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THE RED OAK Express

WEDNESDAY

April 19, 2023
Red Oak, IA
Volume 156, No.16
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Red Oak Prom Court

Those selected for the 2023 Red Oak Prom Court are, from left, front row: Danique Dobbe, Theresa Flick, Ashley Wilkins, Bridgett Archer, and Josie Vanderhoof. Back row, from left: Braden Woods, Cash Berendes, James Gass, Kyle Westover, and Landon Couse. Red Oak's prom is Saturday, April 22. (Photo provided)

Council hears budget preview

Nick Johansen
The Red Oak Express

The Red Oak City Council received an update on the city's proposed 2023-24 budget.

A special meeting is scheduled for 5:30 p.m., April 24, at the Red Oak Fire Station. A public hearing on the budget is scheduled, and formal adoption will also be on the special meeting agenda.

At the April 17 meeting, the council heard comments from city administrator, Al Vacanti, who began by expressing his appreciation to new city clerk Christie Vanderholm, Mayor Shawna Silvius, and the city's department heads in getting the proposed budget completed.

"I won't be foolish enough to say it's a perfect budget, but I think it's a good and workable budget. The more I talked to people and learned the operations of the city and the needs of the city and departments, we got more comfortable and felt this was a workable budget, rather than something to get the city by until 2025," Vacanti said.

Vacanti said proposed legislation to reduce the costs on Iowans property tax bills has passed through the legislature, and it will cost the city approximately \$50,000 in general property taxes.

As for the budget itself, the current year's budget is \$10,765,782, and the proposed budget was \$13,649,615, a \$2,844,000 increase. However, Vacanti said there was little need to get concerned.

"There's a runway project of \$1,380,000 that is 90% funded by the Federal Aviation Administration that is still included in the full budget amount, at the Red Oak Municipal airport," said Vacanti. "Also, there's a project at the wastewater treatment plant. We don't know what the numbers are yet, because the preliminary engineering report is not completed to give us an idea, so I put in a number of \$1 million for anticipated expenses for the first year, thinking it will be a two or three year project. It may be lower than that, but I tend to go a little stronger on expenses and a little less on revenues."

Also, there were two American Rescue Plan Act expenses, \$138,000 for the purchase of a new ambulance, and \$94,000 for the water department to GPS map all of the water valves and lines.

"Taking all those out of there, the amount is a little over \$2.6 million, so the excess balance over last year's total budget is about \$270,000, which is less than 3%, even in light of inflation. The budget increase is very explainable," commented Vacanti.

COUNCIL, Page 8A

Flooding prevented due to the 'beaver deceiver'



Josh Harris of Healthy Turf in Red Oak reaches to grab a fence post from Matt Echternach while staking down the cage portion of a beaver deceiver. In the excavator is Travis Treat. A beaver deceiver allows the water level to be controlled while leaving a beaver dam intact. Harris recently installed a beaver deceiver on the rural Red Oak property of Linda Head. (Photo by Linda Head)

Tess Nelson
The Red Oak Express

When a beaver dam was recently threatening to flood one of Linda Head's farm fields northeast of Red Oak, she recalled an Iowa Learning Farm presentation she attended about a simple solution to remove the flooding potential while leaving the beavers alone.

Referred to as a Beaver Deceiver, the contraption allows the pond depth to be maintained at a level that won't flood, while not harming the beaver or its dam.

"There have been beaver on this property for three decades, but none of the dams have caused flooding problems before now," said Head. "We wanted to address the issue quickly because it's planting season."

Head contacted Healthy Turf's Josh Harris and told him about the flooding issue as well as the beaver deceiver. Unaware of such an invention, Harris took to the internet and conducted his own research about how to come up with his own design.

"It's a neat, simple concept," explained Harris. "It's one that is a win-win for the landowner and the beaver."

Harris said before devices like a beaver deceiver, landowners would exterminate the beaver or trap it and relocate it, but that only served as a temporary solution. Since they



The completed Beaver Deceiver on Linda Head's property in rural Red Oak. (Photo by Linda Head)

are migrating creatures, a new beaver would move into the area where the dam once was and take up residence, creating a new dam.

"If a beaver can't live on a farm, where can it live?" said Head. "The function of a beaver deceiver is to control the water level of the pond behind the beaver dam, but allow the beaver to continue to build their dam at their normal rate. It's definitely a win-win situation."

Harris and he and his crew placed a culvert through the beaver dam, which allows the

BEAVER, Page 2A

Kiwanis continues providing bicycle helmets to third graders

Nick Johansen
The Red Oak Express

The Red Oak Kiwanis Club continues its tradition of providing extra safety to grade school bicycle riders.

On April 12, Kiwanis President Kim Truka, and members Kylie Bowen and Wayne Donohue fitted and donated bicycle helmets for the third grade classes at Inman Elementary. The program was started by Donohue, a charter member of the Red Oak Kiwanis. Donohue owned a bike shop and knew of the importance of safety when riding a bike. In the first year, the group partnered with the Red Oak Optimists

Club, but have since taken over handling the event themselves.

Donohue said the program is as important today as it was when he started it more than two decades ago.

"It's very rewarding to see it still thriving through the Kiwanis all these years later. In fact, there have been occasions where within a week or two after the fittings, one of the kids had a bike accident. You just never know," said Donohue. "When I first started, I was buying them and fitting them through my shop. Since then, they have implemented programs specifically for this kind of thing."

During the event, Donohue shared a story about how he was saved by a

helmet from being injured more than once. Donohue stressed that helmets are instrumental for bicycle safety no matter the circumstance.

"I remember one kid who said he rode carefully and didn't need a helmet. Even people who are riding very safely slowly need to wear a helmet. My last accident was in a race in Illinois. We were coming up to a loop like we have at the high school. I was rounding a curve in a light rain and wiped out. I was only going five miles an hour at the time, and there had been new asphalt laid in that area. I was the fourth rider to fall in that same spot," advised Donohue. "When you fall, your head can hit just as hard on the

pavement going five miles an hour as it does when you're going even faster. A lot of people think you have to be riding carelessly or fast to have an accident, and that just isn't so. You can have a fall just from making an unexpected stop."

Donohue added there was a specific reason why they selected the third grade age students to receive the helmets.

"Usually by third grade, most kids have bicycles, though not all. Also, we have given bicycles away to families that don't have them," said Donohue.

Truka said she became involved with the program to help out Donohue, and then took over the program when

Donohue wished to retire. The process, Truka said, has become much more streamlined.

"Helmets are different today than they used to be. In the past, we had to spend a day measuring everybody, and then order the specific helmets. Now they have a variety of features to modify them from a small to a large. We also look back every year and see how many we used and go from there. We've gotten to the point now where we can provide the helmets and the fittings in one day, and we go from extra small to extra large, because everyone is different. Anything we have left over

HELMETS, Page 7A



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Red Oak teacher contracts, wages finalized for 2023-24

Nick Johansen
The Red Oak Express

The Red Oak School Board met in special session April 5 to finalize teacher contracts and wages for the upcoming school year.

The first item on the agenda was to discuss and approve the Red Oak Education Association master contract, and issuing individual teacher contracts for the 2023-24 school year.

Superintendent Ron Lorenz advised the board that he was pleased the district and the Red Oak Education Association reached a tentative agreement on the 2023-24 contracts.

"The agreement would freeze the salary schedule for next year, and provide an across the board increase to all teachers of \$2,200. Current teachers would also receive a \$1,000 retention stipend for next year. We've also increased the unit multiplier on the supplemental schedule by \$8," Lorenz said. "All in all, it was a very positive, and mutually beneficial settlement. When you look at just the

\$2,200 increase, that represents a 3.2% salary increase, and when you include the \$1,000 retention bonus, it's a 4.5% increase."

Lorenz also stated he felt the process was smooth, amicable, and quite quick, and everyone involved seemed to be satisfied with the results.

The board approved the Red Oak Education Association master contract, and issuing individual teacher contracts for the 2023-24 school year.

Next on the agenda was discussion of hourly wage salary increases for remaining non-bargained personnel. With approval of the master contract, teacher contracts were ready to go out, and Lorenz said as they did that, they wanted to get the remaining contracts out as well.

"We are recommending the school nurse, principals, program directors, and directors receive the same \$2,200 increase the teachers received, less the \$1,000 retention bonus," stated Lorenz. "That equates to a 3.2% increase for the nurse, a 1.88% increase for principals, and a 1.27% increase for directors."

The board had no additional questions, and

hourly wage salary increases for remaining non-bargained personnel as presented.

The final action item on the agenda was to approve the hire of Heidi Harris as school business official and board secretary/treasurer for the 2023-24 school year. Lorenz said the action was bittersweet.

"On the one hand, we're saying goodbye soon to our friend Deb Drey, who's going to be retiring, but at the same time, we're going to hire our friend Heidi Harris to fill those shoes. Heidi has already been hard at work to prepare for transitioning into that role," Lorenz said.

The item would typically be included in the consent agenda, but due to additional requirements, Lorenz said official board action was required, with Harris formally taking the position on July 1.

The board approved the hire of Heidi Harris as school business official and board secretary/treasurer for the 2023-24 school year.

In other business, the board:

- Approved the hire of Beth Rehbein as Title I

reading teacher at Inman Elementary for the 2023-24 school year.

- Approved the hire of Anna Ramaker as classroom teacher at Inman Elementary for the 2023-24 school year.
- Approved the resignation of Rebecca Stanbrough as high school family consumer science teacher effective at the end of the 2022-23 school year.
- Approved the resignation of Spencer Plank as high school social studies teacher and head varsity baseball coach, effective at the end of the 2022-23 school year.
- Approved the resignation of John Allison as junior high school volleyball coach effective at the end of the 2022-23 school year.
- Approved the resignation of Clay Selberg as varsity assistant wrestling coach effective at the end of the 2022-23 school year.
- Approved the resignation of Colby Sorensen as P.E. teacher at Inman Elementary and varsity assistant wrestling coach, effective at the end of the 2022-23 school year.

County assessor explains spike in property tax assessments

Nick Johansen
The Red Oak Express

Montgomery County Assessor Sharon Dalton offered some information regarding the spike in property tax assessments at the regular Montgomery County Board of Supervisors meeting April 11.

Dalton said that she was aware that all of the county residents got a bit of a shock when they opened their mail a few weeks ago, and had been calling since then. Dalton said the reasoning behind the spike was due to sales throughout the county and statewide.



County Assessor Sharon Dalton explains the jump in property assessments during the regular supervisors meeting April 11. (Nick Johansen/The Red Oak Express)

"The sales in and outside the county have been out of this world by being so high. To keep in compliance with state laws, we need to be between, on an average of our sales, between a 95% and 105% ratio between sale price and our assessed value. We were sitting at around 70% for residential and 69% for commercial," Dalton said.

Dalton said they incorporated elements from the newest state manual, which was released in 2020, that estimates building costs.

"It's an update the Department of Revenue puts out on building costs, determining what it would cost today for a home or business to get a replacement cost new. From there, we take off the depreciation for the age of the property and the condition. That adjusted a lot of the values. Then we had to look at updating due

to the sales," Dalton explained. "We have no control over that. If we do not go in and adjust the values to keep in compliance, the state will come in during the fall and give us an equalization order, and we try to avoid that."

Under the terms of the state's equalization order, the process helps ensure that that all classes of property have been assessed at the value according to state law and that taxation is applied equitably statewide. An equitable assessment level among counties is also necessary to ensure fair distribution of school aid and other state services.

Dalton said one of the biggest concerns expressed by the public fears that due to the percentage of increase of the assessment on the property values, that the property taxes would go up. Dalton said that wouldn't be the case.

"The laws in the State of Iowa have it worked in there that no one class of property taxes statewide can go up 3% in one year. When people look at their tax statements, they can see an assessed value, and a taxable value. That is where the taxable value comes from, and is the adjustment setting the limits

that the state does. It is changed yearly," commented Dalton.

The other concern expressed to the assessor's office, Dalton said, was that the taxes in the fall would be based on the new value. Dalton said it will have no effect on taxes this year.

"The taxes will be based on the 2022 values. This new value will effect taxes in the fall of 2024," Dalton said.

So far, Dalton said she's been able to handle and offer explanations to those that have voiced concerns.

"We had a lot of people come in, and once everything has been explained to them, we haven't had anyone really leave angry. That's been a good thing. They're willing to listen and they understand that we're not just trying to gouge them to get more tax dollars," stated Dalton.

Also, while home sales have decreased, sales are still higher than the homes assessed values, and the market remains rather high.

Supervisors Chair Mike Olson said there has been a misconception that the increase in assessments was due to actions by the supervisors. Olson said

that wasn't true.

"I've talked to quite a few people about this, and we didn't even know this was coming, at least I didn't," advised Olson.

Olson asked Dalton about the numbers that were sent to the state. Dalton said every sale that went through the county had a declaration of value.

"It's a form that comes to the courthouse filled out by the attorney or realtor listing the buyer and seller and sale price. It's supposed to tell whether it's a family sale or otherwise. We then put our assessed value on there, which figures the ratio of sale price to our assessed value. That form then goes to the Department of Revenue, and they look at those very closely.

Over a two year span, they do an average to make sure we're in compliance," explained Dalton.

Dalton also made it clear that lowering the assessed value without a justifiable reason would be a mistake.

"We've handled about seven informally, and we've found things that require adjustments be made, like a property where the house was torn down and they forgot to tell us about it. But if we try to just not have this increase, the state will come in during the fall. We have to remain in compliance with the 95% to 105%," Dalton commented.

No further action took place during the supervisors meeting.

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Avoid having sex until you and your sex partner both **complete treatment**.

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BEAVER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A

water to flow where it needs to uninterrupted. A cage is attached to the end of the culvert, which prevents the beaver from damming it up; causing flooding issues. The cage is then staked into the water so it can't be moved.

"We ended up dropping the water levels a couple feet; enough to keep the field dry but still leave a wetland," Harris said. "It was a project we'd never done before, but it was enjoyable for us."

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CURTIS “CURT” LUNDBERG, 93

Curtis “Curt” Merrill Dean Lundberg, 93, the son of Charles Adrian and Ada Botilda (Swanson) Lundberg, passed away Jan. 7, 2023 in Denver, Colo.
May God bless his memory and give strength to those who mourn.
Celebration of Life Service will be held Saturday, April 22, 2023, at 10:30 a.m. at Fremont Lutheran Church at Nyman. Inurnment will be at Mt Hope Cemetery at Nyman.
Sellersgren-Lindell-DeMarce Funeral Home is assisting the family.

JANICE BRUCE, 65

Janice Kay Bruce, 65, Red Oak, passed away Wednesday, April 12, 2023, at her home.
Janice was born May 10, 1957, in Omaha, Neb., the daughter of Jay and Bonnie (Abramson) Tye.
Preceding her in death were her parents.
Survivors include her husband Randy Bruce of Red Oak; sons, Lewis Bruce of Atlantic; and Dana Bruce of Littleton, Colo.; and four grandchildren.
A celebration of life service was held Monday, April 17, 2023, at the Nelson-Boylan-LeRette Funeral Chapel in Red Oak. A private family burial took place at Evergreen Cemetery prior to the celebration of life.
In lieu of flowers, memorials are suggested to the Estabrook Cancer Center at Nebraska Methodist Hospital. Nelson-Boylan-LeRette Funeral Chapel is in charge of arrangements.

BRANDON WAX, 39

Brandon Wax, 39, Hastings, passed away Saturday, April 15, 2023, at CHI Bergan Mercy Hospital in Omaha, Neb.
Funeral services are pending at the Nelson-Boylan-LeRette Funeral Chapel.

JOEL MAYNE II, 80

Joel Harlan Mayne II, 80, died Oct. 2, 2022, in Stuart, Fla., where he had resided for many years.
Joel was born on March 1, 1942, in Sioux City, to Winfield Swift and Ann Gaynor Mayne. He attended public schools in Red Oak, then the University of Miami, Coral Gables, Fla.; and graduated from the University of Colorado, Boulder, Colo.; with a B.S. in journalism, and from Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton, Florida, with a B.A. in elementary education.
Joel was a decorated Vietnam War Veteran. He served proudly as a Platoon Leader with the 4th Infantry division in some of the heaviest fighting in the II Corps region of Vietnam. He was decorated for heroism multiple times and was awarded the Purple Heart Medal for injuries sustained in battle and completed his service in the U.S. Army as Infantry Company Commander.
He had many varied and successful careers, including the U.S. Postal Service, the Internal Revenue Service, as well as teaching, owner, and Chief Instructor of Dixie Diver’s Incorporated and the Powder River Corporation.
Survivors include his wife, Diane Tappen Neumann Mayne; two brothers, Mark R. Mayne, Tarpon Springs, Fla.; and W. G. Mayne, Villisca; and one sister, Lyn Schmausser Albertson, Denver, Colo.
Survivors also include a son, Joel Harlan Mayne III; a son, Steven Reiser Mayne; two stepsons, Walter Nicholas Neumann and Franklin Neumann. and five grandchildren. He was predeceased by a daughter, Lauren Cynthia Mayne.
Joel was an individual of great character with many talents and facets. He was a skilled raconteur, known by many, understood by some, and loved by most. Joel will be remembered and missed.
A celebration of life service will be held 10:30 a.m. Saturday, April 22, 2023, at the Nelson-Boylan- LeRette Funeral Chapel. Burial will be in the Evergreen Cemetery.
In lieu of flowers memorials are suggested to the Red Oak Heritage Foundation.
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.

REAL ESTATE

WARRANTY DEED

- Clifford and Carol Glassel to Caleb and Abbey Orme, Red Oak Eastern Slopes V Lts 33-34.
- Carol Hart, Greg Hart, Agent, and Teresa Sohl, Agent, to Sara Gustafson, Villisca Redmon’s Addition Apt 5, Lts 11-13.

COURT OFFICER’S DEED

- Phillip Updike Family Trust, Esther Updike Family Trust, and Richard Updike, Trustee, to Esther Updike, 30-71-38.
- Steven Gible Estate, and Tyler Gible, Administrator, to Tyler Gible, Villisca N Villisca Lts 30-31.

CONTRACT

- David and Susan Rhamy to Alex Danesi and Joan Armstrong, Villisca Original Plat Lts 118-119.

MORTGAGE

- Chad and Jessica Holt to Navy Federal Credit Union, Red Oak Northeastern Addition Blk 92 Lts 5-6.
- Bryce Johnson, Mark Johnson, Jordan Johnson, and J Bros LLP, to Bank Iowa, 29-71-38 Parcel B.
- Sara Gustafson to Bank Iowa, Villisca N. Villisca Lt 36.
- Caleb and Abbey Orme to Charter West Bank, Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems Inc., and MERS, Red Oak Eastern Slopes V Lts 33-34.

MOD/AMENDMENT OF MORTGAGE

- James Garbez to Patrick and Melanie Noland, Red Oak Willard’s Addition Lt 4.
- Lindsay Blaine to Bank Iowa, Red Oak Oak Addition Blk 1 Lts 8-9.
- Michael and Judith Cuypers to Bank Iowa, 27-72-38.

SMALL CLAIMS

- Red Credit Solutions LLC vs. Sheena Winchel, Red Oak, dismissed without prejudice.
- Credit Bureau Services of IA Inc. vs. Nicole Henderson, Red Oak, judgment default in favor of the plaintiff, \$2,014.13 with 7.22% interest from April 13, plus costs.
- Hauge Associates, Inc vs. Charles and Emily Weeks, Red Oak, judgment default in favor of the plaintiff, \$1,587.48 with 7.22% interest from April 13, plus costs.
- Credit Bureau Services of IA Inc. vs. Erwin Murguia Fregoso, Red Oak, judgment default in

- favor of the plaintiff, \$6,500 with 7.22% interest from April 11, plus costs.
- Credit Bureau Services of IA Inc. vs. Holly Gross, Red Oak, judgment default in favor of the plaintiff, \$1,508.98 with 7.22% interest from April 11, plus costs..
- Credit Bureau Services of IA Inc vs. Amber and Joseph Baldwin, Red Oak, judgment default in favor of the plaintiff, \$2,118.99 with 7.22% interest from April 11, plus costs.
- Credit Bureau Services of IA Inc. vs. Angela Baier, Red Oak, judgment default in favor of the plaintiff, \$877.13 with 7.22% interest from April 13, plus costs.
- Credit Bureau Services of IA Inc. vs. Roland and Sherrie Chapin, Red Oak, judgment default in favor of the plaintiff, \$1,195.32 with 7.22% Interest from April 11, plus costs.
- Credit Bureau Services of IA Inc. vs. Taryn Kautz, Stanton, judgment default in favor of the plaintiff, \$2,325.44 with 7.22% interest from April 11, plus costs.
- Credit Bureau Services of IA Inc. vs. Larry Keesis, Red Oak, judgment default in favor of the plaintiff, \$2,475.50 with 7.22% interest from April 11, plus costs.
- Portfolio Recovery Associates LLC vs. Anthony De Masi, Red Oak, judgment default in favor of the plaintiff, \$1,184.80 with 0% interest from April 11, plus costs.
- Portfolio Recovery Associates LLC vs. Laurel De Masi, Red Oak, judgment default in favor of the plaintiff, \$3,325.31 with 0% interest from April 11, plus costs.

ARRESTS

- Filed April 11, Brian Anderson, 37, Red Oak, OWI first offense, \$1,000 bond.
- Filed April 12, Amanda Williams, 30, Red Oak, aggravated assault – display dangerous weapon, theft fourth degree, \$2,000 cash bond.
- Filed April 13, Michael Cobb, 40, Red Oak, criminal mischief third degree, \$2,000 bond.
- Filed April 14, Russel McCullough, 41, Red Oak, public intoxication, \$300 bond.
- Filed April 15, Kristin Harold, 33, Red Oak, OWI first offense, child endangerment, \$2,000 bond.
- Filed April 17, Maura Jones, 30, Red Oak, public intoxication, \$300 bond.

CRIMINAL

- Aggravated, State of Iowa vs. Michael Cobb, 40, Red Oak, criminal mischief third degree.
- Aggravated, State of Iowa vs. Amanda Williams, 30, Red Oak, assault while displaying dangerous weapon, theft fourth degree.
- Felony, State of Iowa vs. Jason Berendes, 46, Red Oak, probation violation, pled guilty, time served.
- Simple misdemeanor, State of Iowa vs. James Kasha, 64, Villisca, interference with official acts, pled guilty, \$105 fine.
- Simple misdemeanor, State of Iowa vs. Janssen Ludwigs, 33, Oakland, theft fifth degree, pled guilty, two days jail, time served.
- Simple misdemeanor, State of Iowa vs. John Strait, 67, Red Oak, open burning violation.
- Simple misdemeanor, State

- of Iowa vs. Kristy Martin, 38, Griswold, domestic abuse assault - first offense.
- Simple misdemeanor, State of Iowa vs. Kimberly Jones, 53, Red Oak, theft fifth degree.
- Simple misdemeanor, State of Iowa vs. Jason Rush, 37, Elliott, domestic abuse assault - first offense.
- Simple misdemeanor, State of Iowa vs. Stephen Hall, 19, Villisca, driving while license denied, suspended, cancelled, or revoked.
- Serious misdemeanor, State of Iowa vs. Ashley King, 29, Gilmore City, possession of a controlled substance - methamphetamine, first offense.

OWI

- State of Iowa vs. Brian Anderson, 37, Red Oak, first offense.
- State of Iowa vs. Ashlyn Kephart, 24, Essex, first offense.
- State of Iowa vs. Darian Tarbox, 25, Elliott, second offense.

TRAFFIC

- Malakai Hansen, Council Bluffs, failure to provide proof of financial liability insurance.
- James Kasha, Villisca, failure to maintain or use safety belts.
- Glenda Joint, Council Bluffs, speeding.
- Cheyanne Moore, Council Bluffs, speeding.
- Brian Beebe, Carson, operating non registered vehicle.
- Alyssa Hubert, Red Oak, registration violation.
- Jordan Field, Phoenix, Ariz., speeding.
- Randi VanLeuven, Red Oak, registration violation.
- Shane Beaty, Shenandoah,

- speeding.
- Michelle Paulson, Silver City, speeding.
- Heavyn Aherns, Red Oak, operation of motor vehicle with expired license, fail to yield upon left turn.
- Bailey Ault, Omaha, Neb., speeding.
- Kailey Conley, Bellevue, Neb., speeding.
- Ashley Hall, Red Oak, driving while license denied, suspended, cancelled, or revoked.
- Hailey Nagunst, Red Oak, unlawful passing of school bus - first offense.
- Dale Sawtelle, Red Oak, driving while license denied, suspended, cancelled, or revoked.

ACCIDENT

- On April 12, at 11:57 a.m., Montgomery County Sheriff’s deputies investigated a single-vehicle accident on 110th Street and N Avenue. Joshua Weston, 45, Red Oak, driving a 2003 Peterbilt semi-tractor owned by David Devries, Red Oak, and pulling a 2012 Wilson grain trailer owned by Ronald Devries of Red Oak, was traveling west on 110th Street when his front right tire dropped off the pavement and the vehicle was pulled into the ditch. Weston was taken to Montgomery County Memorial Hospital by Griswold Rescue for treatment of serious non-life-threatening injuries. Assistance was given by Griswold Fire and Rescue, Elliott Fire and Rescue, Red Oak Fire and Rescue, Montgomery County Roads Department, and Montgomery County EMA.

Set Family Routines for Harmony at Home

From ISU Extension

Routines can help busy families have meaningful connections throughout the week, creating a peaceful and harmonious home environment, said Barbara Dunn Swanson, a human sciences specialist with Iowa State University Extension and Outreach.
“Having regular routines can be a helpful strategy for busy parents and kids, such as waking up at the same time each day or eating dinner together at a set time each evening,” said Dunn Swanson, who specializes in family wellbeing.
“Some parents may plan to rise first so they have some ‘me’ time before their kids awake. After school, the children may have scheduled piano lessons or basketball practice followed by completing their homework. These are examples of family routines,” Dunn Swanson said.
Parents should consider a child’s individual temperament and their age and stage in life when establishing routines, Dunn Swanson continued.
“For example, having a place set aside for doing homework that is separate from where other family members are watching TV can help children develop a successful homework routine,” Dunn Swanson said. “Finding time to gather together as a family to discuss the events of the day, whether at an evening meal, or before bedtime, can help

children relax and prepare for a good night’s sleep.”
Routines help children in the family know what to expect and often reflect family values. And when children know what to expect, they can adjust their own personal behaviors. When families face “tough times,” their routines may be interrupted, Dunn Swanson noted. However, parents who maintain routines during the chaos will find that the routines can be a protective factor and may help the



family to feel more stable during the tough time.
If children are experiencing big emotions or seem to have difficulty dealing with their feelings, helping them to maintain a routine, while taking time to explore what they need to feel better, will help everyone in the family, Dunn Swanson said.
The Science of Parenting team at Iowa State University Extension and Outreach has several podcasts related to the importance of family resilience, routines and helping children learn to handle their emotions. The podcasts are available at available at <https://thescienceofparenting.buzzsprout.com/>.

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to finance.

CDTIRE

--	--	--	--	--	--

Answer: Credit

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to the library.

OVEMUL

--	--	--	--	--	--

Answer: Volume

SUDOKU

9	4		3	6			
3	1						5
			4				
7	5				6		1
				8			2
				9			
	6			4	8		
	3				2	7	
	8			3	1		

Level: Intermediate

Here’s How It Works:
Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

4	4	9	4	3	6	9	8	8
9	7	2	2	5	6	8	1	3
8	5	8	8	4	7	7	1	1
3	8	5	6	1	9	6	1	8
2	4	6	8	5	3	8	9	1
6	1	8	9	2	6	3	9	7
6	7	5	4	4	1	8	3	2
5	9	8	8	8	2	6	1	3
1	8	3	6	7	1	8	9	2

ANSWER:

Birt awarded Iowa corn scholarship

Iowa Corn announced the student recipients of the Iowa Corn Future of Agriculture Scholarship program for the 2023-2024 school year.

Among the Iowa Corn District 7 recipients was Alyssa Birt from the Southwest Valley School District

Iowa Corn awarded eighteen \$1,000 one-year scholarships to deserving, qualified students enrolled at an accredited U.S. two-year or four-year junior college or university, or graduate school, in a program of study equipping them to contribute to Iowa's agriculture industry.

The program is sponsored by the Iowa Corn Growers Association® (ICGA) and the Iowa Corn Promotion Board® (ICPB).

"Our industry's success depends on our ability to offer relevant programming, advocacy and services to new leaders entering Iowa's agricultural sector. Through the Future of Agriculture scholarships, we can offer some support for students

regarding school tuition, educational supplies or student housing," said Logan Lyon, a farmer from Muscatine County and chair of the Iowa Corn Grassroots Network, Membership & Checkoff (GNMC) Committee. "We are excited for the future of agriculture in Iowa with this group of recipients leading the way."

Selection committees evaluated applications by their essays, applications, reference letters, current grades and activities. It is a blind selection process by the committee. Students must also be an ICGA member or be a dependent of a member.

Also awarded a scholarship in District 7, which covers Adair, Adams, Cass, Fremont, Mills, Montgomery, Page, Pottawattamie, and Taylor counties was Mitchell Williamson of Wiota.

The Iowa Corn Promotion Board (ICPB), works to develop and defend markets, fund research, and provide education about corn and corn products.

Stanton kindergarten round up May 3

Stanton Elementary School will conduct kindergarten assessments on Wednesday, May 3, for any child who will be 5 years of age on or before Sept. 15.

On Monday, May 1, parents of incoming kindergarten students will meet at 5:30 p.m. in the elementary concourse.

Kindergarten instructor Shannon Henneman and principal Katie Elwood will present information about the kindergarten curriculum, school policies, etc.

Also during that meeting, health requirements and paperwork needed for incoming kindergarten students will be discussed.

At this time, parents will sign up for a time to return on May 3 with their child for the kindergarten screening.

The screening process and follow-up with parents should take approximately 20-25 minutes on this date.

Registration forms will be sent home with pre-school students the week before the assessment date.

The district asks that the paperwork in the packets be returned on the screening date of May 3 and will also require that a current record of immunizations and a copy of the student's birth certificate be provided on that date.

Please call Jody Druivenga at the elementary office at 829-2171 as soon as possible to sign up your child for kindergarten round up and to answer any questions you might have regarding the format for the above dates.

If the child will begin kindergarten in the fall and does not currently attend the local pre-school, the district asks that parents call the above number as soon as possible so that the child can be added to the student list.

VIEWPOINTS
Stronger the Press, Stronger the People

LETTER TO | THE EDITOR

Sain, Goodemote comment on drag shows

To the Editor:

Fellow Montgomery County citizens,

I would like to share some things regarding the drag queen shows that have come to our county.

Some people do not have a problem with it, but have we stopped to consider the operating principle behind this entertainment? What makes it so intriguing?

I submit that it is interesting (and funny) for a very bad reason. It is intriguing because it is flaunting a non-truth. The audience knows that performers—dressed up as women—are not really women.

A supporter of drag shows may ask, "So, what's wrong with that? What's wrong with having some entertaining fun this way?" They may also point out that

movie stars are presenting themselves as someone else. Didn't women play men's roles in the theatre in Shakespeare's plays, for example?

I submit that drag shows are very different. Drag shows would not be drag shows without the celebration of the fact that men are dressed as women.

Feminine qualities, makeup, and body shapes are exaggerated to highlight the anthesis of the sexes and then to portray the opposite of reality. This non-truth directly insults our Creator who created male and female distinct.

He is not the God of confusion, but of Truth (1 Kings 17:24). Satan, on the other hand, is the father of lies (John 8:44) and loves to cause confusion in these types of things.

Events based upon lies,

including but not limited to "drag" events, impede and prevent a community from being blessed by the Lord and should not be encouraged in our communities.

People from out of state are using money to entice local businessmen to close their establishments to the public so men from out of town can parade around in dresses.

Does this make Iowa a place to grow? Does it make Montgomery County a place where people would want to raise their family? Does this make Red Oak a shade better?

Alex Sain
Stanton

To the Editor:

The year is 2023 and while most men just want to go to work and get the crop in the field or feed the cattle, get the leaking water pipes fixed, or the roof or the car, or the product out the door at the factory, raise and protect their family, other men are letting the debauchery of drag shows in the front door.

Some say there is nothing wrong with bringing men into our community at Stadium 34 that want to wear lipstick, bras, garter belts, and dance provocatively while pretending to be girls.

It's all just fun, we make a lot of money, sell a lot of alcohol, and they stay in our hotel.

The problem is that it won't stop at the hotel. How do we know? Because all over the country it is going on at taxpayer

funded public libraries as well as the schools.

They have a reason for wanting to access Red Oak, Griswold, Malvern, Shenandoah, Farragut, Clarinda and Creston. They are trying to normalize lewdness so they will be accepted into schools and libraries.

I am not referring to the big cities on the coasts. You say, "Well, that won't happen here and this will not affect our children."

Yet every public library within 50 miles of Red Oak has between one to five books on the shelf that affirm gender confusion and immoral sexual activity. They are listed under the categories of Juvenile Works, Juvenile Fiction, Secrets-Fiction, Young Adult Fiction/Action Adventure.

Your local librarian might not even know these books are on

the shelf. Many times books just arrive at the library that were not even ordered... They come from the big city, they come from Des Moines. How do I know? I used to be a library director.

So men, what can you do? I encourage you to do the following:

But as for you, O man of God, flee these things. Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, gentleness. Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called and about which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

Stand with the God fearing men of SW Iowa.

Rod Goodemote
Stanton

THE TIME CAPSULE | ROY MARSHALL

When chop suey was king

The cavalcade of Montgomery County food fads would be interesting to revisit, and I might suggest this to our monthly pot-luck club. We could start in May with variations of a dish that was all the rage in the 1970s—fondue.

In June we'd celebrate the '60s with an outdoor cookout, offering bonfire-charred marshmallows on graham crackers, grilled hamburgers and foil wrapped onions and potatoes baked in the coals.

July would recall the 1950s, when area residents flocked to Red Oak's Legion Park for the A&W Coney Dog and root beer delivered on a car tray by teen-age car-hops—sometimes on roller skates.

Today old A&W Root Beer mugs occasionally surface at auctions and garage sales; trophies stolen all those years ago by future farmers, contractors and bankers who were then defiant boys under the influence of night air and youth.

In the 1940s Spam was the hot new item; a versatile entrée that could be brought to the table in many exciting ways.

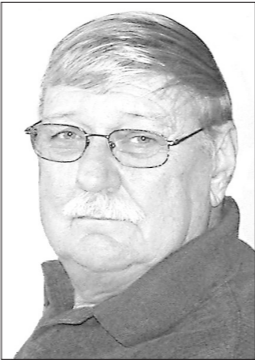
Spam would be our August pot-luck theme, then we'd wrap up the season in September with variations of a dish that Montgomery County diners clamored for in the late 1920s and into the 1930s—chop suey.

Chop suey? In the 1920s? In an area that was then heavily populated by first and second generation Swedish-Americans?

Yes, and we'll cite a few examples of what was taking place.

In the late 1920s, the Evans House Hotel and Restaurant near Red Oak's depot featured chop suey as their regular Wednesday special.

Chop suey was also a hit in the fine dining room of the Johnson, sharing the menu with oyster cocktail, roast canvasback duck, baked salmon, quail ala gastrique and prime Porterhouse steaks.



A social item from that era tells us Red Oak's Rotary had evening programs that included motivational speakers and a fine chop suey banquet.

In Stanton the Model Meat Market ran ads in the 1920s and 1930s offering pork, chicken and/or round steak cut specifically for chop suey.

Also sold there were the recommended sweet Bermuda onions, celery, Brazil nuts and chop suey sauce.

A junior-senior banquet at Stanton's high school featured chop suey. And we have a church cookbook assembled by ladies of the Swedish Evangelical Lutheran Church that includes three chop suey recipes, but not a single one for Swedish meatballs.

The Arbuckle Store in Villisca was early on the chop suey bandwagon, distributing a chop suey recipe and advertising canned bean sprouts as early as 1925.

Villisca's Ladies Aid offered chop suey as a fund-raising enticement, and up in Grant in 1930 the Reverend. and Mrs. Breeling hosted a special chop suey dinner party and prayer meeting.

Chop suey was the star of Elliott social gatherings. In 1932 we find the high school football team celebrating the season with a chop suey awards banquet hosted by an area DeMolay chapter.

The Sun newspaper printed a 1928 article claiming chop suey was the creation of a New York City chef who used the dish as a way to make a profit from leftovers that would otherwise be thrown away.

This may have given rise to the notion that "chop suey" is short for "chopped sewage."

Stanton's Call printed an article in the mid-1920s referring to chop suey as a traditional Chinese dish.

Later they carried a conflicting account, one crediting a hash-slinger in San Francisco with creating something he called chop suey to sell to Americans visiting his Chinatown food stand.

Whatever the origins, Chinese-style food seemed unlikely to go over in Montgomery County's Swedish Corridor of the 1920s.

I copied a recipe from a 1929 newspaper and gave it to wife. She looked, said she wouldn't make the stuff and told me why.

The recipe calls for a four pound chicken boiled in water until tender, then cooled, boned and the meat cubed.

To the stock was added two sweet onions, two stalks chopped celery, one tablespoon bead molasses, two tablespoons of chop suey sauce, one large can of sub gum, one large can of mushrooms and the chicken. This is simmered for one and a half to two hours and served with rice.

Wife pointed out that the only seasonings were a dash of salt and pepper, a bit of molasses and two teaspoons of soy sauce.

After simmering for two hours the result would be a gallon of bland, overcooked mush about as far removed from a spicy Chinese stir-fry as could be imagined.

Another dish said to be fashionable during the 1930s was "Hoover stew." Actually, Hoover stew sounds tastier than chop suey.

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.

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Spirits; United Farmers Cooperative. Single copy sales are also available from a coin rack in front of the Red Oak Express.

WHO WE ARE

Employees in order of continuous service: Trish Deitchler, Graphic Design; Peggy Boeye, Office Manager, News; Ann Watt, Mail; Nick Johansen, News Reporter; Charm Carpenter, Sports Reporter; Tracy Schooling, Driver; Tess Nelson, General Manager/Editor; Nanny Crowe, Circulation; Joshua Byers, Regional Publisher.

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.



Community Calendar

20 April

8 a.m.-noon, Leadership Red Oak.
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.

21 April

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.
10:15 a.m., Storytime at the Red Oak Public Library, 400 N. 2nd St., theme: "Sun."
5:30 p.m., Alcoholics Anonymous, Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 1101 Summit St.
6 p.m., Art show and open house featuring artist Barbie Blum, Wilson Performing Arts Center, 300 Commerce Dr. Refreshments will be served.
7 p.m., "Mummies," theatre #1; "His Only Son," theatre #2; Red Oak Grand Theatre.

22 April

10-10:11 a.m., Red Oak First United Church of Christ bell ringing to mark Earth Day, 608 E. Reed St. Everyone welcome, see story on this page for further details.
10 a.m.-2 p.m., Prescription Drug Take Back Day hosted by the Red Oak Police Department and Montgomery County Sheriff's Office, Hy-Vee parking lot, 1605 N. Broadway.
10-10:45 a.m., Parent-Tot swim lessons for kids ages 6 months to 3 years at the Montgomery County Family YMCA.
7 p.m., "Mummies," theatre #1; "His Only Son," theatre #2; Red Oak Grand Theatre.

23 April

2 and 7 p.m., "Mummies," theatre #1; "His Only Son," theatre #2; Red Oak Grand Theatre.
5:30 p.m., Alcoholics Anonymous, Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 1101 Summit St.

24 April

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.
11 a.m.-5 p.m., Red Cross Blood Drive, Montgomery County Memorial Hospital, call 623-6725, email katsap@mcmh.org, or visit redcross-blood.org and enter MCMH to schedule an appointment.
7 p.m., Alcoholics Anonymous, Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 1101 Summit St.

25 April

8:30 a.m., Montgomery County Supervisors, North Meeting Room in courthouse basement, open to public.
9-11 a.m., Intro to pickleball at the Montgomery County Family YMCA, 101 E. Cherry St. Equipment provided.
Noon, Rotary Club meeting. For location, go to 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.

26 April

1-5 p.m., Open house at the Stanton Public Library, 501 Elliott St. Refreshments served.
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.



Joshua LeRette honored by Rotary

Joshua LeRette, pictured center, was recently honored as a Golden Wheel Award winner at the Rotary District 5650 conference. LeRette is a dedicated and engaged young adult who volunteers his time and resources to better the Red Oak community through various organizations, including 4-H and YMCA sports. He is also a skilled piano student and an active member of his school. At the age of 10, LeRette initiated a project that has raised over \$24,000 for a local food pantry, highlighting his passion for service. LeRette's outstanding commitment to community service has earned him the prestigious Rotary Club of Red Oak's Service Above Self Award, a remarkable achievement for a 17 year-old. Pictured with LeRette are President Candy Garey, left, and President-Elect Emily Martin. (Photo submitted)

First Congregational UCC bell ringing

In recognition of Earth Day, April 22, from 10 to 10:11 a.m., the members of the Red Oak First Congregational UCC at 608 E. Reed St. will ring its bell to call attention to the climate crisis.
Everyone is invited to join the congregation and take their turn pulling the rope to make the bell toll as they remember our stewardship responsibility as Christians and occupants of Earth to care for God's beautiful creation.
Any and all are welcome.

Stanton Library holding open house

The Stanton Public Library at 501 Elliott St., Stanton is hosting an open house event from 1 to 5 p.m. on April 26.
The open house is being held in conjunction with National Library Week April 23-29.
Refreshments will be provided.

Villisca native named CEO of Planned Parenthood Associates of Utah

Kathy Boyd, a 1990 graduate of Villisca High School and the daughter of Esther and the late Jay Wheeler of Villisca was recently named CEO of Planned Parenthood Associates based in Salt Lake City, Utah.
Boyd held previous roles with Planned Parenthood of the Heartland, which offers care in Iowa and Nebraska, and served as the vice president of operations for Carafem, a nonprofit operating in Atlanta, Chicago, Nashville and Washington, D.C.
"I am thrilled to be joining PPAU at this critical time," Boyd said in a statement. "We have hard work ahead of us. Threats to reproductive rights and bodily autonomy are happening across the country."
Boyd will start her role in May.



Kathryn Boyd

Card Shower

HALLQUIST 93RD BIRTHDAY

Eleanor Hallquist of Stanton will celebrate her birthday on April 20.
In honor of the occasion, the family is hosting a card shower.
Send cards to Eleanor at P.O. Box 430, Stanton, IA 51573.



Happy Birthday!

Celebrating birthdays are:

Henry Elliott – April 19
Dolores Fort – April 20
Ron Bartles – April 20
Eleanor Hallquist – April 20
Janet Spicer – April 20
Julie Stanley – April 20
Heath Jackson – April 21
Rozella Youngberg Davis – April 21
Robert Wilkinson – April 21
Easton Yocum – April 22
Terry Crowe – April 22
Philip Olson – April 24
Kennedy King – April 24
Darold Helmer – April 24
Norma Meggison – April 24
Shawna Olson – April 25
Ruby Veon – April 25
Barb Shipley – April 26

To be included on the free "Happy Birthday" list, e-mail your birthday (and those of your friends and family) to 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:

David and Shelley Bergren – April 20
Ron and Kathy Kloewer – April 22
Bill and Wendy Briggs – April 22
John and Carla Mueller – April 26

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, mail to P.O. Box 377, Red Oak, IA 51566, or drop by our office at 2012 Commerce Dr.

Senior Menu

Thursday, April 20: Home-made beef meatloaf, brown gravy, whipped potatoes, peas, brownie, beverage mix.
Friday, April 21: BBQ rib patty on a bun, scalloped potatoes, diced beets, fresh seasonal fruit, beverage mix.

Monday, April 24: Country fried steak with country gravy, whipped potatoes, green beans, multi-grain bread slice, baked cookie, beverage mix.
Tuesday, April 25: Chicken

berry almond salad with ranch dressing, marinated carrots, saltine crackers, beverage mix.
April 26: Beef goulash, tossed salad with Italian dressing, roasted Brussel sprouts, cherry crisp, beverage mix.

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. **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. Sunday School, 9:15 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, 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, 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; click on the media tab to see previously recorded services.
Wesley Chapel UMC, Rev. Joni Hickey, M16 north off Hwy. 34 then west on Epperson. 624-8320. strahaniowachurch.org Worship, 8:30 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, Five miles south of Hastings on M16., strahaniowachurch.org, Rev. Joni Hickey, Sunday Worship service 9:45 a.m. Adult and children's Sunday School 10:45 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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“WHERE THE COMMUNITY COMES TOGETHER”
“IT TAKES COURAGE!”

Courage League Adaptive Coed Baseball will be at the Red Oak Sports Complex this summer on Sundays, June 3 – 24, from 1 to 2 p.m.

The Montgomery County Family YMCA and Can Play Sports are coming together to expand our area's adapted programming for children with cognitive, physical, or other conditions that prevent them from participating in other leagues.

The programs are for youth in preschool up through the age of 18. No previous baseball/sports experience needed.

We will provide all equipment, and uniforms are also provided. We will accommodate any level of ability, so you always know your child is welcome.

We require that a parent, guardian, or responsible adult remain in attendance with the participant.



John Blomstedt, left, assists a player. Photo by Jan Castle Renander.



Up at bat for Courage League. Photo by Jan Castle Renander.

While you are not expected to assist with play on the field, we may need to consult with you if medical or behavioral issues arise.

The success of the program is dependent upon help from many volunteers. Baseball buddies can be individuals or whole groups.

Volunteering consists of helping a child with catching, throwing, batting, and rounding the bases during the game. You do not need to know baseball well or be

well-skilled in baseball to be a Baseball Buddy. Plus, you can choose to volunteer for only one game or for multiple games.

For more information on the Courage League please register online atcmymca.com, email Matt at matttd@mcymca.com, call Matt Davis (Program Director) at 623-2161, or stop in at the Montgomery County Family YMCA located at the Red Oak Legion Park, 101 East Cherry St.

YMCA HOSTING RAFFLE

The Y is going to raffle off a two-night stay in a lodge room at either Snow Mountain Ridge or Estes Park Center in Colorado. Proceeds from this raffle will go to the YMCA's Annual Campaign program. Each year the Montgomery County Family YMCA coordinates an annual campaign program so that we can honor our long-lasting policy that “no one is denied a YMCA membership or programming opportunities” due to financial limitations.

Tickets went on sale on March 31 and the drawing for the winner will be on June 23. The winner can use the cabin anytime between June

30 and May 1, 2024. Tickets can be purchased at the front desk of the Y, from any Y staff member or board member, or on online at montgomeryco.recliquecore.com/programs/110032/special-events/?locations=13. Pick up your tickets early.

For more information on the YMCA of the Rockies Raffle or how one can become a member, volunteer, donor, or simply involved with the Montgomery County Family YMCA, please stop in for a visit or tour of the YMCA, call the YMCA at 623-2161, or visit the YMCA on Facebook, or the Y's website at mcymca.com.



Last year's YMCA of the Rockies winner, Annie Jensen.

NEW WATER SOFTENER AT THE Y

The Montgomery County Family YMCA received a grant for \$5,225, made possible by the Montgomery County Community Foundation, that was used in the purchase of a commercial water softener system for the YMCA facility. There was also a \$600 in-kind donation for the installation of the water softener. The total cost of the project was \$11,563. The previous water softener had been in use since the construction of the Y back in 1999. The new water softener system from Novo will be a more efficient addition to the Y for the entire facility.

For more information about the Montgomery County Family YMCA and its programs, memberships, and volunteer/donor opportunities, call us at 712-623-2161, stop by the Y located at 101 E. Cherry St., visit us on Facebook, or our website at mcymca.com.



Jeff VanDenEinde poses with the new water softener. (Photo submitted)

YMCA HOLDS HERITAGE CLUB DINNER

The Annual Heritage Club Dinner was held on Monday, April 3 at Stadium 34. The keynote speaker was Melissa Clarke-Wharff, co-founder of Can Play. She delivered a speech about fulfilling a critical need in her community for kids with disabilities and developing programs for adaptive play so that any kid “can play.”

On behalf of the other trustees (Diane Brower, Shirley Billings, Ron DeMarce, Mick Fisher, Brian Mensen, John O'Neal, Allen Pohren, Doug Rieken, Clint Rubey, Tom Stamets, Bruce Swanson, and Dr. Richard Trinity) Ann Carder presented the Montgomery County Family YMCA's Heritage Club Endowment Hall of Fame award to inductees Randy and Bonnie Orme.

The trustees currently manage a portfolio with a current value of \$4.3 million that is invested through sound and wise financial management practices. These funds assist the Montgomery County Family YMCA's general operational needs by \$80,000 to help create opportunities for youth development, healthy living, and social responsibility throughout southwest Iowa. The YMCA felt fortunate for the gifts it received over the past 12 months and greatly appreciated the support.

Thank you to all our supporters/donors of the YMCA's Heritage Club Program and to Ann Carder and Mark Jackson for continuing the generosity of Ann's parents, Tom and Catherine Carder, in

underwriting the cost of the dinner. Our thanks also are extended to Rocky Rochoa and the staff of the Stadium 34 for their service and to Greg Brower for the music and sound system this evening. A special thank you to the YMCA staff and board of directors for their caring attitude, programming efforts, and continued support of the YMCA's strategic vision for Youth Development, Healthy Living, and Social Responsibility.

For more information on the Heritage Club Dinner or how you can be involved with the Endowment, contact Executive Director Carrie Shalters at 623-2161 or by email at cshalters@mcymca.com.



Pastor Dan Wetzel, pictured left, delivered a Good Friday message. Sue Kern, right, accompanied by Patsy Norris, shared a musical performance. (Photo submitted)

GOOD FRIDAY BREAKFAST A SUCCESS

The Montgomery County Family YMCA, in partnership with the Montgomery County Family YMCA Men's Thursday Bible Study Group and the Montgomery County Ministerial Fellowship, held the 9th Annual Good Friday Breakfast on Friday, April 7. The invocation was given by Pastor Tyler Mass of Citylight Southwest Iowa of Emerson before the meal.

Sue Kern from Red Oak, accompanied by pianist, Patsy Norris of

Red Oak, performed near-operatic versions of “How Great Thou Art” by Stuart Hine, “The Holy City” by Frederic Weatherly and Stephen Adams, and “Amazing Grace.”

The master of ceremonies was Steve Colerick who shared information about the YMCA's Men's Thursday Early Morning Bible Study Group that meets on Thursday mornings at 6 a.m. in the Y's Multi-Purpose Room and about the National Day of Prayer that will be on Thursday May 4. Pastor Jenn Van Nostrand of First United Methodist of Red Oak gave the closing prayer.

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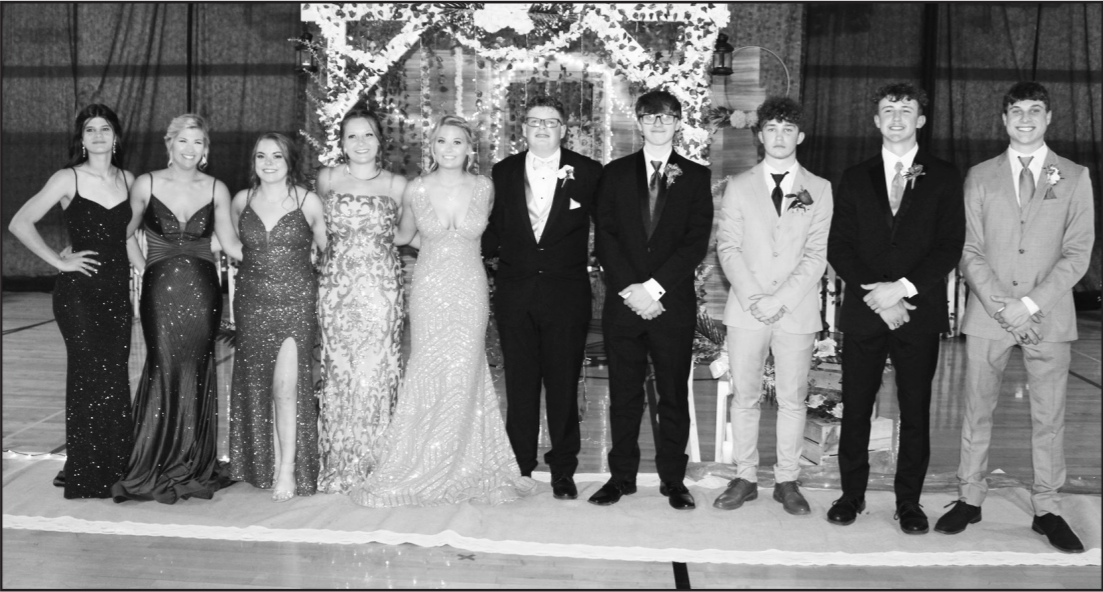
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Essex prom 2023

Members of the Essex High School Junior Class are, from left: Cindy Swaim, Tori Burns, Kyndra Gray, Alex King, Brooke Burns, Bradley Franks, Christian Johnson, Kayden Peeler, Tony Racine, and Johnny Resh. Essex's prom took place Friday, April 14. Promenade and the dance were held in the gymnasium. The meal was served at the Essex Opera House. The theme was Rustic Romance. (Photo provided)

Members of the Essex High School Senior Class are, from left: Matt Givens, Nic Givens, Tori Sample, Brianne Johnson, Prom King Jacob Robinette, Prom Queen Natalie Taylor, Olivia Baker, John Staley, and Preston Driskell. (Photo provided)

Right: Essex junior Bradley Franks and his date, Hunter Steinhoff, walk into prom Friday, April 14. (Photo provided)



Students in Sue Chelsvig's third grade class were among the excited recipients of fitted bicycle helmets donated by the Red Oak Kiwanis Club. Also pictured are, far left: Jamie Werges and Wayne Donohue. Far right, Kiwanis President Kim Truka and Sara Orme. (Nick Johansen/The Red Oak Express)



Essex High School 2023 Prom King and Queen, Jacob Robinette and Natalie Taylor. (Photo provided)

HELMETS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A

we can store for use the following year," explained Truka. In addition to the helmets, the kids were provided cookies and stickers. Truka said it was very special to see their joy. "Usually, they're very excited, and some of them have never had a bicycle helmet. It's nice for them to be able to get a helmet fitted to their head, as sometimes the kids who have one had it passed down from a brother or a sister. This gives them the chance to have their own helmet, and then they can use the stickers to decorate it the way they want it to look," Truka stated. Another reason behind including the stickers is due to the fact that the newer helmets have less variety. "The helmets now are somewhat pricey so we try to go with bigger companies, and sometimes we only get one or two colors. The stickers help make the helmet their own," Truka said. Also present during the event were Jamie Werges and Sara Orme, who were part of the Inman third grade class when Donohue first started donating the helmets and doing fittings. Donohue and Kiwanis member Bryant Blay made the suggestion to invite Werges and Orme to the event this year.

Werges said it was a great feeling to participate in the event 25 years later. "It's so wonderful, and I thank the Kiwanis for doing this event for 25 years. I can remember wearing my helmet in that grade, and I enjoyed talking to the kids and seeing how excited they were. It's a wonderful program, and it definitely promotes safety. It was cool to see it through the eyes of the kids, and I hope I was that excited when I was fitted," commented Werges. Orme was also pleased to be invited to take part in this year's event and said the experience was quite rewarding. "It was great to see it 25 years later, and see the excitement on the kids' faces when they were getting fitted and dressing up their helmets with stickers. I'll be excited to see them riding around town," stated Orme. Anyone wishing to donate to next year's helmet project can mail a check to the Kiwanis or give cash to a member. The money is deposited in a specific account for the helmet purchase. Truka said she usually purchases the helmets in January of each year.

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The Annual Easter Egg Hunt organized by the Red Oak Rotary Club proved to be a resounding success, thanks in no small part to the valuable contribution of our sponsors and partners. Without their support, the event could not have achieved the level of success it did.

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McQuown and Norris continue calls for carbon pipeline ordinance passage

Nick Johansen
The Red Oak Express

Rural Red Oak residents Maggie McQuown and Jan Norris were once again present at the latest Montgomery County Board of Supervisors meeting April 11 to advocate for the passage of the carbon pipeline ordinance drafted by Ahlers & Cooney attorney Tim Whipple.

McQuown spoke to the supervisors during the public comment period, and said all the work on the ordinance is done.

"The Planning and Zoning Commission has completed its work. They have created a hazardous liquid pipeline ordinance with advice and guidance from attorney Tim Whipple. They have written and submitted to the Board of Supervisors a comprehensive report on the proposed Hazardous Liquid Pipeline. The Planning and Zoning Commission supports adoption of the ordinance," McQuown said.

As a member of the Montgomery County Board of Adjustment, McQuown said all the necessary action had been completed there as well.

"The board met with Tim Whipple to clarify the Ordinance's provisions pertaining to the Board of Adjustment responsibilities and roles. The board is in support of and recommends adoption of the ordinance," commented McQuown.

McQuown also cited that many Montgomery County landowners and residents have done their work by speaking up about their concerns and opposition to the Summit pipeline, both from a safety, but importantly, from a siting and routing standpoint. Also, McQuown stressed the need for safety.

"While safety and emergency readiness are major concerns, they remain outside the immediate jurisdictional control of Montgomery County. The federal government, through the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) jurisdictionally is responsible for safety guidelines. The new guidelines are being developed with an undetermined release date," McQuown advised. "Land use, siting, and routing are the only jurisdictional controls Montgomery County, and Iowa, have in overseeing this pipeline. Therefore, we must make the most of this power. The ordinance gives us detailed guidelines for defending our county's requirements for land use, siting and routing. A good defense is our best offense."

McQuown added the Montgomery County Supervisors, have done a lot of good work, including engaging an engineering firm to oversee inspections, engaging the legal advice of Tim Whipple, issuing a resolution opposing the use of eminent domain for securing land not secured through voluntary easements, and requested the Planning and Zoning Commission develop the ordinance. She felt it was time to take the next step.

"Now it is time to finish your work by moving forward with the final two public hearings and approval of the hazardous liquid pipeline ordinance. I encourage and plead with you to move forward quickly to approve this ordinance," McQuown stated.

Norris echoed McQuown's statements, saying she was disappointed it had been six weeks since the ordinance had been on the agenda. She urged the supervisors not to take Summit Carbon's statements about not building at face value.

"Please do not let Summit's claims that they may not build down Western Iowa if Shelby County wins their lawsuit delay you in passing this ordinance. Your outside counsel told the board of adjustment we do not have forever to act. The intervention deadline is in July. Summit is using this as a delay tactic to convince you to wait, but by then, it may be too late," advised Norris.

Also, Norris said the ordinance gave neighboring landowners to the pipeline an opportunity to be heard.

"Neighbors to the pipeline route do not have the opportunity to negotiate. This is the purpose of zoning. It gives a voice to all affected people. Many other counties are in the process of drafting ordinances. Ahlers & Cooney alone are working with at least 15. Even counties that are not yet impacted are taking the opportunity to pass their ordinances now," Norris said.

Norris told the supervisors that objections continue to be filed daily, including those filed by legislators and counties not along the route, and the Mills County township trustees had also raised objections. No further discussion on the ordinance took place.

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Flag replacement

Members of the Montgomery County Board of Supervisors aided maintenance supervisor Dan Wright in replacing the American flag at the Montgomery County courthouse. Pictured are, from left: Supervisor Randy Cooper, Dan Wright, Supervisors Chair Mike Olson, and Supervisor Donna Robinson. (Nick Johansen/The Red Oak Express)

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COUNCIL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A

Also in the budget were wage increases and adjustments, and the anticipation of a couple of additional hires that were included in the expenses including IPERS and additional benefits.

While much was included in the proposed budget, Vacanti said they did not include any potential franchise fee monies.

"You've heard the discussion before. Up to 5% would generate around \$400,000, with \$320,000 of that used for the general purposes identified, and a portion would make up the lost local option sales tax funding," advised Vacanti.

Vacanti was comfortable with the budget, and said they worked hard to identify needs.

"We didn't kick a can down the road. We tried to identify projects that needed to be done. Also, there are some funds in reserve, so you can get other things done. I've also been working on the first draft of a full capitol improvement plan for the entire city, so each department head can see what the others have identified as needs," Vacanti commented.

Vacanti advised the council he identified some additional funding for the Evergreen Cemetery.

"The gentleman is trying to keep a 1978 dump truck running, and other equipment running, and the roads are in poor shape, so he's going to get some more money to put into fixing that."

Vacanti reiterated that of the \$2.8 million increase, \$2.6 mil-

lion were for projects, with one that would be funded at 90%.

Lastly, Vacanti said none of the department heads had needs that were unreasonable, and all had an understanding that every year was going to be a challenge, and that they needed to do as much as they could with as little as possible.

No further action was taken on the proposed 2023-24 budget.

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