the scholarship notice in the card, and told her what I'd done. She was really tickled about it. A couple of times afterwards she said she was thankful I set the scholarship up. I don't think she necessarily wanted it in her name, but she was happy that a scholarship was set up in perpetuity for the future."

Denny recalled another time earlier in life where Anne was nominated for the NWMSU Tower Queen.

"She didn't want to go, but she knew she had to, so she put on a long dress and went to the dance and she was named Tower Queen 1968, and she was in shock," Sapp said.

Denny was under orders to the Navy by then. A phone call ended up being Anne's highlight of that night.

"I hadn't had a chance to talk to her for a few months because I was in Officer Candidate School, and we

SAPP, Page 2A

## RO school district to add new interventionist

Nick Johansen  
The Red Oak Express

The Red Oak School District will add a school-based interventionist next month.

Steve McPhillips, representing the Green Hills Area Education Agency and program director for the school-based intervention program, as well as Curtis Hamstra, a representative from the 4th Judicial District of Iowa said the district was eligible to receive an interventionist through the Department of Human Services/Fourth Judicial District's School-Based Intervention program.

McPhillips said the program was a collaborative effort between the Green Hills AEA, the juvenile court office, and local participating school districts. The program works with at-risk youth, which he said could apply to any student in a district.

"I want the students to be successful and future ready. How we do that is by putting in a school-based interventionist who promotes regular attendance and reducing truancy. We can also work with academics and support systems and hold students accountable," McPhillips advised. "We work with behaviors, social

and emotional learning, home visits, parent meetings, one on one meetings with students, and locate resources and training for the students. Ultimately, I use the term intrusive support. We've got to do drop out prevention and sometimes do things that are uncomfortable to improve accountability."

McPhillips added it would fall to Red Oak superintendent Ron Lorenz and the school administrators to identify the needs for a school-based interventionist that was particular to the school.

Currently, McPhillips oversees 25 interventionists that serve 15 districts, including Hamburg, Essex, South Page, Fremont Mills, and East Mills, and the program was getting good reviews from all of the participating districts.

Lorenz said he had a lot of experience with a similar program in central Iowa, and was initially disappointed when he came to Red Oak that the resource wasn't available. Lorenz later found out that the school-based intervention program was a similar resource, just named differently.

"In my time in central Iowa, I found this position works very closely with school administrators, school counselors, and others to identify kids that for,

INTERVENTIONIST, Page 7A

## Pheasants Forever biologist available to landowners

Montgomery County NRCS

Hallie Uhlig is Southwest Iowa's Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist.

Her position partners with USDA -Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and is stationed in their offices. Her area includes Mills, Fremont, Montgomery, and Page counties.

Uhlig has been in Southwest Iowa for about four months. She is currently getting her feet on the ground, and has already enjoyed the beautiful scenery and diverse resources. Uhlig grew up in Omaha, Neb., and in Colorado Springs, Colo. She has many fond memories from her childhood of helping to move cattle and riding along in the combine with family in Central Nebraska until moving to Colorado, where she developed a love for the outdoors and natural resources.

Uhlig graduated from Central College in 2022 with a degree in Environmental Studies. During and after college, she has worked in several different facets of the natural resource world. During a summer internship with the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation, she spent a few months working in the Loess Hills to promote restoration of native prairies. This included controlling invasive forbs, manually cutting cedars and invasive trees, participating in prescribed burns, collecting native seed, and lending a hand to surrounding conservation groups like The Nature Conservancy and County Conservation Boards.

Uhlig also assisted the Department of Natural Resources Upland Game Research Program with field surveys, data entry, and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) projects in Boone. During this position with the Iowa DNR, she performed population monitoring surveys for quail and pheasant, coordinated a statewide small game survey, assisted field staff in dove and goose banding, and worked alongside a Multiple Species Inventory and Monitoring (MSIM) crew with dragonfly, small mammal, and aquatic species surveys.

The Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist position provides a one-stop shop for your wildlife needs. Uhlig also partners with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (IDALS), local Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs), the Loess Hills Alliance (LHA), and local Pheasants Forever chapters. Through these partnerships, she can help offer

UHLIG, Page 2A



Hallie Uhlig



**Spotlight:**  
CARDIAC REHAB  
Lila Lassen & Debra Anderson

## Annual appointments for county boards approved

Nick Johansen  
The Red Oak Express

The Montgomery County Board of Supervisors has finalized appointments for county boards and commissions.

The first order of business was the appointment of Katie VanMeter to fill the vacancy of the Pilot Grove Township Clerk, which was unanimously approved by the supervisors.

Montgomery County Auditor Jill Ozuna said one of the appointments up for discussion was Gerald Palmquist for the Montgomery County Veterans Affairs Commission. Palmquist was reappointed by the supervisors after Ozuna confirmed he expressed interest.

"I have received Palmquist's email, so he is ready for reappointment. The only other openings are for the Montgomery County Eminent Domain Board. We're settled now with the townships and clerks," said Ozuna.

The only current members who did not wish to be reappointed were Chris Amos, and Mark Liddell, due to a move.

The county appointed Donna DeVries, David Hart, Bill Jacobs, Mickey Anderson, Teresa Hossle, Gordon McAlpin and Greg Vetter as owner/operator of ag properties representatives.

Under city property, the supervisors approved Jackie Bates, Mike Carlson, Billy Jones, James Robinson, and Lee Haidisiak.

Realtor representatives on the board that were approved included Steve Berggren, Julie Rubey, Dan Bullington, and Jill Cooper.

Finally, Barb Lewellyn, Brittany Berggren, Stephanie Jensen, and Deb Maher were appointed as bankers, appraisers, or auctioneers.

The supervisors also had discussion for setting a public hearing for the fiscal year 2023-24 total maximum property tax dollars levied. Ozuna said it was the first step to publish the changes.

"We have to put the max levy dollars information out so we can continue the budget process and meet the deadline," commented Ozuna.

The supervisors set the public hearing date for March 7 at 8:45 a.m.

In other business, the supervisors:

- Approved the Western Iowa Tourism annual contribution of \$55 for fiscal year 2023-24.

- Approved a tentative agreement between the county and AFSCME Iowa Council 61 on Jan. 26, representing employees of the sheriff's office.

- Approved a tentative agreement between the county and AFSCME Iowa Council 61 on Jan. 26, representing secondary roads.

- Approved appointing Sonia Jackson as the county representative to the Southern Iowa Regional Housing Authority.

- Approved a tax transfer from rural services basic to secondary roads, in the amount of \$9,038.

- Approved a tax transfer from general basic to secondary roads, in the amount of \$637.

- Approved the recorder's report of fees for January 2023, in the amount of \$18,791.

- Approved the treasurer's ending fund balance for January 2023, in the amount of \$11,358,006.

## UHLIG

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A

and inform landowners/operators of many different conservation practices and programs.

Pheasants Forever knows the only efficient and effective way to improve our wildlife populations is to improve our wildlife habitat. Farm Bill Wildlife Biologists can come out to your land and make a personalized plan for how you could increase your wildlife habitat, which will also improve soil and water quality, to fit your goals. This service is free of charge thanks to NRCS, IDALS, SWCDs, DNR, LHA, and local PF chapters.

Contact Hallie Uhlig | Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist at -712-624-8606, 402-763-0151, or huhlig@pheasantsforever.org.

## SAPP

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A

weren't allowed to make phone calls. Even though she was named Tower Queen right before I called, she was more excited to hear from me than she was to be selected Queen."

Denny said he'll be back in Red Oak in the summer to attend his 60th class reunion. For more information about the Anne Morgan Sapp Dream Team Scholarship, call 660-562-1248 or visit nwmissouri.edu/GiveOnline.

Denny Sapp, pictured far right, poses with other members of his precision flying team, the Blue Angels, during a visit to Red Oak in July 1976. Also pictured are, from left: John Miller, John Patton, Bill Holversott, Casey Jones, and Al Cisneros. (Photo submitted)



## Better Financial Living

### Beyond the Basics: Retirement Planning

What if something happened to me while my kids are still in school? Would they still be able to go to college? Would my spouse be able to stay in our current home? Would they have to downsize? What if one of the breadwinners in our house became disabled? Would we be able to maintain our current lifestyle and care for them? Do we have reserves in place in case the refrigerator has to be replaced tomorrow?

These are the types of questions that we addressed last month. Do we have the basics covered? Are we prepared in case of an emergency and for what life throws at us in our everyday lives? If you don't feel prepared, I encourage you to work on this first before giving a lot of consideration to where I am going with this article. It is so hard to make progress and to move your financial life forward if the resources are not available to help you address life's financial emergencies as they come up. Adequate protection, an emergency fund, and a good understanding of where you are today are vital when trying to move your financial life forward.

So what is next? Let's say we are adequately protected and have some backup resources in place, what's next? Retirement planning. If you are just starting out, or have several years in the workforce, this needs to be a key consideration. If you are young and just starting out, retirement may seem like such an abstract thought, one that you can wait and worry about later. It is true; you do have a long time to plan for this, but that "time" is also your greatest ally when it comes to preparing for retirement.

If you are in your 20s or 30s, the fact that you may have 30 to 40 years to save is the biggest advantage you may ever have when it comes to your financial future. The "time-value-of-money" and the magic of compounding interest is now your best friend. Even small amounts set aside now may make a significant difference between just retiring someday, and retiring very well!

So what if you are on the other end of the spectrum and retirement may be only 5 to 10 years away? I'm here to tell you that it is never too late to start saving, planning, and making a difference! Fortunately, our nation's retirement savings policies are designed to help those that may be getting a late start, or need to "catch-up" when it comes to their retirement savings. IRAs, 401ks, 403b plans, and many other retirement vehicles contain "catch-up" provisions designed to help savers over the age of 50 to make a late push toward their retirement savings. So, if you find yourself behind the eight-ball and don't feel that you may have saved enough up to this time, there may still be an opportunity for you to make a difference in your retirement picture.

It is also very important for retirement savers of all ages to fully understand their employer's retirement savings benefits if they are available. For example, does your employer provide matching funds for your retirement plan? If so, are you at least taking full

advantage of this "free money" that they will contribute on your behalf? Also, have you ever sat down with someone to calculate just how much you should be setting aside, and then comparing that to what your budget will stand? Also, could you adjust your spending habits in the short term to allow for more savings to use in the future? Tightening your belt just a little now while still working may allow you to set aside for a better retirement later.

The next question to ask when it comes to retirement planning and saving is: Am I saving in a tax advantageous manner? Am I utilizing these tax qualified savings tools correctly and to my best advantage? How will this affect my distribution and the use of these funds later when I need them? How will these distributions potentially affect the taxability of any pension benefits I may receive or my Social Security?

Next month we will look at the importance of retirement distribution planning and the importance of coordinating your withdrawal strategy with your Social Security, a pension, or other income you may receive.

Daniel S. Miller, Certified Financial Planner, President  
Milestone Financial Group, Inc.

Dan Miller is an investment adviser representative of, and securities and advisory services are offered through, USA Financial Securities Corp. (Member FINRA/SIPC). USA Financial Securities is a registered investment adviser located at 6020 E. Fulton St., Ada, MI 49301. Milestone Financial Group is not affiliated with USA Financial Securities.



## Spotlight:

### Animal Health

### Calving Season

Dr. Kate Fridolph  
DVM

It is officially spring when calves start hitting the ground ... even if it is still technically February. Calving season is just starting, but will be in full swing here very soon.

There are a few reminders, tips, and tricks that everyone should revisit, even the seasoned veterans of calving. It's amazing the things you can still learn, or forget you have learned, no matter how long you've been in the business.

First and foremost, there's equipment and supplies you want to make sure you have on hand when calves start hitting the ground:

- Calving pen and headgate if possible
- Chains and chain handles
- Calf Jack (if comfortable using)
- OB Lube and OB gloves
- Towels and antiseptic
- Flashlight
- Trailer - accessible and in operating condition

Also, ask yourself, do you have a protocol in place for what to do if something isn't quite right with a cow/heifer?

Knowing what to check for, when to call for help, and who to call isn't something that should be figured out at the last minute. Be sure to post this information in an easily accessible place, especially if not everyone checking on the cows is a veteran farmer. Oftentimes there are spouses, kids, neighbors, and friends that all help, so having everyone on the same page is beneficial.

Finally, there are three stages to calving. The first stage of calving can start as early as two weeks prior to the actual date the calf presents to the world.

It consists of gradual changes such as relaxation and swelling of the vulva ("springing") and the loss of the cervical plug. The second stage signals that calving is impending in approximately the next 24 hours. Here we see the relaxing of the pelvic ligaments, strutting of the teats, and behavior changes such as isolation and decreased feed intake.

Stage three is when "calving" actually starts. Once this starts there should be constant progress of the calf to the outside world. If there isn't that constant progress, there is a problem. Heifers get a little more leniency since they have never experienced this before, so give them about an hour before intervention/checking as long as there are no obvious problems. Cows are usually quicker - if they haven't calved in about 30 minutes or at least made continuous progress, they will likely need some intervention.

No matter how long we've been working with calves, there is always something new and strange that can happen that we can never be fully prepared for. Reviewing and preparing ahead of time can help make life a bit easier and help ensure that some of the more common/routine things don't become a problem. Remember - if there are ever any questions or help is needed, we have someone available 24/7 to help. Just give us a call!

Dr. Kate Fridolph, DVM, is a veterinarian at Oak Valley Animal Health in Red Oak, a fully licensed and accredited veterinary clinic. They provide small and large animal care, from routine check ups to 24/7 on call emergency services.

MARTHA DAHLSTROM, 89

Martha F. Dahlstrom, 89, of Clive, formerly of Red Oak, passed away Sunday, Feb. 19, 2023, at Arbor Springs Nursing Home.

Martha was born March 17, 1933, in Griswold, the daughter of Roy and Sadie (Leonard) McGrew. She graduated from high school in Elliott and Commercial Extension Business School in Omaha, Neb.

Martha was united in marriage to Lavon Dahlstrom on Dec. 28, 1952, in Elliott. Martha and Lavon lived many different places throughout Iowa and Illinois during their 70-year marriage. Martha worked many years as a legal secretary and paralegal, serving two years for the Attorney General of Iowa and later for the U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Iowa. She worked for the IRS in Waterloo and Des Moines before moving to Red Oak in 1991.

In her retirement, she still worked for many years at Loomis Abstract in Red Oak. Martha and Lavon moved to Clive to be near their family in recent years. Martha was a longtime member of the Lutheran Church and served in many capacities including being a member of WELCA, singing in the church choir, and quilting with the church ladies. She also enjoyed gardening and knitting. Martha was very charitable and used many of her talents to help those in need.

Preceding her in death were her parents.

Survivors include her husband, Lavon Dahlstrom of Clive; children, David Dahlstrom of Ames; Don Dahlstrom and wife Suzanne of Clive; Sara Dahlstrom of West Des Moines; and Daniel Dahlstrom of Arvada, Colo.; 10 grandchildren, Cory Dahlstrom and wife Kayla of Waukee; Amanda Dahlstrom of Corning; Ryan Dahlstrom of Lehigh; Taylor Dahlstrom of Atlanta, Ga.; Nathan Dahlstrom of Clive; Serik Baldwin of West Des Moines; Matthew Baldwin of Tacoma, Wash.; Gavin Dahlstrom of Ft. Collins, Colo.; Ian Dahlstrom of Arvada, Colo.; and Anna Dahlstrom of Littleton, Colo.; two great-grandchildren, Zoey Dahlstrom and Payton Dahlstrom of Waukee; and many other relatives and friends.

Funeral services will be held at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 25, 2023, at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Red Oak. A luncheon and visitation with the family will follow the ceremony at the church. Burial will be in the Mamre Cemetery at Stanton.

Nelson-Boylan-LeRette Funeral Chapel of Red Oak is in charge of arrangements.



GEORGE KARWAL, 64

George Earl Karwal, 64, died at the Montgomery County Memorial Hospital in Red Oak on Tuesday, Jan. 3, 2023, with his family by his side.

George Karwal, the son of Paul and Vivian (Negly) Karwal, was born Aug. 13, 1958, in Council Bluffs. George lived his whole life on a farm near Grant. He went to elementary school in Grant and Elliott. He graduated from Griswold High School with the class of 1976. George was united in marriage to Patricia Croxell on Nov. 14, 1981. To this union, one son was born.

George will be remembered for his love for family and friends of all ages. He believed there was no place like the farm. He was a hard worker, good neighbor, and a mentor to many of the younger generations. George always believed you should lend a helping hand to someone in need.

Ofentimes George could be heard singing Billy Joel, John Denver, or something country, while working around the farm.

George will be remembered for his tough guy image, gentle soul, his humor, energy, and for his generosity. Griswold coaches, wrestlers, and fans of 1976 will remember him for his little "wink" before he pinned his opponents.

In the last year of life, George will be remembered for his strength, attitude, and grit in battling pancreatic cancer. Even in his illness, he continued to help others. He carried his faith in his heart.

Preceding him in death were his father Paul Karwal; and his grandparents, Roy and Mallie Negly and George and Marie Karwal.

He is survived by his wife, Patty Karwal of Elliott; his son, Kirby Karwal and wife Alyssa of Elliott; granddaughter, Vivian Karwal of Elliott; mother, Vivian Karwal of Villisca; brothers, Steven Karwal and wife Delores of Nevada, Mo.; Bryan Karwal and wife Debbie of Elliott; Don Karwal and wife Janna of Elliott; sister, Debra Dvorak and husband Brian of Spencer; father-in-law and mother-in-law, Ron and Dorothy Croxell of Griswold; brothers-in-law, Brian Croxell of Griswold, and Mike Croxell and wife Kelly of Griswold; special friends, Greg Vetter of Elliott, and Kyle Kirchoff and wife Maggie of Griswold; and many nieces, nephews, other relatives, and friends.

A celebration of life visitation will be on Saturday March 4, 2023, at the Griswold Community Building from 2-5 p.m. A memorial fund is being established in George's name. Rieken Duhn Funeral Home in Griswold is assisting the family.



FR. DON BRUCK, 80

Fr. Don Bruck, 80, Harlan, died Monday, Feb. 13, 2023.

Survivors include his brothers, Allen (Bev) Bruck of Panama; Marvin (Jan) Bruck of Des Moines; nieces and nephews, Denny (Kari) Bruck, Sarah (Rob) Lambertsen, Jennifer (Jack) Theulen, Nathan (Kalli) Bruck, and Paul (Ashley) Bruck; other family and friends.

Mass of Christian Burial was held Saturday, Feb. 18, 2023, at St. Michael's Catholic Church in Harlan. Interment was at St. Mary's Cemetery in Panama.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests memorials be made to Shelby County Catholic School in Harlan.

For further information, visit [www.pauleyjones.com](http://www.pauleyjones.com).



**Deadline for obituaries is 9 a.m. Monday.**  
Call 712-623-2566 or email [news@redoakexpress.com](mailto:news@redoakexpress.com).

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

• Cody and Jacy Hoggatt to Debra and Charles Reed, Villisca Original Plat Lt 90.

COURT OFFICER'S DEED

• Charles Thompson Estate, Stanley Thompson, Co-Administrator, and Sherry Powers, Co-Administrator, to G & S Rentals LLC, Red Oak Pactolus Park Addition Blk 5 Lts 10-12.

• Jean Thrapp Estate and Scott Billings, Executor, to Matthew Coates, Red Oak Original Plat Blk 68 Lt 7.

• Darold Swanson Estate, Kent Swanson, Co-Executor, and Julie Hanson, Co-Executor, to Joe and

Jody Hossle, Red Oak Knollwood SD 1 Lt 20-21 Parcel A.

QUIT CLAIM DEED

• Richard Durkin, Tish Durkin Power, Tish Power Durkin, Patricia Durkin, Terry Gleeson, Mark Durkin, Kyoung Ok Durkin, Kyoung Durkin Ok, Kevin Durkin, Renee Palacios Durkin, Renee Durkin Palacios, and Matthew Minor to James and Debra Helm, Stanton Original Plat Lts 597, 398-399, SLT 3.

• Teresa Wenstrand to John Wenstrand, 12-71-37 Lt 42-45, 48, C. Stanton Original Plat Lts 137-138 Parcels C-D.

• Clinton and Melissa Knoell to Knoell Properties LLC, Red Oak Original Plat Blk 29 Lt 9.

• Gary Thoren, Kimberlee Thoren, and Gary L. Thoren Agent Under POA, Red Oak Ellett's Addition Blk E Lt 8.

• Gary and Nancy Mundorf to Mundorf Family Farm LLC, 31-73-37.

• Gary and Nancy Mundorf to Nancy Mundorf, Trustee, Nancy L. Mundorf, Trustee, and Nancy Mundorf Living Trust, 28-73-37, 33-73-37.

• Gary and Nancy Mundorf to Jeffrey and Charity Mundorf, 33-73-37 Parcel A.

MORTGAGE

• Andrew Focht, Andrew M. Focht, Karla Focht, and Karla M. Focht to Farm Credit Services of

America PCA, 9-72-36.

• Peter and Linnea Wemhoff to First Interstate Bank, Red Oak Marycrest Addition Lt 7.

• Jennifer and David Riggle to Carrington Mortgage Services LLC, MERS, and Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems Inc, Villisca Original Plat Lt 220.

• Michael and Kathy Freeman to First Interstate Bank, Villisca West Side Addition Lts 3, 14.

SMALL CLAIMS

• Marlena Morse vs. Christina and Elijsha Lecinski, Red Oak, judgment in favor of the plaintiff, \$1,500 with 6.78% interest from Feb. 7, plus costs.

• Credit Bureau Services of IA Inc vs. Matthew Williams, Red Oak, dismissed without prejudice.

• Credit Bureau Services of IA Inc vs. Travis Graham, Red Oak, dismissed with prejudice.

• Capitol One Bank USA, NA vs. Kelsey Hotze, Elliott, dismissed with prejudice.

• United Farmers Cooperative vs. Kevin Fish, Red Oak, dismissed without prejudice.

ARRESTS

• Filed Feb. 14, David McClain, 57, public intoxication, \$300 bond.

• Filed Feb. 16, Elizabeth Reents, 46, Creston, interference with official acts, unlawful possession of prescription medication, child endangerment, \$2,000

bond.

• Filed Feb. 18, Roger Dykes, 61, Red Oak, domestic abuse assault first offense, held on no bond.

• Filed Feb. 20, Kenneth Huber, 65, Lenox, possession of controlled substance second offense - marijuana, possession of controlled substance third or subsequent offense, \$5,000 bond.

• Filed Feb. 20, Ronald Hall, 63, Red Oak, theft fifth degree less than \$300, \$300 bond.

DISMISSED

• Aggravated, State of Iowa vs. Ryan Jennings, 32, Omaha, Neb., child endangerment, dismissed.

CRIMINAL

• Aggravated, State of Iowa vs. Ryan Jennings, 32, Omaha, eluding - speed over 25 mph over limit, pled guilty, 30 days jail, suspended, \$1,500 fine, nine months probation.

• Aggravated, State of Iowa vs. Colton South, 32, Stanton, driving while license denied or revoked, pled guilty, \$430 fine.

• Aggravated, State of Iowa vs. James Wiese, 61, Red Oak, eluding - speed over 25 mph over limit.

• Felony, State of Iowa vs. Chad Padilla, 21, Red Oak, interference with official acts inflicts serious injury, interference with official acts inflicts bodily injury.

• Simple Misdemeanor, State

of Iowa vs. Richard Linfor, 54, Shenandoah, interference with official acts, five days jail, time served.

• Simple Misdemeanor, State of Iowa vs. Anthony Castle, 20, Red Oak, criminal mischief fifth degree, \$150 fine.

• Simple Misdemeanor, State of Iowa vs. Chad Padilla, 21, Red Oak, criminal mischief fifth degree, disorderly conduct - loud raucous noise.

• Simple Misdemeanor, State of Iowa vs. James Kasha, 64, Villisca, interference with official acts.

• Simple Misdemeanor, State of Iowa vs. David McClain, 57, Elliott, public intoxication, pled guilty, \$105 fine.

• Serious Misdemeanor, State of Iowa vs. Michael Johnson, 17, Glenwood, driving while license denied or revoked.

OWI

• State of Iowa vs. Steven Henderson, 56, Oakland, Neb., probation violation, dismissed.

• State of Iowa vs. Shelby Nelson, 23, Villisca, first offense, pled guilty, \$625 fine.

TRAFFIC

• Mary Wiggins, Bedford, speeding.

• Kopper Stohlmann, Omaha, Neb., operating non-registered vehicle.

• Colby Cooper, Nodaway, speeding.

• DShaun Dixon, Red Oak, no valid driver's license.

• Chester Holliman, Jr., Omaha, Neb., speeding.

• Kristin Fast, Villisca, speeding.

• Jennifer Haveman, Clearfield, operation without registration card or plate.

• Kraig Doolittle, Lineville, operation without registration card or plate.

• Albert Stahl, Cleardale TOH 3Y0, OC, speeding.

• Aaron McGinnis, Red Oak, speeding.

• Douglas Lambirth, Red Oak, operation without registration card or plate.

• Izabella Beam, Red Oak, speeding.

• Alix Carlson, Red Oak, registration violation.

• Wayne Gomez, Lenox, speeding.

• Rachel Dittus, Red Oak, registration violation.

• Jacob Jones, Red Oak, operating non-registered vehicle.

• Daniel Mattox, Villisca, operating non-registered vehicle.

• Rafael Hernandez IV, Omaha, Neb., driving while license denied, suspended, cancelled, or revoked.

• Joshua Bell, Clarinda, driving while license denied, suspended, cancelled, or revoked.

'Fiddler on the Roof' to grace ROCHS stage Feb. 23-26

Special to the Express

Red Oak Community High School's vocal music department will present "Fiddler on the Roof" Feb. 23-26.

Set in the little village of Anatevka, the story centers on Tevye, a poor milkman, and his five daughters. With the help of a colorful and tight-knit Jewish community, Tevye tries to protect his daughters and instill them with traditional values in the face of changing social

mores and the growing anti-Semitism of Czarist Russia. Rich in historical and ethnic detail, The musical's universal theme of tradition cuts across barriers of race, class, nationality and religion, leaving audiences crying tears of laughter, joy and sadness.

The show features iconic and beloved songs such as "Sunrise, Sunset," "If I Were a Rich Man," and "Matchmaker, Matchmaker." "Fiddler on the

Roof" is an audience-pleasing, funny, heartfelt, and classic musical for the entire family.

With 50 ROCHS students involved in the cast and crew, this promises to be one of the most outstanding and exciting shows that ROCHS has ever produced. The students have been in rehearsals since the beginning of January and have done an outstanding job. This is only the second time in 40 years that ROCHS has produced "Fiddler

on the Roof."

The musical is under the direction of Tim and Terra Marsden, both vocal music directors for the Red Oak Community Schools. Costume design and collection has been taken care of by Holly Paulson, Christie Butz, and Jane Waltz. ROCHS teacher Bob Peterson and his industrial technology classes created an amazing milk cart and ramp for the production.

Tickets are \$7 for adults

and \$6 for students and children. Show times are 7 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 23, Friday, Feb. 24, and Saturday, Feb. 25, and 2 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 26.

Tickets may be purchased on the nights of the event at the admission table, or by calling Red Oak Community High School, 712-623-6610, or by stopping by the ROCHS office at 2011 N. 8th St., during school hours. Admission is by cash or check. Checks must be made

payable to ROCHS.



Pruning guidelines for shade trees, fruit trees and shrubs

From ISU Extension

While removing stems and branches may seem intimidating at first, pruning a plant is a great way to invest in its long-term health. Removing dead or crowded limbs can improve a tree or shrub's visual appeal, encourage fruit production and help to ensure a long, productive life.

For many shade and fruit trees in Iowa, late winter and early spring are ideal times to prune. This year, Iowa State University Extension and Outreach horticulture specialists have compiled a variety of materials discussing the basics of pruning woody plants.

One of the resources highlighted by the guide is the "Principles of Pruning" video series, available through the Integrated Pest Management YouTube Channel. In this series, Jeff Iles, professor and chair in the Department of Horticulture at Iowa State University, discusses when, why and how to prune a tree.

"I like to prune during the dormant season, because the leaves are gone, I can see the plant's architecture, and when the tree begins to grow in the spring, the wounds created during pruning will begin to close rather quickly," said Iles.

Another article included in the guide discusses the proper time to prune various types of woody trees and shrubs, including oaks, fruit



trees, shrubs and roses. For most deciduous trees, February through March is the best time to prune in Iowa. Oaks should be pruned slightly earlier, between December and February, to prevent Oak Wilt, a potential lethal fungal disease. Fruit trees should be pruned in late February through early April, and deciduous shrubs should be pruned in February and March. Because many species of rose can suffer dieback due to Iowa's frigid winters, gardeners should remove any dead wood in March or early April.

Also included within the guide is an article from the Horticulture and Home Pest News Website that covers basic pruning equipment, including hand pruners, shears, saws and chainsaws. Hand pruners or shears can be used for plant material up to ¾ inch in diameter, and lopping shears are best for branches between ¾ and 1 ½ inches. For larger material, a pruning or pole saw can be used.

While chainsaws can also be used to remove large branches, they can be incredibly dangerous to those who are not trained or experienced in using them and should be primarily left to professional arborists.

To access these and other pruning resources, visit <https://hortnews.extension.iastate.edu/your-complete-guide-pruning-trees-and-shrubs>



Members of the Stanton FFA Chapter are, front row, from left: Chloe Newsome, Olivia McQueen, Jailyne Castillo, Alice Duckett - Vice President, Jayden Schwery - Sentinel, Clark Spencer - Reporter, Leah Sandin - Treasurer, Jameson McDonald - Secretary, Dacey Henneman - President, Gabrielle Grebin, Hannah Gibbs, and Mara Adams. Second row, from left: Dylan McCollum, Jayden Snow, Janae Schwery, Mrs. Andrea Spencer, Piper French, Addelyn Gettler, and Addie Peterson. Third row, from left: Gabe Kingery, Nic Roberts, Lauren Roberts, Victoria McFarland, Ella Peterson, Adrian Haynie, Bree Mitchell, Stephanie Bair, Marissa Strough, Zooey Allen, Lilly Ford, Kennedy Stites, and Corinne Hopf. Fourth row, from left: Karsen Mabe, Hayden Jones, Grant Spencer, Caedmon Olson, Kyle Pastore, Caden Sallach, Andrew Johnson, Clay Culver, Logan McQueen, Brett Hart, Cooper Dreyer, Nolan Case, and Gavin Ballard. Back row, from left: Zach Haley, Noah Smirniotis, Wyatt Roberts, Hunter Bishop, Cale Haley, Ethyn Jordan, Eric Kutzli, Cash Culver, Josiah Shipp, Owen Marsh, and Deacon Bruce. Not pictured: Jayden Schwery and Stephanie Bair. (Photo courtesy of Stickland Photography)

## Stanton FFA students enjoy an active January and February

### Special to the Express

Students of the Stanton FFA Chapter hold regular monthly meetings and participate in local, district and state activities.

This year with the addition of middle school exploratory classes the Stanton FFA Chapter is able to include seventh and eighth grade members. The Stanton FFA Chapter currently

has 61 members.

Twenty-three middle school and senior high members have attended Ignite and Amplify Leadership Conferences held at the Iowa FFA Enrichment Center in Ankeny. One member earned their Iowa FFA Degree and will be recognized at the Iowa FFA State Leadership Conference in April.

In January, two students

participated in the Iowa FFA Legislative Symposium.

The Legislative Symposium is a day for FFA members to travel to the Capitol to visit their legislators and advocate for local Ag Ed/FFA programs.

Seven members participated in Sub-District contests held in Red Oak and one member submitted a Proficiency Award application highlighting all

they have accomplished with their Supervised Agricultural Experiences or work-based learning programs.

In February, one member served on the SW District Nominating Committee.

Stanton offers students classes in Animal Science; Conservation Science; Ag Business & Leadership; Agriculture, Food & Natural Resources (AFNR);

and Ag Exploratory. Through a grant from the Sand County Foundation, Conservation Science students are learning how to grow native pollinators and care for them from seed to established plant. Experiential, or hands on, learning is an essential piece to the AgEd program.

Students also are encouraged to participate in community service projects and give back to

our community. Their latest project was filling and decorating the downtown planters for the holiday season.

Students will continue to prepare for District and State contests, the State FFA Agriscience Fair, spring service projects, the Chapter FFA banquet, and other FFA activities. National FFA Week is Feb. 18-25.

## VIEWPOINTS

### Stronger the Press, Stronger the People

THE TIME CAPSULE | ROY MARSHALL

## 40 Belgians and a Sparrow

Back when NFL players started sitting out the national anthem and the league president decided this was a fine idea, pro football and I parted ways. Our split has worked well—they don't miss me and I don't miss them.

Not having seen a game during the regular season the Super Bowl holds no interest, but I am in the custom of checking the week after to watch Budweiser's latest Clydesdale commercial. This year they didn't have one because, according to numerous viewers, the Clydesdales were replaced by an ad showing that Bud facilitates diversity.

There were scores of comments, including one that read "Every Super Bowl without a Clydesdale commercial is another year of civilizational decline."

Shortly after reading this I encountered a news release from PETA, which charges Budweiser with amputating tails. Doing so makes it easier to create cute little bobbing "butt-buns," but causes pain and deprives horses of their fly-swatter.

It struck me that if Dick Sparrow was still around with his 40-horse hitch of 2,000-pound Belgians, with tails, and there was still a Schlitz to sponsor, they could pacify PETA and salvage what's left of civilization.

Budweiser's stable of Clydesdales have done amazing and touching things. They've run wind sprints to the theme from "Rocky," rescued stray puppies, accepted a burro as teammate, kicked field goals, danced in the snow and pranced in an eight-horse tandem, but never have they pulled a four-ton, 12-foot tall circus wagon in a 40-horse configuration.

Clydesdales could do it. Budweiser, I suspect, doesn't have a driver up to the task.

Clarence "Dick" Sparrow (1928-2010) was born in Zeoring. He was working with draft horses while still a toddler, and by the 1960s



his reputation as a horseman was established.

So was that of the Budweiser Clydesdales. When Prohibition was repealed in 1933, a beer wagon pulled by a team of Clydesdales delivered a case of Bud to Al Smith, Governor of New York and a good friend of alcohol.

Horses attracted attention, so Budweiser continued to use them. A team of six and sometimes eight Clydesdales traveled from event to event for years, then came the opportunity of television.

During this time Schlitz and Budweiser competed for number one. Schlitz sought to outdo the Clydesdales and seized on the idea of a 40-horse hitch, which hadn't been done since 1904. Sparrow had the Belgians and told Schlitz he could do the hitch, although he never had and knew there were good reasons why the feat hadn't been attempted for nearly 70 years.

Mechanics was a major issue. Harnessing eight horses is different than harnessing two. Expanding to 40 presented all manner of issues, one of which was the roughly 125-foot distance between driver and the lead team.

Imagine turning that train, understanding the setting will be the jam-packed streets of Milwaukee during a rowdy 4th of July parade with random fireworks, polka bands, fire trucks and sirens, and kids dashing into the street.

Turning the lead team started with a signal from an outrider because Sparrow was too far back to see the intersection. He then tightens the reins of the lead team on one side while easing them

### 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.

on the other, but each of the ensuing teams must continue on until reaching the place where the lead team turned, then their reins are tightened and eased and by the time the third or fourth team reach the intersection Sparrow can no longer see the leaders. And so it went, with over 80,000 pounds of well-muscled Belgians in an environment more raucous than any they'd previously experienced.

In addition to dexterity, Sparrow's job required strength. Combined weight of the reins was reported as 57 pounds. By the time the turn was completed, Sparrow had fed out 30 feet of line on one side while pulling in 30 feet on the other. This required an assistant located below and behind the driver's seat, there to take up slack and feed out line as Sparrow needed, keeping it all untangled because a snarl at that point could have been disaster.

Finding no living person who had done what he'd committed to try, Sparrow used a magnifying glass to study pictures of the 1904 circus parade, then he assembled the harnesses, tried out horses until he settled on 40, plus a number of extras, and trained them for weeks. He also sought unpaid volunteers.

Sparrow contracted to do it for \$120,000. While this seemed a lot of money, caring for 60 horses, assembling the equipment and then transporting it all to Milwaukee was an expensive proposition. Sparrow's son, Paul, has been quoted as saying \$120,000 didn't cover costs.

The event, though, caused Sparrow and his horses to be much in demand, and he loved what he was doing. He loved it so much that in 1976 he pulled the circus wagon with a 48-horse team.

Try that, Budweiser.

Roy Marshall is a local historian and columnist for the Red Oak Express. He can be contacted at 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. Wednesdays.  
Classified Line Ads/Garage Sale Ads: 10 a.m. Thursdays.  
Obituaries: 9 a.m. Mondays.

#### CONTACT US

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## THE RED OAK Express

Dedicated to Freedom Since 1868

ISSN 0747-3281

Phone 712-623-2566 • Fax 712-623-2568

Email: news@redoakexpress.com

2012 Commerce Dr., Box 377, Red Oak, IA 51566

Official Newspaper for City of Red Oak, Montgomery County, and Red Oak Community School District - Published Weekly.

Postmaster: ISSN 0747-3281. Periodicals class postage is paid at Red Oak, IA, 51566, and additional mailing offices.  
Address changes: The Red Oak Express, Box 377, Red Oak, IA 51566.

#### WHO WE ARE

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The Red Oak Express is owned by Red Oak Publications in Red Oak, IA. It is a member of the Iowa Newspaper Association and the National Newspaper Association.



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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

23 February

Noon, SCORE webinar, "How to Recession-Proof Your Business." Go to [omaha.score.org/content/take-workshop-242](http://omaha.score.org/content/take-workshop-242).  
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.  
7 p.m., Alcoholics Anonymous, Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 1101 Summit St.

24 February

Red Oak Public Library, Popcorn Friday, all day.  
10-11 a.m., Core 52 Bible study at the Red Oak Presbyterian Church, 511 E. Coolbaugh St. See the story on this page for further information.  
10:15 a.m., Storytime at the Red Oak Public Library, 400 N. 2nd St., theme: "Be Mine."  
5-6:30 p.m., Lenten Fish Fry at St. Mary's Catholic Church, 1510 Highland Ave. See story on this page for further information.  
5:30 p.m., Alcoholics Anonymous, Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 1101 Summit St.  
6:30 p.m., Trivia Night at the Five One 8, 518 N. 4th St.  
7 p.m., "The Amazing" theatre #1; "Missing," theatre #2; Red Oak Grand Theatre.

25 February

3-5 p.m., Southwest Iowa farmers meetup, Neighborhood Bakehouse, 308 E. Coolbaugh St. See story on page for details.  
7 p.m., "The Amazing Maurice," theatre #1; "Missing," theatre #2; Red Oak Grand Theatre.  
7 p.m., Tyler Richton & Highbank Boys, Coming Opera House, 800 Davis Avenue, Corning. See story on page for further details.

26 February

2 and 7 p.m., "The Amazing Maurice," theatre #1; "Missing," theatre #2; Red Oak Grand Theatre.  
5:30 p.m., Alcoholics Anonymous, Bethlehem Lutheran

Church, 1101 Summit St.

27 February

11 a.m. - 5 p.m., Blood drive at Montgomery County Memorial Hospital. See story on this page for further details.  
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.  
7 p.m., Alcoholics Anonymous, Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 1101 Summit St.

28 February

8:30 a.m., Montgomery County Supervisors, North Meeting Room in courthouse basement, open to public.  
Noon, Rotary Club meeting. For location, go to [rotarydistrict5650.org/clubinfo/red-oak](http://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 at 402-926-8683 for more information.  
2-3:30 p.m., Journeys Grief Support Group, Faith Community Church, 2701 N. 8th St. Sessions will be held every Tuesday for six weeks. Registration is required by Feb. 23 to participate. Call Judi at 623-7288 or email her at [juderi@mcmh.org](mailto:juderi@mcmh.org).  
5-5:45 p.m., Sports academy at the Montgomery County Family YMCA, 101 E. Cherry St., for pre-kindergarten and kindergarten.  
6-9 p.m., Winter Session I Singles Tennis League, Montgomery County Family YMCA, 101 E. Cherry St. Register at: [https://montgomeryco.recliquecore.com/programs/110014/high-school-adult-tennis-leagues/?location=s=13&fbclid=IwAR3kvAaAaBRHmw7\\_0ffBP2VG7Uykjy9TnHbuOah5cAL3-0IW6HC-6QZvmAUK](https://montgomeryco.recliquecore.com/programs/110014/high-school-adult-tennis-leagues/?location=s=13&fbclid=IwAR3kvAaAaBRHmw7_0ffBP2VG7Uykjy9TnHbuOah5cAL3-0IW6HC-6QZvmAUK)

1 March  
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.



'Elvis' appears in Stanton

Residents of Accura Healthcare of Stanton were treated to a special performance by "Elvis" (Craig Florian of Glenwood,) during a performance Feb. 16 at the center. (Photo submitted)

MCMH holding blood drive Monday

Montgomery County Memorial Hospital will host a blood drive from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday, Feb. 27.  
When donors come to give in February, they'll have a chance to win a trip for two to Clearwater Beach, Fla. Plus, they will also be eligible to receive a \$10 Amazon.com gift card by email. Restrictions apply. See [amazon.com/gc-legal](http://amazon.com/gc-legal).  
To schedule an appointment call Katie at 623-6725, email [katsap@mcmh.org](mailto:katsap@mcmh.org) or visit [reblood.org/donate](http://reblood.org/donate) and enter MCMH in the sponsor code box.



Red Oak Presbyterian Church hosting Core 52 Bible study group

The Red Oak Presbyterian Church is hosting a Core 52 Bible group, which is currently underway.  
The group will meet from 10 to 11 a.m. every Thursday, at the church at 511 E. Coolbaugh St. from now until Feb. 28, 2024.  
The group is for anyone interested in building their Bible IQ. In just 15 minutes a day, anyone who attends the weekly group session can master the 52 most important verses in the Bible in a year.  
These are the "core" of the Bible. Each verse clears the path to master and manage dozens of other verses that run along the same principle path.  
At the end of the journey,



participants will move from curiosity about the Bible to competence in the Bible. It is the quickest on ramp to understanding the whole of God's word.  
Attendees may pick up a Core 52 book at the church or order one from Amazon or Christian Book Distributors.

St. Mary's hosting Lenten fish fry

St. Mary's Catholic Church at 1510 Highland Ave. is hosting its 19th annual Lenten Fish Fry Days from now through March at the church hall.  
The event is from 5 to 6:30 p.m. Feb. 24, March 3, March 17, and March 24.

Menu will feature fried or baked Alaska pollock, fries, macaroni and cheese, baked potatoes, and coleslaw. Take out is also available.  
Cost \$12 for 13-adult, and \$7 for ages 5-12. Kids under five eat free.

SCORE February/March webinars

The Greater Omaha SCORE chapter, which includes Montgomery, Page, Taylor, and Adams counties, has announced its January series of live webinars.  
Upcoming webinars this month include:  
Feb. 23, noon: "How to Recession-Proof Your Business."  
March 2, noon: "How to Use Keywords On Your Website and Social Media to Attract Customers."  
March 7, noon: "How to Choose The Right Business Structure For Your Business."  
March 15, noon: "Women in Leadership 2023 - Journey to The Top."  
March 16, noon: "How to

Improve Your Business Website to Turn Visitors Into Sales."  
See [omaha.score.org/content/take-workshop-242](http://omaha.score.org/content/take-workshop-242) for more information and registration. All webinars are recorded and available at [score.org/recorded-webinars](http://score.org/recorded-webinars).  
The local SCORE chapter is located at the Small Business Administration (SBA) office, 10675 Bedford Ave., Suite 100, Omaha, NE, 68134; 402-221-3606, [omaha.score.org](http://omaha.score.org). Each local chapter has useful information on their websites for people who are interested in starting a small business or building a better business.

Happy Birthday!

Celebrating birthdays are:

Donna Walford - Feb. 23  
Marsha Bartles - Feb. 24  
Randy Goddard - Feb. 24  
Kate Ebert - Feb. 25  
Carla Mueller - Feb. 26  
Joyce Isaacson - Feb. 26  
Dorothy Betsinger - Feb. 27  
Liz Goddard - Feb. 28  
Matt Moore - March 1

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.

Southwest Iowa farmer meet up

Red Oak's Neighborhood Bakehouse at 308 E. Coolbaugh St. is hosting a Southwest Iowa farmer meet-up from 3 to 5 p.m. Feb. 25.  
Meet other local food producers for a free networking and

socializing event.  
Partners include Golden Hills, Southwest Iowa Food & Farm Initiative, Neighborhood Bakehouse, and Resilient Farms. Email [jamie.fowler@goldenhillsred.org](mailto:jamie.fowler@goldenhillsred.org) to register.

Concert at Corning Opera House

The Corning Opera House at 800 Davis Ave. in Corning will host Tyler Richton & Highbank Boys, beginning at 7 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 25.

The opening act will be Mike Walsh. Tickets are \$13 in advance, and \$18 at the door. Call 641-418-8037 to make a reservation

Senior Menu

Thursday, Feb. 23: Salisbury beef and whipped potatoes with brown gravy, corn, dinner roll, pineapple tidbits, milk/coffee.  
Friday, Feb. 24: Cheese omelette, hash browns, spiced

applesauce, bread slice, orange juice milk/coffee.  
Monday, Feb. 27: Meatballs with gravy, whipped potatoes, broccoli, bread slice, mixed fruit, milk/coffee.

Tuesday, Feb. 28: Spaghetti casserole, peas, tossed salad with ranch dressing, garlic bread, hot sliced peaches, milk/coffee.  
Wednesday, March 1: Menu not available.

For more information, call the 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.

CHURCH DIRECTORY

**Advent Christian**  
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.

**Assembly Of God**  
1005 Senate, Red Oak, 623-2174, Services, 10:30 a.m.

**Baptist**  
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. **Online:** 11 a.m. livestream.

**Southern Baptist**  
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, [crossroadsredoak.com](http://crossroadsredoak.com). **Online:** 9:45 a.m. approx. live on Facebook.

**Catholic**  
St. Joseph's, 131 W. High, Villisca, Father Sylvester Okoh, 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.

**Christian**  
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. **Online:** 10:30 a.m. live on Facebook.

**Christian & Missionary Alliance**  
Citylight Southwest Iowa, 705 Bradford, Emerson. Co-lead pastors Matt Keller, Tyler Mass. Worship with children's church, 10 a.m. in-person gathering. **Online:** 10 a.m. live on Facebook.  
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. **Online:** 9:30 a.m. on KCSI, 9:30 a.m. on Facebook.

**Church Of Christ**  
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, Interim Minister Kevin Berry, Sunday School 9 a.m., Worship, 10 a.m.

**Church Of The Nazarene**  
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.

**Covenant**  
Evangelical, Rev. Matt King, 308 Eastern, Stanton, Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Worship, 10:45 a.m. **Online:** 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 & Hammond, Red Oak, Worship, 9:30 a.m.

**Jehovah's Witness**  
210 Argus Road, Shenandoah, Thursday, 7:30 p.m.; Sunday, 10 a.m., public Bible discourse.

**Lutheran**  
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.  
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. **Online:** 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.

**Non-Denominational**  
Oaks Community Church, 41310 Ellington Rd., Emerson, Rev. Ron Perry, 712-824-7218, Sunday School, 10 a.m., Worship, 11 a.m.

**Presbyterian**  
Center Ridge, 1546 N. 110th St., Red Oak, Caryn Pedersen, Worship 1 p.m., two times a month. Call 623-9023 for more information.  
First Presbyterian, 109 S. 3rd Ave., Villisca, Rev. Sandra Wainwright, Sunday School, 9:30 a.m., Worship, 10:30 a.m.  
Red Oak Presbyterian, 511 E. Coolbaugh, PO Box 402, Red Oak, Caryn Pedersen, [redoakpresbyterianchurch.com](http://redoakpresbyterianchurch.com), Service, 10:30 a.m. **Online:** 10:30 a.m. live on Facebook/Red Oak Presbyterian Church

**Reformed Evangelical**  
Heartland Sovereign Grace Church, new church plant. Bible study Sunday, 5 p.m., [www.swiacrec.com](http://www.swiacrec.com), contact@swiacrec.com.

**United Methodist**  
First United Methodist, 600 E. Hammond, Red Oak, Rev. Jennifer Van Nostrand, Worship, Sunday, 9 a.m.; Youth group Wednesday 6:30-8 p.m., grades 6-12, snack is served. **Online:** 9 a.m. [fumcro.org](http://fumcro.org); click on the media tab to see previously recorded services.  
Wesley Chapel UMC, Rev. Carl Phillips, Worship, 8:45 a.m., Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.  
Red Oak Circuit, Linda Westerhold, Hawthorne, 1248 210th St., Red

Oak, Worship, 10 a.m.; Stratton, 1695 150th St., Red Oak, Worship, 11:15 a.m. **Online:** 11:15 a.m. live on Facebook.  
Elliott United Methodist, Rev. Terry McClain, Sunday School, 9 a.m., Worship, 10 a.m. **Online:** 10 a.m. live on Facebook.  
Emerson United Methodist Church, Rev. Denise Stevens, 801 Bradford Ave., Emerson, (712) 824-7368, Sunday School, 9:30 a.m., Worship, 10:30 a.m.  
Grant United Methodist, Pastor Casey Pelzer, Worship services, 8:30 a.m. **Online:** 8:30 a.m. live on Facebook  
United Methodist, 203 S. 3rd Ave., Villisca, Pastor Jennifer Van Nostrand, Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Worship, 10:45 a.m. **Online:** 10:45 a.m. live on Facebook.  
Strahan United Methodist, Hastings, Rev. David Kwangki Kim, Worship, 9:30 a.m., Sunday School, 10:30 a.m.

**United Church Of Christ**  
First Congregational, 608 Reed St., Red Oak, Sunday Worship, 11:30 a.m. in the sanctuary with fellowship prior to the service at 10:30 a.m. Rev. Holly Scherff, interim pastor.

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## Here's what is new at the Red Oak Chamber



Elaine Carlson  
Director of Membership & Finance

Winter may not be done with us, but we are sure done with winter.

We have been busy working on the last of the details of the Ag Appreciation Dinner, which is on the calendar for March 21.

This annual event is for our area Ag producers and Ag-related businesses. RSVP's are required, so call now if you would like to attend this year's event and you are an Ag producer or an Ag-related business.

We are excited to bring Greg Peterson from the Peterson Farm Brothers to be our guest speaker. Peterson is a 2013 graduate of Kansas State University where he majored in Agricultural Communications and Journalism and minored in Music Performance. He grew up and still works on his family farm near Assaria, Kan.

In 2012, Greg founded the "Peterson Farm Brothers" with his siblings. The videos that have resulted have received 250 million views in 10 years and have led to an increased role in agricultural advocacy for Peterson. Peterson and his brothers have had many opportunities to promote agriculture around the world. Their goal is still to operate the family farm together but hope to make a positive impact with their social media content.

Thanks to our speaker sponsors: Houghton State Bank, Mills/Montgomery County Cattlemen, and Montgomery County Farm Bureau. The meal will feature a ribeye sandwich, potato salad, and baked beans.

Thanks to our meal/beverage sponsors for helping to offer this meal for free: AgriSmart Information Systems, FarmCredit Services of America, Heartland FoamInSEALators, Montgomery County Soil & Water Conservation, and Red Oak Do It Center.

Also, thanks to our 2023 overall sponsors: United Farmers Cooperative, AgriVision Equipment Group, Precision Diesel, Red Oak Chrysler, Southwest Iowa Tire & Services, United Group Insurance, Bank Iowa Davis-Taylor Insurance, Iowa Corn Growers Mills/Montgomery, Tri-Valley Bank, Carrick & Associates, LLP, First Interstate Bank, ISU Extension and Outreach, and Selligren-Lindell-DeMarce Funeral Home.

### Leadership Red Oak

We only have five more openings if you are interested in participating in our Leadership Red Oak program this year. If you want to

learn more about our community, businesses, and industries, get in touch with us today. The Leadership Red Oak Program is for anyone who may be new to Red Oak or employees in leadership roles. It is a 10-week course that immerses community members in a hands-on experience of Red Oak industries, businesses, municipal departments, history of Red Oak and programs.

Leadership Red Oak is the community's only program that gives individuals the opportunity to tour assembly floors at Red Oak's many manufacturers and to learn about the businesses you may have wondered about. The sessions are scheduled every Thursday from 8am to noon, March 2-May 4. The graduation ceremony will take place on May 11. The cost for ROICIA members is \$50 and \$75 for non-members.

For more information or to register you may contact our office at 623-4821 or register at redoakiowa.com. Thanks to our Diamond Sponsor: Red Oak Greenhouse. Gold sponsors: Building Crafts, Inc., Carrick & Associates, LLP, and Clarios. Silver Sponsors: Farmers Mutual Telephone Company, Milestone Financial Group. Bronze Sponsors: Bank Iowa, Michael J. Portz, O.D., P.C., Montgomery County Family YMCA, Montgomery County Memorial Hospital. Sponsors of the week include: The Kiwanis Club of Red Oak, Larry and Faye Brandstetter, Milestone Financial Group, Montgomery County Farm Bureau, Nishna Productions, Red Oak Community School District, United Group Insurance.

### Welcome New Members

Tom and Carrie Stamets  
Red Oak Community Heart and Soul.

### Annual Meeting

The ROICIA Annual Meeting was held on Jan. 25 at the Red Oak Country Club and was very well attended! After reviewing the events and programs along with our committee updates, the attendees enjoyed a very touching and at times humorous testimonial from the owners of the Neighborhood Bakehouse, owners Matt and Adri St. Lezin. Their story is not only inspirational, but also is a reminder of just how blessed we are to live in Red Oak.

### Hotel/Motel Grant Applications

March 1 is fast approaching and if your business or organization wants to submit an application for the Hotel/Motel Grant offered by the City of Red Oak, it is due by the end of that day. Applications may be found on the City of Red Oak's website, or you may also stop by the Chamber and we would be happy to print one off for you.

### Ribbon Cutting

We will be celebrating at the Neighborhood Bakehouse their Grand Opening with a Ribbon Cutting on Friday, March 10 at 10:30 a.m.

### Legislative Briefings

The second 2023 Legislative Briefing will be on Saturday, March



Matt St. Lezin, along with wife Adri and daughters Amelia and Sienna, speaks during the annual ROICIA banquet. (Photo submitted)

4 at 8 a.m. at the YMCA.

### Mark Your Calendars for Upcoming Dates:

- March 2 - Leadership Red Oak Kickoff.
- March 4 - Legislative Briefing - 8 a.m.
- March 21 - ROICIA Ag Appreciation Dinner - RSVP required.

For more information about our members, promotions, and events within and around our community, please visit our website at redoakiowa.com.

If you have questions about becoming a member of the ROICIA or are interested in volunteering opportunities, please contact me at 623-4821.

Warm wishes,  
Elaine Carlson

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**Red Oak Chamber and Industry Association**

**5TH ANNUAL AG APPRECIATION DINNER**

FOR AREA AG PRODUCERS & AG RELATED BUSINESSES

Featured speaker: **Greg Peterson**

In 2012, Greg founded the "Peterson Farm Brothers" with his siblings. The videos that have resulted have received 200 million views in 10 years

Speaker sponsored by Houghton State Bank & Mills/Montgomery County Cattlemen & Montgomery Co. Farm Bureau

When: Tuesday, March 21st 2023  
Where: White Fair Building, Montgomery Co. Fair Grounds  
Time: Social 6:00 PM - Dinner 6:30 PM  
Cost: FREE  
Meal: Ribeye sandwich, potato salad, and baked beans  
Meal & beverage sponsors: AgriSmart Information Systems, Farm Credit Services of America, Heartland Foam InSEALators, Montgomery County Soil & Water Conservation, & Red Oak Do It Center  
Adult beverages will be available with valid ID

Please RSVP by March 18th, 2023  
Contact the Red Oak Chamber and Industry Association  
712-623-4821 | info@redoakiowa.com

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### Van Meter joins the ROICIA

Hello Red Oak and the surrounding area.

I would like to introduce myself, I am Tammi VanMeter, the new Office Administrator at the Red Oak Chamber and Industry Association. I am very excited to start my new role with the association and serve the Red Oak area.



I was born and raised on a farm north of Red Oak and graduated from Red Oak Community High School with the class of 1992. My husband Brian and I currently live on the family farm where we operate a row crop farm. Brian is also a graduate from Red Oak Community Schools. We have been blessed with two children, Hayden who graduated from Red Oak Community Schools and went on to receive his associates degree in Ag Business from Southwestern Community College. Hayden enjoys helping the youth with 4-H livestock projects and is a member of the Mills-Montgomery County Cattlemen. Katie graduated from Red Oak Community Schools

and went on to receive her bachelor's degree in business and accounting from Buena Vista University. Katie is currently the School Business Official at Fremont-Mills School District. I am currently on the Montgomery County Ag Extension Council Board and have been a past 4-H leader for 15 years. Some of my hobbies include supporting our youth in 4-H and FFA activities, gardening, baking, going on vacations, and spending time with friends and family. I am looking forward to my new adventure with the Association and can't wait to meet all of you and help make Red Oak a shade better. =

### 2023 Montgomery County Legislative Briefings

- Saturday, March 4 at 8 a.m. at the Montgomery County Family YMCA, 101 E. Cherry St.
- Saturday, April 1 at 8 a.m. at the Montgomery County Family YMCA, 101 E. Cherry St.



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# Wages set for seasonal summer city employees

Nick Johansen  
The Red Oak Express

The Red Oak Park and Tree Board is looking at options for a pool manager for the upcoming summer season.

Park and Tree Board Chairman Bill Drey said Mayor Shawna Silvius had been in contact with the League of Cities for information on the pool. Park superintendent Adam Van Der Vliet said Silvius was looking details for a job description.

"She reached out to the League of Cities for what the job entailed, and rate of pay to get an idea of what the cost would be for a pool manager," said Van Der Vliet.

Drey added that there is still uncertainty as to whether the board can afford to pay for the position, and were awaiting the final FY 2022-23 budget from the City of Red Oak. No further action was taken.

Members of the board also finalized the rates for the seasonal park employees and pool employees for 2023.

Park and Tree Board Chairman Bill Drey said the recommendation, pending next year's budget numbers, was to raise all salaries by a quarter.

"If we need to come back and address it later on, or approve a higher rate, we can do that. If we approve a quarter raise, it gives us a start and raises the salary a little more than last year," Drey said.

Board member Alex McFarland said she was struggling with the suggestion for a small pay raise due to the higher rates of pay afforded by other area businesses, such as grocery stores and fast food restaurants.

"There are some places that have a starting wage of \$14 an hour. But I can't pay anyone that much, so I get what we're dealing with here. The daycare that operates through the old Washington building has a \$14 per hour starting wage, even for part time positions," commented McFarland.

Current wages for seasonal park employees is \$10.50 for first hires, \$11 for two to four year employees, and \$11.50 for employees who have worked five years or more. Drey made it clear that the quarter suggestion was just a start, and could be revised.

The board approved the wage increase of 25 cents for all three tiers of seasonal employee wages.

Also under discussion was the rate for pool employees. For 2022, The assistant pool manager earned \$11.75, new lifeguards were paid \$9.25, and returning lifeguards received \$9.50. The salary for new pool attendants was \$8.50, and returning was \$9.

Park superintendent Adam Van Der Vliet said he had reached out to several similar-sized pools in the area and all varied in pay.

"In Mills County, the assistant pool manager makes \$14.57 per hour, and lifeguards \$11 per hour. They do not have a manager, they have an aquatics director through their YMCA. Creston had a pool manager that made \$15 per hour, the assistant manager made \$13 per hour. First year lifeguards made \$10, and returning lifeguards \$10.25," commented Van Der Vliet.

Finally, in Harlan, the pool manager was \$15 per hour, and the base wage for lifeguards was \$8.50. They also give an incentive for hours worked, so if they work 100 hours, they get a bonus of 50 cents per hour. Atlantic's manager gets \$13 per hour, they have no assistant managers, and the first year guards make \$11.25. Returning guards are \$11.50, and they could hardly find anyone last year."

Van Der Vliet added, the pool will be open as much as possible as long as staffing allows. The board needed to find as many guards as possible for what the budget allowed.

As with the seasonal employees, Drey said the recommendation was to start with a quarter raise across all the positions with



Members of the Red Oak Park and Tree Board spent the February meeting discussing seasonal employees, such as lifeguards at the swimming pool. This photo of the pool was taken in June 2022. (Tess Nelson/Red Oak Express)

the potential to change the rates following the publication of the city's budget.

McFarland was in favor of making the assistant pool manager \$12 to \$13, \$10 for lifeguards, and around \$9.25 for attendants.

"It's not raising it much but it at least gets us into the ballpark of other pools, and shows we're making an effort to try to do better," advised McFarland.

The board approved a salary increase to \$12 for the assistant manager, \$10.25 for returning lifeguards, and \$10 for new lifeguards, and for pool attendants, \$8.75 for new attendants, and \$9.25 for returning pool attendants.

The park board also discussed the renewal of a concession stand lease at the pool during the summer season. Drey said the same group that did concessions last year, and was affiliated through a local church, was interested in renewing the lease. Van Der Vliet said the arrangement was profitable last year.

"We made around \$200 from the concessions lease, which is more that we made from it in the past. It worked out very well last year, and we worked well with each other," commented Van Der Vliet.

The board approved renewing the concession stand lease. Van Der Vliet said the board made 10% from the sales from the stand.

The board also reviewed the lifeguard manual for the municipal pool. Van Der Vliet said he had no change recommendations. The board was advised to review the manual and make any suggestions for edits at the next park and tree board meeting.

In other business, the board:

- Approved the Montgomery County Family YMCA's request of the Kelly Park fields for the spring 2023 soccer season. Drey said the YMCA has liability insurance for the event.
- Approved the YMCA's request for the Chautauqua park fields for the co-ed slow pitch softball league.

## INTERVENTIONIST

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A

whatever reason, are not being successful in school, and provide them a lot of different supports," stated Lorenz.

Hamstra praised McPhillips for his efforts in how he oversees all of the interventionists in each district.

"It is so unique to each district, and it allows us to move the needle a little bit, and when we go home, we can know it's at least one kid whose life we've made a difference in," stated Hamstra.

Lorenz said he decided to pursue adding an interventionist to address attendance and truancy issues and do a better job with behavior referrals, as well as general wellness.

McPhillips said the program had a lot more leeway, such as approaching parents directly in the case of truancy situations, that the district didn't have the same leverage to do.

Also, the interventionist will do intervention work on all grade levels, not just higher grade levels.

Cost of the interventionist for the district on an annual basis for the school year was less than \$40,000. The bill could be paid before the ESSER window closed.

Hamstra said the juvenile court officer for Red Oak was excited about having the program as an option, as it helped divert as many kids from juvenile court as possible. McPhillips said if the board approved the program, they could have an interventionist in the district by mid-March.

"It's an opportunity, and it's a year-to-year contract, so if it doesn't work, you're not locked into it. We've had a lot of successes, but we can't win them all," advised McPhillips.

Lorenz said he had seen firsthand the benefits of this type of program, and since the program was affiliated with the juvenile court system, they had more leverage than the district.

"When a child is habitually truant, they go to the house and knock on the door and tell

the parents they need to find a way to get the kids to school before the juvenile court got involved. In our case, they may neglect the warning. With this program, they don't get that option. There's some teeth there," Lorenz advised. "In my previous experience, vaping was specifically mentioned. In the previous districts, the interventionist can write tickets, we don't need to call the police. They have authority beyond what we do, and I think we're at a place where we need some help. That's not a failure, as there are other districts in the area using this program. It's not a question of why we're doing this, it's why haven't we already?"

McPhillips estimated the interventionist would be on-site at the district around March 15 to close out the remainder of the school year, and then operate year-round when the district resumes classes for the 2023-24 school year.

### SERVICES BY THE NUMBERS

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# Red Oak Board of Education agrees to update preschool instructional delivery model

**Nick Johansen**  
The Red Oak Express

The Red Oak School District is making a change to its preschool instructional delivery model.

At the regular board meeting Feb. 15, superintendent Ron Lorenz said there were recent challenges in the district's preschool program which have prompted the district to reconsider the current delivery model. Among those challenges are teacher licensure requirements and staffing shortages, adult-student ratios, a concentration of our neediest students in a single classroom, and balancing the need to fulfill state and federal program requirements with a desire to serve the maximum number of students possible.

The district is also required to provide special education services to a growing number of entitled three-year-olds who are being referred to the programs. There were also a number of parents who struggle to pick up their children in the middle of the day or find affordable childcare for a few hours each afternoon.

"We currently offer four sections of preschool, which are funded through a Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program (SWVPP) grant, Head Start grant, a Shared Visions grant, and private pay. Each grant program has strict requirements regarding teacher licensure, program and content standards, rigorous and relevant curriculum and assessment, parent engagement, adult-teacher ratios, and maximum group sizes," commented Lorenz.

Generally, the district is limited to one to 10 teacher-student ratios and maximum class sizes of 20 students. They are also required to offer a minimum of 10 hours of quality instruction each week for SWVPP and 1020 hours per year for Head Start. All preschool

teachers must be licensed through the Iowa Board of Educational Examiners. Special education students are currently served in a single classroom because we have only one Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE) endorsed teacher.

Also, Lorenz said the district must reserve slots for special education students who may move into the district or turn three during the school year, so they are often unable to fill all available seats. The school currently offers preschool classes Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. Teachers use the afternoons to fulfill program requirements and assurances.

"We propose implementing a hybrid model that would offer preschool classes Monday through Thursday, from approximately 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., for most children, and a half-day section for three-year-old preschool special education students and other families who prefer an 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. alternative. An early childhood special education teacher would teach the half-day section and the morning and provide push-in special education services to entitled students on their classrooms in the afternoon," explained Lorenz. "Teachers would use Fridays to conduct lesson planning, progress monitoring, professional development, and other program requirements. This is a fairly common preschool delivery model. It would allow us to blend our special education classrooms and achieve a fully integrated program. Entitled students would benefit from more social interactions with same-age peers, and typical students may become more accepting of differences."

Additionally, the proposed delivery model would provide parents with more choices in terms of half day and full day programming, and would be more convenient for parents who struggle to pick up their children in the middle of the day or find short-term child care.

The alternative was endorsed by AEA representatives and supported by the preschool staff. It was believed it would enable the district to serve more students, provide more special education services, offer more parent choice, and comply with state and federal mandates.

Inman principal Jane Chaillie said during a recent site visit, the state liked the district's blended philosophy of Head Start, Shared Vision, and voluntary preschool. Chaillie said it would allow them to blend in special education students as well.

"They would have more same-age peers. The four year olds could be in any of the classrooms, and the three year olds would do the half-day program. We have some families that only want to send their students to a half-day program, and they opt not to send their student to preschool because we don't have that option. This would allow us to give them that option," Chaillie said.

Lorenz said that while the model was a change for the district, it was by no means brand new, and it was a tried and true model used by other districts.

The board approved the updated preschool model, as presented, for the 2023-24 school year.

In other business, the board:

- Approved a quote from Riddell for new football helmets for \$9,298. Plans were to put the equipment purchases on a scheduled basis.
- Approved the changes to the graduation ceremony and scholarship recognition.

# Alternative insurance options discussed by board

**Nick Johansen**  
The Red Oak Express

The Montgomery County Board of Supervisors were updated on the status of the renewal for the county's insurance.

At a supervisors meeting a few weeks ago, Tom Schuetz, senior partner of the Alera Group, advised the county it should brace itself for a premium increase of approximately 6 percent from the previous year.

At the regular meeting Feb. 14, Schuetz shared some of the latest numbers he'd received from United Healthcare, as well as a potential merger of the Iowa Public Employers Pool, (IPEP). Schuetz said UHC's renewal amount was quite high.

"The initial renewal offer was 19.6%; however, it's more likely to end up at a 16% increase based on the numbers of claims experienced," Schuetz said.

Currently, the county has budgeted for an insurance premium increase of 18%. Schuetz said another potential alternative were discussions of a merger with IPEP, and the Iowa Government Health Care Plan,

a benefits trust for shared risk pooling among public employers in the state of Iowa.

"Part of the reasoning for the merger is the fact that the Iowa Government Health Care Plan has more members, and the merger would allow the risk to be spread across a larger group," commented Schuetz.

Schuetz also said he had received preliminary numbers from Steve Preader, representing IPEP, on the cost of insurance if the county went with the Iowa Government Health Care Plan, which operates with Wellmark Blue Cross, Blue Shield.

"I think this will lead to some serious discussions, because from what I've seen with the numbers relative to Montgomery County, they are much lower than UHC. There's just under \$150,000 in premium difference. It's that much lower with insurance through the Iowa Government Health Care Plan. However, I need to get further details in regards to plan design," Schuetz advised.

An IPEP trust renewal meeting is scheduled for Thursday, Feb. 23. Schuetz expects the merger to be a deep topic of

discussion.

"I'm expecting there will be a strong push to merge IPEP into the Iowa Government Health Care Plan. While it's not finalized, I think there's a strong likelihood a report will come back before you that the IPEP trust has shown a desire to negotiate and move into the Iowa Government Health Care Plan. We'll then have a decision on when to follow them or not," said Schuetz.

County Auditor Jill Ozuna asked if the county entered into an agreement with the Iowa Government Health Care Plan, whether that would make it difficult for the county to switch to a provider from the Iowa State Association of Counties. Schuetz said the choice would likely be an either/or decision.

Supervisor Donna Robinson asked if IPEP was looking for a merger with the Iowa Government Health Care Plan due to a lack of participants. Schuetz believed the lowered number of participants were a part of the reason, but not the whole reason.

"The Iowa Government Health Care Plan is a much big-

ger pool, with 38 public entities that are a combination of counties, cities, schools, and utilities. It's become a popular landing spot for governmental entities that are similar in size to what Montgomery County is."

Schuetz said the county could compare the positives and negatives between the The Iowa Government Health Care Plan and the Iowa State Association of Counties and determine which entity would be the best for the county.

No further action was taken. Further discussion on the county's insurance renewals is expected at a future supervisors meeting.

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