

WEEKLY JOURNAL

WEATHER REPORT

GRAIN PRICES

February 17
 Corn Beans
 Midlowa (Midway).....\$6.67...\$14.71
 Tama/Bent. (Cluter)....\$6.64...\$14.76
 Cash bid prices for 2/28/2023 delivery

GAS PRICES

\$3.29 for a gallon of super unleaded 87 gasoline as of Wednesday, Feb. 15, 2023, at Casey's General Store in Toledo.

STC SCHOOL MENU

Tuesday, February 21st
 Breakfast: Cowboy bread with fruit cocktail.
 Lunch: Taco stick with black beans, coleslaw or romaine lettuce, raw baby carrots, raw broccoli, fruit mix, and raw navel oranges.

Wednesday, February 22nd

Breakfast: French toast sticks with fruit cocktail.
 Lunch: Breaded mozzarella sticks with spaghetti noodles, raw cucumber, coleslaw or romaine lettuce, raw baby carrots, raw celery, clementines, and raw navel oranges.

Thursday, 23rd
 Breakfast: Strawberry pop tarts, breakfast barham with diced pears.

Lunch: Cheeseburger on a whole grain bun with corn, coleslaw or romaine lettuce, raw cucumber, raw broccoli, peach applesauce, and red delicious apples.

Friday, February 24th
 Breakfast: Cinnamon roll with raw grapes.
 Lunch: Deep dish pizza with raw cauliflower and diced peaches.

Day	Date	High	Low	Precip.
Monday	2/6	50	23	Trace Rain
Tuesday	2/7	37	23	-
Wednesday	2/8	46	24	-
Thursday	2/9	37	31	Trace Rain
Friday	2/10	33	13	Trace Rain
Saturday	2/11	47	23	-
Sunday	2/12	49	29	-

Weather reported by Randy Cooper, Toledo

SAFETY

Continued from Page 1

her school bus stop-arm. No students have been harmed by drivers' neglect of a stopping bus yet in Tama County, but they have come close. That is why the South Tama Community School District and Tama County Sheriff's Department are pleading for drivers to pay attention.

"It never hit home until we got those cameras installed. Then suddenly, you're seeing it," said STC Transportation Director Steve Chyma.

On Feb. 13, Deputy Schmidt met with STC bus drivers.

"You've got a lot going on as a bus driver, right? The most important thing for law enforcement is that you guys are doing a great job and making sure the buses are stopped, the kids aren't getting off, and you're cautious of the drivers going through the stop sign. I have no complaints," he said. "You're always erring on the side of caution, and we can all at least go home at night and sleep well, knowing those kids are safe."

All bus drivers are trained when engaging in a stop and protect the children by delaying opening the bus doors while vehicles pass by.

"They will watch the surroundings before the kids can get off that bus," Chyma said. "We've had that happen a couple of times on Highway 63 North. They've got their [amber] lights going, and they'll see a car coming down the road. They're aware of their surroundings. They won't flip out that stop sign until the

vehicle goes by. Then they put out their stop sign and let the students go. The drivers are doing an excellent job keeping the kids safe. Our drivers really care about our students."

Chymas encouraged drivers to activate their amber lights at 300 feet and give drivers plenty of notice that the bus is preparing to stop.

"Start to slow down so you can stop. They're coming up, not quite stopped, reds are coming out, letting everyone know. A stop sign is a stop sign you don't blow through it," he said.

Student safety should not solely rest on bus drivers and the students but also on drivers, who must engage in responsible driving when approaching stopping buses.

"We all, as a community, have to do what's safest for the kids," Schmidt said.

South Tama Schools hold bus safety classes every year. Due to the increase in driver violations and the risk to students, Superintendent John Cain is working with the STC school board, bus drivers, and teachers to create a bus safety curriculum that will be taught to all students soon.

Kadyn's Law (Iowa Code section 321.372)

Prohibits drivers from passing a stopped school bus when the amber or red lights are flashing and the stop-arms are out.

When a driver meets a bus with flashing amber warning lights, drivers must reduce their speed to no more than 20 mph.

When a driver meets a school bus that is stopped



Drivers approaching a bus will see a stop sign like this, with the red lights engaged above the emergency exit on the back of the bus. Pictured is the recently installed camera below the extended sign.

with the stop-arm extended, the driver must bring their vehicle to a complete stop and remain stopped until the stop-arm is retracted and the bus resumes motion, at that time, the driver must proceed with caution.

When a driver is overtaking a school bus, the driver shall not pass a bus when amber or red lights are flashing and must bring their vehicle to a complete stop, no closer than 15 feet from the bus, and remain stopped until the stop-arm is retracted and the bus resumes motion.

Kadyn's Law is a non-scheduled violation, meaning those drivers who violate this law must attend court. Violators of this law can face criminal penalties. The first offense is a simple misdemeanor with a fine between \$250-675 and/or up to 30 days in

jail. The second offense is a serious misdemeanor with a fine between \$315-1,875, and the court may impose up to one year of jail time.

Convictions qualify as a serious violation pursuant to the Iowa Department of Transportation's administrative rules. Drivers may have their license suspended for 30 days for the first offense, 90 days for the second, and 180 days for the third.

Once a person is convicted of this offense and receives notice of the suspension, they can appeal the imposed sanction. A serious offense violation like this is not a mandatory suspension but discretionary. The DOT can choose not to suspend the person's license.

For more information on Iowa School Bus Safety, visit <https://iowadot.gov/schoolbus/>.

Calling all Envirothon teams!

Need an out-of-the-box STEM activity for your high schoolers that's also a tool for resumé building and for career and college preparation?

An activity that looks great on scholarship and job applications?

Envirothon is a team competition for high school students-- a problem-solving, natural resource education program. Teams of five students are challenged to sharpen critical thinking skills and to work as a team. They conduct hands-on investigations and answer written questions concerning environmental issues in five categories: aquatics, forestry, wildlife, soils and current environmental issues.

This competition provides an incentive for students to integrate and apply knowledge and skills learned in biology, chemistry, earth science, botany, zoology and other science disciplines. It stimulates, reinforces and enhances students' interest in the environment, Iowa's natural resources and related careers. Of course, there is also the incentive of travel, scholarships, prizes and prestige!

Regional competition for the Iowa Envirothon will be held virtually with the exams available March 13-24. Registrations are due to Conservation Districts of Iowa by Friday, February 24, and Tama Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) is volunteering to pay the \$80 registration fee for select area schools! In fact, if a select school's team advances to state level of competition, Tama SWCD will reimburse certain expenses for the team to attend!

Check out Iowa Envirothon at <https://www.cdiowa.org/get-involved/envirothon/>. Contact melody.bro@ia.nacdnet.net or 641-484-2702, extension 3 by February 24 if you would like Tama SWCD to sponsor your school's team(s).

DEBATE | Continued from Page 1

schools, because they have no idea who you might be and how you might play it, and that will be a really fun experience," said Houghton.

Meyer has goals for the students in the debate club, but most of all, she wants to help them grow their communication skills.

"I think debate club can be so useful and helpful not only to students in school but in their life outside of school and after they leave college or even if they go into the workforce, whatever they choose to do. It will help them with communication skills, organization, public speaking, and so many more great skills just to have in life," she said. "That's my main goal for them. Get them more well-versed on world topics. This is a great outlet for them to discuss those controversial topics they don't always get the opportunity to."

Every kid struggles with confidence issues, but student Kira Henle hopes that the debate club will let her overcome this titan of internal conflict.

"I don't have a lot of confidence, so it's hard for me to speak in front of people and share my opinions because I'm afraid of being judged. So that's the hardest part, is finding my confidence to speak in front of everybody," Henle said. But I enjoy having intellectual arguments with people who really care about what they're talking about and [hearing] their opinions on it."

While some might not consider a debate club an essential after-school activity, Meyer believes it will be more than exceptional for students' intellectual growth.

"The debate club will help students with their interpersonal communication even more. Especially with research, to get them to think not about their personal opinions but about the other side of the argument. Not just understanding their opinions but other people's too, because that is crucial in the world that we live in today. To be understanding, empathetic, and kind to one another," she said.

Meyer is elated about the future of the debate club and can't wait to watch it grow.

"I'm very excited for this next chapter for the debate club, for STC. I'm hoping to see more students, and I'm excited to see how they progress in their skills and what they do with it," she said.




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HAPPY 100TH BIRTHDAY!

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